

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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MARY LOU PETERSEN  
DAVENPORT, IOWA

The fifty-fourth annual Iowa Ornithologists' Union Convention was held in Davenport, Iowa on May 15-16, 1976. The host of the convention was the Putnam Museum. Eugene Hawkinson, President of the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Museum, officially opened the meeting by welcoming the I.O.U. to Davenport. President Dorothy Brunner responded to the welcome by Mr. Hawkinson and thanked the Putnam Museum for being the host.

Peter Petersen, Curator of Education of the Putnam Museum, introduced the first speaker of the morning, James Hodges of St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa. Dr. Hodges spoke to the group on "Changes in the Bird Life of the Davenport Area, 1940-1976". Dr. Hodges discussed the impact of urban growth on bird habitat in Davenport. He particularly deplored the "rape of Credit Island" as a birding area, calling it an unnecessary destruction of habitat. Dr. Hodges stressed the need for the preservation of the most unique habitat areas through unified planning toward their protection. He also stressed the need to interest young people in ecology and nature early in life so they will be interested and knowledgeable enough to preserve valuable habitat. A brief question and answer period followed.

Charles Kulp, Area Office Manager of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island, Illinois, followed with "Ecological Status of the Upper Mississippi River and the Role of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Preserving the Wildlife Forms". He spoke about studies that are being done to see what has happened to the river since 1927 when the locks and dams were built. Mr. Kulp had a film that went with his talk. The film dealt with man's impact on the river which was first good for wildlife and has slowly changed to bad. Dredge soil burying marshes, declining water quality, industrial waste and sewage from cities have caused changes in the food chain resulting in a 50 percent decline in Canvasback populations since 1969. State and Federal agencies are committed to improving the river and reclaiming habitat.

Mr. Birger Swenson of Rock Island, Illinois, followed with slides on Antarctica. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson have made two trips to Antarctica on the Lindblad cruises. Mr. Swenson's photography was excellent and his delivery was lively and extremely entertaining. He showed the group many lovely penguin pictures of numerous species. He showed pictures of McMurdo Station and Scott Base operated by New Zealand. There were lovely pictures of Sea Lions and Elephant Seals and glaciers.

Following the luncheon break, Dr. Gerald W. Kaufmann a professor at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, was introduced by Vice-president George Crossley. Dr. Kaufmann spoke on "Birds of Ross Island, Antarctica". He showed slides of Cape Royds, southern most nesting colony of any bird, the Adelie Penguin. He explained about the nesting habits of Adelie and Emperor Penguins. He pointed out that the Skua population has increased due to the dumping of garbage on the ice from the bases.

Dean Roosa of the Iowa Preserves Board followed and talked on "Endangered Bird Species in Iowa". He told the group about a talk that he and Woodward Brown had at the Dubuque meeting in 1975 and how the idea of the list of endangered and threatened birds came about because of the discussion. Mr. Roosa sent thirty-one letters to members and received twenty-four responses. The responses mentioned ninety-nine birds. Red-shouldered Hawk was the bird mentioned most, followed by Upland Sandpiper and Loggerhead Shrike. Mr. Roosa said that some strict guidelines must be set up for the list such as: the species must have an established breeding population, that it must be less common now than the recent past, that terms such as extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened and declining must have specific definitions. He stressed the I. O. U. credibility is at stake when placing a species on the list. The list will have to be adopted by the Iowa Conservation Commission and the commission must be able to enforce the protection of the species on the list. He said that House File 497 mandated the endangered species program. His tentative list had as endangered species Red-shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Little Tern, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl (maybe). On the threatened list he had Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, and King Rail. On his declining list he placed Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Tufted Titmouse, Bell's Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler and Yellow Warbler. Fred Leshner of LaCrosse, Wisconsin suggested the Yellow-breasted Chat be added to the declining list. Mr. Roosa also suggested a possible list for wintering birds.

Following the talk by Mr. Roosa there was a panel on "Birding Methods, Identification Problems and Rewards". Panel members were Elton Fawks, East Moline, Illinois; Allan Mueller, Davenport, Iowa; Fred Leshner, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Peter C. Petersen was moderator. Mr. Fawks mentioned that people should be aware of the unusual, Mr. Mueller mentioned the competitive aspect of listing, and Mr. Leshner mentioned methods, problems and rewards with a creative reward in the writing of poetry. The panel inspired many comments on birding methods and questions on specific problems.

Preceding the annual I. O. U. business meeting, Mr. Petersen recognized Mrs. Charles Schwanke of Cedar Falls who is ninety. Bob Nickolson of Sioux City told the group that Mrs. Barrett of Sioux City sent her regards. President Dorothy Brunner then called the business meeting to order and asked the secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were read and approved. Ruth Buckles made the treasurer's report and the membership report. Herb Dorow of Newton moved the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried. President Brunner announced the following committees: auditing committee included Beryl Layton, John Osness, Darlene Ayres and Bob Nickolson; resolutions committee included Lillian Serbousek, Woodward Brown and Lucille Liljedahl; nominations committee Roberta Oppendahl, Hilda Miller and Carl Kurtz. President Brunner called for committee reports. Darlene Ayres reported that the public relations committee felt the family membership has helped the membership. Peter Petersen, editor, said that Woodward Brown cannot continue as field notes editor after the spring field notes. He asked for volunteers. He also asked for someone to work on the five year index. He said that bird finding articles were still needed.

President Brunner called for old business. There was none. She then called for new business. Peter Petersen proposed Oscar Allert as an honorary member. Mr. Allert is a former secretary-treasurer of the I. O. U. and a member for forty-seven years. The motion was seconded and carried. Patricia Layton of Cedar Rapids, librarian, reported that due to Gladys Black's articles in the Des Moines Register

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

41

## I. O. U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May 15, 1976

Balance on hand 5-10-1975 -- Checking Account ..... \$ 293.95

## RECEIPTS:

Spring Meeting 1975 .....	\$ 66.50	
Fall Meeting 1975 .....	447.00	
Memberships (total, 401) .....	2,604.00	
Check Lists .....	135.30	
Decals .....	10.00	
Brassards .....	28.00	
Issues of Iowa Bird Life .....	5.50	
Annotated Lists .....	439.33	
Prints -- St. Francis & Birds -- G. Power .....	20.00	
Total Receipts .....		3,755.63
Total Receipts and Balance Forward .....		\$4,049.58

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Spring Meeting 1975 .....	99.80
Fall Meeting 1975 .....	310.16
Spring Meeting 1976 .....	28.14
	<u>438.10</u>

## Iowa Bird Life:

Printing -- Monticello Express .....	2,376.24
Editor's Fee .....	100.00
Editor's Telephone Expense .....	13.00
	<u>2,489.24</u>

## Printing:

Letterhead .....	40.32
Delinquent Dues Notices .....	19.08
Brochures -- New issue .....	74.47
Brassards (452) .....	305.05
	<u>438.92</u>

## Postage:

Second Class Permit for I.B.L. ....	15.00
Editor's expense .....	14.50
Treasurer's expense .....	37.37
Historian's expense .....	88.00
	<u>154.87</u>

## Misc. Expenses:

Mailing Envelopes .....	1.86
Stencils .....	12.00

Total Expenses ..... \$3,534.99

BALANCE ..... \$ 514.59

Central National Bank--Des Moines--Checking Account ..... \$ 514.59

Deposit--United Federal Savings &amp; Loan

Certificate ..... \$2,122.77

Savings Account ..... 132.62

(Interest included in above earned during the year \$129.00)

Ruth Buckles, Treasurer

that there have been 316 letters requesting Woodward Brown's "Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Iowa". Darlene Ayres of Ottumwa proposed an amendment to the constitution, Article V section 6 to read "it shall be the duty of the executive council to fix the date and place of the annual meeting if such has not been determined at the preceding annual meeting and to fill by appointment any offices which become vacant during the year". This will delete the need of the executive council to audit the books of the treasurer at the annual meeting. This will allow an auditing committee named by the president to audit the treasurer's books before the annual meeting. Said auditing committee covered under Article IV section 2 of the constitution. The motion was seconded and it carried. President Brunner directed the secretary to write a letter to CBS to request the Tuesday evening, May 11, program on eagles be repeated. President Brunner reminded the group of the fall campout at Cedar Rapids on September 18 and 19, 1976. Peter Petersen invited the I. O. U. to the Illinois Audubon Society campout, September 11 and 12, 1976, in Rock Island. President Brunner accepted the invitation of the Marshalltown group for the spring meeting in 1977. The business meeting was adjourned.

The group gathered at St. John's United Methodist Church for the evening banquet. Following the banquet Peter Petersen introduced Ralph Heuer, a long time I. O. U. member and a willing and dependable worker whose help was invaluable in planning the convention. Peter Petersen introduced the head table and then he introduced Edwin Meyer of Davenport who showed his film on Alaska. Mr. Meyer's film was made on two different trips to Alaska. The film was a fine general nature film of our largest state.

Sunday morning, May 16, was devoted to bird watching. The noon luncheon was provided by the Davenport Izaak Walton League. The business meeting was reopened following the meal. President Brunner called for the report of the nominating committee. Roberta Oppendahl read the following slate of officers: Dorothy Brunner, president; George Crossley, vice-president; Mary Lou Petersen, secretary; Ruth Buckles, treasurer; the executive council, Darlene Ayres, Bob Nickolson, John Osness and Carl Kurtz. President Brunner asked for nominations from the floor. Margaret Brooke of Des Moines moved that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded and carried. Woodward Brown presented the resolutions committee's report:

Be it resolved by the 54th Annual Convention of the **Iowa Ornithologists' Union** meeting in Davenport, Iowa, May 15th and 16th, 1976, that we, the members, give our thanks to the Putnam Museum for hosting the convention, and to the officers and members who worked hard and faithfully to make this meeting an enjoyable one for all.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given:

1. To James Hodges, Charles Kulp, Birger Swenson, Jerry Kaufman, Dean Roosa, Elton Fawks, Allan Mueller, Fred Leshner, Peter C. Petersen for preapring and presenting the Saturday program.

