

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



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

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# I.O.U. Checklist of Iowa Birds

I.O.U. Check list Committee

W. H. BROWN, N. S. HALMI (CHM.), R. F. VANE

This checklist encompasses the 378 species that, in the opinion of the compiling Committee, have been reliably identified in Iowa up to May 1977. Included are extinct species (marked E) and those introduced species (marked I) that, in the Committee's judgment, have been established in Iowa in the feral condition for at least 10 years or have reached the state without human help as strays from feral populations in existence outside Iowa for 10 years or more (the "10-year rule" has been used by the A.B.A Checklist Committee in determining whether to admit introduced species to the 1975 A.B.A. Checklist). Species that have not been seen in Iowa for at least 50 years are marked with A (for "ancient" or "antique"). In addition to species for which authenticated specimens, photographs or motion pictures obtained in Iowa exist, the Committee has included several supported only by sight records, provided these met the criteria of credibility used by P. D. Skaar in the compilation of the Montana checklist (*Montana Bird Distribution*, Bozeman, 1975): their acronym, VALID, represents the components View obtained, Ability of observer(s), Likelihood, Identification ease and Details provided. For English names, the nomenclature of the A.B.A. Checklist has been adopted, in conformity with the policy of *Iowa Bird Life*. For Scientific names, the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Checklist (1957), as modified by the 32nd (1973) and 33rd (1976) supplements, was followed. The sequence in general is that of the A.O.U. Checklist, with certain exceptions to reflect current taxonomic thinking (cf. De Benedictis, *American Birds* 30: 913, 1976): a.) For waterfowl, the order proposed by Delacour, Johnsgard and Mayr, and used in modern monographs, was adopted. b.) For diurnal raptors, the order is that followed by Brown and Amadon (*Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1968). c.) For shorebirds, the sequence adopted is that of the A.B.A. Checklist.

The Committee is indebted to Mr. Peter C. Petersen for much aid in the preparation of the checklist. We expect the checklist to be periodically updated, as species not previously observed in Iowa reach the state and as the A.O.U. and A.B.A. Checklists are modified with advancing knowledge of taxonomy. We invite comments on any errors of omission, commission, fact or judgment.

## Order GAVIIFORMES

### Family Gaviidae: Loons

Common Loon, *Gavia immer*

Arctic Loon, *Gavia arctica*

Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*

## Order PODICIPEDIFORMES

### Family Podicipedidae: Grebes

Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*

Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*

Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*

Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*

**Order PELECANIFORMES**Family **Pelecanidae**: PelicansAmerican White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*Family **Phalacrocoracidae**: CormorantsDouble-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*Family **Anhingidae**: DartersAmerican Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*Family **Fregatidae**: FrigatebirdsMagnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*

A

**Order CICONIIFORMES**Family **Ardeidae**: Herons and BitternsGreat Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*Green Heron, *Butorides striatus*Little Blue Heron, *Florida caerulea*Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*Great Egret, *Casmerodius albus*Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*Family **Ciconiidae**: StorksWood Stork, *Mycteria americana*Family **Threskiornithidae**: Ibises and SpoonbillsGlossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*Roseate Spoonbill, *Ajaia ajaja***Order ANSERIFORMES**Family **Anatidae**: Whistling-Ducks, Swans, Geese and DucksBlack-Bellied Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*Fulvous Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor*Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*Trumpeter Swan, *Olor buccinator*Whistling Swan, *Olor columbianus*Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*Ross' Goose, *Chen rossii*Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas penelope*American Wigeon, *Anas americana*Gadwall, *Anas strepera*Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca*Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*American Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*Common Pintail, *Anas acuta*Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*I  
A

Redhead, *Aythya americana*  
 Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*  
 Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*  
 Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*  
 Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*  
 King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*  
 Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*  
 Oldsquaw, *Clangula hyemalis*  
 Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*  
 Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*  
 White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta deglandi*  
 Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*  
 Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*  
 Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*  
 Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*  
 Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*  
 Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*

## Order FALCONIFORMES

Family Cathartidae: American Vultures

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*  
 Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*

Family Pandionidae: Osprey

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

Family Accipitridae: Kites, Harriers and Hawks

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*

A

Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*

A

Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*Harris' Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*

A

Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*

Family Falconidae: Caracaras and Falcons

Gyr Falcon, *Falco rusticolus*Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*Merlin, *Falco columbarius*American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*

## Order GALLIFORMES

Family Tetraonidae: Grouse and Ptarmigans

Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*Greater Prairie Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido*Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Pedioecetes phasianellus*

Family Phasianidae: Quails and Pheasants

Common Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*

- Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* I  
 Gray Partridge, *Perdix perdix* I  
 Family Meleagrididae: Turkeys  
 Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*
- Order GRUIFORMES**
- Family Gruidae: Cranes  
 Whooping Crane, *Grus americanus*  
 Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*
- Family Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules and Coots  
 King Rail, *Rallus elegans*  
 Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola*  
 Sora, *Porzana carolina*  
 Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*  
 Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*  
 Purple Gallinule, *Gallinula martinica*  
 Common Gallinule, *Gallinula chloropus*  
 American Coot, *Fulica americana*
- Order CHARADRIIFORMES**
- Family Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets  
 Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*  
 American Avocet, *Recurvirostra americana*
- Family Charadriidae: Plovers  
 Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
 Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*  
 Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*  
 Mountain Plover, *Charadrius montanus*  
 Lesser Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*  
 Black-bellied Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Phalaropes  
 Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*  
 Marbled Godwit, *Limosa fedoa*  
 Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis* A  
 Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*  
 Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus*  
 Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*  
 Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*  
 Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*  
 Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*  
 Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*  
 Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*  
 Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*  
 Wilson's Phalarope, *Steganopus tricolor*  
 Northern Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*  
 Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*  
 American Woodcock, *Philohela minor*  
 Common Snipe, *Capella gallinago*  
 Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*  
 Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*  
 Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*  
 Sanderling, *Calidris alba*  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*  
 Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*

- Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*  
 White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*  
 Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*  
 Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*  
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*  
 Purple Sandpiper, *Calidris maritima*  
 Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*  
 Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus*  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*  
 Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*  
 Family Stercorariidae: Jaegers and Skuas  
 Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
 Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus* A  
 Family Laridae: Gulls and Terns  
 Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*  
 Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*  
 Greater Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*  
 Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*  
 Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*  
 Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*  
 Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*  
 Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*  
 Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*  
 Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*  
 Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* A  
 Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*  
 Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*  
 Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons*  
 Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*  
 Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*  
 Family Alcidae: Alcids  
 Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia* A  
 Order COLUMBIFORMES  
 Family Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves  
 Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata*  
 Rock Dove, *Columba livia* I  
 Mourning Dove, *Zenaid macroura*  
 Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius* E  
 Order PSITTACIFORMES  
 Family Psittacidae: Parrots  
 Carolina Parakeet, *Conuropsis carolinensis* E  
 Order CUCULIFORMES  
 Family Cuculidae: Cuckoos, Roadrunners and Anis  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*  
 Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*  
 Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*  
 Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*  
 Order STRIGIFORMES  
 Family Tytonidae: Barn Owls  
 Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*  
 Family Strigidae: Typical Owls  
 Common Screech Owl, *Otus asio*

Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*  
 Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*  
 Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia*  
 Barred Owl, *Strix varia*  
 Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa*  
 Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*  
 Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*  
 Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus*

**Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES**

Family Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers  
 Chuck-will's-widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*  
 Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*  
 Poor-will, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*  
 Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*

**Order APODIFORMES**

Family Apodidae: Swifts  
 Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*  
 Family Trochilidae: Hummingbirds  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*

**Order CORACIIFORMES**

Family Alcedinidae: Kingfishers  
 Belted Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon*

**Order PICIFORMES**

Family Picidae: Woodpeckers and Wrynecks  
 Common Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*  
 Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*  
 Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*  
 Lewis' Woodpecker, *Melanerpes lewis*  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*  
 Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*  
 Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*  
 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides arcticus*  
 Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*

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**Order PASSERIFORMES**

Family Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers  
 Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*  
 Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscivora forficata*  
 Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*  
 Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*  
 Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*  
 Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*  
 Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*  
 Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*  
 Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*  
 Eastern Pewee, *Contopus virens*  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Nuttallornis borealis*  
 Family Alaudidae: Larks  
 Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*  
 Family Hirundinidae: Swallows



- Tree Swallow, *Iridoprocne bicolor*  
 Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*  
 Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*  
 Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*  
 Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*  
 Purple Martin, *Progne subis*  
 Family **Corvidae**: Jays, Magpies and Crows  
 Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*  
 Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*  
 Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*  
 Northern Raven, *Corvus corax*  
 American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*  
 Pinyon Jay, *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*  
 Clark's Nutcracker, *Nucifraga columbiana*  
 Family **Paridae**: Titmice, Verdins and Bushits  
 Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*  
 Carolina Chickadee, *Parus carolinensis*  
 Boreal Chickadee, *Parus hudsonicus*  
 Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*  
 Family **Sittidae**: Nuthatches  
 White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*  
 Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* A  
 Pygmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*  
 Family **Certhiidae**: Creepers  
 Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris*  
 Family **Cinclidae**: Dippers  
 North American Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus* A  
 Family **Troglodytidae**: Wrens  
 House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*  
 Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
 Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*  
 Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*  
 Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus palustris*  
 Sedge Wren, *Cistothorus platensis*  
 Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus*  
 Family **Mimidae**: Mockingbirds and Thrashers  
 Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*  
 Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*  
 Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*  
 Curve-billed Thrasher, *Toxostoma curvirostre*  
 Sage Thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*  
 Family **Turdidae**: Thrushes  
 American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*  
 Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*  
 Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*  
 Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*  
 Swainson' Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*  
 Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*  
 Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*  
 Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*

- Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*  
 Family Sylviidae: Old World Warblers, Gnatcatchers and Kinglets  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila caerulea*  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*  
 Family Motacillidae: Wagtails and Pipits  
 Water Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta*  
 Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*  
 Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings  
 Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*  
 Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*  
 Family Laniidae: Shrikes  
 Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*  
 Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*  
 Family Sturnidae: Starlings  
 European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*  
 Family Vireonidae: Vireos  
 White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*  
 Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*  
 Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*  
 Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*  
 Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*  
 Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*  
 Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*  
 Family Parulidae: Wood Warblers  
 Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*  
 Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*  
 Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*  
 Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*  
 Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*  
 Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*  
 Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*  
 Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*  
 Northern Parula Warbler, *Parula americana*  
 Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*  
 Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*  
 Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Dendroica nigrescens*  
 Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*  
 Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*  
 Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*  
 Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*  
 Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*  
 Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*  
 Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*  
 Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*  
 Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*  
 Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*  
 Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*

- Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*  
 Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*  
 Kentucky Warbler, *Oporornis formosus*  
 Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*  
 Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*  
 MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*  
 Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*  
 Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*  
 Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*  
 Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*  
 Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*  
 American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*
- Family **Ploceidae**: Weaver Finches  
 House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus* I
- Family **Icteridae**: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds and Orioles  
 Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*  
 Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*  
 Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*  
 Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*  
 Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*  
 Northern Oriole, *Icterus galbula*  
 Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*  
 Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*  
 Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*  
 Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*  
 Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*
- Family **Thraupidae**: Tanagers  
 Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*  
 Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*  
 Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*
- Family **Fringillidae**: Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows and Buntings  
 Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*  
 Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*  
 Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca cerulea*  
 Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*  
 Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*  
 Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris*  
 Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*  
 Evening Grosbeak, *Hesperiphona vespertina*  
 Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*  
 Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*  
 Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte tephrocotis* A  
 Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*  
 Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus*  
 American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*  
 Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*  
 White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*  
 Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorura*  
 Rufous-sided Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*  
 Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*

Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*  
 Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*  
 Baird's Sparrow, *Ammodramus bairdii*  
 Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*  
 Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii*  
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta*  
 Vesper Sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus*  
 Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*  
 Northern Junco, *Junco hyemalis*  
 American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*  
 Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*  
 Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida*  
 Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*  
 Harris' Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*  
 White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
 White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*  
 Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*  
 Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolni*  
 Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*  
 Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*  
 McCown's Longspur, *Calcarius mccownii*  
 Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*  
 Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur, *Calcarius ornatus*  
 Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*

A

**Hot Line for Iowa** -- It has been suggested that a "hot line" should be developed for spreading the word about unusual birds discovered in Iowa. This would be done by phone on a grid system, with those who are interested calling their contact in a chain manner. Each representative of an area can then spread the word further with local calls. The representative in an area should have an alternate who can be contacted in his or her absence. To be effective and fair the chain should not be broken. The major unanswered questions, aside from learning who wishes to be a part of the line, is which species should be considered rare enough to include. Probably everyone with a personal state list needs a few birds which are not really too rare in some part of the state at some season. We propose to establish a list of species to be included and would like the input of the I.O.U. membership to help us. Of course any species seen in Iowa for the first time would qualify. Elsewhere in this issue is a current list of Iowa species. Birds seen fewer than twenty times would also be likely candidates. Elusive species which have been seen many times should probably be included, for example the Barn Owl. Species rare in some parts of Iowa but regularly found elsewhere would not qualify, for example the White-eyed Vireo. Another point to keep in mind is that winter feeder visitors are the only very likely birds to stay put for several days or longer. During migration and the breeding season it is quite risky to hope to find a bird after the day it was observed, except for nesting birds. Any comments or input regarding this should be directed to NICK HALMI, Route 6, Iowa City 52240; PETER PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport 52803; or WEIR NELSON, Route 1, Ely 52227.



## 55th Annual Iowa Ornithologists' Union Convention

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA - MAY 14-15, 1977

MARY LOU PETERSEN  
235 McClellan Blvd.  
DAVENPORT

The fifty-fifth annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union convened in Marshalltown, Iowa on May 14-15, 1977. The host group was the Central Iowa Ornithologists. Carl Kurtz of St. Anthony, President of the C.I.O. extended the welcome to the I.O.U. He noted that until man loves nature and experiences it, conservation problems will not be solved. The response to the welcome was made by I.O.U. President, Dorothy Brunner of Nora Springs. She thanked Marlys Huff of Marshalltown for having the I.O.U. to her home Friday evening. She announced an invitation to I.O.U. members for the Nebraska Ornithologists' meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 21-22.

