

1940

Winter Birds of Northeastern Iowa

Fred J. Pierce

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WINTER BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN IOWA

FRED J. PIERCE.

For twenty consecutive years I have taken the Christmas Bird Census which is sponsored annually by the magazine *Bird-Lore*. All these censuses were taken in northeastern Iowa. This series of December bird lists, covering a twenty-year period, forms a good index to the winter bird life of northeastern Iowa. During the twenty years forty-six species have been observed. With the exception of a half dozen or so rather rare winter visitants or residents, this number includes all the winter birds I have recorded in this locality.

The table accompanying this paper gives a complete summary of these twenty bird censuses. A study of the data obtained shows the status of the winter birds found in this region. The number seen on each trip is given, while the final figures show the total number of individuals of each species seen during the twenty-year period, as well as the number of years in which each species was found. The various figures are indicative of fluctuation in the numbers of different species from year to year. Quite similar types of bird habitat were visited each year and sufficient time was spent in the field to insure seeing most of the birds to be found at that time. Therefore, the summary should be quite accurate.

Below is a list of the localities visited each year during the period under consideration.

1920 — December 23; 12 m. to 4 p.m.; Buffalo Creek woods and vicinity, southeast of Winthrop, Buchanan County.

1921 — December 23; 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1920.

1922 — December 24; 11:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1920; with Vance Allyn.

1923 — December 23; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Backbone State Park, Delaware County; with Chas. J. Spiker.

1924 — December 26; 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; New Hampton cemetery and timber one-half mile east of that city, Chickasaw County; with Chas. J. Spiker and Harvey L. Nichols.

1925 — December 26; 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; timbered country along the Wapsipinicon River five miles south of Winthrop, Buchanan County; with Vance Allyn.

1926 — December 26; 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.; timber one mile southeast of the village of Monti, in the southeastern corner of Buchanan County; with Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

Table I. Summary of bird censuses

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Total number seen	Total years seen	
Great Blue Heron																1					1	1	
Common Canada Goose		17		35					50												102	3	
Common Mallard				5															5			10	2
Red-tailed Hawk						1		1		2	2		1	1	2	1	2		2		15	10	
Broad-winged Hawk				1																	1	1	
Am. Rough-legged Hawk	1							1		3		1		1	2							9	6
Marsh Hawk									2					2								4	2
Eastern Sparrow Hawk																				1	1	1	1
Eastern Ruffed Grouse				1																	1	1	1
Eastern Bob-white	3		30				14	18	15	15	12			1	12						120	9	
Ring-necked Pheasant							4	1	2	5		1	2	2	14				5	1	6	43	11
Eastern Mourning Dove	2								1											2		5	3
Eastern Screech Owl					1					1												2	2
Great Horned Owl				1			1	2	4	2								1	1		1	13	8
Northern Barred Owl												1										1	1
Short-eared Owl			1					1		1		1									3	7	5
E. Belted Kingfisher	1			1																		2	2
Northern Flicker				2			1	1		1				2	1				1			9	7
N. Pileated Woodpecker													1			1						2	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker				3		2	3	2	6	2	1	2	3	5			4	2	3	2	40	14	
Red-headed Woodpecker					1					1							1	1				4	4
E. Hairy Woodpecker	1			4	4	2	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	1	2	1	2	2	4	2	45	18	

Pierce: Winter Birds of Northeastern Iowa

Table 1. (Continued)