3. To Edwin Meyer for presenting the program following the banquet.

3. To all the leaders of the Sunday morning field trips.

4. To all those who have served the I. O. U. as officers for the past year.

5. To Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen for the enjoyable open house Friday night.

Darlene Ayres made the auditing committee report for Beryl Layton. She reported the treasurer's books were in good order. President Brunner announced the Cedar Rapids fall meeting would have a slide fest. She turned the meeting over

to Judge Charles Ayres of Ottumwa for the compilation. A list of 145 species was made. This list did not include all of the people who were in the field in the morning and some of the members continued the birding into the afternoon bringing the total up to 165 for the day. The meeting was adjourned by President Brunner.

**Bird List Sunday, May 16, 1976 --** Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Semiplumbed Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, American Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Sedge Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black poll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Northern Junco, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow -- 164 species.

Birds seen Saturday, May 15, 1976 only -- Lesser Scaup, Osprey, Lesser Yellowlegs, Black Tern and Pileated Woodpecker.

**Registered Attendance -- 144**

AMES: Barney Cook, Dean Rooka, Jeff Ruprecht.

BETTENDORF: Brad Boyd.

- CEDAR FALLS: Berneda Collins, Sally Paine, Mary Ann Rizzo, Mrs. Charles and Maxine Schwanke.
- CECAR RAPIDS: Floy Erickson, Beryl and Pat Layton, Lucile Liljecahl, Sara Millikan, Roberta Oppendahl, Lillian Serbousek, Myra G. Willis.
- DANBURY: Steve Duecker.
- DAVENPORT: Frank and Jean Bald, Dennis W. Corbin, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Flynn, E. C. Hawkinson, Ralph Heuer, James Hodges, Charles Kulp, Beth Mast, Edwin Meyer, Becky and Dan Morgan, Allen Mueller, Peter and Mary Lou Petersen, Mary Rose.
- DES MOINES: Ruth Binsfeld, Dwight and Margaret Brooke, Woodward and Mary Brown, Ruth Buckles, Andy, Nancy and Thomas Davidson, James and Elva Gritton, Richard and Pully Mooney.
- DUBUQUE: George and Frieda Crossley.
- ESSEX: Betty Walters.
- FAIRFIELD: Viola Hayward.
- HOLY CROSS: Gerald and Kathy Kaufmann.
- INDIANOLA: Paul and Ann Johnson, Rick and Beth McGeough.
- IOWA CITY: Jerry and Sharon Garton, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Glasson, Calvin and Bernie Knight, Michael and Carol Newlon, Tom Staudt.
- JAMAICA: Gehe and Marilyn Burns and Kim.
- LOWDEN: Jeanette Ruprecht.
- MALVERN: W. Ross Silcock.
- MASSILLON: Greg Smith.
- MOUNT PLEASANT: Roy and Virginia Ollivier.
- MUSCATINE: Leonard Kallio.
- NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.
- NORA SPRINGS: Dorothy A. Brunner.
- OSKALOOSA: Keith and Irene Layton.
- OTTUMWA: Judge Charels and Darlene Ayres, Dr. and Mrs. Glen Blome, Bernard and Florence Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Haller, Nelson and Randall Hoskins, Don, Elaine, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson.
- PAULLINA: Irwin and Mary Heusinkveld, Carol and Subn Subrahmanyam.
- PELLA: Joy, Jon and Sherril Stravers.
- PLEASANTVILLE: Gladys Black.
- ROCK VALLEY: Hilda E. Miller.
- SAINT ANTHONY: Carl Kurtz.
- SHENANDOAH: Mrs. Wayne Phipps.
- SIOUX CITY: Bob Nickolson.
- SPRINGVILLE: Stanley and Nellie Atherton.
- STOCKTON: Larry Kock.
- STORY CITY: Philip and Kathleen Moore.
- WATERLOO: Randy and Ruth Betsworth, Myrle Burk, Antoinette Camarata, Hulda Flynn, Maybelle Hinkley, Carol Howery, H. A. and Anna Mae Kirchgatter, Lowell and Eleanor Miller, John and Lois Osness.
- WESTFIELD: Larry Farmer.
- WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp, Marwell Scheeper, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wentworth.
- EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS: Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink.
- ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS: Marcella Campbell, Birger Swenson, Ione Wickstrom.
- WICHITA, KANSAS: Walter and Ruth Broderson.
- AUSTIN, MINNESOTA: Bob and Valarie Jessen.



OSSINNINE, NEW YORK: Judy Rod.  
LaCROSSE, WISCONSIN: Fred Lesher.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nora Springs, Iowa  
May 28, 1976

Dear Members of I.O.U.,

Thank you for having enough confidence in me to again choose me to be your president.

Pete and Mary Lou Petersen are to be congratulated for the fine meeting we had in Davenport. The programs were both interesting and informative.

It is gratifying to learn that we acquired 53 new members this year as gaining new members was one of our goals. For the coming year I would like to suggest two projects - stimulating interest in enjoying birds and conserving the bird's habitat.

I know that in every bird club there are a number of members who have both the knowledge and ability to teach classes in bird identification. Adult Education is "big business" right now and we should "cash in" on our opportunities. I know of few towns in the state that offer a bird class. All you need do is contact the Adult Education director in your area and suggest that a birding class be offered. The schools have the projectors and other equipment that you may wish to use. You will be paid a small sum for your time as well as sharpening your own observations. It is very satisfying to open a new world of enjoyment to fellow nature lovers. Scout leaders, teachers, and parents are urged to attend the classes and they will carry the information to the younger generation. You will be surprised at the excitement a Red-headed Woodpecker will create and vireos, Great Crested Flycatchers and many others will be "heard of" for the first time. Some of your "pupils" will then join I.O.U.

I notice that much of the bird's habitat is being destroyed, especially marshy areas. Farmers are draining the ponds and swamp areas in their fields and trees are being cut down so more grain can be raised. If you know of an area that should be preserved contact the Conservation Department in your region and ask them to put it on their list for purchase and hopefully some of these acres can be saved for the birds.

I wish to thank the members who served on committees this past year and at the convention.

I will look forward to seeing you at the fall meeting in Cedar Rapids and at the spring meeting in Marshalltown. Both meetings are centrally located so no one will need to travel clear across the state.

Best wishes for good birding in the future.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy A. Brunner

## Kinglets in Iowa

GAYLAN B. CRIM  
Iowa State University  
AMES, IOWA

The timing of avian migrations is known to vary widely between and within many species. A variety of birds, particularly the passerines, have been shown to

exhibit differential migration by sex (eg. Allen, 19414; West et. al, 1968). In most cases, the males precede the females during the spring migration. This, presumably, is to allow the males time to establish territories before the females arrive (See Pettingill, 1970: 296, and Welty, 1975: 483 for further discussion). Although this phenomenon has been documented for many species, no known, published data are available for Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) or Golden-crowned Kinglets (*R. satrapa*).

This study was designed to investigate differential migration patterns by sex for both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets. It was conducted in McFarland Park, Story County, Iowa during the spring of 1975. In addition, supplemental data for the years 1971-75 were obtained from other banders in the state.

#### Methods

Two methods were used in determining the sex of the birds: in the hand examination after they were mist netted; and observations with binoculars looking for the sex-specific crown patches. The mist nets were placed in areas showing a high amount of kinglet activity. All birds caught were banded with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands. The observations were made by repeatedly walking a specific route that had stops every six feet.

#### Results and Discussion

Mist netting was the more reliable of the two methods used for identifying the sex of kinglets. The birds moved quickly and were often high in the trees making observation difficult. Also, as Bent (1964) noted, the males do not usually show their crown patches unless excited. Due to the unreliability of the observations only the mist netting data were used.

Nineteen Ruby-crowned Kinglets and five Golden-crowned Kinglets were netted in the spring of 1975. Additional data was gathered from other Iowa banders to increase sample size and help illustrate trends. The data, averaged over a five-year period, clearly showed trends of differential migration by sex for both species (Tables 1 and 2). For the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a period from March 20 to April 20 showed predominantly male migration (89 percent male to 11 percent female). April 20 to May 5 was a period of transition in which the females began migrating and the number of male birds started to slacken. During this period the numbers of each sex present in the migration were about equal (45 percent male to 55 percent female). After May 5 was a period of predominantly female movement (3 percent male to 97 percent female).

The Golden-crowned Kinglets did not show such clearly defined trends. The composition of their beginning migrations was 66 percent males to 33 percent females. This gradually changed to 44 percent males to 54 percent females during the later dates. Still these percentages do indicate a larger movement of males during the beginning of the migration season than at the end.

The data gathered in this study demonstrate that kinglets, like other passerines, exhibit differential migration by sex during the spring. This aspect of the migratory behavior of other songbirds could be investigated through the use of banding records, for within them lies a wealth of information.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to express an unlimited amount of thanks to Rich Crawford for the opportunity and equipment needed to do this study, and for his guidance and encouragement throughout its course. Thanks also to my husband Lloyd for his field assistance and patience -- both in the field and at home. Banding data was

provided by Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Pete Petersen, Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres and Mrs. W. C. DeLong.