Carl Kurtz introduced Nick Klepinger of Reasnor, Iowa, who is a wildlife artist. Mr. Klepinger was the winner of the 1976 Iowa Duck Stamp Award. He told us about his life on his farm, which has a fine remnant of sand prairie, and his fascination with migrating waterfowl. He feels that there is a place in society for the wildlife artist because he depicts wildlife experiences that many people may not have the chance to experience. He feels privileged to have joy in doing what he wants to do. He carves in butternut as well as doing water color and had many fine examples of his art work on display.

Dean Roosa of the Iowa Conservation Commission and the ecologist administering Iowa State Preserves spoke about Iowa Projects Update and his raptor research. Mr. Roosa wants assistance in determining the declining species in Iowa. He had listed Yellow Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Bell's Vireo, and Upland Sandpiper as declining. He then showed slides of his raptor research and noted that raptors had a poor year due mainly to declining habitat.

Jon Stravers of Pella spoke on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the dangers threatening the area from developers. He told the group that there were two bills in congress. The Oberstar Bill would split the wilderness and develop three areas which would, in effect, destroy the wilderness. He urged the I.O.U. members to write their U.S. Representative and Senator and urge the adoption of the Donald Frazier Bill (H.R. 2820) which would keep the area a complete wilderness. For more information write to: Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness, 1783 Lindig St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55113.

Margrieta Delle of Iowa City presented a slide program on the Rochester Cemetery in Cedar County near Tipton. The Cedar County Historical Society of

Tipton, Iowa is trying to raise funds to buy the land surrounding the cemetery to keep it from being made a housing development and therefore make a buffer zone for the prairie area in the cemetery.

Dr. James Dinsmore, Associate Professor of Zoology at Iowa State University in Ames, presented a slide program on "Sooty Tern Behavior". He told the group that his frustration trying to study the behavior of the few Birds of Paradise on Little Tobago was so great that he decided to study a species which nested colonially in great numbers. His Sooty Tern reserach was carried on in the Dry Tortugas primarily on Bush Key. There is a fort on nearby Gorden Key and it is a national monument. The birds became very used to him and he was able to observe them very well. It has been determined that the birds have a very long life span and that introduced predators on breeding islands, disease and storms are major factors in the bird's mortality. Professor Dinsmore asked the group to send him observations and nest information on Red-shouldered Hawks and Cattle Egrets. He is trying to centralize nest records for Iowa and told the group if anyone needed nest record cards to see him. Following Dr. Dinsmore's presentation the group recessed for lunch.

The afternoon session began with Ed Savage of Marshalltown describing the Sunday morning field trips. Kurt Krieger of Marshalltown hosted the afternoon session and introduced Lloyd Crim, an I.S.U. graduate student, who presented slides and informed the group how to tell a "wild" turkey from a domestic bird. He told how in the 1880's the turkey declined rapidly and by the 1940's they were holding their own in some areas. Wild Turkeys had to be captured to restock areas where they were extirpated.

Ron George of the Iowa Conservation Commission presented slides of White-tailed Ptarmigan. He also explained to the group the proposed legislation on the multiflora rose placing it on the noxious weed list. He urged the membership to write their state representative expressing their views on the multiflora rose as a food source and cover for birds and small animals.

Dr. Erwin Klass of the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Ames showed the group slides of Snow Geese at DeSoto Bend Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge. The Snow Goose is the most numerous goose in the world. He discussed research on the Lesser Snow Goose mid-continent population.

Larry Stone of St. Olaf, a Des Moines Register columnist, presented his slide program entitled "Alaskan Dream". He had many lovely scenery pictures including "spectacular" pictures of Mr. McKinley shrouded in the nearly ever present clouds. He had many pictures of wildlife and fascinating pictures of glaciers.

Following Larry Stone's program, President Dorothy Brunner convened the business meeting. Secretary Mary Lou Petersen of Davenport read a letter from Oscar Allert thanking the I.O.U. for voting him an honorary life member. She also mentioned the I.S.U. extension service public affairs program, "Land Water and Energy". She then read the minutes of the previous annual meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Treasurer Ruth Buckles of Des Moines made the treasurer's report. (See opposite page.) Herb Dorow of Newton moved the treasurer's report be approved. It was seconded and the motion carried. Mrs. Buckles gave a report of the membership.

Peter Petersen of Davenport, Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* reported next. He said he had enough material for major articles in the magazine through September. He welcomed any material and said that brief general notes were always welcome. He said that there was a plan to publish a state list as soon as Nicholas Halmi of Iowa City and Woodward Brown of Des Moines finish the final draft. Mr. Petersen

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May 14, 1977

Balance on hand 5-15-76 -- Checking Account .....		\$ 514.59
RECEIPTS:		
Spring Meeting 1976 .....	\$1,022.00	
Fall Meeting 1976 .....	54.23	
Memberships .....	3,736.00	
Check Lists .....	51.74	
Decals .....	7.50	
Brassards .....	21.00	
Issues of Iowa Bird Life .....	106.50	
Annotated Lists .....	40.46	
Prints -- St. Francis & Birds -- Gordon Power .....	10.00	
Gifts .....	9.75	
Outdated checks .....	5.50	
Total Receipts .....		5,064.68
Total Receipts and Balance Forward .....		\$5,579.27
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Spring Meeting 1976 .....	858.23	
Fall Meeting 1976 .....	8.00	
		866.23
Iowa Bird Life:		
Printing -- Monticello Express .....	2,342.37	
Editor's Fee .....	100.00	
Editor's Telephone Expense .....	26.00	
		2,468.37
POSTAGE:		
Second Class Permit for I.B.L. ....	30.00	
Editor's expense .....	27.60	
Treasurer's expense .....	54.18	
		111.78
Misc. Expenses:		
Printing -- Delinquent Dues Notices .....	17.36	
Mailing Envelopes .....	61.86	
Secretary Book .....	3.97	
Refund -- Membership Dues .....	5.00	
Trans. -- Life Membership Dues to United Federal S. & L. ....	225.00	
		313.19
Total Expenses .....		\$3,759.57
BALANCE .....		\$1,819.70
Central National Bank--Des Moines--Checking Account .....		\$1,819.70
Deposit--United Federal Savings & Loan		
Certificate .....	\$2,265.32	
Savings Account .....	364.77	
(Interest included in above earned during the year \$149.70)		

Ruth Buckles, Treasurer

stated that he was still looking for birding area articles and that the state was 75 to 80 percent covered.

Darlene Ayers of Ottumwa, the public relations chairperson, encouraged area people to find out who are the new I.O.U. members and get them involved.

Wier Nelson, chairperson of the Rare Bird Alert was absent. Peter Petersen gave the report on the hotline. He said that information will be in IBL giving people an opportunity to be on the list for the round robin telephone contacts. He said that there will be some basic ground rules published and that the updated state list will be included.

President Brunner announced that Dr. Halmi is the field notes editor and observations should be mailed to him at R.R. No. 6, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. She also informed the group that Dr. Halmi feels there are gaps in reporting and that some areas do not make contributions to the field notes. This statement led to some interesting though at times heated discussion.

President Brunner discussed the executive council members and the need to have some new people on the executive council. She named Darlene Ayres, Edy Dorow, and Hazel Diggs of Hamburg to the resolutions committee.

There was no old business.

Ruth Buckles moved that the I.O.U. nominate Gladys Black of Pleasantville as Member of the group for her outstanding contribution to the group. Mrs. Black's articles in the Des Moines Register produced about 200 new members. The motion was seconded and it carried. John Osness of Waterloo asked that the secretary write a letter to the Des Moines Register thanking them for printing Gladys Black's articles.

Peter Petersen discussed the possibility of the publication of the bird finding book at the end of 1978 or in 1979. He asked the group if the group would indicate their willingness to go ahead with the project or not. He asked for a "vote of confidence". President Brunner entertained the motion for a "vote of confidence". Ross Silcock seconded the motion and it carried.

President Brunner asked if there was an invitation for the 1978 spring meeting or for the 1977 fall meeting. She discussed the possibility of having the fall meeting at a scout camp near Boone, Iowa. Barney Cook of Ames volunteered to find out details. The meeting was adjourned.

Following a delicious buffet meal at the Tallcorn Hotel, President Brunner introduced the head table and had new members stand. Door prizes were awarded. Marlys Huff discussed how she became a bird watcher and introduced Carl Kurtz who presented a slide program entitled "South Florida, Birder's Paradise". Mr. Kurtz again enthralled his audience with excellent photography and a soft spoken ecology lesson.

Sunday, the members gathered at the Anson Shelter House after the field trips for the noon luncheon. Following the luncheon President Brunner resumed the business meeting with a hand for the good meeting sponsored by the C.I.O.

Darlene Ayers presented the report of the resolutions committee:

Be it resolved by the 55th Annual Convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting in Marshalltown, Iowa, May 13, 14, 15, 1977, that we, the members thank the Central Iowa Ornithologists' club of the Marshalltown, Iowa area for hosting a well-organized and "rain-free" meeting, thus making the weekend a memorable one. We also thank the officers and members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for their many efforts in adding to the pleasure of the meeting.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given to:

1. The administrators of the Fisher Community Center for providing fine physical facilities for the meeting.
2. The city for the use of Anson Park.
3. To the Marshalltown mayor and Chamber of Commerce for courtesies extended.
4. To Marlys and Richard Huff for hosting a reception Friday evening.



5. To Noreen and Home Rinehart for their Saturday morning banding demonstration.

6. To Nick Klepinger, Dean Roosa, Jon Stravers, Dr. James Dinsmore, Margrieta Delle, Lloyd Crim, Ron George, Dr. Erwin Klass and Larry Stone for program presentations on Saturday.

7. To Carl Kurtz for a fine banquet program Saturday evening.

8. To all field trip leaders on Sunday.

9. To all persons who had exhibits pertaining to wildlife during the meeting.

10. To all I.O.U. officers who have served us ably during the past year.

Woodward Brown of the auditing committee reported that the treasurer's books are in excellent order.

Judge Ayres of Ottumwa was called upon to compile the day's bird list, 136 species were seen.

Following the compilation the nominations committee presented the following slate of officers: George Crossley of Dubuque, president; Carl Kurtz, vice-president; Mary Lou Petersen, secretary; Ruth Buckles, treasurer; Dick Mooney of Des Moines, Larry Farmer of Westfield, and Ross Silcock of Malvern to the executive council. Woodward Brown moved that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded and carried.

Past-president Brunner turned the meeting over to President George Crossley who said he was glad to see the group larger and younger. He thanked the group for electing him. He asked the group to give the outgoing officers a hand. Peter Petersen moved adjournment and the meeting adjourned.

The Fall meeting will be held October 29 & 30 at Council Bluffs. Full details will be with the September issue. ed.

**Bird List** -- Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, Upland Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied 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, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler,

Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada 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, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Additional species seen on Saturday only: Black-bellied Plover, Whip-poor-will, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

#### Registered Attendance -- 1976

- AMES: Barnett Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Crim, Jim Dinsmore, Erwin Klass, Dean Roosa.
- BEAMON: Jim and Esther Plambeck.
- BOONE: Ron George.
- CARROLL: Lucille Fast, Linda Kuhlman, Eva Wiedemayer.
- CEDAR FALLS: Eleanor Corwin, Salina Hautleman, Mrs. Charles and Maxine Schwanke, Lois Sherman.
- CEDAR RAPIDS: Floy and Norman Erickson, Beryl and Pat Layton, Sara Millikin, Roberta Oppendahl, Lillian Serbousek, Myra Willis.
- CENTERVILLE: Bill and Mary Heusinkveld, Grayce, Paula and Tom Hill.
- CONRAD: Thelma Johnston, Barbara Larson, Les and Perle Ralston, Hazel Stewart.
- DAVENPORT: Dr. Gordon and Velma Flynn, Mary Lou and Peter Petersen.
- DECORAH: Darwin Koenig.
- DES MOINES: Ruth Binsfeld, Mary and Woody Brown, Ruth Buckles, Andy, Nancy and Tom Davidson, Jim and Elva Gritton, Bob and Harriet Ingelman, Mrs. Jack Jones, Pauline and Richard Mooney, Barbara Ray, Virginia Van Liew.
- DUBUQUE: Frieda and George Crossley.
- FAIRFIELD: Viola Hayward.
- FERGUSON: Mrs. James and Ken Graham.
- GARWIN: Frieda Ellerbeck.
- HAMBURG: Fitzhugh and Hazel Diggs.
- INDIANOLA: Beth and Rick McGeough, Jim Sinclair.
- IOWA CITY: Margrieta Della, Marlyn and Matthew Glasson, Gary and Sharen Garton, Bernardine and Calvin Knight.
- JAMAICA: Marilyn and R. E. Burns.
- MALVERN: W. Ross Silcock.
- MARION: Lucile Liljedahl.
- MARSHALLTOWN: Helen Botts, Avon Burt, Kathleen Christerson, George and Vera Crowther, Emma Deck, Jean and Norm Eige, Laura Glasgow, Helen, Irene and Orville Grimes, Marlys Huff, Frances and John King, Ruth Knights, Curt and Kathy Krieger, Gladys and Otis Lacy, Donna and Lester Lawrence, Floss Mason, Patty McFarland, Carol and Sarah McMillian, Irene Mowery, Harriet Olsen, Alice and Hubert Paulson, Richie and Russell Prescott, Nina Richter, Homer and Noreen Rinehart, Betty and Ed Savage, Robert Trottman, Glen and Mable Vauthrin, Fred and Mildred Ward, Grace and Jim Wignall, Ruth Zorn.
- MUSCATINE: Alan Hahn.

NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.  
 NORA SPRINGS: Dorothy Brunner, Genevive Nelson.  
 OSKALOOSA: Irene and Keith Layton.  
 OTTUMWA: Charles and Darleen Ayres, Ann and Charles Current, Donald and Elaine Johnson, Barbara and Paul Riedel, Pearl Walker.  
 PELLA: Jon and Sherril Stravers.  
 PLEASANTVILLE: Gladys Black, R. Thornbery.  
 REASONER: Nick Klepinger.  
 REINBECK: Mrs. John Ehlers.  
 ST. ANTHONY: Carl and Hazel Kurtz.  
 ST. LUCAS: Joe Schaufenbuel.  
 ST. OLAF: Larry and Margaret Stone.  
 SIOUX CITY: Darrell and Evelyn Hanna, Bob Nicholson.  
 STATE CENTER: Dorothy and Jim Maish.  
 STORY CITY: Kathy Moore.  
 SWALEDALE: Mr. and Mrs. Parker Koppen.  
 TRADER: Ray and Ted Berner.  
 WATERLOO: Randy and Ruth Betsworth, Myrle Burk, Antoinette Camarata, Hulda Flynn, Maybelle Hinkley, Carol Howery, Anna and H. A. Kirchgatter, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Miller, John and Lois Osness.  
 WESTFIELD: Larry Farmer.  
 MORRISON, ILLINOIS: Penny Stoudt.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear I.O.U. Members:

I sincerely thank the membership of I.O.U. for honoring and entrusting me as your President for the next year. I will do whatever is in my ability to fulfill this responsibility.

A year ago our Constitution was amended to provide that the Executive Council shall arrange for a location and date for the next Annual Meeting if such has not been determined at the preceding annual meeting. We would appreciate an invitation or suggestions and your help with planning.

Since I am a retired engineering graduate, I wish to suggest that each and everyone of us stress the technical side of our avocation this coming year. Recently we have acquired many enthusiastic students and teachers as members. At the present time several of these people are pursuing important environmental and scientific projects. They have asked through the medium of **Iowa Bird Life** for assistance from you by reporting your observations along the lines of their studies and field research.

Dean Roosa has reported to us the past two years on the status of endangered, threatened, and declining species. He has asked that we make notes on Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Bell's Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow Warbler, and several others. (See p. 40, **IBL** June 1976).

Dr. Nicholas Halmi is our Field Reports Editor and depends on us to furnish reports on significant observations during the different seasons so that his information published in **IBL** and **American Birds** will be representative of the area. Please refer to the report schedule and further information such as the importance of species on the Blue List on p. 85, **IBL** September 1976.

Those of us attending our recent Convention at Marshalltown heard Dr. James Dinsmore's interesting presentation on Sooty Tern Behavior. He is currently doing research nearer home on the Red-shouldered Hawk which is on the Blue List. On p. 27, **IBL** March 1977 he asks us for reports of activity of courting or nesting in our areas. Also for sighting information on Cattle Egrets.

There are other active Iowa projects with proven leadership worthy of our support. So you see there is work to be done, and it can and should be done by each and everyone of us if we are really interested in preserving the variety of birds which we now enjoy on our Spring Field Day or Christmas Count or Breeding Bird Census. It entails only a little more record-keeping, and taking the time to write a note to report our observations. Consider the number of hours and tedious work expended by the bird banders to obtain very useful information on longevity, migration, etc.

This is my suggestion and my challenge for the coming year of progress in I.O.U.

Thank you,  
George E. Crossley

## Radial Dispersal and Southward Migration of Wood Ducks Banded in Iowa

PAUL A. STEWART  
203 Mooreland Dr.  
OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

In this paper I am analyzing the direct-flight movements of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) banded in Iowa. Recovery records were selected to include birds banded during the period April through August, when the birds were assumed to be on their breeding grounds, and shot the following hunting season. With only one migration season between banding and recovery dates, the birds can be assumed to have made direct flights from their banding to their recovery sites. Recovery records were selected also to include only birds shot and only birds with full information available on the time of recovery. Similar analyses were made with use of data from New York and Vermont, hopefully to be published elsewhere, providing information for comparisons with material in this study of Iowa birds.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 3,572 recovery records of Wood Ducks banded in Iowa were received from the Bird Banding Laboratory, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland, and 1,733 of these were selected as being appropriate for use in this study. The percentages shot in different states and provinces are shown in Figure 1. More than half (58.63 percent) of the 1,733 birds were shot in Iowa. With many of the birds being banded in northeastern Iowa, relatively large percentages were shot also in the nearby states of Illinois (4.96 percent), Minnesota (4.33 percent), and Wisconsin (5.77 percent). A total of 76.06 percent of the 1,733 birds were shot in Iowa and adjacent states.

Distribution of the recoveries in Figure 1 shows the birds to have traveled in all compass directions, indicating that a movement additional to southward migration was involved. Movement in all compass directions was similarly shown by Wood Ducks banded in New York and Vermont. I earlier noted also that Wood Ducks in Ohio made dispersal movements, traveling in all compass directions from their breeding grounds, in late August and early September (Stewart, 1958).

With the data used for the map (Fig. 1) being drawn from the period covering the breeding season through the time of the first migration flight, the distribution of the recoveries shows movements resulting both from dispersal flights and southward migration. The birds traveling southward in the dispersal movement could be separated from those later going in the regular southward migration only when recovery of those in the dispersal movement was made before the season for the southward migration. Southward migration was found in Ohio to start in late October or early November (Stewart, 1958). Thus, the nature of their dispersal movement was lost among birds shot during or after their southward migrations or the time for these migrations.

At least one recovery record was available among birds banded in Iowa showing that some Wood Ducks traveled to the more southern part of their winter range in the dispersal flight: an hatching-year male banded in Iowa on 11 September was shot in Texas the following 15 October. Among the Wood Ducks banded in New York was one banded on 30 August and shot in Florida the following 2 September, showing a flight from the northern to the southern part of the Wood Duck's range in early September, clearly in the dispersal movement.

As a relatively large proportion (76.06) of the 1,773 Wood Ducks were shot in Iowa or adjacent states and most flights in other directions than southward were relatively short, the dispersal flights were indicated to be short for most birds. However, the one Wood Duck traveled from Iowa to Texas between 11 September and 15 October, showing a flight of approximately 970 km. Also, two Wood Ducks traveled more than 1,350 km east-northeast before recovery, one to southeastern Ontario and one to southwestern Quebec.

The time and place of banding and recovery of the two birds traveling 1,350 km east-northeast were close enough together to suggest that the birds may have traveled together from Iowa to their recovery sites. Thus, the bird wearing band number 715-04531 was banded on 20 August 1971, and the one wearing band number 665-95157 was banded on 30 August 1971. The banding sites in Iowa were approximately 110 km apart. The recovery sites, although in different provinces, were little farther apart than opposite sides of the St. Lawrence River. Both birds were shot on 2 October 1971.

With the dispersal flights mostly rather short, most of the longer flights southward can be considered to have been made by birds in southward migration. Of the birds recovered southwardly from Iowa, relatively large percentages were recovered in the states directly south of Iowa, suggesting that somewhat of a lane was followed. The birds in their southward migration may have followed southward wetland habitat associated with the Mississippi River floodplain. Birds banded in New York and Vermont appeared to follow southward the swampy habitat bordering the Atlantic Coast.

In their southward migration from New York and Vermont, Wood Ducks appeared to move leisurely, taking two months to travel from their northern breeding grounds to the southern limit of their wintering grounds. In Iowa the average date of recovery of 1,016 Wood Ducks banded there was 10 October, and in Louisiana the average date of recovery of 130 Wood Ducks from Iowa was 10 December, but Arkansas and Missouri did not have appropriate average dates to show gradual southward movement. With the Iowa birds having a shorter distance than the New York and Vermont birds to travel to reach their wintering grounds, it may be that there was more overlapping of the wintering grounds in the dispersal of Iowa birds, obscuring the differences between the times of the dispersal and migratory flights.

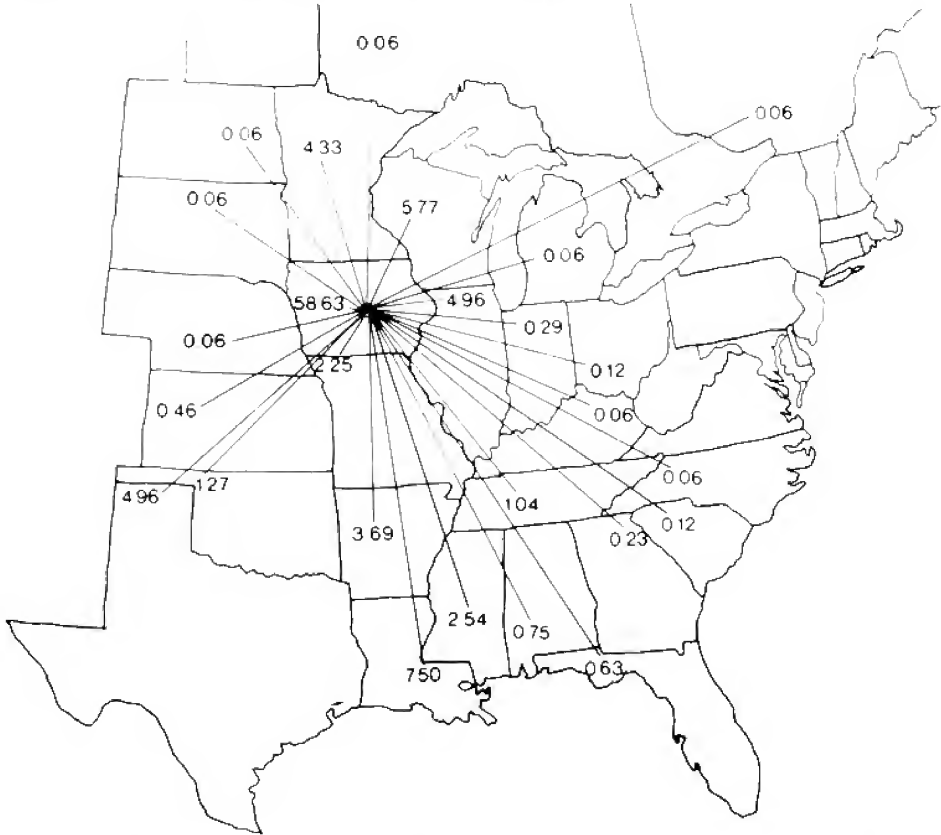


Figure 1. Percentages recovered in different states and provinces of 1,733 Wood Ducks banded in Iowa. The exact localities of banding and recovery are not shown by the locations of the figures or the ends of the lines, only the states and provinces.

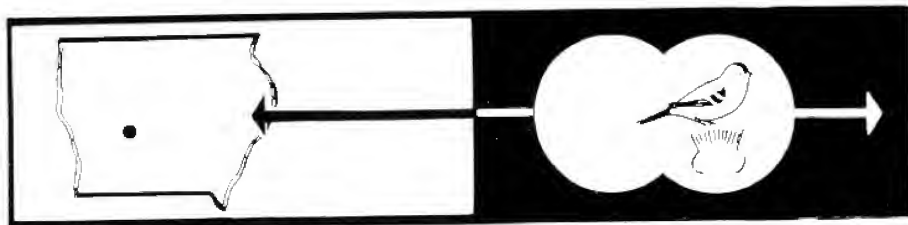
#### SUMMARY

An analysis was made of movements of Wood Ducks banded in Iowa, based on recovery of 1,733 birds. The birds made dispersal movements in all compass directions after the breeding season and before their southward migrations, with most birds making only short flights. Two birds in this dispersal flight flew 1,350 km toward the east-northeast, and one flew 970 km southward. The nearness in time and place of recovery records of the two birds flying to the east-northeast suggested that these birds traveled together. In their southward migration, Wood Ducks from Iowa may roughly follow swampy habitat associated with the Mississippi River.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to the persons responsible at the Bird Banding Laboratory for making available to me the banding records used in this paper, to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Conservation Commission for permission to use data resulting from their banding efforts, and to David E. Stewart for preparing the map presented in this paper.

Literature Cited: Stewart, P. A. 1958. Local movements of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*). *Auk* 75:157-168.



## Birding Areas of Iowa

GENE BURNS  
P. O. Box 32  
JAMAICA, IOWA

### AUDUBON COUNTY

On May 28, 1977, my wife and I drove to four different areas in Audubon County to check on the birdlife and habitat conditions. We were able to account for 48 species in a few hours of driving and walking. We found birding especially good around the Exira area.

1. **Plow in the Oak** -- This is a small park of about 4 acres located approximately 2 miles south of Exira on highway 71. It has water, electricity, camping and toilet facilities, plus the unique feature of an old plow in a large Oak tree. I remember this plow in the tree when I was going to high school at Exira back in the 30's. We picked up a few species at this area and then we proceeded towards Exira and at a stream just south of Exira where there is a railroad bridge, we observed 2 Wood Ducks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and heard a Bell's Vireo. Walking down the railroad tracks we were able to observe several more species. This was an enjoyable area.

