

3 April, 1965

Audubon Field Notes, Winter 1964-65

Jan. temps were only slightly below, and precip slightly above normal.

Feb. was slightly cool with average precip, but March had a daily deficiency of 11° and was the third snowiest of record at Des Moines.

There were very few, if any, of the unusual northern visitors; no Red-breasted Nuthatches, Bohemian Waxwings, Snown Owls, Redpoll, Crossbills, or Grosbeaks.

The only unusual find was the Sage Thrasher seen on the Christmas census and for a week or two subsequently.

Red-tailed, Sparrow and Rough-legged Hawks were seen rather frequently.

A minor invasion of Short-eared Owls on census day did not stay and few were seen thereafter.

A number of Yellow-shafted Flickers wintered.

Horned Larks seemed numerous along some roads.

More Blue Jays than in some years stayed.

No wintering Robins were reported.

A number of flocks of Cedar Waxwings appeared late in the winter.

Wintering meadowlark sp. and Red-winged Blackbirds were seen in a number of places.

Purple Finches were seen regularly at two feeders; Mrs. Peasley few a flock of 30, and Mrs. Brooke 4 or 5.

Juncos and Tree Sparrows about normal.

More Harris' Sparrows than usual wintered. Mrs. Peasley knew of one feeder frequented by 8, together with a White-crowned and a White-throat, and Mrs. Brooke had 1 or 2 at times.

My winter bird-population study found all sp. but Starlings down appreciably, and many feeders were poorly patronized. A few thought numbers were good.

Moody