Audubon Field Notes. Fall 1963 Iowa City, Iowa F.W. Kent

Weather.

Warm and Dry . Sept. temperatures about normal but October was the warmest on record in 70 yrs. with averages some 10 degrees above . Rainfall only 1.5 inches in Sept. and none in Oct. No marked weather changes .a minor cold front on Sept.29 , and first freeze in first week of Nov.

Late August showed a build-up of teal and wood ducks(local?) .Aug. 24 a good showing of shore birds yellow-legs, pectorals, peeps (200) at Conesville, and 15 soras. but few after that date.
The duck population very thin. no large numbers or varieties at any time. Most ponds and marshes dried up Coralville Reservoir refuge with small population of mallards and a few pintails plus a few baldpates, red-heads, ring-necks , and later some greenwing teal. Even the duck hunters were scarce after the opening days. Geese reported going over over long period. 27 Blue & snow in refuge Oct. 26

Sept. 22 in 2 hour period (8am to 10) a fine hawk flight. Broadwings 126, red-tails 11, red-shouder 2, coopers 3, vultures 6.

Sept. 15 to 29 provided a good and steady number of warblers with no marked waves. Most numerous were Tennessee, Nashville and Bay-breasted. Black-throatdd Green, Chestnut-sided, Black & white, Blackburnian, Canada, Redstart, Palm, Mourning and 1 Conn. at close range. With these were Kinglets and red-breasted nuthatches, a few purple finches. And later into Oct. the Myrles, creepers and sapsuckers.
Oct. produced, as usual, a good number of sparrows with more Fox and Harris than usual .but the cold front of Nov. 2 thinned them out and the first tree sparrows appeared Nov. 2

Other items.

Aug. 26. Harold Ennis reported a kill at WMT towers and brought down some warblers and thrushes for identification. Get details from him.
" 31 Flickers 50
Sept. 2 Nighthawks 100 going south
Oct. 27 Coots 2000-3000 on reservoir.
" 29 Rusty Blackbirds in numbers
Snipe 21 Swan Lake
Nov. 16 Biggest number of blackbirds moving. all kinds.

" 16 Goshawk .
On E road north of refuge floating in the updraft by wooded ridge and occasionally diving down . We (Laudes) watched it for 15 minutes. most of the time just overhead us quite close. white line over eye quite conspicuous and of cource the shape. But it had some white in the top of wings and upper tail(youngbird?) and the action seemd a bit different than I would expect.

Nov. was 4.2 degrees above normal-- Rainfall 2.76in. (normal- first time since July)
" 23 (after a cold front) On Swan 12 shovelers, 19 gadwall, 3 snipe, rusty blackbirds. On Reservoir 1000 ducks mostly ring-necks and scaup, 7 hooded mergansers , 6 baldpate & 12 buffleheads.
" 24 2 longspurs. Nov. 29 100 pintails
Dec 1 first good freeze-up , except Reservoi and Macbride/ Dec. 6 58 Snow Buntings, 2500 mallards, 1500 coots & 4 canvasbacks (Only ones of season)