Table 1  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet Spring Migration

Time period (month-day)	1971		1972		1973		1974		1975	
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
3-20 to 3-25			1	0						
3-25 to 3-30			1	0						
3-30 to 4-5							3	0		
4-5 to 4-10			2	0	1	0	3	0	1	0
4-10 to 4-15	1	0	3	0	2	0	9	0	3	0
4-15 to 4-20			5	1	8	2	19	5	4	0
4-20 to 4-25			1	1	9	2	16	4	39	8
4-25 to 4-30	0	1	11	12	3	0	14	19	18	8
4-30 to 5-5	0	1	1	41	4	5	1	6	1	34
5-5 to 5-10			2	57	2	31	0	4	0	15
5-10 to 5-15	0	1	0	2	0	8	0	8	0	3
5-15 to 5-20			1	2	0	2	0	9	0	2

m--male, f--female

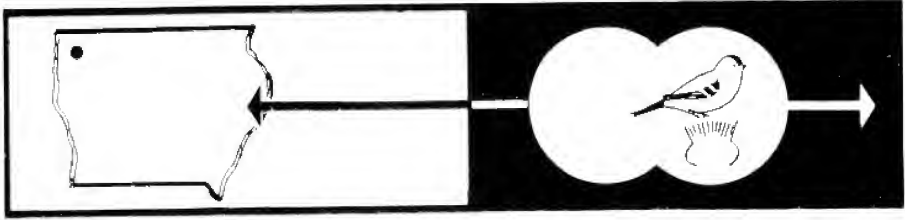
Table 2  
Golden-crowned Kinglet Spring Migration

Time period (month-day)	1972		1973		1974		1975	
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
3-20 to 3-25	8	1						
3-25 to 3-30	3	2			2	1		
3-30 to 4-5	1	2	4	1	4	5		
4-5 to 4-10			6	4	2	2	23	1
4-10 to 4-15	0	1	3	3	0	1	9	1
4-15 to 4-20	1	1	2	8			17	7
4-20 to 4-25	1	0					2	3
4-25 to 4-30	0	1					1	0
4-30 to 5-5			0	1				

m--male, f--female

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## Extreme Northwest Iowa

ROBERT NICKOLSON  
SIOUX CITY

### WOODBURY COUNTY

Sioux City is the largest city in Woodbury County, situated in the northwest portion. The city has fifty-two municipally owned parks and one State park, Stone Park. There are several cemeteries which offer good birding. Like many cities in Iowa, Sioux City has been hard hit by the Dutch Elm disease and the loss of many wooded areas to industrial development. The Missouri River is a vital water way and is the western border of the county. The river has been narrowed and deepened by the Corp. of Engineers and as a result is extremely swift and open all year long. One can observe wintering Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers on the river. Some of the species which can be observed during the winter within the city limits and at feeding stations are: Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill and Harris' Sparrow. An average of 31 species has been recorded over the past thirty-five years of Sioux City Christmas Bird Counts.

About twenty miles south of Sioux City on Interstate 29 there are a number of old ox-bow lakes of which Brown's Lake is the largest, and also a county park called Snyder's Bend. The Snyder's Bend area offers spring resting area for ducks and geese. As many as thirty-one Bald Eagles have been recorded there during the winter as well as large flocks of wintering Mallards. The Brown's Lake and surrounding wildlife areas including marshlands offer a wide variety of birding - warblers, sparrows and a nesting colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Some of the nearby ox-bows offer nesting Wood Ducks, and during spring migration -- Eared Grebes, many species of shore birds, gulls, terns, swallows, herons and bitterns.

As one travels east from Sloan, Iowa, on Highway 141, the terrain is very flat and is all under cultivation except for some large drainage ditches which are used to drain excess water in wet weather. In the spring duck and geese migrations cross this area in a most spectacular display on their way to nesting grounds to the far north. Rising sharply from the flat plains one enters the loess hills which run north and south. This unique area is very beautiful. Hawks and Turkey Vultures can be observed riding the air currents over the hills. Eastern and Western Meadowlarks can be heard singing along the winding roads through the hills. This area also offers viewing of the Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting and Eastern and Western Kingbirds. As you enter the Little Sioux Valley, the hills become more timbered with oak and cedar. The area north from Smithland following the Little Sioux River and the bluffs abounds in birds and wildlife all year around. An occasional sighting of a Wild Turkey may be made in this area, as well as many spring warblers.

Northern Woodbury County is primarily rolling hills under cultivation and is

dotted with many small streams and farm ponds. Woodbury is truly a county of variety.

1. Stone Park is the only State park in Woodbury County and is within the city limits of Sioux City. Approximately 1,200 acres are included in the park located in the northwest part of the city. The Big Sioux River borders the park on the west along with Highway 12. The general terrain is hilly with a number of shale outcroppings along the bluffs. Oak, Linden, Cottonwood, Maple and Elm trees cover the hills with very little open area except the outer perimeter of the park. Hawks and Turkey vultures can often be seen. A large migration of Broad-winged Hawks was observed one October. In the spring warblers and vireos can be seen and heard throughout the park. The beautiful Scarlet Tanager can often be observed, the Wood Thrush can be heard during the summer and the Blue Grosbeak can be found nesting on the outer edges of the park. Flycatchers, woodpeckers including the Red-bellied, Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls and Common Screech Owls can be observed. An observation of several Black-billed Magpies was made on the outer edge of the park a number of years ago.

County parks and wildlife areas are designated on the map as number 4. These are all good birding areas and the species that can be observed depend on the terrain and habitat.

#### PLYMOUTH COUNTY

Plymouth County is made up of gently rolling terrain in the eastern portion and is rather hilly along the western border. The western boundary is the Big Sioux River and Highway 12 which follows the river to the northern edge of Sioux County. Most of the birding habitat is along the Big Sioux River and in the western portion of the county. Le Mars is the largest city and the county seat. Birding areas in Le Mars are the City Cemetery and Cleveland Park.

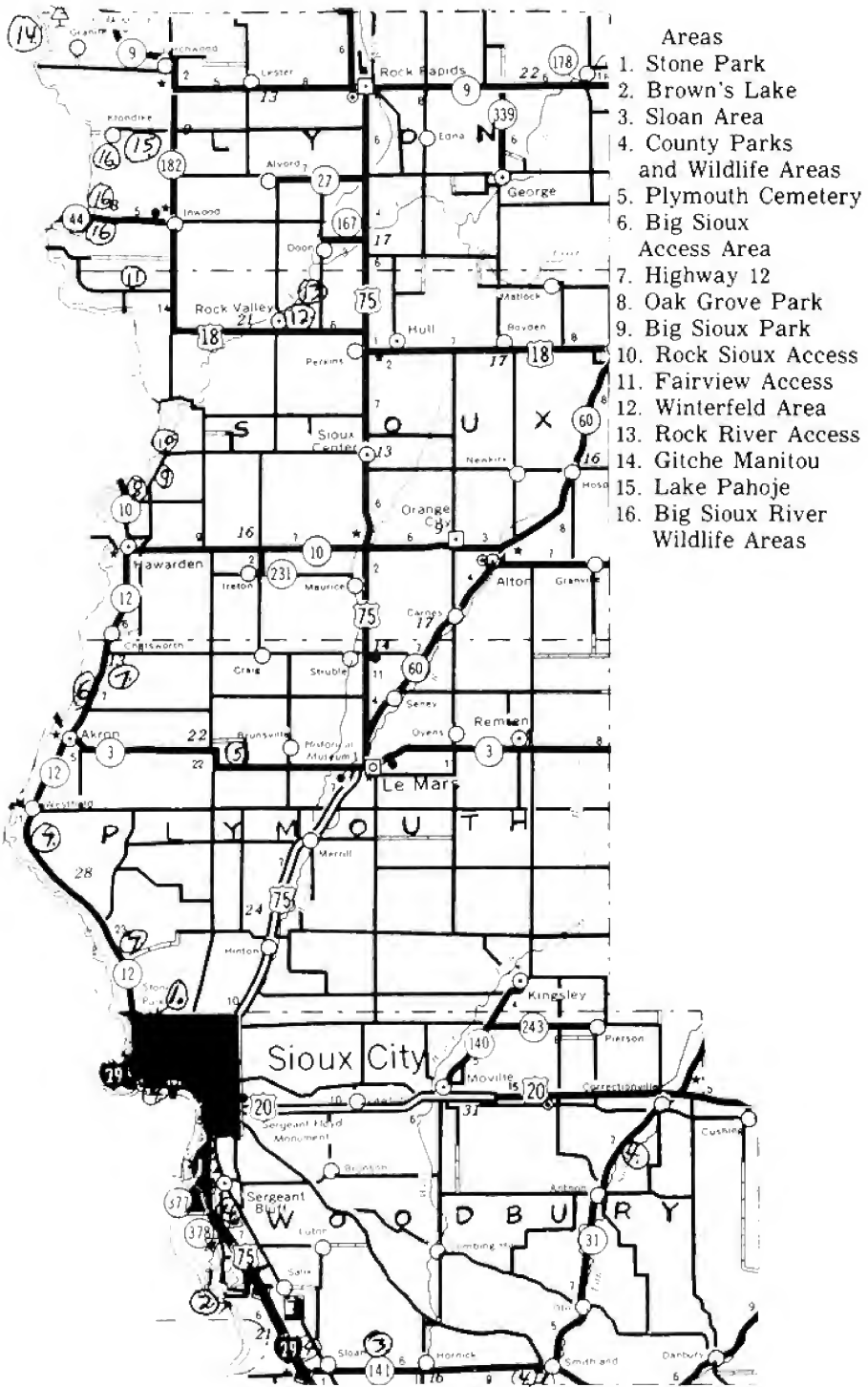
Plymouth County, like Woodbury, has a number of western species which have been recorded. In the Akron area there have been 21 nesting sites of the Say's Phoebe located in one year. Lark Buntings are recorded nearly every year and there has been a possible nesting record of several pair one year. The Black-billed Magpie has been recorded in the southwestern portion of Plymouth County in the winter. The Blue Grosbeak can commonly be observed along county roads which contain nesting habitat.

Some of the other areas where birds can be observed as follows:

5. Plymouth Cemetery - is located in the northeast corner of section 1 of Johnson Township. This area contains a number of large White Spruce where observations of the Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill and Common Redpoll have been made during the winter months. This cemetery is also good owl habitat with sightings being made of the Long-eared Owl and the Great Horned Owl.

6. Big Sioux Access Area - consists of 33 acres about 1½ miles north of Akron. This is primarily an unimproved tract of land with native timber and brush bordering the Big Sioux River. Wood Ducks can be found nesting along the river and warblers, flycatchers, vireos and sparrows are commonly observed during spring migration.

7. Highway 12 - runs north from Sioux City along the Big Sioux River. This area consists of a variety of terrain, to the east sharp rising hills and bluffs where sighting of hawks is common and to the west primarily flood plain which is very flat. Along the Big Sioux River, which is very winding, the banks are well timbered and an excellent cover for birds and wildlife. During flood periods in the spring ducks and shorebirds can be found in the fields until the water recedes. (Eldon Bryant assisted with the Plymouth County section.)



