

IOWA BIRD LIFE
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—John Rutenbeck

Chuck Fuller



John Rutenbeck

For the past four IOU meetings, John Rutenbeck has been the person staffing the registration table and welcoming all the attendees. John finished his two-year stint as vice president in May 2007, and now is the IOU president until May 2009. As vice president it was his responsibility to plan programs and secure speakers. He needed to make sure that there were plenty of accommodations available and arrange for the meals. For those who have attended recent meetings, you will undoubtedly agree that John did a fantastic job. In addition, he has served on the Membership Committee. Although he admits to enjoying his time in office, he would like to come to a meeting and just be one of the gang. That might even mean going birding during the business meeting.

John was born in Davenport in October 1946 because his hometown of DeWitt didn't have a hospital befitting a future IOU president. He is the oldest of three boys and says neither of his brothers has any interest in birds whatsoever. He graduated from DeWitt High School and from the University of Iowa in 1969 with a teaching certificate and a degree in political science. He received his Master's degree from Western Illinois University in political science and education. He taught at Horace Mann Middle School in Burlington from 1969–1988, and then he worked for Great River Area Education Agency until his retirement in 2005. His specialty was developing curricula in social studies. He has participated in many community activities and projects and is very active within the Unitarian Fellowship.

Before his interest in birding blossomed, he met Carol Chenoweth while both were students at Iowa. They were married in July 1969 in Florida as Carol was a Navy "brat" living there at the time. They have a married daughter, Lindsay, and a granddaughter born in 2007 living in Colorado, which gives John the opportunity to bird the area when visiting. Two birds that he hopes to add to his list while supposedly visiting his granddaughter are the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan. Carol, also a retired teacher, has artistic talent and is active in Burlington's Players Workshop. Besides acting, she loves to design the sets used in the productions. She is also an avid reader. This provides John with time to expand his birding horizons.

John has always been interested in the outdoors and says as a youth he had quite a butterfly collection. He confesses he used the "Audubon" method for collecting which was to gas and mount. As an adult, his hobby choices progressed from an interest in photogra-

phy, to keeping and maintaining aquaria, to being a backyard birder, and then becoming a serious birder. Never before hearing the word “birder,” John said he was the ultimate backyard birdwatcher. His birdwatching endeavors needed some expansion and so one of his fellow teachers, John McCormick, who had recently opened a wild bird store, suggested he call and acquaint himself with a local birding nut. He did and as they say, “the rest is history.”

From these beginnings, John has traveled all over the state and in all 99 counties in his quest for birds. At last count his state total was 354 with the Black-tailed Gull being his last entry. Being from southeast Iowa, he loves Starr’s Cave Preserve just outside Burlington because this is a prime warbler area in May. Lacey Keosauqua State Park in Van Buren County and Shimek Forest just west of Argyle in Lee County are high on his list of places to bird. Also, the proximity to the Mississippi River makes it easy to find a good birding spot. When asked what individual trips in Iowa he remembered most, he thought for a moment and came up with several. In the days before the Iowa bird listserv on the internet, the Iowa bird telephone hotline was the means to communicate information regarding great birds. This is how he found that a Long-tailed Jaeger and Sabine’s Gull were both at Black Hawk Lake in Sac County and he scored a “twofer” as both were life birds as well as life Iowa birds.

Another Iowa experience was a trip to Hawkeye Wildlife Area at Sandpoint in early May. It was shorebird heaven as the water level, mud flats, and lighting were ideal. John commented that there were at least 20 species of shorebirds, many up close, and all in beautiful breeding plumage. “A Wilson’s Phalarope was so close I felt that I could reach out and touch it,” John recalled. These are the days that a birder dreams about.

A Halloween treat showed up in Iowa on 31 October 1993, as the telephone hotline reported a Ross’s Gull below the dam at Red Rock Reservoir. The drive from Burlington to Red Rock usually takes two and a half hours except for that Sunday afternoon when it took just over two hours. As John put it, “We were flying low through Oskaloosa and all the traffic lights were green” (which was very fortunate).

