

Buffalo Center, Iowa
November 27, 1963

Mr. Peter Petersen
2736 East High Street
Davenport, Iowa

Dear Mr. Petersen :

In August at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge herons, swallows, and shorebirds dominated the scene. Common Egrets and immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present on five of the nine trips I made to Union Slough. On August 25, I counted eleven Yellow-crowned Night Herons (ten immatures and one full adult).

Large groups of swallows were nearly always present. Approximately 2000 swallows were observed on August 14. On August 17, I saw nearly 3000 in one group. Bank Swallows were the most abundant, but Tree and Cliff Swallows were also numerous.

At a large mudflat near the slough, I recorded Wilson's Phalaropes, Least, and Stilt Sandpipers on August 17. On August 25, I saw one Sanderling and one Marbled Godwit at the same mudflat.

On August 15, Mike Orthel and I observed a Northern Water-Thrush at Union Slough. I recorded one Common Tern at the slough on August 18.

At Buffalo Center on November 1, I recorded a group of about ten Common Redpolls. On November 2, I saw one Snow Bunting.

2 records
I found one Krider's Redtail feeding on a dead rabbit near Buffalo Center on November 10. On the 11th, I and two other watchers carefully observed a Snowy Owl at close range. On the 12th, another Snowy Owl, which had been shot, was brought to me. The first owl was seen southwest of town; the second owl was found northeast of town.

Rusty Blackbirds had been present near town and at Myre Slough in early November. The last Rusty Blackbird I have seen was near town on November 23. On that same day I saw a group of thirty Snow Buntings and another group of three east of Buffalo Center.

Sparrow Hawks have been unusually scarce throughout the fall. I have seen Short-eared Owls on four occasions in November.

Sincerely,

Tom C. Moermond