**SIOUX COUNTY**

Sioux County is primarily flat or gently rolling terrain nearly all under cultivation. Birding areas are generally limited to the western border which is the Big Sioux River. The Rock River does offer some cover in limited areas as does the Floyd River in the eastern part of the county. In winter months large flocks of Lapland Langspurs, Horned Larks and some Snow Buntings can be observed in the fields and along gravel roads. The areas listed as follows will help one locate birding areas.

8. Oak Grove Park -- is a 101 acre multi-opportunity picturesque park and outdoor recreation area. It is located 6½ miles northeast of Hawarden on County Highway K-18. Approximately 50 percent is rolling hills and about 75 percent consists of dense timber. It is adjacent to the Big Sioux River and contains several scenic observation points. There are two large out-croppings of Sioux Quartzite in the southwest corner of the park. This area is good for viewing various species of hawks such as the Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Broad-winged. Flycatchers, thrushes, woodpeckers, vireos and warblers can be observed in the park.

9. Big Sioux Park - contains 160 acres, is adjacent to and contains some of the same topography as Oak Grove Park. The flat ridge along the east edge lends itself to a panoramic view of the Big Sioux River Valley. A wide variety of flowers may be viewed on the hillsides during spring and summer. This area also is excellent for observing many kinds of sparrows during the spring and summer.

10. Rock Sioux Access -- is located 1½ miles north of Oak Grove Park. This land is leased from the State Conservation Commission. It contains 30 acres of dense timber and furnishes an access to the Big Sioux and Rock Rivers. This area is undeveloped and is established as a game management area. It does provide an excellent spot for birding.

11. Fairview Area -- is a 31 acre site located in the northwest corner of Sioux County adjacent to County Highway A54B. It contains 10 acres of water impoundment and the remaining portion contains dense timber and game cover. This is a very picturesque site and provides good duck and shore bird observations. The timber also provides good warbler habitat.

12. Winterfeld Boating and Fishing Area -- is located on the north edge of Rock Valley just off Highway K30. It is a 22-acre reclaimed gravel quarry which contains a 17-acre lake, providing good duck and shore bird observations.

13. Rock River Access -- is located 2 miles northeast of Rock Valley along the Rock River and is comprised of 52 acres of bottomland. It is totally undeveloped and provides good birding.

**LYON COUNTY**

Lyon County is very similar to Sioux County in that it is primarily all under cultivation and birding areas are limited to the western border. Here again the Big Sioux River is the boundary between Iowa and South Dakota. To the north the Minnesota state line is the boundary.

Although the birding areas are limited, Lyon County offers one of the most unusual areas of the state which is located in the northwest corner of the county. The areas are as follows and are designated on the map.

14. Gitchie Manitou Wildlife Management Area -- is 9 miles northwest of Larwood, Iowa. The park is noted for its outcroppings of Sioux Quartzite. This pink rock, between 1.2 and 2.5 billion years old, holds Jasper Pool, a pond set into the Quartzite and formed by quarrying at the turn of the century. This area is a transition from eastern prairies to arid western prairies. Gitchie Manitou native prairie sprouts prickly pear cactus, sagebrush and blue gramma grasses. The Big

Sioux River offers a rugged beauty to the area. Bank Swallows can be observed along the steep cut banks. Large Silver Maples arch over the river in many places and offer refuge for Wood Ducks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons and Belted Kingfishers. It is my understanding that the Rock Wren has been observed in the this area. It is truly a transitional area.

15. Lake Pahoja County Recreation Area -- is approximately 230 acres in size about 2 miles east of Klondike. The area is entirely open grassland with a 70-acre lake. This area is still under development but will offer good waterfowl and shore bird observations in the near future.

16. These three sections of the Big Sioux River Wildlife Management Area are primarily Oak - Cedar woodlands along the Big Sioux River. There are some croplands and native prairie fields. These areas offer good spring and fall birding.

## Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1975

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON

P. O. Box 124

OSKALOOSA

The 1975 bird banding reports show many interesting facts and figures. The Ayres of Ottumwa managed to capture and band one Snow Bunting out of a flock of perhaps up to 100 that spent a few weeks in the Lake Rathbun area. They are difficult to net. Pete Petersen banded a Ringed Turtle Dove in the Davenport area. Both of these are firsts on the Iowa list of birds banded -- correct me if this is in error.

Our "ONLY ONE CLUB" this year lists six "members" and a total of only 15 birds -- but what a fine list! Alphabetically by banders names the list reads as follows:

CHARES & DARLEEN AYRES -- White-eyed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, Snow Bunting.

FITZHUGH & HAZEL DIGGS -- Lapland Longspur.

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON -- Short-eared Owl, LeConte's Sparrow.

DEAN MOSMAN -- Swainson's Hawk, Brewer's Blackbird.

PETER C. PETERSEN -- Great Blue Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Coot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Ringed Turtle Dove, Blue Grosbeak.

MR. & MRS. HOMER RINEHART -- Sora.

Looking back over the Club entries for the years of 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975, we find that a total of 56 species have made the list. Of these, 45 species made the list only once during the four years, 8 were on it two years out of four, 2 made it three out of four years, and the Blue Grosbeak made it every year! We hope next year to do a 5 year summary of the species that have proved to be least often included in our reports. We expect it to show a number of fairly common species that are conspicuous by their absence, so to speak. Should be food for thought there.

Petersen had a wonderful year of banding, leading all banders with 120 species and 5,244 birds. Believe me, that represents a lot of time and effort! We were pleased to end up with 115 species and 3,270 birds. Diggs with 105 and 2,669, were almost tied with Ayres with 105 and 2,211 individuals.



Our most plentiful bird seems to be the Northern Junco, as 2,406 were banded in '75. The Iowa Conservation Commission banded 1,726 Wood Ducks, one of our most beautiful ducks, and it is good to know that they are so plentiful. Am. Goldfinch totaled 1,449. Many others were represented by good numbers reported. Mosman hit the jackpot with 50 American Kestrels, Petersen had 21 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 15 Saw-whet Owls. Diggs had most of the Bank Swallows with 136. Laytons got 125 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a majority of being nestlings obtained by much wading and searching for nests among the reeds and cattails. It is really hard work, but very rewarding. Ayres had all 7 of the Bewick's Wrens, and 8 out of 10 of the Carolina Wrens. We wish space permitted mention of all the interesting facts shown in the reports.

Scarce were the Evening Grosbeaks, only 3 by Ayres. Dickcissel, 11 were netted. Vesper Sparrow, just 3, E. Meadowlark, 3 and W. Meadowlark only 6. L. Shrike, 3 -- Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 -- Common Nighthawk, 4 -- Chimney Swift, 5. Most of these, as well as many other species are poorly represented by the figures given in our banding reports. They really aren't that scarce -- we just aren't going out and getting them for some reason or other.

Following is a list of the Iowa bird banders who reported to us, and the number of species and individual birds banded by each in 1975:

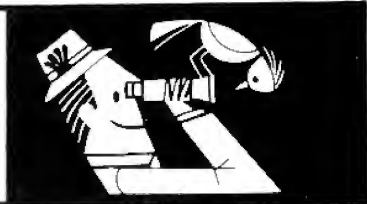
Bander	Species	Individuals
Mrs. and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	105	2,211
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	28	191
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Lamoni	79	1,351
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	105	2,669
Iowa Conservation Commission	10	2,922
Ann Johnson, Indianola	11	49
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa	115	3,270
Dean Mosman, Ankeny	65	721
Allan Mueller, Davenport	4	35
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	120	5,244
Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah	78	1,411
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown	29	98
Marie Spears, Shenandoah	24	228
Betty Walters, Essex	25	151
Totals	165	20,551

SPECIES	No.		No.
Great Blue Heron	1	Swainson's Hawk	1
Canada Goose	222	American Kestrel	57
Mallard	563	Common Bobwhite	16
American Black Duck	1	Sora	1
Common Pintail	36	American Coot	1
Greenwinged Teal	110	Killdeer	5
Blue-winged Teal	250	American Woodcock	11
American Wigeon	5	Spotted Sandpiper	2
Wood Duck	1,726	Solitary Sandpiper	3
Redhead	1	Pectoral Sandpiper	1
Ruddy Duck	11	Least Sandpiper	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	26	Mourning Dove	9
Red-tailed Hawk	3	Ringed Turtle Dove	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	16
Broad-winged Hawk	6	Black-billed Cuckoo	16
		Common Screech Owl	8

Great Horned Owl .....	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet .....	378
Barred Owl .....	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	455
Short-eared Owl .....	1	Cedar Waxwing .....	92
Saw-whet Owl .....	17	Loggerhead Shrike .....	3
Whip-poor-will .....	7	European Starling .....	23
Common Nighthawk .....	4	White-eyed Vireo .....	1
Chimney Swift .....	5	Bell's Vireo .....	8
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	13	Yellow-throated Vireo .....	9
Belted Kingfisher .....	5	Solitary Vireo .....	74
Common Flicker .....	108	Red-eyed Vireo .....	190
Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	33	Philadelphia Vireo .....	45
Red-headed Woodpecker .....	56	Warbling Vireo .....	28
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	25	Black-and-white Warbler .....	102
Hairy Woodpecker .....	32	Worm-eating Warbler .....	2
Downy Woodpecker .....	179	Golden-winged Warbler .....	14
Eastern Kingbird .....	28	Blue-winged Warbler .....	12
Great Crested Flycatcher .....	60	Tennessee Warbler .....	229
Eastern Phoebe .....	55	Orange-crowned Warbler .....	164
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	96	Nashville Warbler .....	209
Acadian Flycatcher .....	22	Northern Parula Warbler .....	11
Willow Flycatcher .....	67	Yellow Warbler .....	21
Least Flycatcher .....	214	Magnolia Warbler .....	157
Eastern Pewee .....	48	Black-throated Blue Warbler ..	10
Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	190
Bank Swallow .....	153	Black-throated Green Warbler ..	11
Rough-winged Swallow .....	2	Blackburnian Warbler .....	10
Barn Swallow .....	125	Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	134
Cliff Swallow .....	17	Bay-breasted Warbler .....	38
Purple Martin .....	99	Blackpoll Warbler .....	19
Blue Jay .....	295	Palm Warbler .....	64
Black-capped Chickadee .....	178	Ovenbird .....	176
Carolina Chickadee .....	6	Northern Waterthrush .....	60
Tufted Titmouse .....	64	Louisiana Waterthrush .....	1
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	31	Kentucky Warbler .....	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch .....	14	Connecticut Warbler .....	10
Brown Creeper .....	146	Mourning Warbler .....	28
House Wren .....	224	Common Yellowthroat .....	196
Winter Wren .....	20	Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2
Bewick's Wren .....	7	Hooded Warbler .....	4
Carolina Wren .....	10	Wilson's Warbler .....	75
Marsh Wren .....	3	Canada Warbler .....	53
Northern Mockingbird .....	3	American Redstart .....	140
Gray Catbird .....	649	House Sparrow .....	44
Brown Thrasher .....	215	Eastern Meadowlark .....	3
American Robin .....	622	Western Meadowlark .....	6
Wood Thrush .....	38	Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	125
Hermit Thrush .....	171	Red-winged Blackbird .....	128
Swainson's Thrush .....	462	Orchard Oriole .....	14
Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	109	Northern Oriole .....	178
Veery .....	65	Rusty Blackbird .....	55
Eastern Bluebird .....	44	Brewer's Blackbird .....	1