N. Downy Woodpecker			6	6	1	1	4	3	8	5	7	3		3	2	2	4	6	5	3	3	72	18
Prairie Horned Lark			10	3			2		5			1		1	30		125			39		216	9
Northern Blue Jay			2	1	25	2	4	9	19	12	7	18	10	20	20	12	7	22	25	10	30	255	19
Eastern Crow	481	34	15	14	50	10	20	25	25	47	23	23	44	15	12	14	20	18	12	45	947	20	
Black-capped Chickadee	8	9	10	20	6	10	18	16	10	7	14	8	10	15	4	12	7	12	10	8	214	20	
Tufted Titmouse	1					1	6	4	2	8						2					24	7	
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	5	3	5	2	3	9	10	6	8	2	4	5	10	4	12	8	7	7	13	129	20	
Red-breasted Nuthatch										1											1	1	
Brown Creeper	1					1											1				3	3	
Eastern Robin										1							1			5	7	3	
E. Golden-crowned Kinglet				2						10		3							6		21	4	
Cedar Waxwing															15					118	133	2	
Starling															1	2	36	19	2		62	6	
Meadowlark													1								1	1	
Rusty Blackbird																			1		1	1	
Eastern Cardinal				6		7	2	9	6	13	6	2	2	6	2	8	3	12	5	3	92	16	
Eastern Purple Finch				10									4	2		6	6	30	9		67	7	
Northern Pine Siskin				1						7					4	10					22	4	
Eastern Goldfinch			1	10	3	12	30					6	50	1		100	20	35	15	26	309	13	
Slate-colored Junco	1			12	1	9	2	15	10	25	50	10	35	40	5	150	100	150	34	24	673	18	
Eastern Tree Sparrow	14		100	6	1	15		110	80	17	60	2	25	4		200	220	200	5	300	1359	17	
Song Sparrow																		1			1	1	
Lapland Longspur								5								1000					1005	2	
Eastern Snow Bunting															51						51	1	
Total species seen	12	7	10	21	11	15	15	19	18	24	13	15	18	18	16	20	17	18	21	18			

1927 — December 23; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1926; with Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

1928 — December 23; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1926; with Vance Allyn.

1929 — December 23; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1926, with an additional trip to the heavy shelter-belt of pine and spruce on the grounds of the State Hospital for Insane at Independence, Buchanan County; with Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

1930 — December 22; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1929; with Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

1931 — December 23; 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; timbered country along the Wapsipinicon River between Quasqueton and Independence, timber near Otterville, and other places in Buchanan County.

1932 — December 26; 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Backbone State Park, Delaware County, with roadside list from Winthrop to the park and return, partly in Buchanan and partly in Delaware Counties; with Vance Allyn, Chas. J. Spiker, and John Ripple.

1933 — December 24; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Vance Allyn and Myrle L. Jones.

1934 — December 23; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Myrle L. Jones.

1935 — December 23; 9:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Myrle L. Jones and Harry Telles.

1936 — December 24; 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Myrle L. Jones and Paul A. Pierce.

1937 — December 20; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones, and Paul A. Pierce.

1938 — December 23; 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones.

1939 — December 24; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; locality the same as 1932; with Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones, Miss Margaret Murley, and Paul A. Pierce.

On all the trips except the first three the automobile was used for going to localities some distance from my home. The birds seen along the roadside on these auto trips are, of course, included in the censuses.

Weather conditions were much the same from year to year with one exception. Temperature varied from 6° to 44° F., while snow on the ground varied from no snow at all to six inches. The one exception in the whole series was the 1925 trip. Weather conditions on this trip were far from ideal. It was ten below zero (-10°) at the start, and the temperature had risen to but five below zero (-5°) when we returned at 1:30 p. m. Snow was six inches deep on the level, and a strong northwest wind, which rose steadily as the day passed, fast piled the snow into drifts. My companion (Vance Allyn) and I did not mind the cold, and in the wooded country along the Wapsipinicon River there was protection from the fierce wind, but in the open it was very disagree-

able. Despite the depth of the snow we tramped six miles and secured a list of fifteen species. We had a drive of five miles back to Winthrop, and we doubtless would not have been able to return with our automobile had it not been for the fact that we followed a large truck which broke a track through the drifting snow. We had to borrow a teakettle of boiling water from a farmer's wife to thaw out a very cold motor before the start home, and our radiator began freezing soon after we started. I mention these things to show that it takes considerable enthusiasm to attempt the bird census under such conditions. In spite of all difficulties we thought the trip well worth our efforts.

As a contrast to the 1925 trip a statement of conditions on the 1931 trip is interesting. Temperature stood at 44°, the highest point it reached on any of the censuses. There was no snow, the Wapsipinicon River was entirely open and at quite a high stage due to recent rains, and the frost was out of the ground in many places. Green grass was to be seen at various spots in the woods. The mildness of the weather, however, did not increase the number of winter birds to be found, and the same number of species was found as in 1925 (as to individuals, eighty-three were recorded in 1925, and seventy-eight in 1931). The birds are spread out over the country when there is mild weather and lack of snow through December, while severe weather with attending snow causes concentration of bird life into groups which are found in sheltered places.

