

IOWA BIRD LIFE



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Christmas Bird Count 1983-84

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W. ROSS SILCOCK
MALVERN, IOWA

This year may well have seen the coldest count period in history, with compilers using words such as "dangerous", "bitter cold and icy roads", and "coldest CBC we've ever run" to describe the conditions. Turnout however was excellent, with an all-time high 40 localities reporting and a second-best-ever 616 observers. This year saw two new counts: Fort Dodge is a welcome addition, coming from an area of the state which lacked coverage, as is Swaledale, another count from the cold part of Iowa. Both counts were well-attended for first counts and reported interesting lists. Spirit Lake and Oskaloosa were back after missing last year, and all other counts from last year's 37 repeated except for Keosauqua.

As might be expected, the species list was down, the 111 species recorded being the lowest since the 108 seen in 1972. Fewer species have been seen only four times since 1965. However Davenport did not seem to be affected, as again they topped the state with a very good 78 species, far ahead of second place Iowa City at 63 (an all-time high for them). Burlington (62) and Cedar Rapids (60) were the only other counts to reach 60.

Highlights of the count in general terms were several. Most noticeable was the importance of feeders to the success of counts this year, noted by more than one compiler. At Iowa City Newlon pointed out that feeders contributed four species not seen by field parties, and every year Davenport has a tremendous turnout of feeder operators (this year 13, spending 26 hours watching their feeders). Burlington had 10 hours of feeder observation by 4 observers and Cedar Rapids 20 hours by 6 observers. Thus the four best counts all had good feeder representation. Also very interesting were Farmer's comments about his feeders at Westfield in northwest Iowa. His count reported a total of 35 species, but an amazing 21 species were recorded within 200 yards of his feeders. Even a Lapland Longspur found its way there this winter. More normal visitors (?) were a Screech Owl perching on a feeder one snowy night and a Northern Saw-whet Owl two feet away through the window one morning at 11 a.m. As well as the usual Goshawk (see below), a Cooper's Hawk perched on one of Farmer's feeders for a while. Oh well, I still like the Cardinals at my feeder!

Another highlight this year was the paucity of waterfowl, manifested both in numbers of birds as well as lack of species. While some expected species were missed (see below), species usually present in large numbers (especially Snow Goose and Mallard) were often hard to find.

Again this year there were virtually no winter finches, a few Evening Grosbeaks saving the count from being a zero in this regard. The past few years have been off years for winter finches. Perhaps we'll get a good one next year (line up your feeder observers early!)

An interesting species to follow the past few years has been Gray Partridge. This year, birds were seen as far south as Ames and as far east as Waterloo, and were in good numbers in most localities where they were found.

This year there were three counts which reported "large falcon sp.". These reports are always intriguing, and from conversation with the compilers or from details submitted, some tantalizing possibilities arise, all speculation on my part. The bird at Waterloo may well have been a Prairie Falcon, while one at Omaha was possibly a Gyrfalcon, as at least two of this species had been seen just west of Omaha around count time. The Cedar Rapids bird could have been a Merlin or Peregrine. Note that a Peregrine was seen at DeSoto and a Merlin at Omaha, for an overall interesting falcon year.

In the raptor group, this year again showed large numbers of Goshawks, a

total of 17 being reported (compare with 26 Cooper's and 24 Sharp-shins), including 4 at Iowa City (sorry guys — the record, albeit undocumented, is 5 at Omaha in 1974). The number of Cooper's Hawks is also relatively high, considering that the past few years have shown a fairly consistent ratio of 2:1 for Sharp-shins to Cooper's. Perhaps the severe weather concentrated smaller birds with a resulting concentrating effect on the accipiters. Farmer at Westfield again counted his winter resident Goshawk, which he believes to have been patrolling his feeders for three years now.

Best Birds

Only one species new to Iowa CBCs was reported: a Common Raven at Dubuque. The documentation was not the greatest, but I am including it here pending its examination by the Records Committee. If acceptable, this would be one of very few Iowa records.

Of a rather lack-lustre group of outstanding sightings this year, the best of the rest was the Varied Thrush at Davenport, the 5th ever on an Iowa CBC. From here the quality (in terms of frequency of occurrence on Iowa CBCs) deteriorates rapidly. As suggested above, falcons were of interest, a Peregrine at DeSoto and a Merlin at Omaha being the best, with the three "large falcon sp." discussed above also in this group. While these falcons are tough to find in Iowa in winter, Peregrine has been reported three of the last four years (7 of the last 20) and Merlin 7 of the last 10 years. A Chipping Sparrow at Davenport and four Savannah Sparrows at Rathbun were also excellent finds, each having occurred 4 of the last 10 years, and thus probably rarer, even though less spectacular, than the falcons.

It is interesting to note species which were recorded at only one locality. As well as the Raven, Peregrine, Merlin, Varied Thrush, and Chipping and Savannah Sparrows mentioned above, some interesting species fell into this category. The only Ruddy Duck was at Shenandoah in a small open pool surrounded by waiting Bald Eagles, and the only American Coots were three at Cedar Rapids. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was at Davenport. Rather interesting in this coldest of Decembers were a Northern Mockingbird at Cedar Rapids (this species was even absent from its normal winter haunts at Lamoni), and two Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Sioux City. Incidentally, the 10 Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported from Rathbun last year and implied by me to be possibly mis-recorded, indeed were there, maintaining this species' record of occurrence in each of the last six CBCs in western and southern Iowa.

Notable Misses

This group is of some interest in as cold a year as this, and helps indicate why so few total species were found. I have listed seven species here, four of which are waterfowl. Along with Ruddy Duck and American Coot, which were found at only locality (see above), the four species missed were Greater White-fronted Goose (seen 5 of the last 6 years), Northern Shoveler (5 of the last 6), Redhead, perhaps the worst miss, as it has not been missed since 1964, and Red-breasted Merganser, missed only five times since 1960. Another miss was Snowy Owl, seen 7 of the last 10 years. Two species which were perhaps not as surprising misses were Yellow-rumped Warbler, seen 10 of the last 12 years, and Lincoln's Sparrow, seen 7 of the last 10 years, both of which are averse to cold weather.

High Counts

This category is also of interest this year, with 7 species setting or tying previous high counts, and for interesting reasons. As discussed above, accipiters were up this year, and Oakville tied a high for Sharp-shinned Hawk with 4. It seems strange that this was a record high while the 4 Goshawks at Iowa City was not. All in all, a good year for accipiters. Not surprisingly, Common Raven and Varied Thrush respectively set and tied highs of 1, both species occurring probably

because of the severe cold weather. Also probably setting a high due to the severe weather was Horned Lark, the 2300 at Shenandoah being (rather surprisingly) a record count. Two species which are on the increase set new highs this year, as they may well do each year for a while. These are the introduced and flourishing Wild Turkey with 143 at Yellow River Forest, and Northern Cardinal with 650 at Cedar Rapids. Finally, Hermit Thrush again tied its high of (you guessed it) 1, set many times. I wish someone would find two so that I don't have to mention it every year!

Species Comments

Documentation of species not listed on the official list of expected birds was again excellent this year. No documentations were rejected, unless the Records Committee does not accept Common Raven. A Northern Oriole was reported from Sac County with an interesting background. This poor bird was at the Efta feeder from November 11 until December 16 when it was 16 below with a wind chill of 50 below. The Eftas caught it and took it inside where it is currently overwintering, no doubt contentedly. Unfortunately the Sac County CBC was held December 31, and caged birds do not qualify. Perhaps it could have been released for a minute, counted, and recaptured!

This year I have not carried out an analysis of the numbers of birds reported. While I personally think that this is the most important aspect of the CBC data, it is very time-consuming, and is probably best carried out as a separate study with a more leisurely deadline, or as studies made of selected species by interested people. Swamp me with complaints if you disagree! (Ed. note — The assumption was made that feeder observers all worked independently, that is 4 observers equal 4 parties. If this was not the case the number of parties is overstated.)

1. ALLEMAN (15 mile diameter circle centered on Alleman and including Big Creek Lake, Chichaqua Wildlife Refuge, Jester Park, Saylorville Dam north to Jester Park, and areas between these locations.) Dec. 27: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species 31, total individuals: 2072; field parties 1, field party hours, by foot 1 and by car 6; field party miles, 1 by foot and 90 by car. Temp: 10-15 F; wind 5 mph from south; lots of snow, some open water; Conditions during count period were the worst that I have ever seen.

Observers: Dean Mosman (compiler), Diane Mosman and Mike Mosman.

2. AMES (Interstate 35 and Highway 30.) Dec. 17: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species: 45, total individuals: 5,984; field parties 8, field party hours, 31¼ by foot, by car 20½; field party miles, by foot 34½, by car 290; Temp. -5 to -12F; wind: NW 5-25 mph; 3-5" snow cover, water mostly frozen; Brutal, harsh, cold, windy day — a noticeable drop in the number of individuals seen.