Common Grackle .....	119	Vesper Sparrow .....	3
Brown-headed Cowbird .....	61	Lark Sparrow .....	7
Scarlet Tanager .....	17	Northern Junco .....	2,415
Summer Tanager .....	2	American Tree Sparrow .....	942
Northern Cardinal .....	225	Chipping Sparrow .....	175
Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	247	Clay-colored Sparrow .....	16
Blue Grosbeak .....	1	Field Sparrow .....	112
Indigo Bunting .....	205	Harris' Sparrow .....	183
Dickcissel .....	11	White-throated Sparrow .....	529
Evening Grosbeak .....	3	Fox Sparrow .....	169
Purple Finch .....	781	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	273
Pine Siskin .....	67	Swamp Sparrow .....	126
American Goldfinch .....	1,449	Song Sparrow .....	324
Rufous-sided Towhee .....	12	Lapland Longspur .....	1
Savannah Sparrow .....	19	Snow Bunting .....	1
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	14	Total Species .....	165
LeConte's Sparrow .....	1	Total individuals .....	2,0551

## FIELD REPORTS



Considerable rain with low temperatures in April slowed the migration which, for some species, had started early. Some Robins had arrived in February, and ducks were early also. There was no precipitation in May in the Des Moines area until the 12th, but a number of rainy days brought the month's total to 3" by the 29th. The waterfowl migration did not approach that of last year when the birds were unable to proceed farther north because of the weather. As usual, the waves of warblers and other passerines occurred on different days in various areas, but the most successful banding day in Davenport was on 13 May when 201 birds of 36 species, half of the species total being warblers, were netted. While the April rains left what appeared to be good wader areas, the shorebird migration was for the most part not unusually heavy. In a number of places observers failed to see any of what are usually considered not uncommon species at this season.

**Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants.** Few loons were reported; one at L. Macbride on 17 February (NH), and 2 in Des Moines. Horned and Eared Grebes are never plentiful, but only one of the former was seen at Cone Marsh on 30 April (RD). Few Western Grebes are seen in Polk Co. but 2 were reported on Easter L. on 24 April (ND, JG). The wintering White Pelican was still present in early April (PP). \* Double-crested Cormorants were seen on 24 April and 1 May with one at L. Macbride (NH), 8 by Petersen and many at Riverton in mid-April (RS).

**Hérons, Bitterns.** While 10 Great Blue Herons were seen at Sabula on 20 March (PP), reports from other areas were thin with only 6 seen all told (NH), few at Red Rock Refuge and Des Moines, and no other mentions. Cattle Egrets were seen in five areas, all in the eastern half of the state: 3 at Lamoni on 10 April (DeL), 5 at Pleasantville on 7 May (GB), 7 at Lake Mills (Chas. Hall fide PP), 3 at Coralville (LS), and 1 or 2 at various times north of Polk City (mob). Two Great Egrets were seen on 22 April (NH), and one each on 23 April (PP), and 8 May (RP). The rare

Snowy Egret was seen on 6 April (GD) and May 1. Black-crowned Night Herons were reported only in Des Moines where 3 were seen (RM). American Bitterns were observed three times (LS,NH,RM).

**Swans, Geese, Ducks.** Waterfowl generally seemed down. A flock of 5 Whistling Swans was at Riverton Ref. on the early date 13 March (MM). The peak for Canadas at Red Rock was 5 M on 20 March (GB). White-fronted appeared in three areas, all in the east with none in the west. DeCaster had four dates at Swan L. and Cone Marsh, an early one on 27 February and flocks of 34 and 75 in late March (NH), a small flock west of Polk C. (DM), and 60 at Red Rock on 20 March. Snows peaked at 15 M at Red Rock on 20 March with the same number of Mallards on that date. The usually rare Cinnamon Teal was seen at Cherokee on 5 and 6 March (MBre) and another remained in the Polk City area for a considerable period (MBro). Wood Ducks were thought few (NH), but were plentiful in Polk Co. (RM). Canvasbacks were in unusually good numbers (NH). Few Hooded Mergansers appeared at Red Rock. As many as 300 Common Mergansers were seen with scores of Red-breasted Mergansers from 26 March on (NH). Red Rock had 30 of the latter.

**Hawks.** The hawk migration was thought down (DM). Early Turkey Vultures were seen on 13 March at Sidney (MM), and 14 May at Red Rock where there late 15 in a roost (GB). Petersen's 16 netted \*Sharp-shinned from 24 March to 18 May were the only ones reported. A \*Cooper's was the only accipiter seen (DM). There were 7 pairs of Red-tailed seen in the Red Rock areas, but only 2 nests were located (GB). A \*Red-shouldered netted on 28 March was the first ever in Pine Hill (PP). Broad-winged were few (NH), 1 was present through May (GB), and there have been several sightings in Des Moines where nesting has been suspected in other years. A late Rough-legged was seen on 9 May (NH). A Bald Eagle was at Sabula on 20 March (PP), with 7 seen in February and March (GB). De Caster saw N. Harriers on 6 and 14 March, and Halmi had several observations, the last early in May. Only one Iowa City record of the Osprey was reported (NH), and 1 was seen at Froneys L. on 1 May (MM) and 2 at Lock 9 on 26 April (DK). A large migration of Kestrels in April was mentioned (MS), but all other reports spoke of reduced numbers.

**Pheasants, Shorebirds.** The only mention of pheasants referred to a good population (GB). Shorebirds were thought in good numbers (DM,GB) but many at Red Rock were too far distant to be identified. No King Rail was reported and Virginia Rails were confined to the Iowa City - Cedar Rapids area; at Muskrat Slough on 1 May (LS), 2 near Swan L. on 9 May (RD), several on 25 April at Muskrat Slough and 15 May at Cone Marsh (NH et al) also heard in Western Iowa at Taylor Lake in April (RS). Soras were numerous. Rock Creek had 3 Semipalmated Plovers on 10 May (HD), 2 were at Coralville Res. on 18 April (NH) and 1 was seen at the Caterpillar Plant following the Sunday luncheon on the 16th. Two Piping Plovers were at Coralville on 18 April (NH). Golden Plovers were scattered and numerous, except at Marble Rock (PK), the largest flock was 150 seen on 13 May (LS). Black-bellied were scarce; 2 early ones appeared on 18 April (NH), and several were seen much later in the Ankeny area (DM,RM). The only Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the Caterpillar plant on 16 May (MBro). Woodcock reports include a very early one on 28 February at Riverton (MM), 2 at Pine Hill (PP), Marble Rock, (K), Des Moines Res. on 8 May (RM), and a nest with eggs at Weis's Slough (Larry Kock fide PP see longer note). Willets were seen on 1 May at Fornsleys L. (MM) and near Polk C. (RM). \* Upland Sandpipers have been seen where they have been thought to nest near Booneville in previous years (GA). Both Great-

er and Lesser Yellowlegs were numerous through April (LS). The Lesser appeared the most numerous of the waders in the Des Moines area. The only White-rumped were near Iowa C. on 2 May (NH), and 9 May (RD). Baird's were seen at Coralville (NH), and the Des Moines Res. (WB). Dunlins were observed (DM, RM). Dowitchers were thought to be more numerous than usual (DM), and 51 were seen on 13 May (LS). Riverton Ref. appears to have had the only Stilt Sandpipers with 2 seen 15 May (MM). The Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Forneys L. on 20 March (MM), while unusual numbers were present in the Ankeny area (mob). Sanderlings were seen in May; 3 on the 13th (LS), at Riverton on the 8th (MM), 20-30 at Rock Creek L. on the 10th (HD), and at the Caterpillar plant on the 16th.

**Gulls, Terns.** Ring-billed Gulls were numerous (NH), but fewer than in 1975 at Red Rock. A single Franklin's was at Coralville with 5-6 Bonaparte's on 24 March (NH). The latter were seen also on 4 and 16 May (PP). No one mentioned the Forester's Tern, but there were four reports of the similar and uncommon Common Tern: 5 May (GB), 10 May (HD), 16 May (PP), and, no date given (PK). Single Caspian Terns were seen on 26 April (PK), 1 May at Swan L. (LS), and 2 at Forneys L. on 10 May (MM). The usually common Black Tern was scarce with only 1 (NH) and a few seen (PK).

**Cuckoos, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers.** The only \* Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported was seen on 25 May in Des Moines (MBro), and no reports of the Black-billed. Kingfishers "seem in trouble, only 3 seen" (NH), but 2 had wintered at Rock Creek L. (HD). Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in Palisades Park on 1 May (2) and on 11 May (LS). Red-bellied were abundant (RP), and Red-headed were numerous (MS). There was a large wave of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with more than 30 counted on 8 April, and another about a third as large on the 14th (DC).