The following list states briefly the status of each of the forty-six winter birds given in the table.

GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias herodias*. This species is extremely rare in this region in winter. On the census trip of December 23, 1935, one was found in the Backbone State Park. Although the first snow of the winter had come the previous day, during the preceding week temperature had been as low as ten below zero. The heron had doubtless been securing food in the spring-fed stream, which remained open in the park. Myrle L. Jones gave this record under the title of "The Great Blue Heron as a Winter Bird," in *Iowa Bird Life*, VI, December, 1936, p. 53.

COMMON CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis canadensis*. I have occasionally seen flocks of geese flying north or south during mild winters. The advance of cold makes them go south, but a spell of warm, thawy weather is sufficient to send them migrating to the north again. This species has been noted much less commonly in recent years.

COMMON MALLARD. *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*. A spring and fall migrant which sometimes lingers up into December in sheltered places where there is open water.

RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo borealis*. A permanent resident which can hard-

ly be called common at any season. Many non-resident birds pass through in migration.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. *Buteo platypterus platypterus*. Rare in winter. One bird was seen at Backbone State Park, December 23, 1923.

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. *Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. A fairly common winter visitant, though less common in mild winters.

MARSH HAWK. *Circus hudsonius*. A rather rare winter resident, though common in summer. A few birds may remain if the winter is mild.

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius sparverius*. An occasional straggler is seen in mild winters when there is little snow on the ground. I have a few winter records, but it was found on only one census trip, 1939.

EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE. *Bonasa umbellus umbellus*. In the heavy timber along the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa, it is still a resident, though the localities where it is found are restricted. One bird was seen at Backbone State Park, December 23, 1923.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE. *Colinus virginianus virginianus*. A permanent resident, formerly abundant, which has been unable to hold its own in numbers. A flock could often be found on the census trips in former years, but recently the bird has become very scarce.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT. *Phasianus colchicus torquatus*. A permanent resident that has become well established in eastern Iowa.

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. A summer resident that often remains well up into the winter if the weather is no too severe. Occasionally one or two of the birds will remain through an entire winter at a farm livestock feeding-yard, where enough food is obtained to sustain them.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL. *Otus asio naevius*. A fairly common permanent resident, but owing to its nocturnal habits, it is very hard to find on the census trips.

GREAT HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*. A permanent resident in the heavily timbered sections, though present in small numbers.

NORTHERN BARRED OWL. *Strix varia varia*. A permanent resident in the regions of heavy timber, but, I believe, it is a shade less common than the Great Horned Owl. It is so shy and retiring by day it is not often found. On the 1931 census, one bird was found dead in the woods near Otterville, evidently shot by a hunter.

SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio flammeus flammeus*. A fairly regular winter resident in this region.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER. *Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*. A summer resident which occasionally winters along open streams. Most of the streams in this region, however, are open only during mild winters.

NORTHERN FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Summer resident. Infrequently winters in the wooded sections.

NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*. A permanent resident in the timber of Clayton and Allamakee Counties and a few other regions of northeastern Iowa. I have had several records of the bird at the Backbone State Park, and was able to record it on two census trips.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*. A fairly common permanent resident in the heavily timbered sections.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Summer resident. A few birds occasionally winter in the heavy timber, the question of food seeming to be a more important factor in their remaining than the severity of the weather.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates villosus villosus*. Common permanent resident.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. Common permanent resident.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. A common summer resident, and no doubt a number of the birds remain as winter residents. The winter Horned Larks may be either Hoyt's or Prairie Horned Lark, with occasionally the rare Northern Horned Lark. DuMont in "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" (1933) gives *hoyti* as the probable winter Horned Lark, but as he lists no specimens from the northeastern Iowa region, this question remains unsettled. He lists one specimen of *hoyti* which was taken at Cedar Rapids, Linn County, on February 10, 1929. Linn County, however, is south of the area under consideration in this paper, and a full series of specimens would be necessary for a definite settlement of the winter form of Horned Lark found in east-central and northeastern Iowa.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. A common permanent resident. It is somewhat less common in the winter as the species is migratory to some extent, and many of the summer residents move southward in the fall.