Comments: Larger numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were noted because of the colder weather. Unusual sightings included two V's of Canada Geese, a Cooper's Hawk, a Common Snipe, Brown Thrasher, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Common species not seen included Tufted Titmouse and Belted Kingfisher.

Observers: George Brown, Gordon Brown, Ceil Burnett, Barnett Cook, Steve Dinsmore, Mark Dixon, Sherry Dragula, Dave Edwards, Jeanne Edwards, Fritz Franzen, Janet Graver, Cindy Hildebrand, Stu Huntington, Kevin Kraus, Dan Lee, Paul Martsching, John Mayfield, Diane Mumm, Bruce Munson, Erik Munson, Jim Murdock, Dave Newhouse, Mary Newhouse, Mike Nolan, Edwin Powell, Steve Richards, Judy Shearer, Judy van der Linden, Mark Widrechner and Fred Whitford.

3. BURLINGTON (Junction Highway 99 — Flint Hills Golf Course Road) Dec. 17: 6:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species 62, total individuals 5416; 5 field parties, 4 feeder observers: field party hours, by foot 7, and by car 30; 10 feeder party hours;

field party miles, by foot 10, by car 223. Temp: 6-9 F; wind: 5-15 mph from south; 100% snow cover, depth (?); water 95% frozen; Cloudy with intermittent snow continuous; sun about 3:00.

Observers: Mike Baum, Bill Bertrand, Charles (compiler) and Jane Fuller, John Hay, Sharon Kaufman, Harold Linder, Anna Mae Lowther, Lynn McKeown, and Bryan and Gail Pierce.

4. CEDAR FALLS (At intersection of Main Street and U.S. Highway 20 in Cedar Falls, Iowa, as described 1981.); Dec. 18; 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species 45, total individuals 3042; 4 field parties, 1 feeder observer; field party hours, by foot 16.5, by car 18.5; feeder party hours 2, owling hours 1.5; field party miles, by foot 19, by car 265; owling miles 20; Temp -20 to -6 F; wind: 5-15 mph from NW; 6 to 10 inches snow cover; ponds and small streams mostly frozen. Rivers mostly open; Clear and very cold all day.

Comments: A very cold arctic day, walking was kept to a minimum because of the dangerous factor of the -40 F wind chill factor. The Eastern Screech-Owls were located by use of a tape as in previous years. The Carolina Wren has been in the area since November 12th and has been coming regularly to some feeders in Waterloo.

Observers: George and Viola Bebout, Ruth Buck, Antoinette Camarata, Eleanor Corwin, Russell Hays, Peter Lowther, Francis Moore (compiler), Bob Myers, Tom Stone and Opal Uher.

5. CEDAR RAPIDS (Center Federal Building in downtown Cedar Rapids) Dec. 17: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species 60; total individuals 8411; field parties 13; feeder observers 6; field party hours, by foot 53 car 36; feeder party hours 20; field party miles by foot 85, by car 425. Temp. -7 to 1 F.; wind: 3-7 mph from NW; 2-4 inches snow cover; mostly frozen water; Bitterly cold weather decreased bird activity (except around feeders) tremendously, especially in the afternoon. It also decreased birder activity in owling (only 2 groups, 1 hr. each) and probably pushed eagles out of interior rivers, leading to our high count.

Comments: Note that we reported one additional species: an unidentified larger falcon, i.e., falcon (sp), 1. See my remarks on accompanying copy of letter. This was a terrific year for wintering sparrows here, but very poor for kinglets and creepers. I rated the food crop overall as 'poor'. By the way, the two towhees seen were males of the eastern and western (spotted) races, respectively!

Observers: Phyllis Barber, Neil Bernstein, Rob Bradley, John & Jacquie Bros., Duane Carr, Keith Carris, Charlotte Chadima, John Daniel, Dale Fye, William Galbraith, Karl & Ruth Goellner, Mari Graville, Linda Gucciardo, Harlo & Joy Hadow, Irene Haerther, Will Holub, Manson Houmes, Eldon Johnson, Beryl Layton, Gertrude Lippisch, Ken Lowder, Jim Messina, Weir Nelson, Fred & Ruth Nissen, Roberta Oppedahl, Freddie Peterson, William Rhodes, Lavern Sheets, Cathi, Gary & Jeanie Smith, Steve Van Note, Gayle Wallace, David & Mike Wehde, Rick Welch, Chris White, Pete Wickham (compiler), Rowe Zehms, Martha Zippis, Aldrich & Gladys Zobach (Cedar Rapids Audubon Soc. and guests).

6. CHEROKEE (Center 2 miles south of Larrabee on U.S. 59.) Dec. 18: 7:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Total species 42, total individuals 6561; Field parties 5, feeder observers 6; field party hours, by foot 2, by car 35; feeder party hours 12; field party miles, by foot 5, by car 316. Temp: -21 to -6; wind: 5-10 mph from west; 10'' to 15'' snow cover; ponds 100% frozen, streams 99% ice covered; no clouds, very bright.

Comments: Several Song Sparrows appeared to be in distress from the cold.

Observers: Bertie, Joe, Sandi, and Karl Beals, Vernon, Judy, and Dick Bierman (compiler), Marion Brewer, Joeva Conard, Ron Harms, Bill and Melba Grawburg, Irwin and Mary Heusinkveld, Jan and Jim Huber, Randy Kirchner, Mildred Thompson, and Shirley Wahlstrom.

7. CLINTON (Elk River Jct.) Dec. 31: 6:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species 53, total individuals 5914; Observers 8; Field parties 4; field party hours by foot 10, by car 29; field party miles by foot 10, by car 323; Temp. 7-28 F; wind: 10-20 mph from southwest; 4-8 inches drifted snow; Mississippi River 98% frozen.

Observers: Ann Barker, Corey Blevins, Larry Dolphin, Jacqueline Gardner, Fred Leshner, Kelly McKay, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler).

8. DAVENPORT (Former toll house of I-74 bridge.) Dec. 18: 6 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Total species 78, total individual 9338; field parties 15; feeder observers 13; field party hours by foot 23, by car 51; feeder party hours 26; field party miles by foot 24, by car 594. Temp: -8 to 0 F; wind: 5-10 mph from NW; 2-6" drifted snow; Mississippi River 95% ice covered; very cold.

Observers: Ann and Bill Barker, Melody Behr, Carl Bendorf, Dewey Bishop, Corey and Lewis Blevins, Bob Border, Marcella Campbell, Walter Dau, Greg DeClerck, Dale Dickinson, Judy Donath, Margaret Ebert, Elton Fawks, Don Graves, Allan Hahn, Bob Hanson, Mary Hawkinson, Dick Hazel, Marge Hollen, Gary Inhelder, Tom Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Bill LaFrenz, Larry Linder, Beth Mast, Margaret McCauley, Kelly McKay, Don and Jean Moeller, Dorothy Monahan, Mrs. Dale Moritz, Bob Motz, Nancy Mulford, Mike Newlon, Betty Nord, Ken Olson, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Mel Peterson, Harold Ray, Frank Robinson, Clark Scott, Tom Staudt, and Leonard Swanson.

9. DECORAH (N.E. corner S24, T99N, R8W, Winneshiek Co.) Dec. 17: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total species 44, total individuals 3530; field parties 5; field party hours by foot 10, by car 29; field party miles, by foot 13, by car 242; Temp. -17 to -4; wind: NW 5-10 mph; 10 to 13 inches snow cover; water mostly frozen; mostly clear A.M., partly cloudy P.M.

Observers: Francis Arness, Alan Branham, Garth Carlson, Ruth Fretheim, Bill & Pat Heidenreich, Darwin (compiler), Pat & Paul Koenig, Germaine Kuhn, Marlene Michel, Arnold & Dolores Rohm, Joe Schaufenbuel, Erik Sessions, and Warren Wicks.

10. DES MOINES, center 63rd and University Ave.) Dec. 17; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Total species 50, total individuals 5163; feeder observers 1; feeder party hours 8; field parties 2; field party hours by foot 15, by car 20; field party miles by foot 20, by car 220; Temp.: -2 to +4 degrees F; wind 0 to 5 mph from NW; 4 to 5 in. snow cover; water frozen, river open; bitter cold and sharp wind early in the day.

Comments: Des Moines first Pileated Woodpecker for count.

Observers: Eloise and Eugene Armstrong (compiler), Margaret Brooke, Jean Clarke, Bery Engebretsen, John and Maggie Hoogerheide, Pauly and Richard Mooney, Dennis Thompson, and Lurene Wartens.

11. DeSOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Center Refuge headquarters) Dec. 31: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 53; total individuals 8226; field parties 6; field party hours by foot 10, by car 36; field party miles by foot 9, by car 328. Temp. 8 to 24 F; wind: calm; 10 to 18 inches snow cover; water frozen.

Observers: Tanya Bray, James Conway, Lowell Deede, James Glather, Thomas Hoffman, Jim and Sandy Kovanda, Dave Menke (compiler), Neal Ratzlaff, B.J. and Sharon Rose, Ross Silcock, Bob and David Starr, Tom Walker, and Barbara Wilson.

