

November 28, 1988

Dear Carl,

Weather in southwest Iowa has been mostly dry and on the warm side. Subsoil moisture is 85% short compared to normal, and at that it is better than in your area. No storms, no rain, no nothing through August, September, and October. This month it's been a bit cooler than normal and we have had a couple storms. However, snow doesn't add up to a lot of water for the ground.

Nothing I've noticed about the bird migration, mostly since I have hardly been out at all. Geese were late coming down here, probably due to the mild weather. However, in late November big numbers finally did come through.

A couple notes from other people follow:

BARN OWL near Shambaugh, Page County on August 4, in a barn. Seen by Jerry Abma, that county's director for the conservation board. He would know how to identify one.

Jerry reports the first Sharp-shinned Hawk at Nodaway Valley Park, Page County, on August 17. He watches hawks a lot and is likely to be right.

Doris Bernasek reports a Merlin this fall feeding at birds at her bird feeder on the south edge of Council Bluffs. No description enclosed in her letter. Her address is Rt. 5, Box 302, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51503.

Patti Johns reports a flock of 25 Bluebirds feeding on Dogwood berries where she camped on her trip to the state fair. This would be in or near Des Moines in August.

In very early November, Marietta Peterson had a flock of 12 Brewer's Blackbirds at the pond by her home in rural Walnut. August 28 she saw a flock of at least 31 Killdeer.

Jeannine Ouren writes: "Sunday, Nov. 20 in the P.M., my husband and I were out at Prairie Rose. With my binocs, I was scanning the geese, when I noticed one long white neck and a long grey neck, standing above the others. After reading my birds book and much viewing --- Trumpeter Swans. The grey one was the immature. There were only two of them."

I believe these could have been Tundra Swans -- you know how difficult it is to tell the two apart sometimes. Though you might be interested in the sighting, however.

I've tabulated and enclosed Mindy Rosenbaum's observations at Desoto NWR. She works for the refuge and these bird counts are part of her work. She sent them to be because of the Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Well, I'd better look for some records of my own and mail this off. Have a good winter of gull watching or whatever!

- Barb Wilson

Barb Wilson
Hastings Ia

5 Fall 1988

Zoned Grebe	1	Sept 24	dead on Highway 59 3 miles N of Shenandoah, far from water
Killdeer	42	Oct 16	Willow Slough
C. Snipe	22	Oct 5	"
Dowitcher	5	"	"
Call a shrill "peep"			
Sanderling	1	Oct 5	"
Mockingbird	1	Aug 2	Lake Icaria
Water Pipit	9	Oct 5	Willow Slough on mud with shorebirds.

albino Red-winged Blackbird in Blackbird Flock
~~in~~ 3 miles North of Bradyville, Page County,
according to Jerry Abma, Oct 8.

5 Sharp-shins total Oct 10, Page County
- Jerry Abma

Desoto

Report from Mindy Rosenbaum																
Weekly observations in DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge																
July - November, 1988																
Species	Number seen on date indicated															
	July 1, 1988	7/8	7/14	7/22	7/29	8/12	8/19	8/26	9/16	10/7	10/14	10/20	10/27	11/2	11/9	11/16
Pied-billed Greb	1	2	3	2				2			2	6	2		2	1
Am. White Pelican									500			65				
D.-c. Cormorant					1	1		35	55	15	22	30	8	6		
Am. Bittern									1							
Great Blue Hero	8	2	33	41	60	40	45	94	120	8	6	11		2	1	
Great Egret			5	2	2	3	23	18	27							
Little Blue Heron'					17	27	5	5								
Snowy Egret					4	3	8	3								
Cattle Egret			1	1												
Green Heron	1	1	1	1		2	1	1	2							
B.-c. Night Heron								1	1							
White-fronted Goose														2	35	
Snow/Blue Goose										30	75			180000	110000	466000
Canada Goose	26	83	83	71	42	66			120	200	200	198	180	300	225	450
Wood Duck	31, 20 young	41, 21 young	53, 29 young	39, 22 young	30, 8 young	23	8	16								2
Green-winged Teal																22
Black Duck														3	1	
Mallard	5, 4 young	7, 8 young	11, 9 young	13, 8 young	11	16	30	43	175	1250	275	5000	1200	6000	10000	
Pintail										6					14	8
Blue-winged Teal							2	112	60					4	2	
N. Shoveler													4	15	1	12
Gadwall												15		5	1	
Am. Wigeon														10	23	15
Bufflehead																17
Hooded Merganser																8
Ruddy Duck											2	2				
Bald Eagle											1	2	1	5	5	11
Northern Harrier													4	5	6	5
Red-tailed Hawk						1			2	1	3	6	8	11	6	
Am. Kestrel																1
R.-n. Pheasant	11		9	19	27	35		16	30							
N. Bobwhite			6		30	8										
Coot				2								25				
Killdeer		30	20	17	15	15		38								
C. Snipe		2														
R.-b. Gull								3			15			2	4	
Black Tern				75												
B. Kingfisher	7		2	3	3											

Mindy Rosenbaum's report