EASTERN CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*. Common permanent resident. Crows assemble in flocks of some size. The largest flock I have ever seen in this region was observed on my December 23, 1920, census. This flock contained about 300 birds and was seen in a cornfield.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*. Common permanent resident.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Baeolophus bicolor*. A permanent resident in the heavily wooded parts of the region, but seldom seen outside of this habitat. Its abundance during the period in which I have kept bird records has varied greatly. In some years it has seemed to be fairly common; in others, especially in recent years, it has appeared to be scarce.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*. Common permanent resident.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta canadensis*. A rather rare winter visitant. One bird stayed in the shelter-belt of pine and spruce at the State Hospital at Independence during December, 1929. I saw it on December 10, and 23, and again on January 18, 1930.

BROWN CREEPER. *Certhia familiaris americana*. The creeper appears very irregularly and can seldom be found on the census trip, although it is a winter visitant.

EASTERN ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius migratorius*. The Robin rarely winters in this region, but often if late November and December be mild it remains quite late, though usually only a single bird here and there. Occasionally a courageous Robin, reluctant to leave its summer home, will attempt to stay through the winter. Unless adequate food is available, such attempts are futile, and deep snows, starvation or the raid of a predator end the story.

EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*. A common migrant, but found in the winter only very irregularly. A flock of ten stayed about the pine and spruce shelter-belt at the State Hospital at Independence much of the time during the winter of 1929-1930.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. A very irregular or rare winter visitant. Roving flocks may appear at any time during fairly mild winters. My winter records for this species are not very numerous.

STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*. This species is now well established as a permanent resident. It is much less common in the winter, which indicates that it has acquired migratory habits. My first record of the bird in Buchanan County was on February 21, 1932. My first nesting record in this county was during the summer of 1934, and it made its first appearance on my census list in that year.

MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella magna* (or *neglecta*). This far north in Iowa the Meadowlark is a fairly rare winter resident, except during mild winters when it is often found. In this region the Eastern and Western forms of the Meadowlark appear to be very nearly equal in abundance.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. *Euphagus carolinus*. A common spring and fall migrant, and occasionally a winter straggler is seen.

EASTERN CARDINAL. *Richmondna cardinalis cardinalis*. A fairly common permanent resident in timbered regions; it seldom appears outside of the protective woodland in winter, although occasionally it visits feeding-stations for birds.

EASTERN PURPLE FINCH. *Carpodacus purpurcus purpurcus*. A rather scarce winter visitant, present some winters and absent others, and not always to be found on the census lists.

NORTHERN PINE SISKIN. *Spinus pinus pinus*. An erratic winter visitant, usually seen in small flocks. It is not to be found every winter.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH. *Spinus tristis tristis*. A permanent resident, but much less common in winter.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. Common winter resident.

EASTERN TREE SPARROW. *Spizella arborca arborca*. Common winter resident.

SONG SPARROW. *Melospiza melodia*. A rare winter straggler in north-eastern Iowa. One bird of this species was seen on our December 20, 1937, census trip.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*. A rather scarce winter resident. It is always very common in the fall months, but scarce when cold weather and snow come.

EASTERN SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*. A rather rare winter visitant. I have a few records of the bird. I saw a flock of 200 in Buchanan County on January 16, 1927; two birds in Buchanan County on January 23, 1927; three flocks totaling 200 birds in Black Hawk County on January 29, 1930; two flocks of sixteen and twenty-five birds in Buchanan County on December 23, 1934, and a flock of ten in Delaware County on the same date; a flock of twelve in Buchanan County on January 21, 1937.

WINTER RECORDS OF BIRDS NOT FOUND ON THE CENSUS TRIPS

I have had a few winter records of birds not found on any of my twenty census trips. These birds have been seen in Buchanan

County. The winter months so far as the records in this paper are concerned include December, January and February. Records not within the inclusive dates of these months have been disregarded.

PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbarius*. A rare winter visitant in this region. I have a record of one bird on December 9 and 11, 1936, on the Pierce farm, near Winthrop, Buchanan County.

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. *Tympanuchus cupido americanus*. This bird was an abundant permanent resident many years ago, but is probably extinct in Buchanan County at the present time. The species is somewhat migratory in winter, and flocks occasionally come down from the north, probably from southern Minnesota. I saw a flock of fifty-five on February 3, 1930, near Winthrop. Presumably these were migratory birds. I have no other recent records.