12. DUBUQUE (Center: Center Grove Cemetery) Dec. 17: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; total species 46, total individuals 4101; field parties 8; feeder observers 1; field party hours by foot 15, by car 21½, by ski 6; feeder party hours: 3; field party miles, by foot 15, by ski 8, by car 211; Temp. -3 to 1F, wind 2-7 mph from west; 7 inches snow cover; small patches of river open, and some riffles in streams; Count weather and that preceding was colder and snowier than usual.

Comments: E. Bluebirds and Am. Black Ducks seen during the period.

Observers: George Crossley (compiler), Adele and John Feller, Joan Higley, Brian Larson, John and Leta Miller, Leslie and Steven Neyens, Sally Ryan, John Stampe, Robert and Sandra Walton, Robert and Wauneta Wiederaenders, Charles and Gretel Winterwood.

13. ELDORA (Center two miles north of Union on Highway 215) Dec. 18: 7:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; total species 46; total individuals 3064; field parties 5; field party hours, 9 by foot, by car 21½; field party miles by foot 13½, by car 222; feeder observers 9; feeder party hours 9½; Temp. range -18 to -4 F; wind: 5-15 mph from N by NW; 4 to 5" snow cover; lakes ice covered — open below down to Iowa River., river 75% frozen; bitterly cold, clear and sunny skies with a few flurries toward evening.

Comments: Better coverage by 5 field parties resulted in a record count! Brewer's Blackbirds seen ten miles apart by different parties and documented. Three Bald Eagles in area this fall. Used tape for Great Horned Owl, 15 Gray Partridge seen in 1 group on Jan. 2.

Observers: Barbara Ashby, Katherine Channell, Winnifred Crosley, Marcia Daggs, Phyllis Harris, Anna Marie Hauser, Marie Lamoreux, Arloene Mannerter, Ron Nelson, Beth, Carl and Mark Proescholdt, Don Riggs, Ruby Rook, Garnita Seward, Leslie, and Nancy Slife, Ramona Sommerlot (compiler).

14. FORT DODGE (Center Sam's Maid Rite 2 - intersection of U.S. Highway 20 and 21st St.) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Total species 21, total individuals 565; Feeder observers 5, feeder party hours 28½; field parties 2; field party hours by foot 3¾, by car 4; field party miles by foot 5, by car 54; Temp. -20 F; wind: none; total snow cover; water all frozen except 1 drainage ditch.

Observers: Ann Barbour, Darlene Krambeck, Mary Kuhlman (compiler), Mina Landes, Kathleen Martin, Ray & Jan Schamel and Sister Fran Wohn.

15. IOWA CITY (Center North Liberty) Dec. 17: 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Total species 63, total individuals 6029; feeder observers 4, feeder party hours 4; Field parties 9; field party hours by foot 38, by car 26; field party miles by foot 39, by car 403; Temp. -1 to +5 F; wind 10-15 mph from NW; 6-8 inches snow cover; water mostly frozen; clear a.m., cloudy with light snow p.m.

Comments: Wild Turkey, Green-winged Teal new to count.

Observers: Carl Bendorf, Corey Blevins, John Cordell, Matt Cotton, Jim Fuller, Randy Graesser, Lanny Haldy, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Karen Jensen, Bill & Tom Kent, Jeff Kern, Cal Knight, Bob Lechner, Kelly McKay, Marianne & Roger Milkman, Dawson Mohler, Carol & Mike Newlon (compiler), Mary Noble, Peter Petersen, Dan Ray, Jim Sandrock, Tom Shires, Tom Staudt, Dick Tetrault, Bob Towner, Ruth Williams.

16. IOWA FALLS (Center Highway 65 at Iowa Falls Airport entrance.) Dec. 27: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Total species 27, total individuals 616; Feeder observers 5, feeder party hours 15½; field parties 1; field party hours by foot 4, by car 2; field party miles by foot 4½, by car 65; Temp.: 17-21 degrees F; wind: 10-15 mph from NW; 5-7" snow cover; Iowa River 90 percent ice covered; smaller spring fed streams open. Overcast skies entire day. Light snow early in the afternoon. "Balmy" day as compared with the extreme cold weather of the previous week.

Comments: Common Snipe seen by all (field observers) feeding in a small open stream.

Observers: Bob Anders, Homer Calkins, Lou Craig, Lorraine Gorder, Arloene Mannerter, Jim Riggs, Nancy Slife (compiler) and Alberta Walsh.

17. JAMAICA (Center 3½ mi. south, 2 mi. west of Jamaica.) Dec. 23: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 31, total individuals 1168 (lowest ever); feeder observers 2; feeder party hours 11; field parties 1; field party hours by foot 2½, by

car 8½ field party miles by foot 1½, by car 88; Temp. range -9 to -19 F; wind: 15-20 mph from NW; 8-10" snow cover; water frozen except below L. Panorama Dam and spring-fed streams; Field conditions were dangerous with WCF at -40 to -50 with blowing and drifting snow.

Comments: Only 50 percent of the roads were passable. The field party was unable to reach Bay's Branch WMA from any of the six access roads. New to the count were Wild Turkey and White-throated Sparrow. Missed for first time: C. Flicker. Juncos 800 percent below 8-year average.

Observers: Gene Burns, Ray Cummins (compiler), Thelma Richey.

18. LAMONI (Center intersection I-35 and U.S. 69 east of Lamoni) Dec. 30: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Total species 36, total individuals 2259; feeder observers 1, feeder party hours 6; field parties 4, field party hours by foot 3, by car 29; field party miles by foot 8, by car 139; Temp. -7 to 18 F; wind: 5 mph from west; 3-6" snow cover; water frozen.

Comments: Other species count period: Cedar Waxwing.

Observers: Shawn Ashbaugh, Joe Brashears, Charlotte and David Carter, Genevieve DeLong, Jackie Flowers, J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Carol and Russell Keen, Jeff Livingston, Dan Long, Dale and Frances Moon.

19. LOST NATION (Center Lost Nation); Dec. 28: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Total species 48, total individuals 5,443; feeder observers 5; feeder parties 5, owling 1½; field parties 5, field party hours by foot 11, by car 28; field party miles by foot 12 by car 317; Temp. 12-22 F; wind SW 5-15 mph; 3-8" snow cover drifted snow 100%; water frozen except for rapidly moving; snow cover made the birds easier to count.

Observers: Brent Blake, Corey Blevins, Merle Bouschlicher, Bob Bryant, Larry and Nancy Dolphin, Marvin Glover, Julie Hasenmiller, Judy Linder, Peter C. Petersen, Carl and Jeanette Ruprecht, Kathy & Shelli Tague, Al and Kathy Takes, Charlie and June Wentwoeth and Jack Wohlstadter.

20. MARBLE ROCK (Center Marble Rock) Dec. 26: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Total species 31, total individuals 603; feeder observers 2; feeder party hours 9; field parties 2, field party hours by foot 4¼, by car 3¾; field party miles by foot 5.5, by car 64; -5 to 7 F; wind 5-15 mph from southwest; 100 percent snow cover; despite the extreme cold, Ackley Creek and other spring feed streams were wide open and flowing. This was probably due to high amounts of ground water and the fact that the snow cover prevented the ground from freezing very deep.; sunny during the morning, overcast throughout the afternoon.

Comments: Total number of birds (603) was the lowest ever in the 9 years of this count. Drifted over roads eliminated access to some of the usually reliable areas.

Observers: Pearl Knoop, Jack and Lisa Paige, Tom Staudt (compiler).

21. MARSHALLTOWN (Center E27 one mile east of highway 14 and including Union Grove Lake same as previous years.) Dec. 17: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Total species 39, total individuals 2744; feeder observers 8; feeder party hours 27; field parties 6; field party hours by foot 2, by car 35; field party miles by foot 3, by car 149; Temp. -10 to -2 F; wind: 5-15 mph from W; 3-6" snow cover; Iowa River 75% open, small streams partially open; morning clear, by noon high thin clouds, afternoon completely overcast with very light blowing snow.

It wasn't a good day to be out, gravel roads were icy. Other species seen during the count period — Brown-headed Cowbird, 2 Bald Eagles, immature white-crowned Sparrow.

Observers: George and Vera Crowther, Ann Davenport, Gayle Diggins, Jean Eige, Laura Glasgow, Ken and Jeanette Graham, Orville Grimes, Carl and Glendora Hollingsworth, Marlys Huff, John and Francis King, Carl Kurtz, Les and

Donna Lawrence, Jim and Pauline Mairs, Betty and Ed Savage (compiler), Murdell Wheeler and Jim Wignall.

22. MASON CITY (Center intersection of S 56 and B 25 - same as in past) Dec. 17: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Total species 34, total individuals 2687; feeder observers 6; feeder party hours 42; field parties 5; field party hours by foot 11, by car 20; field party miles by foot 9, by car 203; Temp. -16 to -4 F.; wind: 10-20 mph from NW; 18" snow cover; marshes and ponds frozen solid, some open water in rivers; extremely cold day! Wind chill approaching -40 degrees F.