John has not been limited to Iowa for his birding experiences. He fondly remembers his Wings birding trip to Southeast Arizona and the trek into French Joe Canyon. At that time the Rufous-capped Warbler was the canyon’s specialty, which was found a short distance up the canyon eliminating the need for a long hot climb in the August sun. Since then, Southeast Arizona holds special memories. The second trip he recalls was his trip in 1997 to Gambell, Alaska, although he wasn’t keen on walking the gravel to the famous Gambell point or in John’s words, the “Gambell (Bataan) Death March.” He recalls on one of the trips to the point finding a dead Ivory Gull on the gravel shore, probably shot by a Gambell native—a definite low point in anyone’s birding career. In contrast, on a California VENT tour, a definite high-point was achieved. The tour included a pelagic trip out of Monterrey with Debbie Shearwater. As the boat approached an active feeding area, the leader, Jeri Langham, almost fell out of the boat as he yelled, “Keep your eye on that bird,” which was flying just off the bow of the boat. That bird turned out to be a Short-tailed Albatross that cooperated by sitting calmly on the water not 20 yards from the boat. For good measure, it chose to sit beside a Black-tailed Albatross for a great comparison. John is willing to bird in all kinds of weather and conditions, but he still shivers when he describes

his winter trip to Duluth with Jim Fuller and Jim Scheib. On the positive side he also remembers the Gyrfalcon, Pine Grosbeak, Boreal Chickadee, Great Gray Owl, and other life birds that were found in the cold North.

John has not set number goals for the future. He can recall, however, milestone numbers. Number 400 was a colony of Rose-throated Becards at Sonoita Creek across from the famed Patagonia rest stop. Number 500 was the Green Kingfisher at Salineno along the Rio Grande in Texas and number 600 was an Allen's Hummingbird just outside Muir Woods. His enthusiasm for birding is evident as he related the above experiences. In fact over the years John has *gained* enthusiasm, if that is possible. There are too many places and too little time. But now that he has retired he has more time to explore those many places. As with many of us, he also has to balance his birding life with every-day obligations and responsibilities. He does this quite well. John plans to stay active in the IOU and keep in touch with the fine people and birders who come to the registration table. When you see John at the next IOU meeting or out in the field, ask him what bird has the same genus and species name.

420 S. Garfield Avenue, Burlington, IA 52601 (cfuller989@aol.com)

Field Reports—Winter 2007–2008

Robert I. Cecil



Bob Cecil

WEATHER

I guess you could say it was the polar opposite of recent winters, with emphasis on the *polar*. Recently, we've gotten by with a couple of good months or a couple of bad ones, but this year it was pretty much continuous December to February misery which actually bled over into November and March. And, unfortunately, the cold, snowy, and icy winter brought all of the drudgery that accompanies such a season, but, at least as far as birding, few of its pleasures

Following an arid November, December stormed in with near record precipitation and temperatures just right to turn much of it into ice storms, especially in the southeastern half of the

state. The first storm was on the first and created snow or freezing rain statewide: subsequent rounds of sometimes serious ice and snow storms occurred on 4–6 Dec, 8 Dec, 11 Dec, 14–15 Dec (southern Iowa), 22–23 Dec (south and southeast Iowa), 28 Dec, and, in southern and southeastern Iowa, New Year's Eve. Honors for the month went to Lansing *Allamakee* with 27.6 inches of snow, Dubuque with 4.61 inches of precipitation, which beat a 155-year old record by half an inch, and Mount Ayr *Ringgold* with 1.9 inches of freezing rain on 10 Dec. Overall, the month ended up as the 39th coldest and second wettest among 135 years of records.

January got off to a relatively benign beginning although the state was still dealing with the effects of December's repeated storms. Temperatures even moderated a little in south and central Iowa, enabling many to see their first ice-free sidewalks and streets in weeks. Unfortunately, the respite was short-lived when 4–5 inches of snow fell across most of the state on 16–17 Jan and again on 20–21 Jan, and, on 29 Jan, fierce winds produced white out conditions in west central and northeast Iowa but only 1–3 inches of snow. Stanley *Buchanan* was the cold spot with minus 30 degrees on 24 Jan, Keosauqua was the warmest with 67 degrees on 7 Jan, and Pocahontas got the most snow with 17.7 inches for the month. Overall, it was the 47th coldest and 41st driest among 136 years of records.