ROCK DOVE. *Columba livia livia*. This species is common in this region as a resident of farmers' barns. I know of no birds which have reverted to a wild state in this particular locality, although there are a number of places in Iowa where the bird lives in rocky ledges and is truly a *rock dove*.

SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea nyctea*. A rather rare winter visitant, although there have been periodic incursions when considerable numbers of the birds have come down into the northern part of Iowa. I saw a dead Snowy Owl which had been shot by a farmer in Buchanan County during the winter of 1926-1927.

LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio wilsonianus*. A rather rare resident in this region. Mrs. R. I. Bordner has observed this owl as a resident in Buchanan County (Fred J. Pierce: "Birds of Buchanan County, Iowa"; *Wilson Bulletin*, XLII, 1930, pp. 253-285).

NORTHERN SHRIKE. *Lanius borealis*. A rather rare winter visitant. I have one record made in December, 1921; another made on January 19, 1939, this also in Buchanan County.

ENGLISH SPARROW. *Passer domesticus domesticus*. A common permanent resident which I have considered too domesticated to record on the censuses. It is a resident about grain elevators, town buildings, and all groups of farm buildings. The place it occupies in the bird fauna is similar to that of the Rock Dove.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. A rather rare winter straggler. I saw a flock of fourteen migrating northward in Buchanan County on January 12, 1928. This was no doubt an error in the judgment of the birds, occasioned by a period of mild, spring-like weather, a typical "January thaw." I have a few other winter records. A flock of seventy-five Red-wings that wintered at a corn-crib in Allamakee County is recorded by Ellison Orr in *Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, p. 26.

BRONZED GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. An occasional straggler is seen in winter.

EASTERN EVENING GROSBEEK. *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*. An irregular winter visitant in northeastern Iowa, for which there are a number of records in print. Mrs. R. I. Bordner saw two in Independence on February 16, 1919. My mother, Mrs. John M. Pierce, observed a flock of ten in Winthrop on December 11, 1933.

COMMON REDPOLL. *Acanthis linaria linaria*. There are numerous winter records for northeastern Iowa. I have seen it a few times in Buchanan County.

ADDITIONAL WINTER BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN IOWA, REVEALED
BY A STUDY OF ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

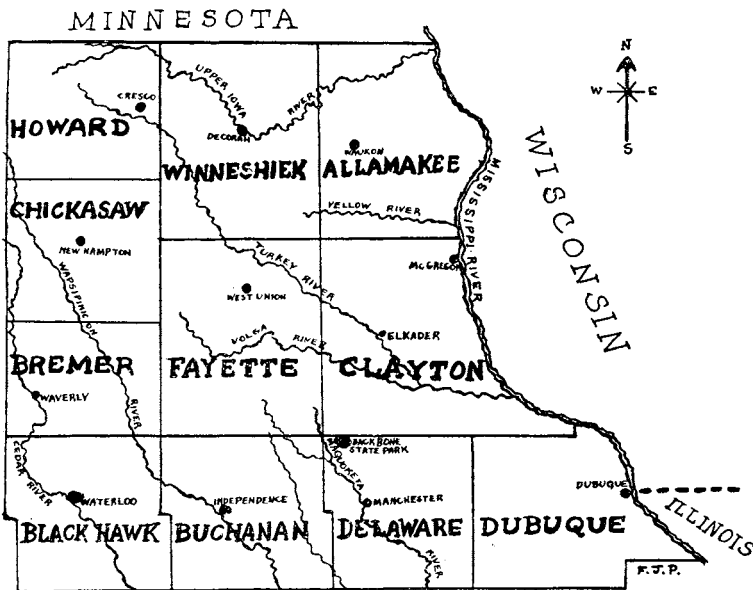
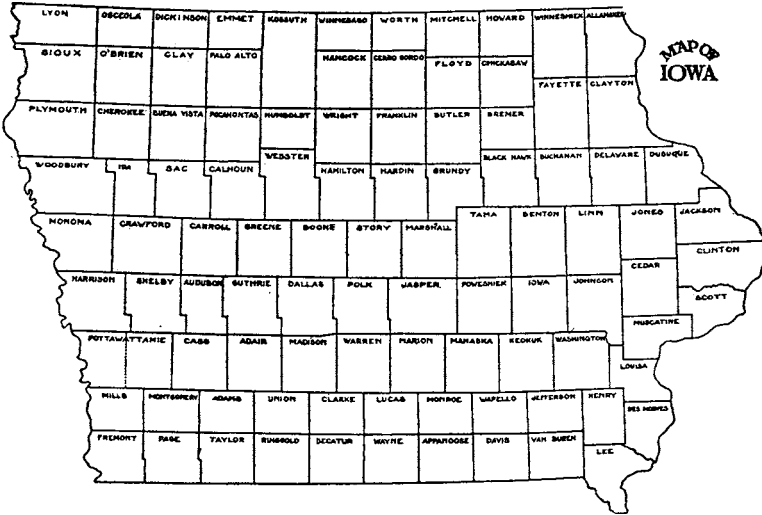
The foregoing paper deals with winter bird records made in Buchanan, Chickasaw and Delaware Counties. Eleven counties form the greater part of northeastern Iowa. From left to right, and beginning at the northern edge of the state and working downward, these counties are: Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette, Clayton, Bremer, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque (see sketch map). Using this block of counties as a basis for study, I have made a thorough survey of the literature of Iowa ornithology to determine what further species have been found and may be looked for in this region in winter. Excluding several species now extinct in Iowa, this survey of the literature reveals twenty-seven additional winter birds. These are listed below with bibliographical reference accompanying.

