

BARRETT

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An EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Agency

December 1, 1982

Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Mr. Kent:

Just a note to report a few late sightings.

✓ A common gallinule--should say common moorhen--was sighted at the Riverton Wildlife Management Area in Fremont County on October 23, 1982. This is the latest date that I can ever recall for seeing this species. It was in a ditch immediately adjacent to the road along the west side of the area, and was observed in company with several coots at a distance of less than fifty feet.

✓ On November 24, 1982, a visit to the same area resulted in the sighting of five killdeers on some bare earth where a bulldozer had recently worked. Much of the water area was frozen at this time. Three great blue herons were sighted on the same date and area. In all three cases the birds were standing on the ice.

✓ The most unique sighting occurred on November 26, 1982, at the Riverton W.M.A. when four cattle egrets were found on the north end of the area. They were huddled on a bank along the north side of a drainage ditch, thus getting out of the direct force of the wind and absorbing any heat possible from the sun. The birds were fluffed up and appeared to be stressed from the cold, but flew readily and appeared to be in good shape when disturbed.

✓ More than 150,000 snow geese were present on the area during this visit. Hunters using the blinds on the controlled hunting area must check their daily bag through the state-manned check station at the end of each day. As of November 25, 1982, they had checked about 950 geese of which three were positively identified as Ross' geese, confirming the fact that the Ross' goose is more common than most persons realize.

Sincerely,

BOB BARRATT
WILDLIFE SUPERINTENDENT

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