February expanded on a theme already too familiar to Iowans this winter season. As State Climatologist Harry Hillaker put it, "The most noteworthy aspect of February's weather was heavy snowfall," adding that measurable snowfall fell somewhere in the state on all but eight days. Hardest hit was Oskaloosa which tallied 40.7 inches of snow, missing the state record by only four inches and making Iowans wonder who they had offended, and Maquoketa which, with the help of 33.6 inches of snow for the month, beat their prior seasonal record of 58 inches by six inches. Temperatures were well below normal, and it was the first February since 1979 that temperatures failed to reach 50 degrees somewhere in the state. The month's lowest temperature was minus 23 degrees on 20 Feb at Sanborn *O'Brien*. Overall, February was the 23rd coldest and 13th wettest in 136 years of records.

For the winter season, this one ranked as the 23rd coldest and 8th wettest in 135 years of records.

GENERAL TRENDS

Waterfowl, as might be expected considering the weather, exited the state sooner than usual, wintered in very low numbers, and started returning later. Exceptions included, as usual, the Mississippi River from Davenport to Keokuk, reservoir tailraces, and the very rare areas of continuously open water such as Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* and Cedar Lake, Cedar Rapids. February's few "milder" days were early, enticing a few waterfowl into southern Iowa by 9–10 Feb. They didn't stay long, driven back out by snow and bitter temperatures. No significant numbers returned by the end of February.

Raptors were reported in usual numbers except for Bald Eagles, which staged a remarkable concentration in Keokuk, Cooper's Hawks, which handily outnumbered sharpshinned for the second straight year, and rough-leggeds, which seemed to love the weather. It was a mixed bag for some of our other winter visitors; for example, there was only

one Snowy Owl but lots of Northern Shrikes. However, for most of them, it was a pretty typical winter.

Lingering birds of note included an unexpected Dunlin on the Keokuk CBC, two Eastern Phoebes, several Gray Catbirds on CBCs, more than usual Yellow-rumped Warblers (usually from northern Iowa), and a late Field Sparrow in *Scott*. The others wisely left or remained in smaller than usual numbers and didn't return in any numbers by the end of February—even the extra day didn't help. A remarkable exception was the 500 Great-tailed Grackles wintering in Des Moines.

While snow cover makes finding field birds a lot easier, our heavy doses this year also produced a mixed bag. For example, Gray Partridge were slightly down compared to recent winters, Lapland Longspurs were typical, and Snow Buntings were everywhere. And finally, always of interest are the winter finches, for which we were virtually promised a good year by scholars to the north. What we got was another mixed bag, with good numbers of Purple Finches, only a few Red Crossbills and just one white-winged, low numbers of Common Redpolls, and good numbers of Pine Siskins.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported included Brown Pelican, and the Black-tailed Gull continuing from last season. Casual species reported included Mew Gull also continuing from the fall season, Great Black-backed Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake. In the unusual for winter category were Virginia Rail, Dunlin, and two Eastern Phoebes.

COMMENT

This will be my last year of doing the winter field reports. My tenure has been challenging and rewarding. I cringe at some of the errors I have made, especially during my earlier years, and appreciate the patience of those who endured them. I cringe also at the almost endless task during my first six or seven years, and that of my predecessors, in manually compiling all of the field reports from information mailed in by observers. The on-line data entry program developed by Ann Johnson has reduced our workloads by magnitudes, and has greatly increased the accuracy of the information we summarize. Others who made my efforts as field reports editor more successful include (in alphabetical order) Chris Caster, Jim and Steve Dinsmore, Tom Kent, and Kay Niyo, as well as those who have helped in smaller ways or whom I have inadvertently left out. Thanks, too, to son John for carefully checking my entries. I also look forward to reading next winter's report by Aaron Brees.