2. **Littlefield Timber** -- This is located 4 miles east and 2 miles south of Exira. At the present time the park consists of 57 acres and has camping, electricity, water, restrooms and picnicking. To the west edge of the camping area is a 40 acre stand of virgin timber which has several trails through it and there are many large walnut trees, bushes and plants of all kinds. Many of the various trees are labeled as to their species. It is one of the finest timber areas I have ever been to for birding. In this timber, we picked up several more species including the Philadelphia Vireo, a Turkey Vulture and 3 more Red-tailed Hawks. Mr. Olson, the custodian, advised me that County Conservation Commission had recently purchased 444 more acres just east of the present area and there will be a man-made lake of 72 acres, plus many other facilities in this new area within about a two-year period.

3. **Edwards Park** -- This 6 acre park is located 4 miles west and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of Audubon, picnic facilities only. Here we picked up a few more species including the Red-eyed Vireo and Indigo Buntings. Many hardwood trees are in this park.

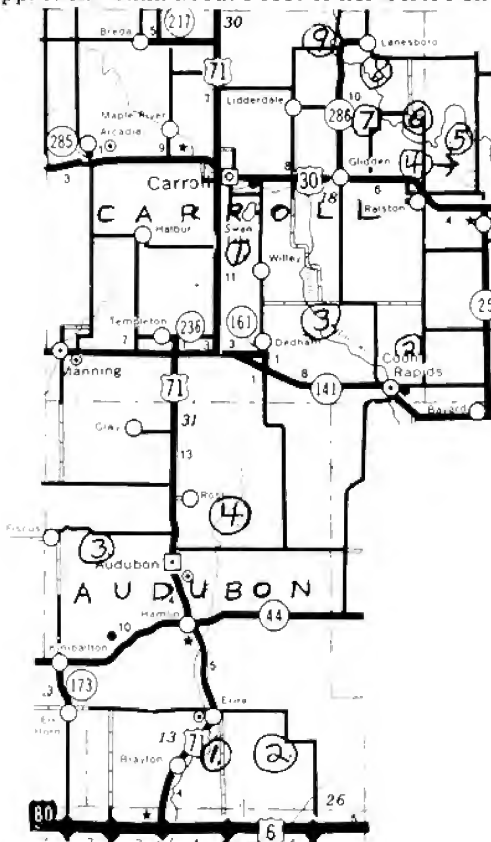
4. **Nabotna Pond** -- The pond is located 2 miles north and 3 miles east of Audubon. There are 11 acres in this area and the facilities include electricity, water, toilets, picnicking. There is a small pond near the Nishnabotna River which serves the birdlife with an adequate water supply. We found several other species driving through the countryside near many small streams. If you are passing through Audubon County and wish to bird a couple of hours, I feel you will find the Littlefield Timber area worth your while and enjoyable.

### CARROLL COUNTY

On May 30 we traveled in Carroll County to check several birding areas and were able to account for 49 species in a few hours of driving and walking. Carroll County is an excellent place for birding and they have many more fine areas that we did not get covered.

1. **Swan Lake** -- 510 acres including the large lake with camping, electricity, water, toilets, picnicking. This fine good-sized lake is located 2 miles south and 1 mile east of Carroll. During the early part of May, I observed many shore birds at the west edge of this lake, including 8 Hudsonian Godwits, 1 Forster's Tern, 1 Common Tern, several Black Terns, a late migrating Canvasback and Redheads, plus 2 Ruddy Ducks. I have observed a large variety of other species of birdlife in the area around the lake. If you pass through Carroll County, make this a stop on your way.

2. **Riverside Park** -- Camping, electricity, water, toilets and picnicking area available. This 4 acre park is located at the northeast edge of Coon Rapids and the Middle Raccoon River runs through it. This is my favorite area in Carroll County as I am in this park nearly every noon hour during the work week. Here I have observed many, many species, such as the Brown Creeper, Cape May Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and the Louisiana Waterthrush. I had been observing a Louisiana Waterthrush for nearly 10 days the last part of May, and finally on June 3, I located her nest. She had 1 baby and 3 eggs. Pictures were taken and I was able to approach within about 3 feet of her before she flushed. It is a fine place to bird



#### Areas

##### Carroll County

1. Swan Lake
2. Riverside Park
3. Middle Raccoon River Access
4. Richey Access
5. Bennett Access
6. Dickson Timber
7. Merritt Access
8. Carroll Co. Access
9. Hobbs Access

##### Audubon County

1. Plow in the Oak
2. Littlefield Timber
3. Edwards Park
4. Nabotna Pond



for an hour or so if you ever pass through Coon Rapids. Of course you can stop at the Railroad Depot and I will tell or show you (in season) where there are a multitude of Bank Swallows, Cliff Swallows, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and perhaps a Northern Mockingbird. I recently assisted the Laytons of Oskaloosa in banding 151 Cliff Swallows and 82 Bank Swallows near Coon Rapids, and this was just a portion of the number that could have been caught.

3. **Middle Raccoon River Access** -- This area is 4 miles east and 2 miles north of Dedham, with no facilities. This is a 154 acre area heavily wooded and impassible when the roads are wet or damp. The hills are steep and rugged. Here I heard several Wood Thrushes, and observed the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

The Raccoon River runs through the next 6 areas. All have facilities such as camping, electricity, water, toilets and picnicking. Each is fine place to go birding. Habitat is good, many trees, bushes and grassland.

4. **Richey Access** -- 3 miles north of Ralston, 3 acres.
5. **Bennett Access** -- 6 miles northeast of Ralston, 108 acres.
6. **Dickson Timber** -- 5 miles northeast of Glidden, 155 acres.
7. **Merritt Access** -- 6 miles northeast of Glidden, 68 acres.
8. **Carroll County Access** -- 2 miles south of Lanesboro, 40 acres.
9. **Hobbs Access** -- 1 mile west and 1 mile south of Lanesboro, 11 acres.

## BANDING REPORT



KEITH & IRENE LAYTON  
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OSKALOOSA, IOWA

Bird banding reports for 1976 seem to reflect a stable condition as far as Iowa birds are concerned. Good lists were turned in for nearly all species. Some of same were scarce, as usual, mainly because they happen to be difficult to capture rather than because they are not in the banding area.

Petersen once again led all banders with a good total of 120 species and 4,720 individual birds. The Diggs came in a very close second with 119 species and 3,566 birds. Neither of these are record numbers but they certainly represent a lot of time and effort invested for the banding cause. Each year, some bander, somewhere, discovers some bit of information to add to our growing storehouse of knowledge about our friends, the birds.

Seven banders made up the "ONLY ONE CLUB" for 1976, with a list of 19 species, only one of each being banded in our state by the following people:

- AYRES -- Common Gallinule, American Bittern, Bewick's Wren
- CONS. COMM. -- American Wigeon.
- DeLONG -- Loggerhead Shrike.
- DIGGS -- Great Horned Owl, Summer Tanager, Prothonotary Warbler.
- LAYTON -- Solitary Sandpiper.
- MOSMAN -- Ringed Turtle Dove.
- PETERSEN -- Pied-billed Grebe, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pheasant, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Marsh Wren, Worm-eating Warbler.

The Blue Grosbeak is absent from the above list for the first time in the last five years. Only two of the above were on the 1975 list. Each year the results are almost entirely different. Black banded 31 Hairy Woodpeckers, possibly a record. Mosman banded an amazing 52 American Kestrels. Pete had 139 Ovenbirds. Layton ended up with 82 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Diggs led with 74 Harris' Sparrows. Ayres 37 Evening Grosbeaks was tops, as also was their 195 Pine Siskin total. Roosa was unbeatable with all 9 Cooper's Hawks and 59, no less, Red-tailed Hawks! The Commission again scored big with 3,165 Mallards and 1,446 Wood Ducks, and others. Many others deserve mention but space does not permit more.

Woody Brown suggested in the December 1976 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* that we should publish more information about banding returns, etc. Some returns are interesting, the majority are very routine. Genevieve DeLong comments that in order to avoid too much of a potentially boring subject, that each bander submit one, or perhaps two, of his or her most outstanding encounters each year. She offers a record of a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that she banded in June, 1970, at Manti Park near Shenandoah. Ruth Phipps recaptured it at Manti in May, 1976, making it at least 7 years old when re-captured. Her most interesting was a male Indigo Bunting banded in September of 1973, re-captured in May of 1974 and again in May of 1976. We re-captured a female Red-winged Blackbird in May of 1976 that was banded by us in May of 1966, thus it had to be at least 11 years old. We invite all banders to submit one or more of their most interesting and informative experiences next year along with thier banding list for the year for publication in this article. Obviously, if the response is too great, space might not permit the use of all of the items. An article in a later issue might be the way to get every bander's experiences in print for all to enjoy reading.

Following is a list of the Iowa bird banders who reported their 1976 results to us, and the number of species and individual birds banded.

Bander	Species	Individuals
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	101	2,007
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	27	175
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Lamoni	76	1,397
Mr. & Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	119	3,566
Iowa Conservation Commission	8	5,508
Ann Johnson, Indianola	62	360
Mr. & Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa	115	3,043
Dean Mosman, Ankeny	39	599
Allan Mueller, Davenport	5	99
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	120	4,720
Mr. & Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown	40	152
Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah	58	646
Dean Roosa, Des Moines	4	85
Marie Spears, Shenandoah	34	239
Betty Walters, Essex	25	228
Totals	164	22,824

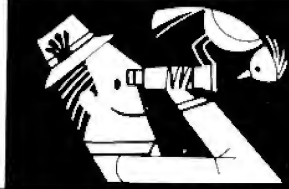
  

Species	No.	Blue-winged Teal	334
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Am. Wigeon	1
American Bittern	1	Wood Duck	1,448
Canada Goose	544	Sharp-shinned Hawk	25
Mallard	3,167	Cooper's Hawk	9
Am. Black Duck	4	Red-tailed Hawk	66
Common Pintail	12	Red-shouldered Hawk	1

Broad-winged Hawk .....	4	Winter Wren .....	18
Am. Kestrel .....	67	Bewick's Wren .....	1
Common Bobwhite .....	6	Carolina Wren .....	12
Ring-necked Pheasant .....	1	Marsh Wren .....	1
Common Gallinule .....	1	Northern Mockingbird .....	2
Am. Coot .....	1	Gray Catbird .....	963
Am. Woodcock .....	8	Brown Thrasher .....	231
Spotted Sandpiper .....	3	Am. Robin .....	558
Solitary Sandpiper .....	1	Wood Thrush .....	62
Pectoral Sandpiper .....	1	Hermit Thrush .....	105
Least Sandpiper .....	1	Swainson's Thrush .....	620
Semipalmated Sandpiper .....	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	163
Mourning Dove .....	32	Veery .....	68
Ringed Turtle Dove .....	1	E. Bluebird .....	98
Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	31	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	2
Black-billed Cuckoo .....	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet .....	164
Common Screech Owl .....	8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	411
Great Horned Owl .....	1	Cedar Waxwings .....	140
Barred Owl .....	3	Loggerhead Shrike .....	1
Saw-whet Owl .....	19	Starling .....	42
Whip-poor-will .....	15	White-eyed Vireo .....	9
Common Nighthawk .....	10	Bell's Vireo .....	7
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	7	Yellow-throated Vireo .....	4
Belted Kingfisher .....	8	Solitary Vireo .....	65
Common Flicker .....	126	Red-eyed Vireo .....	246
Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	59	Philadelphia Vireo .....	37
Red-headed Woodpecker .....	81	Warbling Vireo .....	55
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	43	Black-and-white Warbler .....	93
Hairy Woodpecker .....	56	Prothonotary Warbler .....	1
Downy Woodpecker .....	254	Worm-eating Warbler .....	1
Eastern Kingbird .....	18	Golden-winged Warbler .....	11
Great Crested Flycatcher .....	48	Blue-winged Warbler .....	10
Eastern Phoebe .....	36	Tennessee Warbler .....	263
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	108	Orange-crown Warbler .....	195
Acadian Flycatcher .....	39	Nashville Warbler .....	176
Trill's Flycatcher .....	150	Northern Parula Warbler .....	3
Least Flycatcher .....	229	Yellow Warbler .....	41
Wood Pewee .....	38	Magnolia Warbler .....	129
Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	6	Black-thr. Blue Warbler .....	9
Bank Swallow .....	113	Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	398
Rough-winged Swallow .....	7	Black-thr. Green Warbler .....	23
Barn Swallow .....	71	Blackburnian Warbler .....	9
Cliff Swallow .....	98	Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	81
Purple Martin .....	141	Bay-breasted Warbler .....	70
Blue Jay .....	319	Blackpoll Warbler .....	49
Blk.-capped Chickadee .....	270	Pine Warbler .....	2
Tufted Titmouse .....	73	Palm Warbler .....	42
Carolina Chickadee .....	5	Ovenbird .....	250
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	51	Northern Waterthrush .....	66
Red-breasted Nuthatch .....	18	Louisiana Waterthrush .....	3
Brown Creeper .....	91	Kentucky Warbler .....	10
House Wren .....	235	Connecticut Warbler .....	13

Mourning Warbler .....	45	Dickcissel .....	10
Common Yellowthroat .....	171	Evening Grosbeak .....	58
Yellow-breasted Chat .....	5	Purple Finch .....	448
Hooded Warbler .....	1	Common Redpoll .....	17
Wilson's Warbler .....	60	Pine Siskin .....	504
Canada Warbler .....	59	Goldfinch .....	1,212
Am. Redstart .....	75	Rufous-sided Towhee .....	17
House Sparrow .....	81	Savannah Sparrow .....	6
Bobolink .....	2	Grasshopper Sparrow .....	18
Eastern Meadowlark .....	5	Vesper Sparrow .....	10
Western Blackbird .....	3	Lark Sparrow .....	3
Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	36	Northern Junco .....	1,405
Red-winged Blackbird .....	181	Tree Sparrow .....	568
Orchard Oriole .....	13	Chipping Sparrow .....	145
Northern Oriole .....	145	Field Sparrow .....	138
Rusty Blackbird .....	71	Harris' Sparrow .....	139
Brewer's Blackbird .....	2	White-crowned Sparrow .....	71
Common Grackle .....	202	White-throated Sparrow .....	536
Brown-headed Cowbird .....	72	Fox Sparrow .....	137
Scarlet Tanager .....	36	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	242
Summer Tanager .....	1	Swamp Sparrow .....	152
Northern Cardinal .....	255	Song Sparrow .....	230
Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	313	Total species .....	164
Indigo Bunting .....	248	Total individuals .....	22,824

## FIELD REPORTS



### Spring 1977

The species marked with \* are on the Blue List of the AOU (Am. Birds 30:1031, 1976), on the Iowa Blue List (IBL XLV:95, 1975) and-or on Dean Roosa's list of endangered, threatened or declining species in Iowa (IBL XLVI:40, 1976).

