

6492 James Francis Place
Johnston, Iowa 50131
Dec 1, 1988

Dear Carl,

It's been a good fall season - warm with no lake ice on Saylorville yet. The dry year produced a water level down to 833 with large mud flats appearing at the north end of the lake. All notes are from Saylorville, unless otherwise indicated. The highlights:

common loon: Sixty-three were present on 10/29.

horned grebe: regular on the lake, but a max. of only five on 10/23. Last on 11/30 (2).

western grebe: I saw NONE this fall.

white pelican: 6100 were present on 9/24.

d.c. cormorant: 2 were still present on 11/25.

great egret: one was still present on 10/22.

white-fronted goose: a small flock on 10/16, and 60 on 11/13.

snow goose: first on 10/2, and 10,000 at Rathburn resevoir on 11/6.

mallard: about 30,000 were present on 11/6 at the refuge at Rathburn resevoir. Saylorville counts have been less than 10,000.

g.w teal: 116 on 11/20.

black duck: one on 11/13.

canvasback: 21 on 11/26.

oldsquaw: 2 on 11/26.

surf scoter: 3 were early on 10/2. All with dark caps, two white cheek patches, and no white in the wings. (Sketch is available.) And 4 on 11/4.

c. goldeneye: first 2 on 10/29 were a bit early.

hooded merganser: 154 on 10/29.

b. eagle: first on 10/15.

red-shouldered hawk: 1 on 10/16, and 1 returned to the area near the Marina on 11/5.

broad-winged hawk: I assume I missed the big Kettles once again.

swainson's hawk: 1 on 10/1.

merlin: one on 9/30

peregrine: 1 on 10/1 and 10/6.

prarie falcon: a pale tan falcon with black axilla was seen on 10/14 and 10/15. (With Steve Dinsmore.)

black-bellied plover: three were rather late on 11/??

dunlin: three were still present on 11/26

red phalarope: my field notes and sketch from 9/30 with Steve Dinsmore are enclosed. (Steve made the call first.)

red-necked phalarope: one at Big Creek on 9/2.

pomerine jaeger: two were present on 9/30 (what a day!) Steve has photos of both together.

parasitic jaeger: a third small, swift jaeger was present on 9/30. (Three were not seen together.) This bird had less white on the wing than the other two. I hope others provide more detailed documentation.

franklin's gull: 20,000 were present on 10/1.

caspian tern: 1 was still present on 10/23.

short-eared owl: 1 in Lucas county on 11/6.

red-headed woodpecker: it will be a good winter for this bird with the heavy acorn crop.

marsh wren: 2 on 9/30.

rock wren: still present on 11/26.

pipit, water: one on Oak Grove 9/30.

snow bunting: one was at Oak Grove on 11/4, 3 at Sandpiper on 11/19.

Bery Engebretsen