Of course, the real credit goes to those who submit their field observations. Their ongoing commitment enables us to continue to add to our century old body of knowledge about Iowa birds. I am always heartened to see eager new observers, often giving us information from little birded parts of the state, and I am always a bit nostalgic when old friends move away, get side-tracked by family demands, or just don't get around as well. And then there is that third group—those I don't think I have ever met but whose name and birding haunts are familiar encounters each winter. As I do these field reports, I often want to stop everything and send off e-mails (or a few years ago, letters), but I have to keep going with the report and never get around to it. Well, in lieu of all those never-sent notes, I couldn't do it without you. Keep up the good work. It's great having you out there.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented, ph = photo. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **A** = area, **CBC** = Christmas Bird Count, **L&D** = lock and dam, **L** = lake, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NA** = nature area, **P** = park, **R** = river, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: There were very few December reports, with 8 on 7 Dec in *Page* the most (DKy). Five birds on 11 Jan in *Van Buren* (JWR) and 250 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* were checking out conditions for returning (SJD, JG). There were 83 on 29 Feb in *Page* (DKy).

Snow Goose: As expected, the biggest counts were from western Iowa, e.g., 5,000 on 1 Dec at Rapp P *Page* (DKy). Late birds included 1 on 17 Dec–7 Jan at Keokuk and Pool 19 (SJD, JLF) and there were 2 on 3 Jan at Johnston *Polk* (DK).

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 4 Dec in *Polk* (AB), 1 on 11–14 Dec in *Poweshiek* (MPR), and 1 on 17 Dec in *Johnson* (CJC).

Cackling Goose: High December counts included 800 on 1–12 Dec in *Page* (DKy), 540 on 4 Dec in *Polk* (AB), and 100 on 4 Dec at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). There were six January reports; the most northerly was 1 on 31 Jan in *Poweshiek* (DK). Returning were 4 on 9 Feb at Ottumwa (SJD) and 6 on 16 Feb at Heron Bend A *Lee* (RLC).

Canada Goose: Peak counts included 5,275 on 7 Dec in *Story* (SJD) and 6,300 on 30 Dec in *Monona* (SJD). There were five January and February reports of more than 1,000 birds, all from western or southern Iowa.

Mute Swan: All: 1 on 9–12 Dec at Ada Hayden P (WO).

Trumpeter Swan: Beemer's Pond had a peak count of 89 on 20 Jan (SJD). There were about 17 other reports of 1–9 birds throughout the season and the state. As expected, an increasing number of these birds are unbanded.

Tundra Swan: One showed up with the Trumpeters on 20 Jan and 3 Feb at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (SJD, JG) and 5 were reported on 16 Dec in *Decatur* (JRL). The other reports were from along the Mississippi R: from 3–6 during the season in *Scott* (SMF), 5 on 20 Jan in *LeClaire* (DR), and 1 on 16 Feb in *Lee* (RLC).

Wood Duck: All: 1 on 3–7 Dec at Ada Hayden P (WO, SJD), up to 3 on 16 Dec–4 Jan in *Scott* (WMZ), and 1 on 9 Feb in *Lee* (SJD).

Gadwall: Late season reports included 16 on 5 Jan at artificially warmed Cedar L in Cedar Rapids (BSc), 15 on 15 Jan in *Allamakee* (DK), and 13 on 27 Jan at Big Creek SP *Polk* (SJD). Very small numbers appeared in the southern half of Iowa on 9–10 Feb.

American Wigeon: The only report following the CBC period was 1 on 11 Jan and 24 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV, SJD).

American Black Duck: The most northerly wintering birds were 1 at Mason City (RGo), 2 in Cedar Rapids on 2–13 Jan (BSc, DP), 1 on 20 Jan and 16 Feb at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (SJD) and 4 on 20 Jan in *Scott* (DR). There were about 7 other reports of 1–4 birds. Three on 16 Feb in *Floyd* (PH) were probably returning.