**Flycatchers.** Western Kingbirds are nesting for the fourth year on the same utility pole in Ankeny (DM), and for the second year on the same pole in W. Des Moines (HB). One other was seen on 8 May (PM). Eastern Phoebes are down with only 3-4 seen (NH), and few, if any, seen in Des Moines. Petersen banded 14 Yellow-bellied and one was seen in Des Moines. The Acadian was heard at Marble Rock (PK). All Empidonax traillii heard have been the Willow sp. with the fitz-brew call (PP). The Alder has been heard at Marble Rock, but neither has been reported from Polk Co. The Least Flycatcher has been numerous (PK, MBro). Olive-sided were few, only 1 at Davenport, and 1 in Des Moines.

**Swallows, Nuthatches, Wrens.** There was a good movement of Tree Swallows in Des Moines, and they were inspecting Bluebird houses on 11 May (DM). Cliff Swallows were seen on 11 May at Palisades Park (LS), and they are building on Red Rock Dam as usual (GB). Purple Martins came early, the first on 23 March, but are down from last year (DM). Red-breasted Nuthatches seen on 14, 16, and 18 May are the only report (DC). A Winter Wren was seen on 3 April (NH). The Carolina Wren appears to be reestablished in the Iowa C. area, and has also been reported from Marble Rock and Pleasantville (GB).

**Mimics, Thrushes.** The only Northern Mockingbird reported was seen near Des Moines on 8 May (RM). Robins were very early (PP). A Varied Thrush visited a Davenport feeder from 6-16 May (Fred Corenzen fide PP). A wave of Wood Thrushes occurred on 14 May (RP), but there have been few if any seen or heard in Polk Co. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were plentiful with a wave on 10 May (RP, GD). Petersen banded 24 Veeries between the early date 30 April and 25 May. Bluebirds appeared in Sidney on 13 March (MM). They have been scarce at Red Rock, but easy to find (NH). The rare Townsend's Solitaire was seen at Nora Springs on 25 March (DB).

**Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Shrikes.** Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Palisades Park on 1 May (LS) while Petersen netted his first ever on 22 April. No Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported while Ruby-crowned were rather late and thought fewer (PK). \* Loggerhead Shrikes have four active nests in the Pleasantville area (GB).

**Vireos, Warblers.** White-eyed Vireos were seen on 19 April (RD,NH), and 1 May (LS), and 4 were netted in May. Only 5 had been netted in the previous springs (PP). \* Bell's was heard by the Kents on 14 May and seen on 18 May (NH). One netted at Pine Hill was the first since 1967 (PP). They were heard in several places (RP). A Philadelphia was observed on 14 May (RD). There were several good warbler waves in mid-May (RP,PK), but the movement was thought small with no kill at the TV towers (DM). Prothonotary Warblers were seen on 8 May (PK) and on the 15th (TK,NH), but they failed to return to last year's nesting area near Des Moines. Golden-wings were seen only in the Iowa C. area; in May on the 7th and 11th (RD), and between the 9th and 14th in three locations (NH). Tennessees were numerous (RP), but late in arrival in some places. Ovenbirds were numerous (HP). Kentuckys were observed on 1 May (LS) and 7 May (PP). DeCaster saw the Connecticut on 16 May, and 3 were banded on 17-23 May (PP). Mourning Warblers were netted on 19 May (RP), and 4 more on 21-23 May (PP) and a Hooded was seen at Webster City on 2 May (RM). A \* Chat and a Hooded Warbler were banded on 13 May (PP). A few \* Redstarts were seen in Des Moines but were unreported elsewhere.

**Icterids, Finches.** Bobolinks were numerous (PK), and several flocks near Pleasantville are believed to be nesting (GB). The Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen on 25 April (LS), and they are back in Cone Marsh (NH), and near Ankeny (MBro). Red-winged Blackbirds are ubiquitous as usual. Orchard Orioles were seen on 24 April at Forneys L. (MM), 14 May (PK), and 18 May (RP). Halmi had adults and a first-year male in mid-May and nesting is suspected. An early Brewer's Blackbird appeared on 22 February (NH). A Scarlet Tanager was recorded on 19 May (RP), and several have been seen around Des Moines. Twelve Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded in two hours (GB). As many as 5 males and 4 female Indigo Buntings have been frequenting Helen Peasley's thistle seed feeders. Evening Grosbeaks have been seen much later than usual; 11 April at Sidney (MM), 7 May (PK), and 14 May at Ottumwa (DJ) and Coon Rapids (Pete Oliver fide GB). In east Tennessee where they wintered in unprecedented numbers, they were seen as late as 14 and 16 May at Knoxville. Purple Finches were fewer than in 1975 (GB). Common Redpolls were seen up to the rather late date 2 April. Pine Siskins were still present at two locations on 20 May (PP). LeConte's Sparrow was seen on 19 April by DeCaster, Halmi, and Tom Staudt. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Palo Marsh on 24 April (LS). On 4 May Chipping Sparrows in Greenwood Park were estimated to number 200 at least (MBro). Harris' Sparrows were fairly numerous, and White-throated, which wintered, were seen in unprecedented numbers into May (NH).

The species whose names are preceded by an asterisk are on the "Blue List".

Contributors: Gene Armstrong, Booneville; Harry Beardsley, W. Des Moines; Wm. Boller, Des Moines; Gladys Black, Red Rock Ref. and Pleasantville; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Dorothy Brunner, Nora Springs; Nancy Davidson, Des Moines; Rich DeCaster, Iowa City; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Herb Dorow, Newton; Jas. Gritton, Des Moines; Dr. N. Halmi, Iowa City; Gladys Haskell, Des Moines; Don Johnson, Ottumwa; Tom Kent, Iowa City; Darin Koenig, Decorah; Mike Madsen, Sidney; Richard and Pauline Mooney, Des Moines; Dean Mosman, Ankeny; Ron Muilenberg, Webster City;

Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Ross Silcoch, Malvern; Marie Spears, Shenandoah; Tom Staudt, Iowa City.

I regret very much my inability to continue editing Field Reports, and this issue is my "swan song" (no pun intended). After a slow start from scratch in 1961, a sizeable list of reliable reporters has been built up and it is felt this department has elicited much information that would otherwise not have been brought to light. I deeply appreciate the cooperation of those who have contributed so much in the past 14 years; it is they who have made the column. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.

## General Notes

**Follow-up Report of the January, 1975 blizzard** -- Shortly after the devastating blizzard that hit northwest Iowa in January of 1975, I wrote an article for *Iowa Bird Life*, giving my views on the impact it had on bird population. Since our area was much harder hit than the remainder of the state, it follows that our bird life suffered appreciably.

During the past few months I have written many letters and made lots of inquiries to bird watchers, members of I.O.U., and those that I knew maintained winter feeding stations, asking them to report either the absence or stability of resident birds. I have attempted to condense their replies which were erratic, sometimes confusing and often contradictory. For instance, in many cases, practically no birds were reported in one part of town, while in other areas of the same town, bird populations remained stable, or were on the increase.

Many people informed me they had almost no birds for the remainder of the winter of 1975, but since November of 1975 and up until now, their birds were beginning to return. Mr. Fitzsimmons of Sibley wrote to say that he had replenished his feeders on the morning of Jan. 10th, 1975, where he had been feeding Downies, Hairies, jays, sparrows and chickadees, and for nearly a month no birds appeared. He found dead birds beneath his bushes, and assumed the intense cold and wind, plus the long duration of the storm, was the reason for the fatalities. This winter he has fed a crippled Common Grackle, one Common Flicker, a few chickadees, sparrows and a few European Starlings.

I do not have space here to mention names and locations of all the people who were kind enough to write or call me, but I have reviewed all the information thoroughly and drawn the following conclusions.

It is still my contention that the bird population of northwest Iowa was greatly reduced by this infamous blizzard, and it will be difficult but interesting to see how long it will take before our bird population becomes stable again. I would also state that birds in urban locations seemed to have fared better than our rural birds, due possibly to the fact they were able to find better protection from the weather. Again, there is more food in open country, i.e. weed seeds, feed spilled around buildings and in cattle lots, so many birds may find food without having to appear at feeding stations. However, in driving about the countryside and while helping to take the Christmas count, we saw fewer birds in ditches and fields. This research has proved very interesting to me and I plan to continue keeping a close check on both songbirds and game birds.

While our resident bird populations seemed to have suffered greatly, reports of winter visitors are most promising, and I received Evening Grosbeak sightings from nearly everyone who wrote to me. The grosbeaks appeared at feeding



stations all over northwest Iowa, in flocks of from three to a dozen or more, and the stories were nearly all similar. The birds gobbled sunflower seeds, spent three or four days around the feeder, and then left. Dates given on these sightings were from Thanksgiving Day until now.

There was a marked increase in Purple Finch sightings and this would have to be termed unusual, for most reporting stations had not had them before. I have seen flocks of them in open country and have not seen them previously. LORAINÉ WALLACE, Spirit Lake.

**Nesting Yellow-Crowned Night Herons** -- During the summer of 1974 the Iowa Conservation Commission built two dikes on a piece of bottomland near the town of Russell, Iowa (Lucas County). Fall rains and spring snow melt filled the area with water creasting a small marsh known locally as Johnson's Bottom. Early this past summer (1975) my husband and I heard reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons on the bottom. We saw an adult bird for ourselves in late June and for several weeks thereafter. In August we spotted an immature night heron feeding in the shallows. Subsequent sightings found the young bird either alone or in the company of one adult bird. A nesting site was never located but we feel sure that the birds nested in close proximity to Johnson's Bottom. GAY CRIM, Russell.

**One Day Bald Eagle County -- February 14, 1976** -- Again, most of the Mississippi River was covered from its source to below St. Louis and then into Kentucky and Tennessee. The Wisconsin River was covered by Terry Ingram and party. The Illinois River was covered from Ottawa to Grafton. This river was handled by Dr. L. H. Princen. The area of the Mississippi from Bellevue to Warsaw, Iowa was again covered by cars and a plane. Dr. Hayden DeDecker flew the plane with Peter Petersen and Allan Mueller doing the counting. The St. Louis Audubon Society had the most people counting. Lockmasters, Fish & Wildlife and Game Management, Bird Clubs and others took part. Thanks to all.