During the late fall and early winter of 1939, the weather was of unusual mildness, with temperature averaging far above normal and with little or no snow. These conditions prevailed up to and including the Christmas holidays. Christmas censuses taken in northeastern Iowa in 1939 revealed some very unusual birds because a number of fall migrants lingered at least a month longer than usual. This period of abnormal weather accounts for a number of species on the following list.

HOLBOELL'S GREBE. *Colymbus grisegena holboelli*. Although Iowa is within the winter range of this species, I have found no winter records for this region in the literature prior to 1940. The Dubuque Bird Club observed three of these birds on its 1939 census trip, taken December 17. They were first noted from Eagle Point Park, Dubuque, and were swimming in the middle of the Mississippi River. All nine members of the club studied them, and when one of the grebes swam to the Iowa shore, Ethan A. Hemsley followed a path to the river and obtained a very good view of the bird. The very large size of the birds was noted, as well as the light gray throat and under parts, and general grebe appearance. Soon after, the three birds swam to the opposite shore. The main channel of the river was open at the time, which was an unusual occurrence so late in the year. This record was published in *Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 7-10.

AMERICAN PINTAIL. *Dafila acuta tzitsihoo*. Arthur J. Palas observed twenty-nine in the Harpers Ferry region, Allamakee County, December 19, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 8, 10).

CANVAS-BACK. *Nyroca valisineria*. The Dubuque Bird Club observed six



in the Dubuque region, December 17, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 8, 10).

LESSER SCAUP DUCK. *Nyroca affinis*. Six were observed at Dubuque, December 17, 1939, and seventy-four in the Harpers Ferry region, December 19, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 8, 10).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. "Found in Black Hawk County in winter and early spring on the Cedar; scarce," (Peck)." (R. M. Anderson: "The Birds of Iowa"; *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.*, XI, 1907, p. 177).

AMERICAN MERGANSER. *Mergus merganser americanus*. The Dubuque Bird Club recorded thirteen in the Dubuque region on December 26, 1937 (*Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, pp. 9-10), and four in the same region on December 26, 1938 (*Iowa Bird Life*, IX, 1939, pp. 6-7).

EASTERN GOSHAWK. *Astur atricapillus atricapillus*. A rare winter visitant. Dr. Thos. S. Roberts, writing in "The Season" for the period of October 15-December 15, 1926, mentions that Oscar P. Allert of McGregor reports the presence of Snowy Owls and Goshawk at that time (*Bird-Lore*, XXIX, 1927, p. 68.)

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter velox velox*. There is one winter record for Chickasaw County, February 15, 1921 (Chas. J. Spiker: "Winter Bird Records of Chickasaw and Adjacent Counties"; *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.*, XXXII, 1925, pp. 425-428). The Dubuque Bird Club recorded one at Dubuque, December 17, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 8, 10).

NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus lineatus*. Rare in winter. Allert records a specimen for Clayton County taken January 17, 1933 (O. P. Allert: "The Red-shouldered Hawk in Clayton County in Winter"; *Iowa Bird Life*, IV, 1934, p. 20). One was recorded in the Dubuque region on a bird census taken by Ethan A. Hemsley and Woodrow Radle, December 27, 1936 (*Iowa Bird Life*, VII, 1937, p. 9). One was listed by the Dubuque Bird Club in that region on December 26, 1937 (*Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, pp. 9-10).

FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG. *Buteo regalis*. This species appears to be rather rare in Iowa at any time of the year. Anderson quotes G. W. Walters that this species is a rare winter visitant in Black Hawk County, but gives no dates of occurrence or further explanation (R. M. Anderson: "The Birds of Iowa"; *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.*, XI, 1907, p. 252).

GOLDEN EAGLE. *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*. There are a few winter records for this region. An early writer records trapping a specimen each of Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle in winter near Bluffton, Winneshiek County (A. V. Thomson: "Bald and Golden Eagles in Iowa"; *Oologist*, VIII, 1891, p. 31. "More About Iowa Eagles"; *ibid.*, pp. 159-160). Allert records one seen in Dubuque County, December 18, 1934, and another specimen taken in Clayton County in 1931 (Oscar P. Allert: "Notes on Certain Raptores in Allamakee, Clayton and Dubuque Counties, Iowa"; *Iowa Bird Life*, IX, 1939, pp. 34-36).

BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Winter records for this species in northeastern Iowa are fairly numerous. Allert, in the paper cited under Golden Eagle, lists a number of these. At Guttenberg, Clayton County, December 20, 1938, thirty-seven Bald Eagles were seen at one time, "feeding on

dead fish that came from under the ice below the dam." This was the largest number recorded, and usual records are for one or two individuals.

AMERICAN COOT. *Fulica americana americana*. The Dubuque Bird Club recorded fifteen in the Dubuque region on December 17, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 7, 10).

WILSON'S SNIFE. *Capella delicata*. There is a record for Chickasaw County on December 25, 1922 (Chas. J. Spiker: "Winter Bird Records of Chickasaw and Adjacent Counties"; *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.*, XXXII, 1925, pp. 425-428). Arthur J. Palas listed one seen on a bird census trip on December 19, 1939, in the Harpers Ferry region; another was seen on a trip taken by six people at Cedar Falls December 17, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 7-8, 10).

HERRING GULL. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. There are several winter records for this region. Ethan A. Hemsley and Woodrow Radle observed two on a bird census at Dubuque, December 27, 1936 (*Iowa Bird Life*, VII, 1937, p. 9). Arthur J. Palas observed eighty-seven in the Harpers Ferry region, December 19, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 8, 10).

RING-BILLED GULL. *Larus delawarensis*. The Dubuque Bird Club recorded thirty-six on its bird census in the Dubuque region, December 17, 1939, and Arthur J. Palas recorded eighteen in the Harpers Ferry region, December 19, 1939 (*Iowa Bird Life*, X, 1940, pp. 8, 10).

MONTANA HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*. A male was collected for Paul Bartsch in Clayton County, January 11, 1896 (Philip A. DuMont: "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa"; *Univ. Iowa Studies in Nat. Hist.*, XV, 1933, p. 83).

AMERICAN MAGPIE. *Pica pica hudsonia*. This species is a rare winter visitant in northeastern Iowa. A pair of Magpies which appeared at a farm in Bremer County during the winter of 1936-37, remained to nest on the farm during the summer of 1937. They again remained through the winter (1937-38) and nested at the same place in 1938. One of the pair disappeared during the following winter, but the other bird was seen at the farm as late as January 10, 1939, and probably remained through the winter. This very unusual nesting in northeastern Iowa is the first recorded nesting of this species in the state of Iowa. The nestings have been fully described in three articles in "Iowa Bird Life" (Mrs. Ray S. Dix: "The Nesting of the American Magpie, *Pica pica hudsonia*, in Bremer County, Iowa, Summer of 1937"; *Iowa Bird Life*, VII, 1937, p. 34. Mrs. Ray S. Dix: "American Magpies Nest in Bremer County, Iowa, the Second Successive Year"; *Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, p. 56. Fred J. Pierce: "Further Notes on the American Magpie in Bremer County, Iowa"; *Iowa Bird Life*, IX, 1939, pp. 10-11).

