

Black



Pleasantville Iowa
Dec 6, 1973

Dear Vernon: - Suspect this report too late. Our Shorebirds were waterworthy, here for over 7 months, all around the mud flat edges of our 30-mile Long Lake Red Rock (permanent pool 10 miles)

We'll probably never again see this as, Saylorville dam is to be completed soon, above Des Moines, and is to control excessive flooding in Red Rock. (Red Rock dam about 35 or 40 miles SE of D.M.)

By the end of July we had 10 1/2 inches more rainfall than normal. Sept 1, lake had receded, wheat planted in Refuge by plane. On Oct 1, it was a beautiful sight, looking from Adgls - 185 Canadas, several species of ducks, 228 Great Blue Herons, 105 Great Egrets + 1 Cattle Egret. Another deluge + lake filled from cliff to cliff! Herons, geese, moved out!

Bill Cuswell of Des Moines Audubon Society is responsible for most of the shorebird records tho I often accompanied him. Often he waded barefoot in knee-deep mud in order to make positive identifications.

I have indicated the uncommon, rare, + casual migrants for this area. Never before have we had shorebirds over such a long period. Usually they sweep thru in August and we see few.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black