**General Comments.** March was unusually warm, and rainfall well above average raised the hope of an end to the drought. The temperature continued warm in April, but the rains slackened. May was hot, and what rain fell was so spotty that the moisture deficit increased alarmingly. Lakes, rivers and reservoirs were very low, and many mudflats, promising good shorebird habitat early in spring, dried up by the time the migrants arrived. The prevailing southerly winds promoted early migration of some non-passerines and a few species of perching birds. May went by without any major passerine fallout due to cold fronts: instead, there was a steady trickle of birds, for the most part in small or at best unspectacular numbers, and only in some places in a good variety. Nevertheless, the season was redeemed by some rarities and an unexpected addition to the state list, observed just in time to be included in the new IOU Checklist.

**Abbreviations.** CoR - Coralville Reservoir; HHP - Hickory Hill Park, Iowa

City; LSP - Ledges State Park; RRR - Red Rock Lake, Reservoir and Refuge; m. ob. - many observers.

**Loons, through Ibises.** Com. Loons don't usually live up to their name in spring; this year, few were recorded (one on March 20, CoR, NH; one on Cedar Lake, April 8, LS; 2 in Big Creek Park, Polk Co., May 24, ISU). All Horned Grebes reported were single birds or pairs. The dated observations were between March 27 and April 22. Localities and observers are: CoR (RD), RRR (GB), Sweet Marsh (JS), Ingham L., Emmet Co. (Tom Nigus fide JD), Rathbun L. (CS) and L. Macbride (TS). Eared Grebes, as expected, were even fewer: one (date?) on Rathbun L. (CS), another on April 7 near Hamburg (IG, RP), and a third at Marble Rock, May 21 (PK). As usual, flocks of \*Am. White Pelicans were reported from the western half of the state, with one of 100 birds in the extreme NW (Lyon Co.; date?) the largest (FD); 30 stayed at RRR April 2-6 (GB, JSt), and 28 touched down briefly at Cone Marsh on April 3 (MN). Small groups of \*Double-crested Cormorants occurred in a few places: 12 on March 26 at the nest site N of Clinton (PP), 13 at different northeast Iowa locations April 17 - May 23 (JS), 7 at RRR on May 11 (GB, JSt), and up to 10 at Rathbun L., May 8-26 (CS). Great Blue Herons were relatively scarce, the largest numbers being 8 building nests at the Sabula rookery on March 26 (the colony consists of some 150 nests (PP), 7 by the CoR on May 14 (TK, NH, TS), and 7 at RRR (GB). The rookery at Rathbun had 21 nests on May 26 (CS). Is the Cattle Egret finally establishing a firm foothold in Iowa (an event long expected in view of its apparent ambitions to become a truly cosmopolitan species)? Reports of small groups (up to 4) were unusually numerous and came from widely scattered places: mid-March at Rathbun and March 20 S. of Seymour (CS), near Gilmore City, April 15 (Mrs. Merle Hodgell fide GB), near Des Moines on April 15 and 25 (Gene Armstrong fide WB), in early May N. of RRR (GB), April 29 in Tama Co. (D. Van Waus fide JD), May 8 in Winnebago Co. (R. Sayler fide JD) and May 28 N. of Mason City (D. Heinz fide JD). There were no sizable concentrations of Great Egrets: some at their Sabula rookery (about 10 nests) on April 2 (PP), one at McCord's Pond (date?), GeB), one W. of Swan L., Johnson Co., in April (RD) and May (LS), 2 S. of Seymour April 9 (CS), and 2 on the CoR in mid-April (NH) and again in mid-May (TK, NH, TS). \*Black-crowned Night Herons at Cone Marsh were first seen on April 24 (RD), and peaked at 6 on May 7 (TK, TS). Singles were recorded on April 3 near Seymour (CS) and at Bays Branch (GeB), and at Sweet Marsh on May 7 (JS). Pairs were observed on April 19 at Sweet Marsh (JS) and on April 24 near Ingham L. (Tom Nigus fide JD). Charlotte Scott saw "a number of Yellow-crowned Night Herons". One appeared on April 27 in W. Johnson Co. (HO), and methodically depleted a small slough of all frogs and tadpoles between then and mid-May, to the delight of m. ob. Nobody seems to have seen a Least Bittern. \*Am. Bitterns were encountered: 2 first on April 24 at Cone Marsh (RD) and by several others during the ensuing 10 days; one on April 11 at Ingham L. (Tom Nigus fide JD), and 5 in the northeast, 4 of them at Sweet Marsh (JS). An ibis of the genus *Plegadis* was seen flying over Bays Branch on May 1 (documented by GeB). It is likely to have been a White-faced Ibis, but there is no rigorous support for this assumption.

**Waterfowl.** A pair of (feral?) Mute Swans shuttled in late March and early April between Cone Marsh, the Iowa River and a small pond in Coralville (MN et al.) Several Whistling Swans were reported: 9 at Wapsie Ponds, April 2-3, one at Sweet Marsh, May 2-3 (JS), 5 at Cardinal Marsh, April 11 (DK) and one near Dubuque on the very late date of May 30 (GC). Gr. White-fronted Geese are routine in the western part of the state; in the last 3 years, there seems to have occurred an eastward shift; certainly, 170 seen at Cone Marsh (MN) on April 3 are remarkable,

and there were several other reports of smaller flocks from the eastern part of the state. One bird lingered at Muskrat Slough until May 7 (TK,TS) and another at Cone Marsh as late as May 14 (TK,NH,TS). Snow Geese are regular migrants in the east, but flocks of 450 \* (CoR, March 31, NH) and 1,500 (Cone Marsh, April 3, MN) are noteworthy. There were no enthusiastic reports about the numbers of migrant ducks, but several correspondents commented on their good variety, and unusual species were seen. A Cinnamon Teal was observed for 4 days W. of Byard (dates?) (GeB). Whereas there were only few \* Canvasbacks at RRR (JSt), 2,000-2,500 were estimated on March 19 at Lock No. 9 (JS). A Greater Scaup was picked out among numerous Lesser on the CoR, March 22 (NH). On April 22, a Surf Scoter was seen flying over Marble Rock (PK). A pair of White-winged Scoters was first spotted on March 23 on the CoR (NH); the male stayed for 4 days and was seen by several people. On March 26, Rob Vane noticed 4 members of this species on the Iowa River in downtown Iowa City; they remained for 3 days, and were viewed by m. ob.

**Diurnal Raptors.** Almost everybody has seen more Turkey Vultures than in an average year. \* Sharp-shinned Hawks were much less common: 4 banded April 28-May 12 (PP), one each at HHP, March 10, March 16 and at North Liberty April 16 (RD), Ames, April 6 (DS), *ibid.*, May 5 (ISU), and 7 in various localities in the northeast between March 12 and May 8 (JS). There were these reports of \* Cooper's Hawk: singles on April 9 at LSP, April 16 at Yellow River Forest (ISU) and near Cone Marsh, May 7 (TK,TS). Red-tailed Hawks made little news: 7 nests were located at RRR (JSt). Unusually many \* Red-shouldered Hawks were seen: one at Burr Oak L., Emmet Co. (Tom Nigus and Mark Ryan *fide* JD), "several" in Allamakee Co., April 16-17 (JD and J. Bednarz), 3 different individuals at Sweet Marsh, March 26, April 3 and 16 (nesting suspected for the last of these, JS), and one by the CoR May 11 (LS). No kettles of \* Broad-winged Hawks were noted. Three observations of \* Swainson's Hawks all came from the northeast: one at Waucoma, April 10 and 2 near W. Union, May 4 (JS). Rough-legged Hawks were last seen April 16 in Allamakee Co. (JD and J. Bednarz). An imm. Golden Eagle seen on February 25 near Highlandville (DK) was reported too late for inclusion in the winter report. Bald Eagles lingered at RRR into mid-March (GB,JSt). There is near-unanimity that \* N. Harriers had an excellent migration. In early April, Carl Bendorf (*fide* MN) counted 15 over a single field near the CoR. Individuals were still present at both RRR and the CoR at the end of the period. \* Ospreys, singly or in pairs, were recorded from a number of locations: RRR and Pleasantville March 24, mid-April and April 26 (GB,JSt); Allamakee Co. April 16 (JD and J. Bednarz), on the Raccoon River in April (date?), (DS), Marble Rock (date?) (PK), St. Lucas, April 29 (JS). They were "holding steady" in the territory covered by Gene Burns. Two \* Peregrine Falcons were seen: one on April 17, 10 miles S. of Knoxville (GB), and an adult (documented) by the CoR on May 3 (NH). The only \* Merlin recorded was an adult male (documented) seen near the CoR on March 20 (NH). How can your poor compiler draw any conclusions regarding the status of the \* Am. Kestrel, when opinions are so different: "only 2 seen" (GB); "good numbers" (PP); "alarmingly down in numbers" (GeB); "common nesters in the upper reaches of Rathbun" (CS); "abundant; on March 31 Kestrels seemed more plentiful than Mourning Doves" (JV); "only 5 banded, a 3-year low" (DM)? It seems fair to conclude that they were unevenly distributed!

**Cranes through Sandpipers.** Two Sandhill Cranes flying over Muskrat Slough on May 7 (TK,TS) were an unexpected find. At least 2 Virginia Rails responded vigorously to their taped call at Cone Marsh (RD et al. April 24 - May 14). The maximum heard at Sweet Marsh was 5 on May 3 (JS). \* Piping Plovers were

found in several places: one each on April 19 and 28 near Des Moines (WB and Dick Mooney); one at Waucoma, April 11-13 (JS), and 8-9 at Centerville Reservoir, May 15 (CS). Lesser Golden Plovers occurred in flocks, the largest, of about 100 individuals, being reported from Dan Green Slough, Clay Co., May 15 (JD); Black-bellied were found as singles or pairs. Four Ruddy Turnstones were seen on May 14, CoR (TK,NH,TS), and 2 by Ingham L., May 15 (Tom Nigus fide JD). Am. Woodcocks were concentrated in some areas: Iowa City birders flushed 6 at Cone Marsh on March 19; a brood of 4 was found in Brush Creek Canyon on May 6 (DK). Com. Snipe were very common indeed in the Seymour area March 16 - April 26 (53 in 20 different places, CS). Individuals lingered into mid-May at the CoR (TK). There are some encouraging reports on the \* Upland Sandpiper: "definitely on the increase" S. of Seymour, "quite common" in nearby areas (CS); several migrants around Ames, gone by May 1 (DS); one in Hamburg (IG), April 8; one near Odebolt May 1 (LK), 6 in the northeast, April 22-May 29 (JS). On the other hand, they could not be found anywhere in the Iowa City area. A flock of 25-30 Willets was seen at Sweet Marsh on May 1 (JS). An exceptionally early White-rumped Sandpiper occurred by the CoR on April 10 (NH; see longer note). They were quite common on Swan L. in May, with a high count of 40 (MN), and left only when the lake dried up on May 31. Baird's Sandpipers were reported from L. Le Shan, May 14 (G DeL), Marshalltown, May 15 (JS), and Davenport (8 on May 21) (PP). A Least Sandpiper at Cone Marsh as early as March 19 broke the record (see longer note). Eighty-two Short-billed Dowitchers on Swan L., May 13 (MN), was an exceptionally high count. At least 3 Still Sandpipers were seen: one on April 28 at Big Creek (WB), another at Cone Marsh, May 7 (TK,TS), and the third at Swan L. May 15-21 (MN,LS,NH). A peep with the field marks of a W. Sandpiper was seen on the early date of April 10 at the CoR (see longer note for cautionary remarks); another was reported from Davenport, May 21 (PP). The lone Marbled Godwit of the season was at Muskrat Slough on May 7 (TK,TS). This spring has been a good one for Hudsonian Godwits: "more than in the past" (GeB); 15 by the CoR, May 14 (TK,NH,TS); 2 at Anderson L., Hamilton Co., May 14 (JD); and 4 at Ingham L., May 15 (Tom Nigus fide JD).

