

Winter Dec. 62 & Jan 1963

F. W. Kent

Weather.

Dec. about average temperature but lows were 2.6 below . 6 days below zero with - 20 on Dec. 26 Precipitation - .82 in.

Jan. weather records not available until Feb. 2 but guess yours will do. A bit cold.

Dec. 8 2000 mallards (About only concentration all fall)

10 1 Bohemian Waxwing (in Laudes yard)

15 a Mockingbird (all fall and winter)

30 Snow Buntings (first seen on Nov. 9)

16 a Killdeer

Jan 12 4 Robins

13 a Bald Eagle (seen by Lillian Serbousek along Iowa River north of city)

26 20 Lapland Longspurs.

The bird population of the winter was about a normal expectation but for the large (huge) population at a roost area of evergreens just west of the hospitals. The bulk of the birds were starlings and sparrows but for a marked group of Grackles and Cowbirds which have persisted all winter. (See Xmas Count- I.C.) During Dec. there were a number of Brewers Blackbirds, but these have not been seen recently. The Museum staff have been making collections from this concentration and have collected 2 Red-wings. Local paper carried an article about farmers complaining about numbers of starlings.

There seem to be more Tree Sparrows this year (1000 last Sat.) more Flickors (3 or 4 per trip) fewer Meadowlarks (only twice this winter and then only 2) Hawks and Owls about normal. Maybe fewer Long-ears but a half a dozen Short-ears where there were none last winter. An occasional Purple Finch.

Townpeople complain a fewer birds at feeders (maybe too many feeders?)

Weather	Jan.	Feb.	your,	Precipitation	low
third coldest on record	11 degrees below normal	4.8 " " "	"	.51	"
cold				.29	"

Feb. 10 still 50-60 cowbirds in roost area

" 23 Spotted Towhee . all winter at a feeder

Mch. 9 First ducks 1000 on ice ponds (Conesville) mallards

" 15 Big influx 10,000 " various, even shovellers. Also 1200 Canada geese

" 20 2 Golden plovers (winter plumage) north of Swan

" 24 200 Blue & Snow geese and 20 White-fronted. Conesville

for Spring report

Oh yes - saw a Long-ear mch. 3!

How goes?

one I must verify