Mallard: The peak mid-winter count was 305 on 20 Jan at Beemer's Pond (SJD). Wintering or early migrants included 310 on 9 Feb in Ottumwa (SJD) and 100 on 10 Feb at the MidAmerica Ponds in *Pottawattamie* (DKy).

Northern Shoveler: The peak count was 68 on 22 Dec in Des Moines (SJD). Reports following the CBC period included 11

on 9 Feb in Ottumwa (SJD), 13 in 10 Feb in Des Moines (JG), and 1 on 24 Feb at the MidAmerican Ponds (SJD).

Northern Pintail: The only mid-winter reports were of 1 on 1 Jan in *Union* (SJD) and 1 on 13 Jan in Des Moines (BE) that had lingered from the CBC. Eager migrants included 1 on 23–25 Feb at Cedar L (BSc) and 2 on 24 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (SJD).

Green-winged Teal: There were a very few reports through the early part of the CBC period. Early birds appeared on 24 Feb with 2 in *Woodbury* (TLu) and 12 in *Adams* (SJD).

Canvasback: The usual thousands were reported periodically from Pool 19 throughout the season where their numbers respond quickly to the presence of open water. The most elsewhere was a peak of 12 on 27 Jan in *Scott* (WMZ); other reports included 2 on 2 Jan at Red Rock Res (AB) and 1 on 27 Jan–2 Feb in Iowa City (JPB).

Redhead: Among mid-winter reports, the most reported was 27 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD, JG); others were from *Monona*, *Scott*, *Cerro Gordo*, and *Johnson*. Away from the Mississippi River, migrants included 2 on 24 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (SJD), 1 on 24 Feb in *Union* (SJD), and 1 on 28 Feb at Cedar L (DLF).

Ring-necked Duck: Among mid-winter reports, the most reported was 203 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD, JG); others were from *Monona*, *Scott*, and *Johnson*. Migrants were noted on 24 Feb in *Union* and *Monroe*.

Greater Scaup: Post-CBC reports included 10 wintering at Red Rock Res *Mari-on* (AB), a peak of 637 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD, JG), and up to 3 in late Jan in LeClaire *Scott* (DR, BSc). Fifty on 16 Feb at Heron Bend A *Lee* (RLC) may have been returning migrants.

Lesser Scaup: Numbers were down significantly at Pool 19 with a peak of only

245 on the Keokuk CBC, reflecting a national trend. Mid-winter reports included 8 wintering below the dam at Red Rock Res (AB), 1 at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* on 20 Jan–16 Feb (SJD, JG), and 299 on 9 Feb at Pool 19 (SJD). Migrants appeared on 24 Feb in *Monona* and *Adams* (SJD).

Surf Scoter: All: a fem or imm on 8 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB).

White-winged Scoter: One on 27 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB) and 1 on 22 Dec–4 Feb at Pool 14 *Scott* (DR) were both fem or imm.

Black Scoter: All: 1 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res (SJD).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 on 10 Dec and 1 on 10–19 Feb at Pool 14 (SMF, DR), a juv male and a juv male present off and on during the season at Pool 19 (SJD, JG), 1 on 24 Dec at Red Rock Res (SJD), plus single birds on the Burlington and Muscatine CBCs.

Bufflehead: There were very few reports during the CBC period and the only one away from the major reservoirs or the Mississippi R was one on the Des Moines CBC. Post-CBC reports included 13 on 12 Jan and 7 on 10 Feb at Pool 19 (SJD, JG), and 1 on 26–27 Jan at Pool 14 (DR, WMZ).

Common Goldeneye: As expected, the big counts came from the Mississippi R and the major reservoirs, e.g., up to 735 on 6–9 Dec at Saylorville (SJD, AB) and 3,300 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD, JG), with 1,014 there on 9 Feb (SJD). Post-CBC reports included a single wintering on the Cedar R in Cedar Rapids (DP), up to 150 below the Saylorville Res dam declining to a few dozen by the end of the season (m.ob.), 10 on 27 Jan on the Missouri R *Woodbury* (TLu), 3 on 10 Feb at the MidAmerica Ponds (KDy), and 1 on 16 Feb at Charles City in north-east Iowa (PH).

