

Marble Rock, Iowa
June 10, 1964

Peter C. Peterson Jr.
Davenport, Iowa

Dear Mr. Peterson,

Guess I could have sent this report some time ago as migration seemed to come to an end rather early this year. In fact there wasn't much after the middle of the month ~~May~~ I saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher on the 25th for my only record of that species this spring, ~~as~~ the only late arrival.

I am beginning to think there may be some connection between the number of sparrows we see and all this use of spray. It seems to me that the sparrows are getting fewer in number, although I see about as many different species as usual. Saw several Lark Sparrows this spring. There was no big migration of warblers on any one day, although the Tennessee Warblers seemed really numerous, as usual, during their stay here.

There was the usual number of thrillers. These included a pair of ~~Red-breasted~~ Mergansers on the river on April 3; A Common Loon on the river on the 14th of April and an American Egret in the edge of the water at the end of a small island on the 5th of May. At least these records were all special as far as I was concerned. I had never seen the loon before.

And there are two birds that I am wondering if others sighted in Iowa this spring. They are the Golden Eagles and the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk. On April 6, early in the afternoon, there were at least 10 large birds went over, that I believe were Golden Eagles, at least there didn't seem to be anything else they could be judging by their looks and flight. I studied them with binoculars. They weren't flying fast. I saw the hawk on the 15th of May and had a good chance to study it, although it was high up and quite a distance away. I relied on the wing patch and what seemed to me a more contrasting back pattern that other hawks have.

Saw a Turkey Vulture and several Ospreys again this spring. Golden Plover flocks were numerous as they went over. I wasn't in the country to see them feeding in the fields. Saw three ~~Canada~~ ^{Deer} on the 19th of April. Mallard and Pintail seemed numerous, judging by flocks going over, about the middle of March. I missed the usual number of Common Merganser, weather may have affected that. Saw one Hooded Merganser on the river here and several Bufflehead. Ring-necked Ducks were more numerous than usual on the river here. On the 28th of March I saw a ~~Water or American Pipit~~ feeding on the ice along the river's edge just below the dam. To me the place rather than the bird was the surprise.

At present my year's list stands at 155 species. I am hoping it will increase during fall migration--as I missed several that I usually see, such as the Scarlet Tanager and the Yellow-throated Vireo, Probably wasn't in the right place at the right time to see them.

Sincerely,

Paul Knopf.