Locations	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Total
Lock & Dam 3 thru Lock & Dam 11	225	62	8	325
Lock & Dam 12 to Lock & Dam 22	227	56	6	289
From Lock & Dam 22 to below St. Louis	95	55	9	169
Illinois River	<u>126</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>229</u>
River Totals	703	258	51	1012
River percentages	73.2 %	26.8 %		
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	11	18	3	32
Kentucky	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>46</u>
Totals	729	296	63	1084
Percentages	71 %	29 %		
Golden Eagles				
Illinois Refuges	0	8	8	
Kentucky	1	1	2	
Tennessee	4	4	8	
Indiana	0	1	1	
Totals	5	14	19	

For the period 1962 thru 1966 an average of 601 eagles were found -- percentage 80 to 20 percent.

For the period 1967 thru 1971 an average of 745 eagles were found -- percentage 72 to 28 percent.

For the period 1972 thru 1976 an average of 1017 eagles were found -- percentage 70.8 to 29.2 percent.



Missouri	36	37	0	63
Tennessee	<u>47</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>78</u> (complete state)
Totals	83	63	15	141
Percentage	61%	39%		

Last year's count for Nebraska was lost in the mail, here is the total 91 adults, 15 immatures and 2 not aged for a total of 108. This year's total, 130 adults, 20 immatures for a total of 150. Comments: Warm weather caused the rivers to open up, as we proceeded up the Mississippi River it was about 25 percent open, as we returned 6 hours later the river was nearly free of ice. The next day it was completely open. A 60 mile section of the river produced only three eagles where 80 plus were always found on the other counts. A section of the river that had 126 eagles only seven days before only produced 32. We found no floating ice as the ice just disappeared in the warmth. Tennessee and Kentucky as well as most places reported mostly open water. One spot in Indiana covered by Steven H. Glass had two Bald and one Golden Eagle. His plans for next year is to cover the complete state. Our present plans call for more complete mid-west coverage. Several reports came in of eagles found away from the river, these were mostly immatures. --

In the Annual Waterfowl and Eagle Count taken January 5, 1976 on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers a total of 464 adult Bald Eagles and 254 immatures were found. This count did not have coverage on that date on the Mississippi from Dubuque Iowa to Rock Island, Illinois. However on the ninth Steve Bresser of the Fish & Wildlife Service counted this area. He found 134 adults and 43 immatures. These figures tend to agree with the limited data that I have for the fifth. At this time of year eagles do not move around like they do in mid-February. Besides this count on the third a count was made at the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge which found 19 adults and 16 immatures. At the Union County Refuge a count taken on the tenth found 9 adults and nine immatures. This gives a grand total of 626 adults and 322 immatures for a total of 948. Percentage are 66 percent to 34 percent. A total of 230 eagles were counted in Iowa. Most spots reporting on the wintering eagles reported larger numbers of birds with a larger percentage of young. The sudden warming and lack of ice depressed our February count. Next year's count will be on Feb. 5, 1977. State counts were done by the same groups as in other years. ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Ill.

**A Woodcock Nest** -- On May 3, 1975 Tom and I photographed an American Woodcock at its nest in color slides and stereos. Professor William Furnish of the Geology Department found the nest along a spring fed stream near his home on a bluff above the Cedar River near Rochester. His dog had flushed the bird from the nest and he had marked the place. We went over the next day and first saw the well-concealed bird from about ten feet. We approached slowly taking pictures all the time in case the bird would flush. Finally we got within three feet, and even lifted leaves and twigs away from the bird to better show it. Then Tom reached in slowly and lifted the bird to disclose four large brownish speckled eggs. All the time the bird showed no concern. When Tom let it go, it flew off a short distance. Furnish reported it was back on the nest as soon as we left, and that three eggs hatched a few days later. Furnish also showed us holes in the mud of creek bottom made by the feeding Woodcock. This is the first Woodcock nest we have seen in 30 years of birding in Eastern Iowa. F. W. and T. H. Kent, 302 Richards, Iowa City.



Photos by F. W. and T. H. Kent  
Iowa City, Iowa

## BOOK REVIEWS



**Birding in Eastern Iowa. Twenty-five Years of Observations from Iowa City 1949-1973** -- F. W. and T. H. Kent -- 150 p., 136 black-and-white photographs, 2 line drawings -- 1975 -- \$7.50 (paperbound).

This book is a labor of requited love. Fred Kent, the dean of eastern Iowa birders, and his son, Tom, have compiled a unique monument to "locality birding". F. W., usually accompanied by Tom and often by other birders, has made over 4,000 trips to places in or near Iowa City (or, to use a term gaining popularity, in the latilong bounded by meridians 91 and 92 W and parallels 41 and 42 N), missing only one month in 25 years. They thus recorded 270 species, over 203 per year on the average. Printouts indicate the weekly observations for all the regularly occurring species, except abundant permanent residents. Brief notes give the status of each species (migrant, breeding bird etc.); estimates of abundance; for migrants, the general periods of presence in the area; and, where relevant, the specific habitats of occurrence. For rare, casual or accidental species, exact dates of observations are usually provided. An integral part of the presentation are the photographs, made with professional skill, and remarkably well reproduced. They show not only birds and birders, but also several poignant habitat changes.

This patiently compiled account is, because of the long period it encompasses, a historical document of birds in eastern Iowa. There are notes on the trends, good or bad. Birders in this area will treasure this book and depend heavily on it, but they should not make their own extrapolations from the past. Along with the snows of yesteryear, gone is Swan Lake as an area for sightings of rare shorebirds and for breeding Least Bitterns. The Upland Sandpiper, seen in 24 of 24 years, today is *rara avis* indeed. The Red-shouldered Hawk, a former breeder in City Park, is now only a rare migrant. On the other hand, the Coralville Reservoir has created habitat for birds such as Caspian Terns.

Fred Kent, in the course of 25 years of birding, has scored several "firsts": a photograph of the Purple Gallinule (also in color), and the only Smith's Longspur recorded in Iowa. He is the most conservative of birders, which adds weight to his many unusual observations: note his refusal to distinguish the two dowitchers, and the absence of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher from the list, certainly because of his reluctance to separate this often tricky *Empidonax* from similar species. Acknowledged in the text is the better coverage of the spring than the fall migration. This creates the impression that shorebirding in the Iowa City area is a relatively dull affair in the fall: acutally, at least in years with spring flooding, it can be more exciting in fall than in spring, at Coralville (IBL XLVI:26, 1976) as at Red Rock (IBL XLIV:26, 1974).

The book is not marketed commercially, but can be obtained at cost from Dr. T. H. Kent, 211 Richards, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. -- N. S. HALMI

**Parent Birds and Their Young** -- Alexander F. Skutch -- University of Texas Press, Austin -- 503 p., 116 black-and-white photographs, 18 tables, 19 figures -- 1976 -- \$27.50.

Alexander Skutch is certainly one of the most knowledgeable field students of the breeding biology of birds in the world today. This large volume summarizes, in a non-technical presentation, what is known of the family life and reproductive behavior of the world's birds. As an overview it is as comprehensive as is feasible within one volume. Further reference is possible through the bibliography of over 800 titles. The chief fault, in the eyes of this reviewer, lies in the size of the finished product. The 8½" x 11" size and 1½" of thickness was necessitated by the double column format and wide margins. This results in a high price for a book that is without color illustrations. It is still a fine book but perhaps out of the reach of many who would otherwise benefit from it. ed.

**A Guide to Bird-watching in Europe** -- James Ferguson-Lees -- Charles Scribner's Sons, New York -- 334 p., many maps and line drawings -- 1975 -- \$9.95.

The birder planning to visit Europe will find this book a quite useful reference to locate the various European birds. Sixteen authors, in addition to the three editors, have contributed sections on the various countries. Some authors cover the various locations listing the prevalent species at different seasons while others tell where to look for a particular species. They also give an insight into the general geological and biological features of their areas. The maps locate the best birding areas. Of great value is a table given the status of the 432 species to be found in Europe in each of 31 countries and regions using twelve categories. The U.S.S.R. is not covered at all. References to local societies are included. Altogether this is a good book well suited to its purpose. ed.

**A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of British and European Birds** - Colin Harrison -- Quadrangle Books, New York -- 432 p., 64 color plates, many line drawings -- 1975 -- \$12.50.

Another European guide, but one which deals with a subject often overlooked, the identification of eggs and chicks. Many tiny precocial birds only one or two days old can be positively identified with the proper reference work and for Europe this is that work. The text describes the species briefly and covers the nest, breeding season, eggs, incubation, nestlings and nestling period. The eggs of 730 species are illustrated with nearly life-sized color photographs. ed.

**The Birds of Manitoba** -- Ernest E. Thompson -- Premium Ventures, Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada -- 186 p. -- 1975 -- \$5.00 paperbound, \$9.00 hardbound.

This reprint of the 1891 edition was undertaken to coincide with the A.O.U. meeting in Winnipeg last year. It is a photographic reproduction of the original and is of chiefly historic interest. The author is better known by his pen name E. T. Seaton. He lists 266 species and many detailed field observations are included. ed.

**The Handbook of Australian Sea-birds** -- D. L. and Vincent Seventy and John Warham -- Charles E. Tuttle Co. Inc., Rutland, Vt. -- 261 p., 127 line drawings and black-and-white photographs and 15 color photographs -- 1971 -- \$18.50.

This is the first book to deal comprehensively with all the sea birds of Australia, a group numbering over 100 species. The forms covered include penguins, petrels, albatross, pelicans, cormorants, boobies, gulls and terns. For all these species the authors discuss field characteristics, general habits, measurements, status, voice, displays, breeding cycle and distribution. The introductory chapters discuss the natural regions in the oceans, Australian marine provinces, characteristics of the water masses around Australia, physiographical habitat and the environment during and since the Pleistocene. It is a detailed, complete coverage of the birds with which it deals. ed.