**Gulls through Cuckoos.** A Glaucous Gull by Lock No. 15 on March 5 was relatively late (PP). The high number of Ring-billed Gulls was 1,000+ at RRR, late March into April (GB). The first Iowa sighting of a Laughing Gull since 1941, on March 26 by the CoR, is described in a separate note (NH). The extension of the summer range of this species to the mid-west is discussed. It is more likely that the rare spring individuals in Iowa have migrated along the Mississippi-Missouri along with Ring-billed Gulls (in whose company both the 1941 and the 1977 bird were found). A Franklin's Gull in full nuptial plumage on February 27 at Davenport (PP) was surprisingly early; another, molting, was seen there on March 5 (TS). There were no reports of Bonaparte's Gulls away from the CoR, where they were seen March 31-April 16, with a high count of 13 on April 14 (NH). A few Forster's Terns were seen over the state. On May 14, a Com. Tern was observed at Cone Marsh and another over the CoR (TK,NH,TS). The only report of a \* Little Tern came from the Des Moines area, May 15 (Margaret Brooke fide WB). As expected, Caspian Terns were mostly confined to the few persisting larger bodies of water (CoR,RRR), with a high count of 23 at RRR in late April (JSt). Once again, Black Terns were rather few and erratic. Most correspondents had something to say about cuckoos. From these comments, the picture emerges that both species were present in larger numbers than in recent years, with the \* Yellow-billed having a slight edge. Of course, more were heard than seen, but in the Iowa City area both species were often out in the open.

**Owls through Woodpeckers.** Four Com. Screech Owls banded (March 29-April 14) was a high count for one spring (PP). On March 22, 7 responded to a tape W. of Iowa City (NH). In the same area, fledged young of the Great Horned Owl were located in May (TK). The final count for the great Snowy Owl invasion is 206 sightings in 76 counties (GB). The last observations were one in Rockwell City, April 2 (Jim Judas fide GB), and another on April 28 S. of Pleasantville (Jaynie Gilderbloom fide GB). The first documented nesting of Long-eared Owls in Iowa since the early 1950s took place in the Wilcox Wildlife Refuge area, Marion Co., in April. Four adults were seen there during the nesting period, see longer note (GB). By the CoR, the last of the \* Short-eared Owls present since December 1 was seen on April 16. Near Ames, Allan Baxter (fide GB) saw 14 in a marsh prairie during the last 3 weeks of April. Whip-poor-wills nesting on a bluff overlooking Hamburg have been hawking over the town (IG). Over 100 migrating \* Com. Nighthawks were seen in the Iowa City area on May 14 (TK,NH,TS). Otherwise, the impression is that their numbers have declined. They are seldom seen away from towns and cities. Reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are alarmingly scarce. With the prevailing drought, it is not surprising that Belted Kingfishers have been hard to find this spring. Nesting of the Pileated Woodpecker on Credit Island is suspected (PP). "Abundant" is the adjective almost all contributors apply to the \* Red-headed Woodpecker. For Iowa, this is not a legitimate Blue List species. We finally have an estimate of the number of \* Hairy Woodpeckers: 1 for about 5 Downies in HHP (RD). This ratio agrees very well with statewide Christmas Bird Count data.

**Flycatchers through Creepers.** Western Kingbirds have not returned to their nesting sites of the last 2 years near Des Moines (WB). Many contributors lament the shortage of E. Phoebes. Surely, this species should be a candidate for the Blue List. This was a very poor year for Empidonax flycatchers, with only one Yellow-bellied banded (early, May 4) (PP). Singing Acadian Flycatchers were heard and seen in Palisades-Kepler State Park, May 21 (TK), Guthrie Co. (3 territorial individuals where none last year, DS), Wildcat Den (8-9 males, TK,NH,PP, May 28-29), and the Amana Woods (May 29, MN). The Traill's Complex continues to be an enigma: 2 singing the Alder's song ("Fe-bee-o") were heard in HHP May 19-25 (NH,MN); in the very same location, 2 birds were singing the Willow-s two-syllabled "fitz-bew" May 26-28 (NH,TK). Other Alders were heard May 28-29 by the CoR and at Williams' Prairie (MN). Petersen banded 5 Willows May 21-23, and found "many breeders". Tree Swallows seen March 22 were the earliest ever for Iowa (Gene Armstrong fide WB). \* Cliff Swallows are doing well: they are nesting in established sites on Iowa City bridges, at Rathbun, and at Palisades-Kepler, and have established 200 new nests on Cedar Rapids bridges (LS). They have some problems at RRR, where the sandy mud impedes the building of nests (JSt). The reports largely ignore the \* Purple Martin. No news is probably good news.

**Titmice through Thrushes.** Des Moines' famous Boreal Chickadee was last seen on March 7 (WB). At RRR, Red-breasted Nuthatches stayed into April (GB); several were seen in HHP May 4-5 (RD). The Pygmy Nuthatch left its haunt of many months in Des Moines on April 15 (WB). Brown Creepers have been at a premium: Petersen banded only 6 between March 29 and April 19. House Wrens arrived on a new early date, April 16 (TS,WB). Winter Wrens were "fairly common" in Ames in late April (DS); others had much less luck with them - none seen, or only one (April 15, Meyer Lake, JS). It seems that the severe winter has taken its toll of Carolina Wrens: only 2 recorded in LSP and N. of Ames (JD,ISU); none in HHP, but several in Iowa City yards where feeders supported them (FK,TK). Marsh Wrens were common on May 14 by Trumbull L., Clay Co. (ISU), but conspicuously absent from such prime habitat as Muskrat Slugh and Cone Marsh. In



contrast, Sedge Wrens were quite common in the Iowa City area. There were several reports of N. Mockingbirds: one at Marble Rock, April 18 (PK); in Guthrie Co. (DS); at Cedar Rapids, April 30 and May 4 (LS); and 4-5 pairs east of Wildcat Den (PP), but none, for the first time in 20 years, in Gladys Black's old pasture. There has been no illumination of the status of the \* Wood Thrush. The great majority of observers report a marked shortage of *Catharus* thrushes, with the percentage of Veeries evidently up, and several reports of their song being heard. Overall, the status of the E. Bluebird remains precarious: most contributors have found few this spring. This is another species which should be considered for the Blue List. Two Townsend's Solitaires were seen near Highlandville, March 5 (JS,DK), and another on 3 occasion at Corydon (March 17, 18 and 27 KM).

**Gnatcatchers through Vireos.** Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested in LSP (ISU) and at Palisades-Kepler (LS). What happened to the Golden-crowned Kinglets? A number of very active birders reported having seen none; none (G DeL) or few (PP) were banded. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also far from abundant. Only one report of a Water Pipit was received: March 30 at Sweet Marsh (JS). A keen-eyed teenager observed and well documented a Sprague's Pipit seen on May 1 near Ryan (fide LS) - unfortunately, his name was not communicated, so he has an IOU from the IOU. The fall-winter N. Shrike invasion carried over into spring: one was seen on March 5 (Bill Heusingkveld fide GB), "a few" in Guthrie Co. (DS), and one as late as March 19 at Cone Marsh (RD). A coherent picture of the \* Loggerhead Shrike situation is hard to piece together: "none" (LS,PP, for Davenport, Iowa City observers); only 2 near Ames in mid-April (JD), "holding steady" (GeB); not rare but irregular (CS); 4 nests at RRR, one parasitized by cowbirds (GB), and "common" near Lamoni (G DeL), where habitat destruction has been less severe. On the whole, there is no reason for optimism. Three singing White-eyed Vireos were quite obtrusive in HHP from May 3 on (RD, m. ob.); one, on April 18 in Echo Valley State Park, was early (JS). There were several reports from widely scattered areas of \* Bell's Vireos, no more than one or 2 in any one place - no evidence for any drastic population change. Philadelphia Vireos were seen: only one banded, May 18 (PP); 2 in HHP, May 18-19 (RD,NH,MN), 2 at St. Lucas May 5 and 8, and 2 by Union Grove Lake, May 15 (JS).

**Warblers.** None of the contributors had kind words for the warbler migration: few or no waves, few species, few individuals of all but the commonest. The compiler, having the benefit of the whole picture, can add a cheery note - some unusual or even rare species were seen, many more than in most "good" years. Prothonotary Warblers were nesting in the proper habitat: Iowa River oxbows S. of Iowa City (May 7, 14 TK et al.), along the Cedar River in Muscatine Co. (May 28, TK,NH), at Rathburn L., (CS), and maybe at Sweet Marsh (JS). The rare Worm-eating Warbler was heard singing and run down in Wildcat Den, May 28 (TK,NH). The status of the \* Yellow Warbler, despite some lacunae, seems improved: fairly common in migration, and more than last year on territory. A Cape May Warbler was seen in HHP May 14 (TK,NH,TS). Cerulean Warblers were found near St. Lucas, May 8 (LS), S. of the CoR on May 14 (TK,NH,TS), at Stone City and Palisades-Kepler, May 8 (LS; in the latter location, also a female carrying nesting material on May 26, NH), and at Shenandoah on May 13 (RP). As last year, a Yellow-throated Warbler was observed in LSP, May 17-20 (JD). On May 21, a vigorously singing Prairie Warbler was discovered in Macbride Field Campus (MN,RD). It sang all day, and was seen by several other Iowa City birders (NH,TK,FK). Louisiana Waterthrushes occurred in LSP, May 17 (ISU) and at Coon Rapids, for 10 days in May (nest with eggs and young located, GeB). Kentucky Warblers, in keeping with the recent trend, were heard and seen well outside

their traditional stronghold in the southeast and along the Mississippi (they were also present in Wildcat Den, May 28, TK,NH); HHP, May 18 (MN,NH); Macbride Field Campus, May 7, 14 (TK,NH,TS); Lamoni (netted), April 28 (G DeL); Cedar Bluff, May 14 (MN et al.); Marble Rock, May 12 (PK). The Connecticut Warbler had an excellent migration: one netted on May 13 (early) (PP); 3 in Guthrie Co. (DS); one on May 16 near Alburnett (LS); one in HHP, May 19 (MN,NH), and one heard in Macbride Field Campus, May 21 (MN). \* Yellow-breasted Chats were reported as follows: one daily May 9-13, north of Ames (ISU); 2 May 13 and May 19-25, HHP (MN et al.), and the first one since 1964 in Des Moines, May 18 (WB). Hooded Warblers were netted in Essex (BW) and Davenport, May 24 and 26, where one was collected (PP). \* Am. Redstarts were sparse in Des Moines (WB) but quite common in suitable habitat elsewhere.

**Blackbirds through Sparrows.** George Crossley feels that both meadowlarks are down by 50 percent, an impression shared by the compiler. Yellow-headed Blackbird colonies have been wiped out by the drought at Lakin Slough (GeB), held steady at Cone Marsh (m. ob.), and increased at McCords Pond near Bayard (GeB). A new colony is being established at Mud Lake County Conservation Park N. of Dubuque (GC). Several Orchard Orioles were seen, at RRR and the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City area, with a nest found (GB) and a female dismantling an old N. Oriole nest (HO). A Scarlet Tanager banded on April 28 was rather early (PP). The only Summer Tanager report came from the southwest corner of the state (IG). It was definitely an off year for sparrow migration. Mrs. DeLong banded 157 Purple Finches. A Com. Redpoll banded on March 19 (PP) was late, as was a Pine Siskin on May 2. Savannah Sparrows had fine habitat along the drought-stricken reservoirs and swamps, and will undoubtedly be breeding in good numbers. There is disagreement on the \* Grasshopper Sparrow: habitat reduction is not denied, but some say their numbers are up in suitable fields; others believe they have declined. LeConte's Sparrows appeared very early (March 19) in a weedy field by Cone Marsh (NH, m. ob.); they were seen until April 9, the maximum count (RD) being 10 plus. Only 2 \* Henslow's Sparrows were reported, on May 29 at Hayden Prairie (JS). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at close range (date?) (CS). The tenor of the comments on the \* Vesper Sparrow, the latest addition to the Blue List, has been generally favorable. The season's prize find was a Golden-crowned Sparrow, the first seen in Iowa, discovered in Jamaica on May 3 (GeB). Although attempts to net and photograph it failed, an absolutely convincing documentation was provided. The bird stayed long enough to be viewed by other birders (WB,DM, Margaret Brooke), who emphatically agreed on its identity (see longer note). This species of the Pacific W has been known to stray as far as the E and Gulf Coasts. Lingering Lapland Longspurs were seen by the CoR on April 17 (RD) and at Sweet Marsh on April 30 (JS).

**Contributors.** Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Woodward Brown, Des Moines; Gene Burns, Jamaica; Marie Carlson, Boone; George Crossley, Dubuque; Rich De Coster, Iowa City; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Florence DeVaul, Inwood; James Dinsmore, Ames; Ione Getcher, Hamburg; Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; Iowa State University Records, Ames; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Tom Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Decorah; Lowell Konradi, Odebolt; Kay Milner, Corydon; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Mike Newlon, Iowa City; Helen Osmundson, Iowa City; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Joe Schaufenbuehl, St. Lucas; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Tom Shires, Iowa City; Dean Stauffer, Ames; Jon Stravers, Pella; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Betty Walters, Essex. N. S. HALMI, R. no. 6, Iowa City, Ia. 52240.

**Field Reports Editor's note to contributors.** The number and quality of reports has been gratifying, and coverage of the state has improved. For this, my thanks. My job, and that of the Regional Editor of *Am. Birds*, to whom my report is forwarded, would be facilitated if a) species were listed in checklist order, as most of you do; b) dates of observations were consistently given; and c) the counties in which small localities or other place such as marshes and lakes are located were mentioned: I am not sufficiently familiar with the geography of the state, and Mr. Kleen is probably less so; some of our contributors are rather wide-ranging, and the assumption that a (hypothetical) Buffalo Bottoms Recreation Area is near their home town may be erroneous, N. S. HALMI.

