

Musgrove

2414 Adams Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
Oct. 26, 1982

Dear Dr. Kent,

On Saturday, Sept. 18, 1982, my daughter, Jean Strueber of Nederland, Colorado, and I made two interesting observations at Saylorville Lake: First, an osprey. Second, a flock of at least 500 pelicans on the northern end of the lake.

This last Sunday, Oct. 24, 1982, I made a trip to DeSoto Wildlife Refuge, Forney Lake, and Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge in Missouri. The following may be of interest: At DeSoto, about 100 ducks, probably mostly mallards because the only flying birds seen were mallards, but most of the others were too far away to be sure of anything but mallards even with a 20x scope. The other observation was a single eagle, almost certainly an immature bald eagle, which was seen flying and all typical field marks were picked up. No other observer; I was alone except for my little dog, whose interest in birds appears to be nil.

At Forney Lake, a flock of about 1,000 snow geese, about 2/3 of them blue phase with a good number of juveniles of both color phases. Also about 50 Canada geese, probably what we used to call lesser Canadas. And about 100 mallards and 10 or 12 each of ringnecks, lesser scaups, and canvasbacks. There were probably other species in the weeds.

At Squaw Creek, which doesn't figure in Iowa reports, there were at least 5,000 geese, mostly snows, and perhaps 1,000 each of mallards and pintails and probably small numbers of other ducks, most of which were staying in the weeds. The entire refuge was open to cars and there were a lot of people, who kicked up flocks of geese, mallards, and pintails while walking out to observation towers which were open.

western — It appears that most of the surface-feeding ducks and geese have already left Iowa, with the big push of diving ducks probably starting--I saw no divers at Squaw Creek (last year I did see a lot of them there the first week in November). Because I'm still slowed down by the aftermath of serious surgery in late June, I haven't patrolled the local duck marshes as well as I hoped to do. Reports from friends who hunt indicate a very sparse population of all waterfowl except, in some localities, for wood ducks. Barry Kenney of Des Moines, who hunted with Jack for many years, reported a peregrine at Bay's Branch near Panora on Sept. 18; he has seen them in the past with Jack and is probably a reliable observer of this species, but I'm not reporting it officially since I didn't see it myself.

Sincerely,

Mary Musgrove