Hooded Merganser: The peak count for the season was only 27 at the Keokuk CBC; noteworthy other reports included 1 on 29 Dec at Ada Hayden P (WO), 1 on 6 Jan at the Coralville Res Dam *Johnson* (CRE), 3 on 13 Jan at Cedar L (DP), 1 on 1 Feb at Mason City (RGo), 1 on 10 Feb at Des Moines (JG), and 10 on 10 Feb at Pool 19 (SJD).

Common Merganser: Peak counts at Pool 19 and the reservoirs included 4,800 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res (AB), 9,300 on 8 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB), and 3,500 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (JG, SJD). There were also 21 on 27 Jan on the Missouri R *Woodbury*. (TLu).

Red-breasted Merganser: All: 2 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res (AB), 1 on 19 Dec in *Des Moines* (JLF), 2 on 24 Dec at Red Rock Res (SJD), 2 on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG), and 2 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (SLD, JG).

Ruddy Duck: The only post-CBC report was 4 on 12 Jan (SJD, JG) and 1 on 9 Feb (SJD) at Pool 19.

Gray Partridge: Reports of up to 11 were received from *Boone*, *Hardin*, *Story*, *Cherokee*, and *Polk*. Considering that snow cover makes this species more conspicuous, it was not a great year.

Northern Bobwhite: All: 12 on 14 Dec in *Decatur* (NMi) and 10 on 4 Jan in *Wayne* (AB), plus a few CBC reports in southern and eastern counties. The weather this season did nothing to help this declining species.

Common Loon: There were 3 on the Rathbun Res CBC.

Pied-billed Grebe: A single bird stayed the season at Cedar L (BSc); another late bird was 1 on 31 Dec–3 Jan in *Des Moines* (AB). One was at Pool 19 on 9 Feb (SJD).

American White Pelican: All: 36 on 2–8 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB) with 18

hanging on until 15 Dec (SJD); a single on 23 Dec in *Mahaska* (fide SJD), and numbers ranging to 76 during much of the season at Pool 19 and Ft. Madison *Lee* (SJD, JG, JLF). One on 9 Feb at Red Rock Res and 280 on 10 Feb at Lock and Dam 19 (SJD) were migrants.

BROWN PELICAN: One was at Hall Towing on the east end of Ft. Madison on 18–19 Dec (*SJD, JLF).

Double-crested Cormorant: There were December reports from *Page*, *Scott*, and *Lee*. Late reports included 8 on 12 Jan at L&D 19 (SJD, JG), 1 from 20 Jan–28 in *Des Moines* (AB, RIA/PHA), 1 on 20 Jan and 14 Feb in *Scott* (DR, WMZ). Another was in *Fremont* on 22 Feb (KDy).

Great Blue Heron: Post-CBC reports included a bird wintering at Iowa City (JLF), up to 36 wintering at L&D 19 (SJD, JG) and 1 on 27 Jan at the Coralville Res Dam (JES). Four on 16 Feb at Heron Bend (RLC), 1 on 16 Feb at Johnston *Polk* (DK) and 1 on 24 Feb at Saylorville Res (AB) may have been migrants.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: For the second straight winter, there were no reports from Cedar Lake.

Bald Eagle: A remarkable concentration was at Pool 19 with some 1,200 on 12 Jan (JG, SJD), a number probably rivaling the species' total population in the contiguous U.S. not many years ago. There were 622 there on 9 Feb. This species is present throughout the season and the state, especially where there is some open water but also over open country where it hunts/scavenges for food.

Northern Harrier: Highest counts included 5 on 7 Dec (JL) and 4 on 12 Dec in *Decatur* (NMi), 4 on 15 Jan in *Fremont* (KDy), and 4 on 27 Jan in *Wayne* (AB). Overall, there were reports from about 18 counties, all in the southern 2/3 of the state.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: There were about 17 reports, most from feeders where a few wintered. Reports were well distributed throughout the season; however, no reports were received from west of *Boone*.

