

Season: Fall Year: 1991Name and  
address  
(print  
or type)Jan L. Walter  
934-13<sup>th</sup> St. S.E.  
Mason City Ia 50401

Other observers (name, city):

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: Jan 118

use initials of obsv. on species line

~~118, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240~~  
by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Very little "normal" weather. Temp. mostly 10-20° above or 10-20° below normal. Wet August provided some good shorebird spots. Good water levels in lakes and marshes, which froze up fast in just a few days by Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> . Rest of Nov. cold, windy, with over 10" of snow.			
✓ Western Grebe	6	19 Aug	Silver Lake, Worth Co. 2 adult, 4 young Had nested there. Black of crown extended below eyes, bill appeared dark.
Cooper's Hawk	1	15 Oct	e. Mason City Adult circled neighborhood and flew through our yard. Reddish underparts; rounded tip with wide, white terminal band on long narrow tail.
✓ Northern Goshawk	1	6 Oct.	e. Cerro Gordo Co. Adult perched in tree not far from edge of road. Large size, dark gray crown, white eyebrow, light gray under parts; very broad, banded tail, with narrow, white terminal band
✓ Northern Goshawk	1	15 Nov	Our yard Adult landed very briefly on branch, facing away. Uniform dark slate upper parts without mottling; broad tail with wide, wavy edged bands
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	200+	25 Sep	Winnebago River n.w. of Mason City Between 8:30 and 9:30 AM in groups of from 1 or 2 to 15-17 birds. Had apparently just taken off from night time roost as groups were beginning to form and circle but hadn't formed definite kettles





## Details of Swainson's Hawks

On 23 July we found 1 juvenile and 1 adult Swainson's Hawk in exposed, dead tops of trees on the banks of the Winnebago River just south of U.S. 18.

In August we saw 2 juveniles on the 2nd, 1 adult and 2 juveniles on the 11th, 1 adult and 2 juveniles on the 14th, 1 juvenile on the 18th, 2 juveniles on the 21st, and 2 juveniles on the 27th. We checked the area on the 30th and 31st and the following week, but the 27th was the last time we could find them.

Our visits were between 6:30 and 7:00 PM and lasted from 15 minutes to half an hour. Each time the birds were in the same tree top or one close by. When we saw the adults, they were agitated and did a lot of screaming. The juveniles seemed unafraid and as curious about us as we were about them.

We found what we are quite sure was their nest about 200 yards down the road from their roost tree. It was about half way to the top of a tall Boxelder tree, between the road and the river bank. We will certainly watch the area closely next spring.

## American Kestrel

For the 5th year, our yard is on his winter feeding route. I often see him fly through the yard a few feet above ground between October and the end of January. This year was the earliest I've seen him. Occasionally I see him catch a House Sparrow or Junco. When he does, he mangles briefly, then carries the bird to the top of a spruce tree across the street where he plucks at least some of the feathers before eating it or carrying it off.