**Reminder: Summer reports (June & July) are due by August 7.**

## GENERAL NOTES



**Golden-crowned Sparrow (First Iowa Sighting)** -- Gene and Marilyn Burns of Jamaica, Iowa (Guthrie County) had a Golden-crowned Sparrow visiting their yard from May 3 to May 7, 1977. It stayed in the vicinity for 5 days with the last observation being made late Saturday evening, May 7. It visited the yard area several times each day and would feed on the ground where wild bird seed had been spread for other birds. It was a very beautiful, but also a very nervous bird as it would take flight at the same time the House Sparrows. On several occasions Harris', White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows would be feeding with the Golden-crowned Sparrow. This gave an excellent opportunity to observe all four of these crowned sparrows at the same time. I believe it was keeping company with the White-crowned Sparrows as it was most generally with them. There were bad storms in Colorado and Wyoming 2 days before the arrival of this bird, so perhaps this may have had something to do with it being in Iowa, as they have been sighted in Colorado on rare occasions in the past. The Golden-crowned Sparrow winters along the west coast and breeds in western Alaska.

Peter Petersen of Davenport was contacted about this sparrow. He suggested that Dr. James Dinsmore of Ames be contacted to see if it should be collected as a specimen. Dr. Dinsmore felt it would be best to try and mist net it, then band and photograph it if possible. Dean Mosman, one of Iowa's banders, was called in to attempt this feat. Nets were put up for several hours Saturday, May 7, but the bird did not cooperate. It came near the net on a few occasions, but would not allow itself to be netted. Pictures were taken with a small camera, but they will not show the details of this bird.

I.O.U. members who came to observe this bird were Woody Brown, Dick Mooney, Gene Armstrong, Ruth Buckles, and Margaret Brooke all of Des Moines, Dean and Diane Mosman of Ankeny and Barney Cook of Ames. They all were fortunate enough to see it shortly after they arrived. Mark Roew and Mark Allen of Des Moines came on Sunday, May 8, but they did not get to see it as the bird had apparently left the vicinity. Documentation of this sighting was made and forwarded to Dr. N. S. Halmi of Iowa City. -- GENE BURNS, Jamaica.

**Sight record of a Laughing Gull by the Coralville Reservoir** -- On the afternoon of March 26 I was scanning the northern shore of the Coralville Reservoir at Sandy Beach for gulls. Ring-billed Gulls, mostly adults, were very numerous (over 100) and active. About 10 Herring Gulls, half of them immatures, were also present. As I walked back toward my car, disappointed about not having seen more unusual species, I saw a black-headed gull which had alighted on the sandy shore while I was looking away. It was next to a Ring-bill, and my first impression was that it was not as much smaller as I would have expected a Franklin's (let alone a Bonaparte's) to be. Its hood still had a few white specks, and the incomplete eyering was evident. The bill and legs were almost black, with a slight reddish tinge. The underparts were white, with a very faint rosy hue; the tail was pure white. As I got to within about 60 feet, I was paying special attention to the diagnostic wing pattern, expecting to see a white band separating the subterminal black spot from the rest of the wing (Franklin's Gull), or a large white triangle (Bonaparte's). When the bird flew, however, I noticed with great surprise that the only white on the wing was along the trailing edge, and that the gray of the mantle blended gradually with the black of the primaries. As the bird rose, no "window" at the base of the tip of the wings, as characteristic of Franklin's Gull, was evident. I reluctantly had to conclude that I had seen an adult Laughing Gull, in almost fully developed nuptial plumage. The lighting was excellent, with complete but no heavy overcast diffusing the sunlight, and my angle of vision was favorable.

Woody Brown's Annotated List puts the Laughing Gull in the hypothetical category for Iowa, on the basis of a March 25, 1941 sight record by B. F. Stiles at L. Manawa, Pottawattamie Co. *IBL* Vol 11, p. 36, 1941.). Bent mentions an earlier Iowa record (Blencoe, October 10, 1894). Thus this appears to be the third Iowa sight record for what the guidebooks describe as a strictly coastal species. Examination of the recent literature indicates that this categorization is no longer tenable. There have been reports of inland stragglers from Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota. Purusal of *Am. Birds* for the years 1972-76 reveals 62 records for the midwest (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Michigan), with evidence of nesting in Wisconsin. The dates range from April 16 to November 18, both extremes being Chicago observations. In connection with an August 28 sighting in Waukegan, Lawrence Black asked whether these birds had come from the Atlantic via the St. Lawrence Seaway or from the Gulf of Mexico along the Mississippi. The pattern of observations suggests the former explanation for most of the occurrences along the Great Lakes. It is much more likely, however, that the 6 Laughing Gulls seen near E. St. Louis, Illinois on April 27, 1973 were of Gulf origin.

Like Stiles' 1941 sighting, this one was unusually early. The bird he described also was in nuptial plumage. It may be pertinent that strong southerly winds, up to 30 mph, had brought warm air (max. 70 degrees F) to our region all day March 25 and 26, and that this spring, contrary to expectations, has witnessed an early arrival of a number of migrant species (for example, a Franklin's Gull in full nuptial plumage was seen by Pete Petersen on February 27 in Davenport). N. S. HALMI, R. No. 6, Iowa City.

**More Gray Jays in Iowa** -- In response to Gladys Black's Des Moines Register article on Gray Jays, written after this species was believed to have been first seen in Iowa (IBL Vol. 97, p. 23, 1977), two more records of Gray Jays were submitted, with documentation, bringing the total for the fall-winter 1976-77 period to three.

Fern L. Tanner saw a Gray Jay in Mason City in early November, from 11 feet. A good comparison could be made with a Blue Jay on the other side of the same bird bath. Mrs. Tanner's brother, Albert Ewers, and his wife, had seen the jay nearby a couple of weeks earlier (before the Decorah bird was first seen?). Mr. Ewers had no doubt that the bird was the "meat robber" familiar to him from many hunting and fishing trips to Canada.

The other Gray Jay was seen by Marilyn H. Lilja at Cedar Falls, also in November 1976. She observed it from about 20 feet as it made several trips to her feeder. Next day it was found dead, but the specimen was unfortunately not preserved. It did give her an opportunity to verify the bird's identity. She states that she was familiar with the species from time spent in Colorado.

In April 1977, Mr. George Schrimper, Curator for Natural History at the University of Iowa Museum, called my attention to a Gray Jay specimen in the collection of the museum (no. 32540). The skin is cataloged as having been collected in Linn Co. on December 2, 1918 by George Berry, but bears a tag with a somewhat cryptic note in the hand of John Rohner, late Curator of the museum, which seems to question the site in which the specimen was obtained. The reason for this must be that Mr. Berry, an excellent naturalist in his prime, by 1918 was the victim of progressive mental deterioration, possibly caused by an infection contracted in the tropics, and was no longer deemed reliable (Meyer, IBL Vol 29, p. 74, 1959). In view of this uncertainty about the specimen's provenance, the Decorah Gray Jay of 1976-77 must still be considered the first authenticated individual of this species in Iowa. N. S. HALMI, R. No. 6, Iowa City.

**Early Arrival of Peeps in Eastern Iowa** -- When the Iowa City Bird Club visited Cone Marsh on March 19, Rob Vane spotted a peep on the muddy banks of the north end (around 9:30 A.M.). We trained a scope on it, and unequivocally identified it as a Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) from its small size, yellowish legs, fine bill and brownish back. The bird was seen by several other members of the group. The earliest spring date for Least Sandpiper in Iowa given in Brown's Annotated List (1971) is April 16, which evidently refers to a 1955 record by Dr. P. Laude (IBL Vol. 29, p. 66, 1959).

On April 10, I was scanning and scoping shorebirds from my parked car, on the extensive mudflats forming the southern edge of the Coralville Reservoir across from Sandy Beach. It was about 4:30 P.M., sunny, hot (maximum: 84 degrees) and windy (similar weather had prevailed on the 9th too). Among 50 plus Pectoral Sandpipers I noted 2 peeps that were about an inch shorter, had dark legs, a stubbier, straight, black bill, a similar back pattern with somewhat grayer coloration, some markings on the upper breast (not a bib), a rather prominent white superciliary strip, black tail feathers, and wing tips clearly extending a little beyond the tip of the tail. Both birds were probing the mud vigorously, immersing their bills up to their base. Attempts to flush them were unsuccessful, so I did not see the rump. When one bird flew off (without revealing its rump pattern) and alighted again, indication of a narrow white wing stripe was visible for a moment, and the peep emitted a single high note quite different from the "krip" sounds of the Pectorals. Without having seen the white rump, I still had no doubt that these birds were White-rumped Sandpipers (*Calidris fuscicollis*). They were of more

compact build than the only other peeps of similar size, Baird's Sandpipers, did not show the horizontal position of the body characteristic of the latter, lacked any indication of a buffy wash across the breast, and did not have a scaly back pattern. The earliest spring date for White-rumped Sandpiper given by Brown is May 3, but I have a May 2 record for 1976. In any event, these birds, like the Least, were almost a month early. It was natural to seek a connection between the anomalously hot weather, with gusty winds from the south, and their premature arrival.

While I was watching the White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers, another peep, this one markedly (about 2 inches) smaller than the latter, joined the flock. It did not stay long, but was, like the others, within easy scoping distance (100-150 feet), and the lighting was very favorable. The bird had a grayish-brown back (no rusty feathers seen), black legs, a definitely decurved black bill at least as long as the head, and was probing deep puddles. Had it been fall, I would have had no hesitation calling this bird a Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), but spring records of this species in Iowa are few, and I have never seen one in the spring. The earliest spring record for Western Sandpiper is Dr. P. Laude's April 16, 1955 sighting at Swan Lake in Johnson Co., so an April 10 observation is not far out of line. Incidentally, the Kents' 2 sightings of Western Sandpipers in this area were in the spring (May 15 and 21), not in the fall (*Birding in Eastern Iowa*, p. 67). A. R. Phillips' findings (*Am. Birds* 29:799, 1975), according to which practically all small, black-legged peeps wintering in the U.S. are Western, not Semipalmated, Sandpipers suggest that Anderson (1907) and DuMont (1933) were probably correct in surmising that Western Sandpipers may be more common migrants through Iowa than the records indicate. On the other hand, Phillips also cautions against the separation of Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers in the field by sight only, so a caveat is in order: the bird seen could have been a female Semipalmated with an exceptionally long bill. (The Kents' records, *l. c.*, show no sightings of Semipalmated Sandpipers in the area before the 3rd week of April.) N. S. HALMI, R. No. 6, Iowa City.

**Raptors at Red Rock - Winter and Spring** -- The Red Rock area is becoming an increasingly interesting and productive for raptor activity. Several thousand acres of uncultivated land around the fringes of the lake provide the suitable habitat for the nesting Red-tailed Hawks and the different migrant species. The numbers of Red-tailed Hawks spotted around the lake has been significant and the active nests which have been located (eight as of the first week in April) are at close intervals to each other. In some areas the nests are almost exactly one mile apart. Several dark Buteos have been sighted, which are presumably migrants.

Northern Harriers were in groups and spotted frequently in certain areas throughout the winter and spring. One group of five (four females and one male) was spotted ten times in a period of two weeks. Each time at dusk, each time in a grassy area below the dam. The Whitebreast bay area has had at least three Harriers all through the late winter and into spring. They have also been spotted occasionally all around the lake. Hopeful speculation could lead one to check some of these areas very carefully for a nesting of this species.

Rough-legged Hawk wintering populations around the state were extremely low according to the winter survey conducted by about 40 Iowa hawk watchers and compiled by our state Ecologist Dean Roosa. Red Rock had at least three of the Arctic visitors on the lower north side and there was probably a few in the upper parts of the lake.

Most notable visitors may be the Bald Eagles, which were present all winter in numbers up to six (two adults and four immatures). Sightings continued into spring and the conservation officer for the area reported eleven in the first week in March, and during the last week in March five Eagles were still lingering in the area. The visit to Red Rock proved to be fatal to one of the magnificent birds of prey, as one was found dead of a shotgun wound by Rick McGeough, Warren County Conservation Officer. The bird was found down stream from the dam, near Harvey.

Osprey have been seen occasionally this spring, but surprisingly appeared in the middle of January and were observed for several hours fishing the small patches of open water.

Turkey Vultures returned and were in numbers of over 30 by the end of March with a few of them coming back a couple of weeks earlier. The total should reach 70 buzzards with a few nests and several different roosting sights around the lake.

Red Rock had a good number of Snowy Owls according to Gladys Black's census. Marion County had a total of seven Snowys with many different sightings. One was seen frequently along the face of the dam and probably took advantage of the several thousand ducks that wintered here.

Some of the pine groves did not produce a very high number of Long and Short-eared Owls as was the case in previous years. Red Rock is not much of a tourist attraction in the winter, but for some (including the author) it has provided a great deal of enjoyment in the observation of some of the inhabitants of the seldom visited areas around the lake. JON STRAVERS, 1210 University, Pella.

**Long-eared Owl Nesting in Marion County** -- On 26 March 1977, a Long-eared Owl was found nesting on the Wilcox Wildlife Reserve of Marion Co., Iowa (T75N, R81W). At that time one egg was being incubated. The nest is in a scrub pine in a dense grove of mixed pine species. The Wilcox area is a former coal strip mine; it has a very rugged terrain and many parts are devoid of vegetation because of the acidity of the spoil piles. Motorcycles began using the area a few years ago for hill-climbing, and recently the traffic has increased greatly. A track runs up the hill where the grove is situated, and passes the nest about 75 meters away.

On 8 April 1977, we visited the nest with Ann Johnson of Indianola and found the owl incubating four eggs. On both of these visits two or three non-breeding owls were seen, and pellets indicated they were roosting in the grove near the nest-tree.