Comments: Average numbers despite severe weather. Last year no Gray Partridges were seen this year — 141 were counted. Large flocks of Am. Tree Sparrows were seen earlier in the year but only 5 individuals on count day. Other species seen during count period: Red-tailed Hawk and Mourning Dove.

Observers: Dorothy and Russell Brunner, Marjorie Brunner, Dee Ekborg, Kay Elsbury, Vergil Eness, Thelma Fromm, Daryl and Pat Hansen, Jim Hansen, Ellen Lipp, Beth McBride, Curt Nelson (compiler), Richard and Genevieve Nelson, Reva and Harold Pedelty, Mrs. Ted Rumclote, Ben and Wendy Van Gundy, and Jim and Jan Walter.

23. MUSCATINE (Center Lock and Dam 16) Dec. 20: 6:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; Total species 55, total individuals 6287; field parties 4; field party house by foot 9, by car 24; field party miles by foot 10, by car 320. Temp. -10 to 15 F.; wind; 2-10 mph from east; 6-8" drifted snow; Mississippi River 95% ice covered; very cold!

Observers: Tim Dwyer, Allan Hahn, Leon Hodges, Neal Johnson, Judy and Larry Linder, Kelly McKay, and Peter C. Petersen (compiler).

24. NORTH LINN (Center Rogers Crossing N.E. corner sect. 7, Maine Township, Linn County.) Dec. 28: 5:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; Total species 45, total individuals 2816; feeder observers 2, feeder party hours 16 owling: 2; field parties 6; field party hours by foot 22, by car 23; field party miles by foot 39, by car 495; Temp.: 2 to 14 F; wind: 10-30 mph from NW; 4-8" snow cover; water frozen; cold breezy a.m. Blusterly and falling temp. p.m.

Comments: Fewer participants because of weather, still learning the area. 50 + possibilities.

Observers: Phyllis Barber, John Broz, Norman Byers, Keith Carris, Dale Fye, Helen Fye, Linda Gucciardo, Carrie Guerrero, Vi Groth, Bill Hall, Bev Hannon, David Hannon, Will Holub, Jim Messina, Brian Nelson, Weir Nelson (compiler), Roberta Oppedahl, Gayle Wallace, Rowe Zehms (Cedar Rapids Audubon Chapter & guests).

25. OAKVILLE (Center 4 miles east of New Boston, as described 1970) Dec. 30; 6:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Total species 54, total individuals 10,170; field parties 5, field party hours, by foot 12, by car 29; field party miles by foot 11, by car 390; Temp.: -12 to 14 F; wind: 5-12 mph from southwest, 4 to 8 inches drifted snow; Mississippi River 98% ice covered; very cold.

Observers: Mike Baum, Bill Bertrand, Corey and Lewis Blevins, Dale Dickinson, Mary Fisher, Judy Linder, Kelly McKay, Lynn McKeown, Ken Olson, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen (compiler), Clark Scott, Kent Stewart, Ed Wiederecht.

26. OMAHA (Center Offut Air Force Base Lake) Dec. 17: 5:40 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 54, total individuals 5316; feeder observers 1-2; feeder party hours 7; field parties 9; field party hours by foot 32, by car 40.5; field party miles by foot 32, by car 431; Temp: -9 to -3 F; wind: 3-14 mph from NW; 6 to 12 in. snow cover; water frozen.

Observers: Bruce Ardinger, Renee Baade, Russell Benedict, Allan Bird, Christi Bohmbach, Tanya Bray, Duane Bright, James Conway, Jim Ducey, James

Glather, Ruth Green, Betty Grenon (compiler), Joseph Gubanyi, Thomas Hoffman, Clyde and Emma Johnson, Ray Korpi, Jim and Sandra Kovanda, Dave Lundborg, David Menke, Becky and Bill Otto, Babs and Loren Padelford, Neal Ratzlaff, and Philip Swanson.

27. OSKALOOSA (Center ?) Dec. 27: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Total species 29, total individuals 1712; feeder observers 4, feeder party hours 11; field parties 1, field party hours by car 9; field party miles by car 75; Temp: 14-17 F; wind: 2-10 mph from NW; 100% snow cover; very little open water; mostly cloudy.

Observers: Keith (compiler) and Irene Layton, plus four feed observers.

28. OTTUMWA (Center junction of highways 34 & 63 in Ottumwa) Dec. 31: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Total species 33, total individuals 5496; feeder observers 7; feeder party hours 56; field parties 4; field party hours by foot 15,; field party miles by foot 12, by car 235; Temp.: 22-30 F; wind 10 mph from NE; 7" snow cover; water iced over except two small areas below dam on Des Moines river; (Clear, cloudy?).

Many species normally seen were nowhere to be found.

Observers: Charles and Darlene Ayres, Glen and Laura Blome; Chuck and Ann Current, Bill and Jenny Espy, Harold and Marge Haller; Karen Heinje, Nelson Hoskins (compiler), Jean and Dick McGowen, Jack Stubbs, and Madeline and Gary Wymore.

29. PRINCETON (Center Follets, IA) Dec. 19: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Total species 52, total individuals 5690; feeder observers 1, feeder party hours 2; field parties 4, field party hours by foot 4, by car 32; field party miles by foot 4, by car 376; Temp.: -19 to 0 F; wind: 3-8 mph from north to north west; 3-6 inches drifted snow; Mississippi River 98% ice covered; very cold!!!!

Observers: Ann Barker, Larry Dolphin, Betty Hunt, Dennis Jarrard, Judy Linder, Kelly McKay, Randy Nyboer, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Gil Sandvick, Matt Siemert, Jack Wohlstadter.

30. RATHBUN (Center 2 miles south of Rathbun Lake(Dec. 17: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 54, total individuals 6708; feeder observers 14, feeder party hours 30; field parties 5; field party hours, by foot 8, by car 38; field party miles by foot 4, by car 350; Temp. 0 to 15 degrees F; wind 0-5 mph from NW; 4 inches snow cover; Rathbun Lake frozen over except one small area kept open by ducks. Chariton River open below Rathbun Dam; cloudy, very light snow all day.

Comments: The Rathbun count was covered by Larry Stone of the Des Moines Register. He joined in the count for half a day and took many pictures. Eagles were adult. There are Wild Turkeys in the area, a group of about 18 in or near Honey Creek State Park, but they could not be found on the day of the count.

Observers: Charles and Darleen Ayers, Dorothy Cornett, Ray and Bill Cummings, Debbie and Jean Egeland, Karla Freese, Bill (compiler) and Marj Heusinkveld, Mark Hoffman, Kelly Huffey, Kay Malmberg, Mary Montgomery, Maxine Morrow, Joe and Mary Murphy, Charlotte Scott, Larry Stone and Marsha Thomas.

31. RED ROCK (Center Highway 14 Bridge over Lake Red Rock - mile long bridge) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Total species 44, total individuals 6,697; feeder observers 2; feeder party hours 12; field parties 7; field party hours by foot 6, by car 22; field party miles by foot 4, by car 350; Temp.: 12 to 2 F; wind: 5 mph from NW; 4 to 5" snow cover; Lake Red Rock 100 % ice covered; Des Moines River open; sunny, very cold.

Comments: Hazardous driving conditions, snow/ice covered roads limited access to some areas.

Observers: Eloise and Eugene Armstrong, Gladys Black, Maxine Crane, Mary and Paul Felsing, Bill Gilbert, Phil Krichau, John McGlothlen (compiler),

Dean, Diane and Mike Mosman, Robert Thornberg.

32. SAC COUNTY (Center Clem and Rita Efta residence, Grant City, Auburn, Iowa) (Dec. 31; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Total species 29, total individuals 600, feeder observers 5, feeder party hours 10; field parties 4; field party hours by foot 29, by car 15; field party miles by foot 41, by car 131; Temp.: 18 to 28 degrees F; wind 5 mph from SW; heavy - 12" snow cover on the level and several feet in drifts; water mostly frozen with small areas of open water; clear to light haze.

Comments: The snow depth in the woods made foot travel slow and difficult.

Observers: Lonnie Brown, Bunny Clapper, Clem and Rita (compiler) Efta, Scott Felker, Joe Halbur, Betty and Glenn Jones, Irene Lammer, Gordie Miller, Opal Schulte, Joe Schweers, Margaret Seeck (compiler) Katie Youberg and Don Zimmer.

33. SHENANDOAH (Center Farragut) Dec. 17: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Total species 57, total individuals 7,480; feeder observers 2, feeder party hours 8; field parties 3, field party hours by foot 1¾ by foot, by car 23; field party miles by foot 2, by car 257; Temp.: 2 to 7 F; wind: 5-10 mph from N; 2 to 3" snow cover; water mostly frozen; cloudy — snowing from noon on.

Observers: Barbara Cunningham, Charles and Jean Gee, Ruth Phipps, Dick Schlick, Ross and Jacque Silcock, Marie Spears, Mary Beth Vaughan, Betty Walters (compiler), and Barbara Wilson.