EASTERN WINTER WREN. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*. Two winter records, from Clayton County only. One specimen was seen in McGregor, but no date given (Mary E. Hatch: "Our Winter Pensioners"; *Wilson Bulletin*, XXIV, 1912, p. 42). Allert saw one on January 21, 1926 (Oscar P. Allert: "Some Winter Birds of Iowa"; *Wilson Bulletin*, XXXVIII, 1926, pp. 157-158).

CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*. One record for a bird seen at McGregor, December 2, year not given but supposedly 1911

(Mary E. Hatch: "Our Winter Pensioners"; *Wilson Bulletin*, XXIV, 1912, p. 42).

EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*. A rare winter straggler in this region. A Mockingbird was seen every day for five weeks, beginning about February 1, 1938, at the feeding-station of Mrs. Ed Herron, who lived at the edge of Dubuque (Mrs. R. W. Johnson: "Red-breasted Nuthatches and Mockingbird at Dubuque"; *Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, p. 37).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis sialis*. Rare in winter. Miss Thornburgh records the bird at McGregor in winter, giving four dates during December, 1937, with two to ten birds seen on each occasion, when the small flock visited her bird-feeder. Two more were seen on January 14, 1938, and were seen almost every day during that week, and often during February (M. Ellen Thornburgh: "Bluebirds in Winter at McGregor"; *Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, p. 25).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. *Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*. A somewhat rare and irregular visitant. Cooke reported it at Waukon, Allamakee County, January, 1884, and at LaPorte City, Black Hawk County, January 29, 1885 (W. W. Cooke: "Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley in the Years 1884 and 1885"; "U. S. Dept. of Agr.," 1888, p. 231). There was an invasion of these birds into Clayton County during the winter of 1908-09, as reported by Miss Sherman (Althea R. Sherman: "Bohemian Waxwing in Northeastern Iowa"; *Wilson Bulletin*, XXI, 1909, p. 49. "The Bohemian Waxwing in Iowa in Vast Numbers"; *Auk*, XXXVIII, 1921, pp. 278-279). Spiker reported the bird in Chickasaw County during January-February, 1922 (Chas. J. Spiker: "Rare Winter Birds at New Hampton, Iowa"; *Auk*, XXXIX, 1922, p. 422. "Winter Bird Records of Chickasaw and Adjacent Counties"; *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.*, XXXII, 1925, pp. 425-428).

COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater*. Very rare in winter. Oscar P. Allert saw a male in Clay County on January 30, 1931 (New dept., *Iowa Bird Life*, I, 1931, p. 15).

CANADIAN PINE GROSBEAK. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*. DuMont reports that Chas. J. Spiker lists this species as a rare winter visitant in Chickasaw County (Philip A. DuMont: "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa"; *Univ. Iowa Studies in Nat. Hist.*, XV, 1933, p. 142).

RED CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra pusilla*. An irregular winter visitant, with records scattered through the years. An observer in the nineties stated that "large numbers of this species have been feeding on sunflower seeds in my garden this winter, 1891; Delaware County" (H. B. A.: *Iowa Ornithologist*, I, 1894, p. 2). Spiker reported considerable numbers of the bird in Chickasaw County during the winter of 1922-23 (Chas. J. Spiker: "Winter Bird Records of Chickasaw and Adjacent Counties"; *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.*, XXXII, 1925, pp. 425-428). Hemsley saw two flocks, twenty-one birds, at Dubuque, January 28, 1936 (Ethan A. Hemsley: "Red Crossbills at Dubuque"; *Iowa Bird Life*, VI, 1936, p. 7). Mrs. Dix reported seeing seven of the birds near Cedar Falls, December 19, 1937 (Mrs. Ray S. Dix: "Winter Notes from the Cedar Falls Audubon Society"; *Iowa Bird Life*, VIII, 1938, p. 12). Palas found one bird in the Harpers Ferry region on December 24, 1938 (*Iowa Bird Life*, IX, 1939, pp. 6-7).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR. *Calcarius ornatus*. Anderson quotes E. B.

Webster that this bird in Howard County is "more common than any other species in winter" (R. M. Anderson: "The Birds of Iowa"; *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.*, XI, 1907, p. 314).

SUMMARY

Number of species recorded on census trips . . .	46
Number of species not found on census trips . . .	11
Additional species in Iowa literature	27
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Total species, winter birds of northeastern Iowa . . .	84

WINTHROP, IOWA.