

1463-64

A. F. N. Winter Report - Des Moines.

Swans. Three Trumpeter Swans reported on a farm pond at Van Meter 27 March. From the newspaper photo it could not be told which swan it was, but the identification was made by a local Conservation Officer. ?

Hérons. Two Great Blues wintered in Waterworks Park where the water is always open because of warm water discharged by an industrial plant.

No ducks wintered.

Doves. A flock of over 200 was seen at least as late as 30 December.

Woodpeckers. Very few Redheads wintered, but there were several Sapsuckers seen in January.

Horned Larks. Seemed fewer than usual.

Blue Jays. Normal numbers.

Red-breasted Nuthatches. Quite a few in late December and early January.

Robins. Very few wintered.

Shrikes. None reported.

Meadowlarks. Fewer than usual.

Evening Grosbeaks. A few scattered reports of wintering.

Purple Finches. Small flocks reported from many places. Peasley's feeding upwards of 50. I've had them in my yard daily all winter - at least 9.

Pine Grosbeak. One seen at first of year.

Redpoll. Two flocks seen around census time but apparently not since.

Pine Siskin. One small flock ditto.

Goldfinches. Fewer than usual wintering.

Red-crossbill. As many as 10 seen several times in January.

Towhee. One was here for some weeks.

Juncos. More than usual.

Harris' and White-crowned Sparrows. A mixed flock seen repeatedly and could be said to have wintered.

January was the warmest in 20 years but dry. February slightly warmer than normal and also dry. March considerably warmer than normal but record-breaking cold on 27 and 28. As much snow in two days as in all winter previously but precip still below normal.

Woody
Russ Hays had 3 Bohemian Waxwings on 1 Mar. in case he hasn't let you know.