

MUSGROVE

2414 Adams Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
Feb. 16, 1983

Dear Dr. Kent,

In looking over the Fall 1982 field reports, I've noticed that very few records are reported of tufted titmouse.

✓ Two come to my feeding station regularly--have done so since early fall, when I began putting out feed again after a layoff because of hiatal hernia surgery. In the past, at least two have been regular visitors year-round. Anyway, there are at least two in a timbered area near Vets Hospital in Des Moines.

✗ Also, a red-headed woodpecker is wintering in the area; it comes to my feeding station almost every day. (Probably every day and I just don't happen to see it.)

I see very few other woodpeckers. The winter is so open that I haven't put out a suet feeder. Whenever the nights are fairly warm, the raccoons start prowling and over the years Jack and I have lost quite a few homemade suet feeders to them; this year, there have been very few nights I'd have been sure the feeder was safe from them. The coons themselves are fun to watch; we formerly fed them dog biscuits every night, a practice I hope to resume in the spring.

As for other winter birds. Except for juncos--none until about Feb. 9 when a tree sparrow showed up. I've seen very few winter small birds out in the country the few times I've been out. In such a mild winter I suspect they've stayed farther north than Des Moines.

Anyway, for what it's worth--two winter records, both at a feeding station in Des Moines: tufted titmouse, two, regular visitors; red-headed woodpecker, one, regular visitor all winter.

A trip to DeSoto Wildlife Refuge in mid-January, to get away from cabin fever, turned up nothing except a small flock of mallards at Wilson Island State Park on the Missouri. A trip Feb. 13 around Saylorville and Big Creek lakes turned up nothing of interest, except some ice fishermen on Big Creek amid the slush of thawing snow, and a lot of fishermen at the Saylorville outlet--enough to scare away any interesting birds. I enjoy the field reports, appreciate the work done on them.

Sincerely,

Mary M.
(Mary Musgrove)