34. SIOUX CITY (Center Sioux City Auditorium) Dec. 17: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 44 — day of count (6 additional count wk. not on count day); total individuals 3912; feeder observers 4; feeder party hours 9; field parties 10; field party hours by foot 15, by car 25; field party miles by foot 31, by car 248; Temp.: -8 to 2 F; wind: 5-10 mph from NW; 10 to 14 inches snow cover; water partly open, open water due to power plant effluent provided waterfowl observations; walking greatly restricted by deep snowdrifts — hence high mileage by car.

Comments: Some unusual high numbers of species not usually reported in this area were (28) Red-headed Woodpecker (515) Red-winged Blackbird (2) Yellow headed Blackbird (10) Gray Partridge.

Observers: Gordon Brand, Doug Derbal, Ramon Flemming, Larry Galloway, Brad and Marla Grier, Anne Hall, Bill Huser, Mike Jung, Bob, Cindy, and Lorroyne Livermore, Wayne Livermore (compiler), Robert Nickolson, Morris Peterson, Jerry Probst, Dan Reinking, Alan Rose, Ed Sibley, Donna Sisson, Dale Stone, and Doug Wheelock.

35. SPIRIT LAKE (Denter intersection of Iowa Hwy 9 and Iowa Hwy 276) Dec. 17: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 35, total individuals 3,481; feeder observers 2; feeder party hours 17; field parties 4; field party hours by foot 3, by car 25; field party miles by foot 3, by car 384; Temp.: -11 to -7 F; wind: 10-15 mph NW; 10-13 inches snow cover; water all frozen; The coldest Christmas Count we've ever run. Wind chill temperatures ran into the -30 degree range, so number of hours anyone could be out walking was extremely limited.

Comments: Cold weather brought counts down from what we might normally expect. Woodland birds were not at the edges, where they might be seen from cars, but were holed up in the deepest cover they could find. Thus one had to be on foot to see much, and that was almost impossible. Even House Sparrows seemed to be holed up in barns and sheds where it was difficult to get any good estimates on them. Other species seen in the area within three days prior to official count included Bald Eagles (3), Snowy Owl (1), E. Screech Owl (1), and N. Shrike (1).

Observers: LaVonne Foote, Joan Greene, Douglas Harr (compiler), Barbara and Robert Moats, Verena Northey, John and Marge Vander Linden, Harold White.

36. SWALEDALE (Center Swaledale) Dec. 17: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Total species 21, total individuals 747; feeder observers 10; feeder party hours 38; 1; field party hours, by car 4; field party miles by car 56; Temp.: -18 to -10 F; wind: 5 to 10 mph NW; approx. 12" snow cover; water frozen; clear skies early, then overcast with snow flurries about noon, bitter cold and icy roads.

This was our first count.

Observers: Melicent Ames, Jeanne Cole, Leo and Margaret Eddy, Edward, JoAnne Lucille (compiler) and John Gaffney, Ernest and Corrine Hitzhusen, Karen Ingham, Alma Laudner, and Leo and Edna Peters.

37. TRISTATE (Center Mile 556 in Missouri River) Dec. 28: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 42, total individuals 3261; field parties 2; field party hours by foot $\frac{1}{2}$, by car $16\frac{1}{2}$ field party miles by foot $\frac{1}{2}$, by car $230\frac{1}{2}$; Temp.: 5-14 F; wind: 10-30 mph from NW; 4-10 in. snow cover; water partly open.

Comments: Poor weather reduced participation. Feeder operators also needed, especially in Nebraska City.

Observers: Tanya Bray, Ione Getscher, Sandy Kovanda, B.J. Rose, Ross Silcock (compiler), and Barbara Wilson.

38. WATERLOO (Center at center of Sec. 2, Maxfield Twp. Bremer County) Dec. 31: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 39, total individuals 1666; field parties 2; field party hours by foot 10, by car 10; field party miles by foot 13, by car 181; Temp.: 13 to 28 F; wind: 5-10 mph from SW; 5 to 10 in. snow cover; water mostly frozen; county day was partly cloudy and fairly warm compared to the previous two weeks of sub-zero weather.

Comments: An average number of species was found in spite of the harshness of the winter and a very low number of observers.

Observers: George and Viola Bebout, Francis Moore, and Bob Myers (compiler).

39. WESTFIELD (Center Section 16, Sioux Township, Plymouth County) Jan. 2: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 35, total individuals 1138; field parties 3; field party hours by foot $16\frac{1}{2}$, by car 14; field party miles by foot $20\frac{1}{2}$, by car 126; feeder observers 2; feeder party hours 10; Temp.: 17 to 34 F; wind: 0-8 mph from W; 4-24" snow cover; river 98% frozen, creeks 75% frozen; Jan. 2 was the 4th day of temperatures that approached normal after a severe 3 weeks of below zero conditions.

Comments: Individuals numbers were extremely low, mature river bottom growth produced only 2 or 3 individuals in 15 minutes of walking. A 200 yard radius around my feeders produced 21 species!

Observers: Carol and Larry Farmer (compiler), Bill Huser, Bob Livermore, Todd Oetken, Jerry Probst, Jenny Sorensen, Pat Williams.

40. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (Center northeast corner S8, T96N, R3W, Allamakee Co.) Dec. 27: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Total species 44, total individuals 4202; field parties 4; field party hours by foot 7, by car 17; field party miles by foot 7, by car 204; Temp.: -2 to 8 F; wind: 5-15 mph SSE; 12 to 14 inches snow cover; water mostly frozen; overcast a.m., overcast with intermittent light snow p.m.

Observers: Francis Arness, Alan Branhagen, Ruth Fretheim, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Germaine Kuhn, Marlene Michel, Arnold and Dolores Rohm, Joe Schaufenbuel, and Warren Wicks.

FIELD REPORTS
WINTER 1983/1984

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor
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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

1983 ended, as it had begun, with extreme weather conditions. To the record-setting wet, cold spring and hot, dry summer, was added the coldest Dec in the 111-year history of state weather records. Besides the bitter cold, snowfall during Dec was twice the normal, making this the fifth snowiest on record. The Dec temperatures, which were 16.4 degrees below normal, made this Iowa's third coldest month since 1936. Temperatures fell as low as -33 (at Atlantic on 19 Dec) and -35 (at Cresco, Oakland, Glenwood, and Sibley), while wind chills reached lows from -70 to -90 on Christmas Eve. Sustained coldness, with minimum temperatures of zero or colder, was reported on 11 to 16 consecutive days over all but the eastern counties. Snow cover (about 19.5 inches), frequent glaze, blowing snow, and fog added to the general discomfort of Iowans.

Jan and Feb were, in general, sunny and dry. Although there were temperature extremes in Jan (from -30 to +55 at Sibley and Bedford respectively), the predominance of mild weather and little snow fall was a welcome relief after the rigors of Dec. A few isolated blizzards, notably at the end of Jan and again in late Feb, produced much glazing and hazardous conditions, but the swift return to warm weather melted much of the snow cover in the state. Again this year, the state's rivers and creeks ran high as the spring months approached.

GENERAL TRENDS

Waterfowl, gulls, and other lingerers left the state early this year with the bitter Dec weather. Goshawks were widespread and 3, possibly 5, Varied Thrushes were the most ever in one winter. Crossbills were absent and there were only 4 sightings of Common Redpolls. Siskins and Purple Finches were not abundant. Evening Grosbeaks, however, were widely present. Warm weather, evident by 9 Feb, produced a widespread early waterfowl migration for the third year in a row. Killdeer, bluebirds, and blackbirds also came early.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The best find was a Greater Prairie-Chicken. See CBC reports for Common Raven and Smith's Longspur. Casual species were Prairie Falcon, Bohemian Waxwing, and Pine Grosbeak. Exotics included the usual Ringed Turtle-Dove at Davenport.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

- Horned Grebe: 1 overlooked a 25 Nov 1983 sighting at L. Macbride in the last report (RJH).
- Double-crested Cormorant: 1 remained at Davenport until 3 Dec (GDW).
- Greater White-fronted Goose: Flocks were in Fremont Co. (Don Priebe fide RP) and 20 were at Willow Sl. (BLW) on 19 Feb, a second earliest date; 5 were at Cone M. on 25 Feb (THK) and several were at Colo on 27 Feb (Ted LaGrange fide JJD).
- Snow Goose: 1 was migrating in Hamilton Co. on 12 Feb (THK, CJB, TJS), and 80 were in Hardin Co. on 14 Feb (MPr fide BPr). By 17 Feb 30,000 were at Riverton A. (Erv Klaas fide JJD).
- Ross' Goose: 1 was captured at Riverton A. on 17 Feb (Erv Klaas fide JJD).
- Canada Goose: 20 were seen during Jan in Johnson Co. (JF) and 1 wintered at Big M. (FLM). On 9 Feb 50 were migrating near Oxford