On 24 April the nest was found to contain five eggs, all blood-spotted. The owls exhibited much more defensive behavior than before, even diving at Carl Kurtz of St. Anthony. The non-nesting owls were not seen; pellet counts indicated they had left.

On 30 April four of the eggs had hatched and the fifth was still in the nest. One owlet had fallen out of the nest and was carried back up. Less defensive behavior was shown, possibly due to a difference in time of day.

On 7 and 8 May the nest contained only two nestlings. No sign was found of the others, although the pellets from that weekend have not been analyzed.

This roost has been used for wintering by Long-eared Owls for at least the past two winters. A food habit analysis was conducted during 1976, when the area appeared to be inhabited by twice as many owls. The study was resumed during January 1977 and will continue through the nesting and fledging of these owls. An article concerning the food and nesting habits of Long-eared Owls in Iowa is in preparation. According to Brown's *Annotated List of Iowa Birds*, the last reported nest of these owls in the state was in the 1950s. JANET R. VOIGHT and KATHLEEN R. MOORE, 311 Bessey Hall, ISU, Ames, Iowa.

## BOOK REVIEWS



**A Field List of Birds in the Quad-City Region** -- Peter C. Petersen and Elton Fawks -- Putnam Museum, Davenport -- 27 p., 1977 -- \$1.00.

This is an updated and generally improved version of the 1961 edition. The area of coverage has been shifted somewhat to the west, and encompasses about 17,000 square kilometers, with Davenport as its center. A road map is provided; the outstanding birding spots are marked on it and succinctly described in the text. Habitats are coded by letters, and individual species bear the appropriate code letters. The abundance and occurrence around the year is graphically presented for 310 species that have occurred in the region, in the manner familiar to and appreciated by users of the Jim Lane guides. A minor flaw is that the species names and symbols in the graphs are not always lined up as well as in the first edition. The only species not graphed are 8 hypotheticals and 6 that no longer occur here but are preserved as specimens obtained from the area. This booklet is indispensable for birders in the region covered, and very useful to anyone birding in eastern Iowa or western Illinois. Since the Quad-City area is representative of the central portion of the Mississippi flyway, it will also be profitably consulted by birders well to the north (southern Minnesota and Wisconsin) and the South (northeastern Missouri). N. S. HALMI

**A Guide of Bird Finding East of the Mississippi** -- second edition -- Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. -- Oxford University Press, New York -- 689 p., 3 maps, many line drawings -- 1977 -- \$15.95.

The long awaited update version of the original bird finding guide for the area east of the Mississippi is now in print. The first edition (1951) was reviewed in I.B.L. Vol. 21, p. 55-6. For those who have the first edition new features include three maps locating the primary areas, the listing of specific areas after the name of each city and some information on pelagic trips. Gone are the sections on museum and college collections of birds and most references to areas in private hands which could prove to be inaccessible in the future.

If you are not familiar with the first edition you will find in the second edition a book composed of a chapter for each eastern state. The introductory portion of each chapter provides general background on the physiography of the state, typical breeding species for various habitats, hot spots for birding, authorities who contributed information and references. This is followed by an alphabetical listing of cities with significant areas with directions for reaching them and birding highlights by season and species or family. With a few exceptions the A. B. A. Checklist common names are used. The places for bird finding were chosen to show the widest variety of regular species, seasonal concentrations and important migratory movements and the best representation of birdlife in the vicinities of population and vacation centers. This is a very useful book for the birder who travels and the first edition proved most valuable to me in many instances. ed.



**The American Robin, A Backyard Institution** -- Len Eiserer -- Nelson-Hall, Chicago -- 175 p., 9 color photographs, many line drawings -- 1976 -- \$12.50.

The author, a professor of psychology, brings us a collection of general information, specific details and some interesting insights concerning one of our most familiar birds. Using colorful prose Dr. Eiserer sketches the species success of the Robin, describes its habitat and range and attributes its proliferation to the ability to compromise. If you want to learn more about one of the most typical birds of the modern American scene this book will fill the bill and hold your interest. ed.

**The Hungry Bird Book** -- Robert Arbib and Tony Soper -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 126 p., many line drawings -- 1971 -- \$7.95.

While not a new book this is a title we have not previously reviewed and since it is in its fifth printing that situation needs to be set right. This volume is an American version of Tony Soper's very useful little book entitled **The Bird Table Book** and first published in 1965 in England. It is definitely the best reference I have seen for enhancing your property for feathered visitors. It covers plantings, water, nest sites and boxes, feeders, predators, poisons and specific information and references on most likely species to attract. Appendices take up feed recipes and suppliers, lists of species which visit feeders and use nest boxes, treatment of casualties, organizations concerned with bird life, birds and the law, bird song recordings and how to hear bird songs indoors. A good bibliography of basic ornithological literature caps the book. ed.

**Winter Birds of the Carolinas and Nearby States** -- Michael A. Godfrey -- John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem, N. C. -- 136 p., 107 color photographs, one line drawing -- 1977 -- \$24.95.

This book presents a generally good series of photographs including notes on how they were taken with an introductory text on eighty-eight species which regularly winter from central Pennsylvania to southern Georgia and east of the Mississippi. The text covers field marks, length, voice, regional range, habitat and closes with some general life history and behavioral comments. Since the book is intended for the feeder watcher and casual field observer the species are not grouped in check list order. The four sections used are feeder birds, birds seen farther afield, birds of prey, and rare and uncommon birds. The price seems high but was probably dictated by the regional nature of the coverage. It would make a nice gift for someone with a budding interest in birds and perhaps an interest in photography. ed.

**Konrad Lorenz** -- Alec Nisbelt -- Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York -- 240 p., 23 black-and-white photographs, several line drawings -- 1976 -- \$10.00.

This first biography of one of the most original and influential scientists living today combines the events of his life with his science, ideas and influence. The perspective of the author is well balanced and seems fair-minded. It was my good fortune to meet Lorenz while attending my first A.O.U. meeting in 1954 at Madison, Wisconsin. I still recall his excellent papers but my strongest memory is of seeing this world-famous scientist at the peak of his career sitting on a log observing the behavior of a chipmunk. He was so absorbed in his observations he did not at first realize he was not alone. The story of his life makes engrossing reading. ed.

**Wild Endeavour** -- Don and Bridget Mac Caskill -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 150 p., 8 color and 48 black-and-white photographs -- 1976 -- \$11.95.

The MacCaskills are Scots with a deep concern for conservation and love of nature. He is a professional forester who carefully observes and photographs the living creatures that reside in the forests he manages. The book gives an insider's perception of the highland forest community. The birds studied in some depth include Golden Eagle, Black Grouse, Capercaillie, Short-eared Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Raven. The photographs add to a fine, evocative account of the Scottish Highlands. ed.

**Life in Forest and Jungle** -- Richard Perry -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 254 p., many line drawings -- 1976 -- \$9.95.

The forested areas of the world contain some of the most fascinating and ingeniously adapted creatures. Perry draws from the studies of others to make their life styles known to a wider audience. A few of the unusual birds featured are crossbills, incubator birds, bower birds, birds of paradise and woodpeckers. This volume is part of "The Many Worlds of Wildlife Series" and it combines good writing with fine scholarship and a broad knowledge of animal life. ed.

**The Poetry of Birds** -- Samuel Carr Editor -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 88 p., 4 color and many black-and-white plates and line drawings -- 1976 -- \$7.50.

A collection of forty-four poems on birds by poets ranging from Chaucer to Frost. This little volume will appeal to birders who enjoy good verse. The poems are enhanced by reproductions of the works of such diverse artists as Durer, Tiepolo, Picasso and Audubon. A few illustrations do not really complement the poems. A Starling drawing by Bewick accompanies a poem about a blackbird (thrush) by Hardy and Meadowlarks by Audubon with Shelly's "To A Skylark" are both mismatches. Aside from these few inconsistencies it is an appealing little book if a bit expensive. ed.

**Animal Communication** -- Hubert and Mable Frings -- University of Oklahoma Press, Norman -- 207 p., many line drawings -- 1977 -- \$9.95.

Almost every species of animal thus far studied has been found to send and receive signals. Therefore, all species of animals communicate with one another. Their means of communication may include rhythmic movements, odor, secretions, electric signals, songs, gestures or noises. A practical application in bird species of the economic importance of a good knowledge of communication is the use of distress calls to drive off roosting flocks of blackbirds and Starlings. Essentially a text book this volume does contain sections of interest to serious birders. ed.

**Bird Taxidermy** -- James M. Harrison -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 67 p., 15 black-and-white photographs and 15 line drawings -- 1976 -- \$6.95.

This little book provides the basic information for preparing bird skins and mounts. The author treats skinning, including tools needed, mounting birds, materials needed, maintenance of a collection, a glossary and bibliography. It is concise but seems a bit expensive for the size of the book. ed.

**Island Biology-Illustrated by the Land Birds of Jamaica** -- David Lack -- University of California Press, Berkeley -- 461 p., 8 black-and-white photographs, many line drawings, maps, tables and charts -- 1976 -- \$25.00.

Lack spent most of 1971 in Jamaica and other islands of the West Indies. With the help of a research team he collected much field data on the distribution, habitats and feeding habits of the land birds of Jamaica. On the basis of these studies he has formulated an important theory of island avifaunas. He barely completed the book before his death in March 1973. The first part of the book covers the stability, origin, habitats and feeding of Jamaican land birds as well as geographic displacement, some specific groups of birds, other land organisms and comparisons with the rest of the West Indies. The second part deals with the ecology and systematics of each land bird of Jamaica featuring many distributional maps. The result is a well balanced treatment of an island avifauna with conclusions as to why it is a definite zoographical entity. ed.

**The Birds of Alberta -- With Their Ranges in Saskatchewan and Manitoba** -- W. Roy Salt and Jim R. Salt -- Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton, Alberta -- 512 p., 303 color illustrations, mostly photographs, 288 maps and 14 line drawings and diagrams -- 1976 -- \$10.00.

State and provincial books constantly appear, some new and some revised. This complete rewrite of the 1958 edition is not only excellent in all respects it is reasonably priced, a noteworthy point in these days of soaring book prices. Most species are illustrated by a color photograph or painting of good to excellent quality although many birds are in photocells. Maps indicate the breeding range within all three provinces. The text provides size, plumage description, specific identification points, basic nesting data, range, and general habits. Covering 333 species it is highly recommended. ed.

**Birds of Sea, Shore and Stream** -- Will Bradbury -- Time-Life Television, New York -- 128 p., many color photographs -- 1976 -- \$7.95.

If you enjoy the "Wild, Wild World of Animals" series on television you will want to examine their first book dealing with birds (actually the sixth volume of the series). It is not a reference book but one to be browsed in off moments or perused for the fine, well reproduced photographs. The authors text is supplemented with several literary and ornithological selections familiar to many. ed.

**Once Around the Sun -- A Door County Journal** -- Roy Lukes -- Pine Street Press, Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin -- 216 p., 8 line drawings -- 1976 -- \$8.95.

While not entirely devoted to birds this collection of short essays will delight the nature lover in all birders. Roy Lukes is a perceptive naturalist who conveys much of the appealing aspects of the natural world in his writing. The result is in some ways like *Birding From a Tractor Seat* -- (I.B.L. Vol. 43 p. 110). Seventy-four essays cover the seasons and bring the reader closer to the natural forms of Door Co. ed.

**The Magnificent Birds of Prey** -- Philip S. Callahan -- Holiday House, New York -- 190 p., many black-and-white photographs and line drawings -- 1974 -- \$6.95.

Birds of prey are among the most fascinating birds to many people. This general treatment intended for the average reader novice bird enthusiast covers their general life histories and their importance to man especially in the sport of falconry. It clarifies many misconceptions about birds of prey and presents a strong plea for allowing the birds to function naturally. ed.

**Encyclopedia of Ecology** -- h.c. Bernhard Grzimek, editor-in-chief -- Van Nostrand, Reinhold Co., New York -- 705 p., 275 color plates -- 1977 -- \$39.50.

The Grzimek Encyclopedia series has been expanded to include topics which encompass all animals and man and the relationships with various habitats. The first section of this volume covers all effects of physical, chemical and biological influences on various animal species. The second section covers the threats to man's environment by pesticides, fertilizers, waste, noise and air pollution, destruction of the natural landscape and degradation of the ocean and inland waters. The work of forty-three leading authorities this book will enhance the understanding of nature's interrelationships for anyone. As with earlier volumes in this series this is a must for libraries. ed.

## Request for Information

### RED-SHOULDERED HAWK REPORTS

Many long hours of searching resulted in the discovery of 3 Red-shouldered Hawk nests in northeast Iowa. However, we feel several more exist and the location of these can only be found with the assistance of all field observers. Fledgling Red-shouldered Hawks should be fairly conspicuous from July to October. Field reports of these young hawks or adults will aid us in finding nests next spring and help determine the factors causing the decline of this species. If you record any Red-shouldered Hawk activity in your area, please contact us: Jim Bednarz or Dr. J. Dinsmore, Dept. of Animal Ecology, 124 Sciences II, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 50011. Please include with all field reports: Date of sighting, location, activity of hawk(s), your name, address and phone number. Thank you.

## Corrections



In the March issue of IBL Vol 4 p. 234, these photos were reproduced in the wrong position. They show the Pygmy Nuthatch found in Des Moines last winter and were taken by Peter C. Petersen.

The Christmas Bird County listed in the March issue of IBL (Vol. 4 p. 13) as Wapsipinicon River Valley was for the Waterloo Area and should be considered the Waterloo Count. JOHN OSNESS.