**An Album of New Zealand Birds** -- paintings by Lily Daff, text by various authors -- Charles E. Tuttle Co. Inc., Rutland, Vt. -- 111 p., 50 color plates -- 1974 -- \$12.00.

This book was published to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. Most of the plates were published by the Society many years ago with text by J. C. Andersen, R. A. Falla, M. A. Jones and L. W. McCaskill. The text was revised by Brian A. Ellis who contributed text for the two new plates. The well reproduced plates and good general text provide a glimpse of a cross-section of native New Zealand birds. ed.

**Annotated Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand** -- Checklist Committee of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc. -- available from Tuttle -- 100 p., 4 maps -- 1970 -- \$8.95.

This is the official list of New Zealand birds, counterpart to our A. O. U. Checklist. Including the islands and Antarctic dependency governed by New Zealand the list totals 282 species with 15 hypothetical (or suspense) forms, 15 fossil birds and 45 which became extinct before about 1800 and are known from subfossil remains only. It includes general and specific N. Z. ranges, references to detailed accounts and a listing of plates in the literature. The book is intended for the very serious birder and professional. ed.

**Common Birds in New Zealand - I** -- Janet Marshall, F. C. Kinsley and C. J. R. Robertson -- Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc., Rutland, Vt. -- 96 p., 40 color plates -- 1974 -- \$4.50 spiral bound.

Now in its third printing this small book serves as a good introduction to some of New Zealand's birds. It covers the birds of town, pasture and fresh water. It was

sponsored by the Fiat distributor in the country and is subtitled the **Flat Book of Birds**. Each of Ms. Marshall's plates depicts one or two species in a refreshingly large format for the size of the book. Introduced birds are included, enhancing the practicality of the book for the beginner or tourist. The text covers status, field characteristics, distribution, habitat, and breeding with a series of simple phrases. The book is small, slim and protected by a plastic cover but printed on heavy paper. It should be very useful to tourists with a slight to moderate interest in birding. ed.

**A Sketchbook of New Zealand Birds** -- Molly Falla -- Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt. -- 32 p., 37 color and black-and-white sketches -- 1975 -- \$4.50.

This little book, written and illustrated by the wife of the well-known ornithologists Sir Robert Falla, contains some nice sketches of common New Zealand birds. The text tells of her experiences with the birds portrayed and some of her problems in executing the sketches. ed.

**Golden Eagle Country** -- Richard R. Olendorff -- Alfred A. Knopf, New York -- 202 p., 39 line drawings and one map -- 1975 -- \$12.95.

On the western edge of the great plains the author spent two years observing the raptor population, especially Golden Eagles. This book follows these great birds throughout their life cycle through the eyes of the author. Specific locations are fictionalized for the protection of the birds. The Golden Eagle is placed in his ecological setting with a rich text further enhanced by fine drawings of the creatures that share it with the eagles. The result is a well-written and interesting story told by a man who obviously has a great "feel" for these beautiful birds. ed.

**Hunting with a Camera** -- Erwin A. Bauer -- Winchester Press, New York -- 324 p., 31 color and 140 black-and-white photographs -- 1974 -- \$12.95.

Subtitled "A World Guide to Wildlife Photography" this book not only provides the basic information on equipment and techniques but covers much of world with specific photography suggestions. The sections on equipment and technique are brief, concise and seem very accurate. The book seems aimed at the photographer with some experience who wishes to expand his horizons and it does this nicely. The examples of the author's work are worth the price in themselves. ed.

**Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts** -- compiled by Daryl D. Tessen -- Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Green Bay -- 334 p., many maps -- 1976 -- \$4.95 paperbound.

This bird finding guide, first published in 1961 (IBL Vol 31, p. 94), has been completely revised and expanded following the original format. It now covers 90 haunts which vary in size from an entire county to a single park. Each area is mapped in detail to show local roads and the exact location of the areas. Many birders contributed with some dividing their section by the geographic areas as mapped and others discussing related birds together for their entire section. It is most useful if you are going to a specific locality and want to know what you can find there. If you are after a particular species there is no index or list to cross reference the text. In comparison to the recent Illinois and Minnesota birding guides this reviewer rates this book superior to the former and inferior to the latter. ed.

**Birds of Prey** -- Michael Everett -- G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York -- 128 p., 131 color photographs, 2 maps and 3 drawings -- 1976 -- \$12.95.

This is a beautiful, coffee table type book dealing with all the diurnal birds of prey in the world with a very general approach. It would seem to be aimed at the general reader and the photographs are probably the strongest point. The text

treats evolution, the fossil record, a general classification, physical characteristics, hunting, feeding, breeding, migration and problems arising due to conflicts with man. The photo on page 84 is captioned a "Sparrow-hawk" while one on page 41 correctly identifies the same species as an American Kestrel and points out the old name but not as two words. This was the only error noted. ed.

**Checklist of the World's Birds** -- Edward S. Gruson -- Quadrangle-The New York Times Book Co., New York -- 212 p., one map -- 1976 -- \$10.95.

Similar to Clements' **Birds of the World** and Edward's **Coded List of Birds of the World** (IBL Vol. 44 p. 77), this book provides some innovations not used in these earlier releases. The species are listed with scientific name first, common name, source code to one or more of the 72 titles used as the basis for the book and region code by letter to one of the eleven faunal regions or sub-regions. The range information is therefore very broad but the purpose of the book is chiefly to serve as a life list unifier. Much less space is provided than in Clements for the user's notation on his first sighting of the bird -- perhaps an inch long area. The species total is 8835 if this reviewer added correctly, somewhat fewer than the other two lists. If one wishes only to check off the bird this book will suffice. It seems well researched and is more current than either of the alternatives. ed.

**Penguins, Past and Present, Here and There** -- George Gaylord Simpson -- Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn. -- 150 p., 24 figures, 9 maps and 10 color plates -- 1976 -- \$10.00.

If you are interested in penguins but not to the extent of Stonehouse (IBL Vol. 24, p. 64), this book will be much more suitable for you. Simpson provides the basics on penguin life history in a very concise form. The author covers the history of the discovery of penguins, how they were named, the basic life history information, their behavior and ecology and their relationship to man. ed.

**Bird Sounds** -- Gerhard A. Theilcke -- The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan -- 190 p., 95 illustrations -- 1976 -- \$2.95 paperbound.

Although written by a German and dealing with European examples this little book still provides the basics regarding bird sounds. It tells how birds sing, hear, communicate messages, learn to make sounds and the role of sounds in the evolution of new species. ed.

**Wildlife Begins at Home** -- Tony Soper -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 128 p., 19 black-and-white photographs, 21 line drawings -- 1975 -- \$7.95.

This English book is full of suggestions for ways to attract wildlife to one's home, many of which are applicable to the U. S. One of his best suggestions is to avoid too well manicured a yard. Soper describes how to see and understand what is going on around us. ed.

**The American Eagle** -- Philip M. Isaacson -- Little Brown and Company, New York -- 210 p., 64 color plates, 160 black-and-white illustrations -- 1976 -- \$29.50.

The Bald Eagle has been depicted in many ways in American design since becoming the symbol of our nation in 1882. This book places the bird in historical perspective, tracing its changing shape and demeanor from the Great Seal to its transformations in the vernacular American woodcarving tradition including a brief excursion into Italian neoclassicism. The symbolic bird has found its way to the sterns of ships of war as well as gracing public buildings, coins, bank notes, furniture, and even quilts. The only obvious fault seems the total disregard for the area west of the original thirteen colonies -- no examples of folk art from the last thirty-seven states seem to rate mention. The book is an art book and does not relate to ornithology. ed.



**The Naturalist on the River Amazons** -- Henry Walter Bates -- Dover Publications, Inc., New York -- 394 p., 39 line drawings -- 1975 -- \$4.50 paperbound.

Bates spent eleven years traveling through the Amazon River basin from 1848-1854 noting the characteristics of almost everything he encountered. As a trained naturalist his observations provide a major source work in Brazilian geography, anthropology and natural history including many birds. The edition reprinted is the fourth, first published in 1876. Its reprinting provides another inexpensive edition of a long out-of-print classic. ed.

**Azraq, Desert Oasis** -- Bryan Nelson -- Ohio University Press, Athens -- 436 p., 90 black-and-white photographs, many maps and line drawings -- 1974 -- \$14.50.

Azraq is a large national park which is being established in eastern Jordan about fifty miles east of Amman. The oasis occurs because of underground water which surfaces there. The book describes the oasis and wildlife of the area, especially the birds and mammals, with an emphasis on desert adaptation. The detailed chapter on bird migration is a contribution to the study of this subject in a wider context and provides a current account of the birds that are seen at this important staging post. If you are interested in desert ecology this book will appeal and be well worthy of your interest. ed.

Now in paper back --

**Owls of the World** -- John Burton, ed. -- A. and W. Visual Library, New York -- \$9.95 -- see IBL Vol. 44 p. 29-30.

**The View From Hawk Mountain** -- Michael Harwood -- Charles Scribner's Sons, New York -- \$2.95 -- see IBL Vol. 43 p. 111.

## Request for Information

### Color-marked Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers

In 1976 and 1977 the Surinam Forest Service plans to color-band large numbers of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers along the Surinam coast, northeastern South America. The objective of this study is to obtain more information about the origin of the birds visiting Surinam and about their migration routes to and from this country. All birds will be banded **above** the tarsus (knee) with one standard aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service band and two **orange** color-bands of about the same size as the aluminum band.

Should you see any of these birds, please write to ARIE L. SPAANS, SURINAM FOREST SERVICE, P. O. BOX 436, PARAMARIBO, SURINAM, SOUTH AMERICA, mentioning species, location and date of observation, the position of the aluminum and color-bands (left or right, and, if more than one band is on a leg, which band is above and which below), and number of color-banded birds involved.

## Prints

To enable I. O. U. members to purchase two fine signed and numbered bird prints, the Black-capped Chickadee and American Goldfinch, Mr. Landenberger is offering us a reduced price and donating \$15.00 to the I. O. U. for each print purchased. If you wish a pair of prints send \$35.00 to Pawnee Creek Press, P. O. Box 633, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406 and indicate you are an I.O.U. member. Checks should be payable to Pawnee Creek Press.