- (THK, CJB, TJS) and 200 were at Spirit L. by 15 Feb (DCH). Many others were seen in Feb.
- Wood Duck: 2 were in Polk Co. by 22 Feb (Ted Eischeid fide JJD).
- Green-winged Teal: 1 was at Willow Sl. by 23 Feb (BLW).
- American Black Duck: 1-2 birds were at five locations as far west as Saylorville Res. during the period.
- Northern Pintail: 1 was in Franklin Co. by 12 Feb (THK, CJB, TJS).
- Northern Shoveler: 1 was at Ames by 16 Feb (Mike Brown fide JJD).
- Gadwall: 1 was in Johnson Co. on 2 Feb (JF; wintering?); first migrants were at Willow Sl. (BLW) and Cone M. (THK) on 25 Feb.
- American Wigeon: 1 was at Willow Sl. by 19 Feb (BLW).
- Canvasback: 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 8 Jan (JJD, SD); 1 arrived at Bettendorf by 15 Feb (PCP).
- Redhead: 2 remained at Saylorville Res. until 10 Dec (SD, GBro); 1 was at Willow Sl. by 23 Feb (BLW).
- Ring-necked Duck: 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 8 Jan (JJD, SD); 3 were at IPL Ponds by 15 Feb (BPa, LPa).
- Greater Scaup: Details were given for 2 females at L. Macbride on 3 Dec (TJS, THK) and 2 males at IPL Ponds on 16 Feb (TB, BPa, SK).
- Lesser Scaup: 4 were at Cone M. by 25 Feb (THK).
- Common Goldeneye: 500 were n. of 180 in Scott Co. on 2 Jan (THK, CJB, TJS); 5 were at Big M. by 15 Feb (BPr, MPr).
- Bufflehead: 1 was at Willow Sl. by 23 Feb (BLW).
- Hooded Merganser: 2 were at IPL Ponds by 19 Feb (BPa, LPa); singles were in Decatur Co. (Jeff and Clark Livingston fide JDG) and at Willow Sl. (BLW) on 26 Feb.
- Common Merganser: 400 were at Saylorville Res. on 10 Dec (SD, GBro); 5 were there by 12 Feb (SD).
- Bald Eagle: 207 at Lock and Dam 14 on 4 Jan were a record for that location (Kelly McKay fide PCP). Adults were seen in Palo Alto Co. on 6 Dec (VK) and Lyon Co. on 11 Dec (DCH). There were 77 (35 imm.) at Forney L. on 26 Feb (BPa, LPa). Many other sightings were reported.
- Northern Harrier: 5 sightings in Ida, Crawford, and Cherokee counties from 11 Jan to 17 Feb were considered unusual for that area (DBi, MMB); I would not consider winter sightings of this species in E Iowa unusual.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 was in Cherokee Co. on 27 Jan (MMB).
- Cooper's Hawk: Singles were reported from Polk, Cherokee, Fremont, Bremer, Winneshiek, and Story counties during the period (excluding CBCs).
- Northern Goshawk: Many were seen throughout the period, continuing this third year of an invasion cycle. All documented sightings were of adults except for 1 immature in Bremer Co. on 15 Feb (*BPr). Other county locations were Johnson (up to 4 birds seen many times, *TJS, CJB, JF), Cherokee (*DBi), Page (Don Priebe fide RP), Bremer (ad., *FLM), Butler (*FLM), Polk (*DDM), Decatur (Richard Erke fide JDG), Louisa (THK), Lucas (*MBro), and Poweshiek (2, DK). See also CBC report.
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 singles: 7 Jan w. of Davenport (Scott Clark, Don Graves fide PCP), 20 Jan in Madison Co. (*EIA), 22 Jan in Jasper Co. (*HZ), 26 Jan in Marshalltown (John King fide BPr), 1 Feb at Davenport (PCP, MLP).
- Golden Eagle: Besides birds in the usual Allamakee Co. location (GDW, DK), 1 ad. was seen in Marshall Co. on 2 Dec (*BPr) and 1 imm. in Jasper Co. on 10 Dec (CJB, details).
- American Kestrel: 1 caught a sparrow at a feeder in Council Bluffs on 28 Jan (CFS); 20 were noted in N Iowa on 24 Feb (JF).
- Peregrine Falcon: An immature bird was described at Ames (*KB); 1 was reportedly at DeSoto NWR on 23 Feb (Cathy Nelson fide TB).
- Prairie Falcon: 1 was described in Dallas Co. on 28 Dec (*Ken Herring).
- Gray Partridge: 2 on 23 Feb were the first for Scott Co. (PCP); 2 were in Harrison Co. on 2 Jan (TB, DB); none were seen in Jan-Feb in Cherokee Co. (MMB, DBi).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken: 1 was described in Osceola Co. by *Ron Spengler, a possible winter migrant from Minnesota. No details were

- given for another at DeSoto NWR (Dave Menke fide TB)--Could this be a released bird?
- Wild Turkey: 1 was seen n. of Keokuk on 7 Jan (THK, CJB, PCP); 20 were at Geode SP on 4 Feb (DCP).
- Northern Bobwhite: 6 were at Dorchester, Allamakee Co. on 19 Dec (DK).
- American Coot: The first was at Willow Sl. on 29 Feb (BLW).
- Lesser Golden-Plover: 3 at DeSoto NWR on 12 Nov 1983 (Erv Klaas fide JJD) were overlooked in my last report.
- Killdeer: Earliest arrivals were on 15 Feb at Ames (Joe Schaufenbuel fide JJD) and Willow Sl. (BLW).
- Ring-billed Gull: 1500 were still at Coralville Res. on 3 Dec (THK, TJS, CJB); most were gone by mid-Dec; 1 was at Bettendorf on 11 Jan (PCP) and 1 in Johnson Co. on 2 Feb (JF); others began to return by mid-Feb.
- Herring Gull: 5 were still at Saylorville Res. on 10 Dec (SD, GBro).
- Glaucous Gull: 1 imm., probably the same as seen on the CBC, was at Lock and Dam 14 on 21 Dec (PCP).
- Black Tern: 30 previously reported at Coralville Res. on 10 Sep 1983 were really 3 (RJH).
- Ringed Turtle-Dove: 1 at Davenport on 24 Dec probably died the next day (Mrs. Dale Moritz fide PCP).
- Common Barn-Owl: 1 was found dead s. of Sioux Center on 4 Dec (Bill Fribley fide DCH); the farmer reported 2 in his silo during the summer.
- Eastern Screech-Owl: 1 was seen at a suet feeder nw. of Spirit Lake on 14 Dec (Gary Wee fide DCH); 2 birds took cover in heated machine sheds in Mills Co. in late Dec (fide BLW).
- Snowy Owl: immatures were nw. of Spirit Lake on 17 Jan (DCH) and ne. of Hull on 20 Jan (Bill Fribley fide DCH).
- Long-eared Owl: None were reported.
- Short-eared Owl: 1-2 birds were reported from the following counties during the period: Clayton, Muscatine, Palo Alto, Johnson, Page, Story, and Poweshiek (see also CBC).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 at Davenport on 2 Jan (PCP, m.ob.); 1 at Ledges SP on 21 Jan (JJD, SD); and 2 at Big Creek SP on 3 Feb (HZ).
- Red-headed Woodpecker: Small numbers overwintered, except in Mills Co. where there were more than ever (BLW).
- American Crow: 1 was carry nesting material at Iowa City on 28 Feb (RJH).
- Common Raven: See CBC report.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1-3 overwintered at many locations.
- Carolina Wren: Singles: Davenport on 14 Dec (fide PCP); Iowa City twice in late Dec (Barbara Buckley fide THK, photo); Keokuk on 7 Jan (CJB, THK, PCP); and n. of Iowa City all winter (JF).
- Winter Wren: Singles: 4 Dec at Grammar Grove (BPr, MPr); 17 Dec at Pine L. (Nancy Slife fide BPr); all winter n. of Iowa City (JF).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1-5 with last on 19 Dec n. of Iowa City (JF).
- Eastern Bluebird: Migrants were noted on 20 Feb in Mills Co. (BLW) and 22 Feb at Coralville Res. (TJS).
- American Robin: A few overwintered.
- Varied Thrush: 1 was at Fairmont Cemetery, Davenport, from 3 Dec to at least 18 Feb (*GDW, *PCP, photo on file THK); 1 was at a feeder in Spencer from 1 to 21 Dec (E & L Hansen fide RJH, *MMB, *DBi, see photos); 1 was at a feeder in Wellman from 10 to 18 Jan (*Barbara Henderson, *RJH); 2 others were reported on Rick Hollis' feeder survey without details.
- Brown Thrasher: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 3 Dec (THK, CJB, TJS); another at a feeder in Mills Co. on 16 Dec probably died (BLW).
- Bohemian Waxwing: 1 was photographed (on file) at Bettendorf on 14 Jan (E. M. Svetich fide PCP).
- Cedar Waxwing: I did not compile all the sightings of this species.
- Northern Shrike: All sightings were from N Iowa in the following counties: Cherokee (MMB, DBi), Dickinson (LaVonne Foote fide DCH), Bremer (FLM, RKM), and Winneshiek (DK).
- Loggerhead Shrike: No details were given for 2 central Iowa sightings.

- Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 was n. of Iowa City on 14 Dec (JF).
- Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 wintered at Elkhart (DDM, race not given); a western race bird wintered in W Johnson Co. (Ed Folk fide RJH).
- American Tree Sparrow: Numbers were decreased in Cherokee Co. (DBi) with none in Jan (MMB).
- Fox Sparrow: 1 at Davenport on 2 Jan stayed through mid-Feb (PCP).
- Song Sparrow: 1 wintered at a feeder in Cherokee (MMB).
- White-throated Sparrow: 1-3 at 11 locations, most from the middle of the state south, but as far north as Hardin and Cherokee counties.
- White-crowned Sparrow: 1-4 from Page, Winneshiek, Johnson, and Muscatine counties.
- Harris' Sparrow: 5 wintered at Elkhart in C Iowa (DDM); others were from SW Iowa. A breeding plumage bird with gray cheeks was present all winter in Mills Co. (BLW).
- Dark-eyed Junco: An Oregon Junco was n. of Iowa City on 10 Feb (JF).
- Lapland Longspur: 50,000 conservatively counted by Dick Bierman in the 50 miles from Cherokee to Sac City on 27 Feb is remarkable. Other concentrations included 500 n. of Shenandoah on 4 Feb (RP, MS), 200 in Story Co. on 27 Feb (JJD, TL), and 25 in Johnson Co. on 2 Jan (THK, CJB, TJS).
- Smith's Longspur: See CBC.
- Snow Bunting: The peak was 300 on 1 Feb at Dysart (CJB); there were many other sightings from Dec-Jan and into the first week of Feb.
- Red-winged Blackbird: 18 were in Des Moines on 22 Jan (MZ); 68 were in Cherokee Co. on 10 Feb (MMB); and migrants were everywhere in the last half of Feb.
- Rusty Blackbird: 1 was in Marshall Co. on 22 Dec (BPr), 10 were at Waterloo on 22 Jan (FLM, RKM), 9 were in Mills Co. on 2 Feb (BLW), 35 were n. of Shenandoah on 20 Feb (RP), 1 was at Mallard on 21 Feb (VK), and 50 were at Colo on 26 Feb (JJD, SD).
- Brewer's Blackbird: Details were given for 1 at Union in Dec (Phyllis Harris fide BPr).
- Common Grackle Small numbers overwintered; migrants were evident in the last week of Feb.
- Brown-headed Cowbird: 30 were in NE Mills Co. on 4 Feb (BLW).
- Pine Grosbeak: Robert Wylder photographed one at his feeder in Denver and it was seen by others on 11-12 Feb (*FLM, *BPr).
- Purple Finch: Small numbers were reported.
- Red Crossbill: No reports.
- White-winged Crossbill: No reports.
- Common Redpoll: The only definite report I have from all of 1983 was at Davenport on 28 Dec (Jack Searles fide PCP). Reports from 1984 were 1 at Fairfield on 8 Feb (DCP), 3 at Swaledale on 25 Feb (LG), and 1 at McCausland from 15 Jan through Feb (Gil Sandvick fide PCP).
- Pine Siskin: 1-25 were reported from 10 locations.
- Evening Grosbeak: The highest numbers were 42 at Fairfield on 12 Feb (DCP) and 32 at Marshalltown (John King fide BPr); 1-14 were reported from 10 other locations.

CONTRIBUTORS

Eloise Armstrong, Booneville; Russell P. Baldner, Calmar; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Kelly Bostian, Ames; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion M. Brewer, Cherokee; Mike Brown, Des Moines; James J. Dinsmore, Ames; Steve Dinsmore, Ames; James Fuller, Iowa City; Lucille Gaffney, Swaledale; J. Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Ronald V. Harms, Laurens; Douglas C. Harr, Larchwood; Russ Heine, Spencer; Ken Herring, Adel; Richard J. Hollis, Iowa City; Wallace E. Jardine, Pocahontas; Velma Keerbs, Mallard; Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; D. Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Babs Padelford, Bellevue NE; Loren Padelford, Bellevue NE; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Diane C. Porter, Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Conrad F. Schlemmer, Council Bluffs; Ron Spengler, Sibley; Thomas J.

Staudt, Iowa City; Gerald D. White, Muscatine; Barbara L. Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Colo; and Mary Zohrer, West Des Moines.

OTHER OBSERVERS

Cathryn A. Baldner (RPB); Don Bray (TB); Gordon Brown (SD); Sandy Kovanda (TB); Ted LaGrange (JJD); Robert K. Myers (FLM); Jeannine Ouren (RP); Mary Lou Petersen (PCP); Mark Proescholdt (BPr); and Marie Spears (RP).

COMMENT

According to my count, the number of species seen in Iowa was down in 1983 from the previous two years. Of the 276 regular species (Sandhill Crane has been moved to regular), 4 were not reported in 1983 (Say's Phoebe, Townsend's Solitaire, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill). Please let me know if you recorded any of these species (date, location). Of 16 casual species, 9 were recorded (Surf Scoter, Prairie Falcon, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Prairie Warbler, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow), 1 is pending review (Ferruginous Hawk), and 6 were not recorded (Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Burrowing Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Lark Bunting, and Pine Grosbeak). Ibis species was also seen. There were 7 accidentals accepted by the Records Committee (Purple Gallinule, Whimbrel, Vermillion Flycatcher, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch). Vermillion Flycatcher and Great-tailed Grackle are new to the state list. The total of 289 for 1983 is down from 297 in 1982 and 300 in 1981.

In spite of the low count for 1983, we had many new contributors to the field reports. Rick Hollis' winter bird feeder survey produced over 1,500 responses, indicating a great deal of interest in Iowa birds. I would like to encourage newcomers to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to contribute field reports and to call their rare sightings in to the Iowa Birdline. The Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, available from the Treasurer, gives an indication of birds that need to be documented by description or photographs. More detailed information concerning frequency and migration dates can be found in Iowa Birds (see Book Reviews).

Please mail your spring field reports to me on or before 29 May (the day after Memorial Day); if I don't get them compiled on the weekend of June 2-3, the report will be delayed.

Good birding for 1984!



Varied Thrush at Spencer.
Photos by Marion Brewer and Wallace Jardine.

General Notes

Greater Prairie Chicken in Osceola County. — Over the past several years I have received three winter reports of Gr. Prairie Chickens by hunters in our county. The descriptions of the birds given by these untrained observers were not very specific and I did not give them much credence, but I did not entirely discount these reports.

On 2 January 1984 at approximately 8:30 a.m., I personally observed a bird in flight along a county gravel road bordering the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 10, T99N — R40W, Osceola County, Iowa. This bird's strong flight and size larger than a Gray Partridge caught my attention, and while observing the bird it landed on a grainary in the farmer's yard. I observed the bird for about 10 minutes with a 20X bushnell spotting scope at a distance of approximately 50 yds. Weather conditions were clear and sunny, offering excellent observation. At this close range I was easily able to see the fully feathered legs and tarsus of the bird and the following other characteristics which make me proof-positive of the species identification: Larger than Gray Partridge, but smaller than hen Ring-necked Pheasant (approx. 13-14" in length; brown body plumage with barring especially evident on belly; whitish throat patch with darker eye line; blackish tail, short and rounded; and long dark feathers on the sides of the neck.

I have observed Gr. Prairie Chickens before on booming grounds in Minnesota. I was close enough to this bird that I could see that it had no markings or bands present. Ron Spengler, Executive Director, Osceola County Conservation Board, Court House, Sibley, IA. 51249.

Book Reviews

Iowa Birds — By James J. Dinsmore, Thomas H. Kent, Darwin Koenig, Peter C. Petersen, Dean M. Roosa — Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa — x & 356 pp., 94 photos, 132 maps, Landenberger color painting on cover — 1984 — cloth-bound, \$27.95.

Bird study in Iowa, although seeming to have had numerous peaks and valleys, has nevertheless steadily grown and perceptibly widened its influence over a long period of years.

The first bird list covering the entire state was contained in Charles A. White's report on the geology of Iowa, published in 1870. In an appendix (pp. 419-427), J. A. Allen listed 283 species for the state. While he checked 108 species he had personally seen, he gave no locations or other information; the list mostly indicated what could be looked for.

In 1881-82, Wells W. Cooke, then a resident of Iowa, made an attempt to enlist observers in a study of bird migration. Cooke moved to Minnesota, and in 1883 the study was widened to include the whole Mississippi valley. In 1884, 27 persons sent reports from 18 stations in Iowa. The next year 15 new Iowa observers reported. This work of Cooke was a great stimulus for bird observation in our state. In 1888 the results were published by the government under the title **Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley in the Years 1884 and 1885**, an important volume of 313 pages.