Cooper's Hawk: There were 32 reports, the highest count in several years; Mark Proescholdt reported at least 7 from *Hardin* and *Marshall*, compared to just one sharp-shinned. Reports were rather evenly distributed through the season and the state.

Northern Goshawk: All: 1 on 5 Dec in *Boone* (JHW), 1 on 7 Dec in *Story* (MP), 1 on 29 Dec in *Grundy* (DK), 1 on 27 Jan in *Polk* (SJD), and 1 on 2 Feb in *Fremont* (KDY), plus 3 on CBCs. Of those where age was noted, four were juvs.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reports came from *Marion*, *Warren*, *Tama*, *Scott*, *Decatur*, and *Johnson*, where the last was reported on 27 Jan (JES). Winter numbers of this species have been remarkably consistent over recent years.

Red-tailed Hawk: As usual, there were numerous reports from across the state. Unusual were 8 Harlan's, as was a Harlan's x Western intergrade imm on 10 Feb in *Polk* (JG).

Rough-legged Hawk: With over 65 reports, this species must have found our winter to be to their liking. I suspect this species is inconsistently reported, but this seemed like a good year.

Golden Eagle: All: 1 on 5 Dec at the Grammer Grove Hawk Watch (MP), 1 on 14 Dec at Rathbun Res (RLC), 1 on 13 Jan in *Cherokee* (LAS), 2 on 1 Feb in *O'Brien* (DTh), 1 on 8 Feb in *Bremer* (RGo), and 1 on 9 Feb in *Henry* (SJD). There were no reports from the usual wintering area in *Al-lamakee*. There were no adults among the 6 birds where age was noted.

Merlin: There were healthy numbers

statewide, which helped make up for the paltry showing of only 2 at Glendale Cem in Des Moines (JG, RIC) where there was some speculation that birds may be using more than one roosting location. There were about 16 total reports from throughout the season; all from the southern 2/3 of the state with the exception of far northwest Iowa reports of 1 on 25 Dec in *O'Brien* (LAS) and 1 on 8 Feb in *Lyon* (JVD).

Peregrine Falcon: As with recent years, singles or pairs wintered in Davenport and Cedar Rapids although none were reported from Des Moines. The only other report was 1 on 12 Dec in the Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (JWR) and possibly the same bird on 18 Dec at Ft. Madison (SJD).

Prairie Falcon: All: 1 on 2 Dec in *Polk* (AB, JSi), 1 on 15 Jan in *Sioux* (JVD), 1 on 1 Feb in *O'Brien* (DTh), 1 on 13 Feb in *Plymouth* (JVD), and 1 on 1 Feb through the period feasting on the huge starling flock at the Brenton feedlot *Dallas* (RIA/PHA, AB, JB, KVS, JG). Details were provided with most reports.

Virginia Rail: Steve Dinsmore has probably never passed by appropriate habitat in winter without making his odd "yank" call in the hope of finding a Virginia Rail. Well, it finally paid off: 1 on 22 Dec on the Des Moines CBC. This is the first winter report in a number of years and about the seventh overall.

American Coot: The last birds made it out of *Woodbury* on 15 Dec (TLu) and *Story* on 17 Dec (WO): 6 were still at Blue L *Monona* on 30 Dec (SJD). Wintering was at least 1 in *Scott* (DR), and 1 at Cedar L (BSc, DP).

Sandhill Crane: There were 5 on 8 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDY). Getting lots of attention was one that wintered at Lake Laverne on the Iowa State University Campus (LGD, WO, HZ, RIA/PHA, JG).

Killdeer: The latest reports were 1 on 18 Dec in *Jackson* (WMZ) and 1 on 19 Dec in *Lee* (JLF). Wintering or early was 1 on 9 Feb at *Montrose Lee* (SJD); another was on 29 Feb in *Decatur* (NMi).

Dunlin: Iowa's second winter record was on the Keokuk CBC; the first was on the 2001–2002 Iowa City CBC.

