

Paul Martsching
Winter
1982

All Story Co, Iowa, unless otherwise noted

1120 Mauston
Ames IA 50010

- ✓ Great Blue Heron 1 19 Feb 4 miles east of Ledges State Park - Boone Co; early
✓ Canada Goose 100 26 Feb Hendricksons Marsh; early
✓ Lesser Scaup 4 26 Feb Hendricksons Marsh; early
✓ Common Merganser 5 26 Feb Hendricksons Marsh; early

Accipiter 1 19 Feb State Forest Nursery - Ames; never saw tail from
(male Coopers? good angle to tell if rounded or square; almost
female Sharp Shin??) the instant it landed in the top of an oak tree,
a Blue Jay landed near it in same tree & soon 6 more Blue Jays
showed up. The hawk was between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ longer than a Blue
Jay. It flew off while I was trying to approach behind a row
of cedars. *I never got very close.*

Red Headed Woodpecker saw none

- ✓ Tufted Titmouse 1 9, 16, 23 Jan; 22 Feb: saw 2 on 13 Feb in same tree -
the first time in three years I've seen 2 together.
all sightings at Brookside Park - Ames

Red Breasted Nuthatch saw none (usually some at State Forest Nursery in winter)

- ✓ Golden Crowned Kinglet saw one 4 Dec in Ames (across street from home)
the following shows the decline at the State Forest Nursery - Ames
17 18 Dec
5 2 Jan
5 9 Jan
✓ 2 16 Jan
1 19 Jan
2 25 Jan
✓ 1 16 Feb
1 19 Feb
✓ Eastern Bluebird 1 27 Feb flying over State Forest Nursery - Ames

Robin 1 - 4 at State Forest Nursery from mid December to end of February

- ✓ Cedar Waxwing 250 18 Dec State Forest Nursery - Ames; saw no waxwings at Nursery
from 2 Jan till 19 Feb when saw 50; During January and most
of February saw only small flocks of 2 - 5 in Ames; in last
week of February saw flock of 75 near downtown.
✓ Loggerhead Shrike 1 26 Feb Hendricksons Marsh

- ✓ Harris Sparrow 1 - 2 six days between 9 January and 27 February; began singing Feb 8
State Forest Nursery - Ames

- ✓ Lapland Longspur 3 2 Feb Ames
Purple Finch 1 - 3 various days State Forest Nursery & Brookside Park - Ames; 4 on
Redpoll none seen 19 Feb at Ledges State Pk, Boone

Pine Siskin none seen

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Rock Doves 'diving' at Owl being mobbed by other birds:

On 2 January at the State Forest Nursery, I saw Crow, Blue Jays and Cardinals 'mobbing' a Great Horned Owl, and was surprised to see a small flock of Rock Doves (4 or 5) dive in at the owl and fly off. They did this again and flew away. Then the owl flew by me on down the row of trees and landed with the crows and jays in pursuit. I was really surprised to see a flock of about 35 pijuns (Rock Doves) fly in and 'dive' the owl. This flock 'dived' the Horned Owl three times before the owl flew off into some low brush under a cottonwood tree. The flock never got closer than 3 or 4 feet from the owl.

On 9 January I saw three pijuns as a flock do the same thing to a Great Horned Owl at the Nursery. Crows, a Blue Jay, and some Starlings were also 'mobbing' at the time. I don't know if this is unusual or not, but I'd never seen pijuns do this before.