The following year Charles Rollin Keyes and H. S. Williams published their **Preliminary Annotated Catalogue of the Birds of Iowa** (49 pages), briefly noting 254 species, seen mostly in the Charles City, Des Moines and Iowa City regions, with dates of arrival and departure gathered entirely at Des Moines.

A new impetus was given to bird study with the organization of the Iowa Ornithological Association in 1894. It published the quite pretentious **Iowa Or-**

nithologist, which was discontinued in 1898. About 90 members were enrolled and valuable records and observation were published in the official journal.

Rudolph Martin Anderson's **Birds of Iowa** came out in 1907, a very valuable book of 293 pages listing 354 species and 24 on a hypothetical list. This was the standard reference work for a quarter century. Meanwhile numerous county and regional lists made their appearance.

Philip A. DuMont's **A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa** (1933, 171 pages) brought Iowa ornithology up to date and listed 364 species, with an additional 18 on a hypothetical list, an important and well prepared book.

In 1923, with the birth of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, organized bird study had a new and significant revival of interest. Membership grew apace, sparked by a series of mimeographed letters and bulletins, which culminated in the quarterly journal, **Iowa Bird Life**, in 1931. This medium has had staying power; it is now in its 54th year. It soon became the principal repository of the records and observations of bird students from all corners of the state.

After a hiatus of a full half century, we now have a new state book. It is not in the genre of the lavish books of some years ago, when big, sumptuous volumes showed all the birds of a state in color. One of the last of these was Oberholser's **Bird Life of Texas**, in two large volumes in 1974. Production costs have skyrocketed and it is questionable whether books on such a scale are now needed. In recent years a spate of field guides and other books, picturing all the birds in color, have taken care of most of our needs for color identification.

The new book is all that we could ask for, and more. It was designed and executed by five experts in the field of ornithology and encompasses the most modern techniques and compilations of pertinent data for 362 Iowa bird species (plus two late additions.)

It is divided into six chapters. The first two describe the State List and the definition of species status. They outline the strict rules for identifying birds and the acceptance for published record, including regular bird residents and casual and accidental species. Compared with earlier books, it will be seen that the approach is now strictly scientific, with adherence to new standards of positive identification or the taking of specimens.

Chapter Three covers the relationship of birds to Iowa geography. Eight pages are devoted to physical aspects and various regions of the state. The total surface of Iowa, about 56,000 square miles, is divided into nine separate birding areas. These areas are used in many of the maps showing the location of bird records; other maps show the 99 counties, with the bird records marked thereon. A unique and useful feature on the maps is a series of 12 symbols which differentiate the records before 1960 and after 1960, and whether they are spring, summer, fall, winter, nesting, or month unknown. These give the status of each record at a glance and may save long research in the literature, depending on what information is desired.

The fourth chapter discusses the nesting birds, for which there is valid evidence for 188 species on the state list at present. This chapter also includes a timely and well documented tabulation of the endangered species.

Chapter Five covers in rather brief form the history of Iowa ornithology, beginning with the S. H. Long expedition up the Missouri River in 1819-20. The mention and evaluation of numerous early publications make interesting reading. Other topics in this chapter include various surveys such as the Christmas bird counts, breeding-bird and winter raptor surveys, also bird banding, museums and bird collections, state conservation agencies and local bird clubs. In its 12 pages, this chapter contains a great deal of useful information.

In the sixth and final chapter (280 pages), we have the summit of perfection, a

list covering every species known to have been found in our state, its present status as to abundance or rarity, and occurrence records updated to the latest possible time. The resume and consolidation of previous important data, the accompanying distribution maps, and a wealth of information on migration and nesting are skillfully blended. Interspersed are brief comments on birds of special interest.

The data presented are truly staggering in volume and detail. Only those who have worked on similar projects can appreciate the mountain of work that has been done, in research, compilation, summation and getting it accurately onto the printed page.

The latest mandate of the A. O. U. in re-naming birds is followed, which is somewhat upsetting to some of us oldsters who see old friends with unfamiliar appellations. To mention a few: Green-backed Heron, Tundra Swan, Northern Harrier, Common Moorhen, Sedge Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Oriole. It will take a while to assimilate them!

Four appendixes give further special lists of species. There is an 8-page Gazetteer of birding spots mentioned in the text, and a bibliography and an index round out the book.

Truly, this volume is a wonderful milestone in Iowa ornithology and should prove to be our undisputed authority and reference source for many years to come. To the authors we shall long be in debt. — Fred J. Pierce.

A Guide to Bird Behavior, Vol. 2 — Donald W. and Lillian L. Stokes — Little Brown & Co., Boston — 334 p., many line drawings — 1983 — \$14.95.

Vol. 2 covers another 25 species of common birds using the same format as Vol. 1 (IBL 53:60). For each species the yearly behavior sequence is presented, visual and auditory displays are covered and specific types of behavior are described. These descriptions include territory, courtship, nest-building, breeding, plumage, flocking and feeding. Each bird is illustrated by full page, black-and-white line drawings. The book and its companion volume draw together a vast amount of data presented in a concise form. ed.

Vulture Biology and Management — Sanford R. Wilbur and Jerome Jackson, eds. — U. of California Press, Berkeley — 575 p., 140 b & w illus. — 1984 — \$35.00.

This book is a collection of 32 papers on vultures. Many of the papers were presented at a 1979 symposium on this subject. The papers are grouped by topic and these cover paleontology, systematics, status, biology, research and management techniques, effects of environmental contaminants and man's influence. With three vulture species on the brink of extinction this volume will make this research widely available to all scientists. ed.

The Peacocks of Baboquivari — Erma J. Fisk — W. W. Norton & Co., NY — 284 p., many line drawings — 1983 — \$14.95.

This book chronicles the five months the author spent studying and netting birds on this mountain ranch in southwestern Arizona. The peacocks had been introduced to the ranch and kept the author company during her stay on the Nature Conservancy tract. The ranch was dominated by Baboquivari, a nearby mountain peak. The book presents an interesting perspective on the area and its birds. ed.

Pigeons and Doves of the World 3rd ed. — Derek Goodwin — Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca — 363 p., 6 color plates, many line drawings — 1983 — \$48.50.

Goodwin has revised his standard work on pigeons and doves. Although expanded over the 2nd edition (IBL 47:151), this book is shorter due to slightly smaller type and two column format. The introductory sections present the usual life history background data as well as other general information. The species accounts include range, a very detailed description, feeding, general habits, nesting data, voice, display, other names and references. Much of the revision is the result of data forwarded by professional and amateur ornithologists. ed.

Cranes of the World — Paul A. Johnsgard — Indiana University Press, Bloomington — 258 p., 23 color and 24 b & w photos — 1983 — \$37.50.

As he has done with several other groups, Johnsgard provides a comprehensive and current account of the biology of cranes. For each of the fourteen species he presents very complete data on range (with map), size, other names, description, habitat preference, food, foraging behavior, migration and movements, and all aspects of biology. The introductory section presents some concise information relating to the comparative biology of cranes. Several cranes are endangered and it is possible that half the species could be eliminated in the foreseeable future. ed.

Seabirds of the World — Ronald M. Lockley and Eric Hosking — Facts on File Publications, NY — 159, p., 122 color & 25 b & w photos — 1984 — \$22.95.

Despite the similar scope implied by the title, this book has a completely different approach to the subject than the preceding one. Here the emphasis is on photography with the text merely rounding out the overall treatment. After discussing the seabird as an individual the author discusses the major groups covering the basic life history cycle in a general manner. The Hosking photographs are, as one comes to expect, excellent. Several cover two pages and they convey a good feeling for the diversity found in the seabird groups. The crane book is a reference item while this volume is more for casual reading and perusal. ed.

RAPTOR COLLISIONS WITH UTILITY LINES

A Call for Information

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, in cooperation with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is assembling all available published and unpublished information concerning collisions of raptors with power lines and other utility lines. Actual case histories — no matter how circumstantial or fragmentary — are needed. Please acknowledge that you have such information by writing to Dr. Richard R. (Butch) Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825 U.S.A. (Phone (916)484-4541). A form on which to record your information will then be sent by return mail.

XIX I.O.C. Second Announcement

The XIX International Ornithological Congress will take place in Ottawa, Canada, from 22 to 29 June 1986. Prof. Dr. Klaus Immelmann (West Germany) is President and Dr. Henri Ouellet (Canada) is Secretary General. The programme is being planned by an international Scientific Programme Committee chaired by Professor J. Bruce Falls (Canada). The programme will include plenary lectures, symposia, contributed papers (spoken and posters), and films. There will be a mid-congress free day. Pre and post-congress excursions and workshops are planned in various interesting ornithological regions of Canada.

Information and requests for application forms should be addressed to: Dr. Henri Ouellet, Secretary General, XIX Congressus Internationalis, Ornithologicus, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0M8

Cover

Mike Traub, our 1984 cover artist, is from Apple Valley, MN. He is currently a senior at Iowa State University majoring in Animal Ecology. Mike began drawing wildlife while in college and enjoys working in pen and ink.