Wilson's Snipe: The only birds after the CBC period was one on 15 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DK) and 1 on 27 Jan at the Slater sewage lagoon *Story* (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: All: 4 on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB), 1 on the Keokuk CBC (SJD), and 1 on 19 Dec in *Lee* (JLF).

MEW GULL: A juv bird on 2 Dec at Red Rock Res (*AB-photo) continued from the fall season.

BLACK-TAILED GULL: The remarkable bird at Saylorville Res continued until 6 Dec (*SJD, *AB-photo).

Ring-billed Gull: The last one at Ada Hayden P was on 22 Dec (WO). Mid-winter counts included 12 on 5 Jan at Rathbun Res (RLC), 11,300 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD, JG), 1 on 13 Jan at Cedar L (DP), 1 on 16 Jan at Saylorville Res (AB), 5 on 28 Jan at Red Rock Res (AB), and 1,246 on 9 Feb at Pool 19 (SJD).

Herring Gull: The only reports away from the Mississippi R and the major reservoirs were 310 on 8 Dec in Des Moines (JG), 213 on 18 Dec at Wapello (SJD), and 1 on 13 Jan at Cedar L (DP). Other counts were 152 on 24 Dec at Red Rock Res (SJD) and 685 on 12 Jan at Pool 19, declining to 39 on 10 Feb (SJD, JG). Noteworthy was Iowa's first report of a first or second basic Nelson's Gull (Herring x Glaucous hybrid) on 24 Feb at Lock and Dam 14 (SMF).

Thayer's Gull: There were up to 4 through 6 Dec at Saylorville Res (AB, SJD), 1 on 5 Dec (NMi) and 4 on 8 Dec at Des Moines (NMi, JG), at least 9 during the sea-

son in *Scott* (SMF, m.ob.), 4 on 15–24 Dec at Red Rock Res (SJD), 2 on 18–19 Dec at Ft. Madison (SJD, JLF), 1 on 18 Dec at Ottumwa (SJD), and 1 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (JG, SJD). There were 13 ad, 1 third basic, 1 second basic, and 10 juv.

ICELAND GULL: One on 6–8 Dec at Des Moines (*JB, *AB, *JG) was thought to be the same as 1 on 15–24 Dec at Red Rock Res (*SJD, AB). Others included 1 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (*SJD, JG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 6 during the season in *Scott* (SMF). December reports of 1 or 2 birds were from Saylorville Res, Des Moines, Red Rock Res, Lock and Dam 19, Burlington, and Ft. Madison. There was 1 on 10 Feb at Pool 19 (SJD).

Glaucous Gull: The most were 4 during the season at *Scott* (SMF, DR) and up to 4 on 8–24 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB, SJD). Other December reports included singles from Saylorville Res, Des Moines, and Lock and Dam 19. January reports included 1 on 1–16 at Saylorville Res/Des Moines (JB, BE, RIC) and 2 on 12 Jan at Pool 19 (JG, SJD).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: All: 1 on 12 Jan at Lock and Dam 19 (SJD, JG) and 1 on 25 Feb at Lock and Dam 15 (DR, SMF).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: A juv was found and photographed on 8 Dec at Red Rock Res by Paul Dunbar of Nebraska (*AB).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Remarkable was 133 on 24 Feb in *Onawa Monona* (SJD). Also reported from *Story*, *Lee*, *Marshall*, *Polk*, *Linn*, *Woodbury*, *Sioux*, *Delaware*, *Decatur*, and *Clarke*, and undoubtedly not reported from a number of others.

Mourning Dove: From a few to a few hundred birds wintered around the state, although there were no reports from the northern third except along the Missouri R.

Eastern Screech-Owl: One or two seem to winter annually in Mason City; this year was no different (RGo). Others included singles on 13 Jan in *Page* (KDY), 2, a red and a gray morph wintering at Spirit Lake (ET), and 1 on 22 Feb in Sioux City (TLu). Of the two others where morph was noted, there was one of each.

Great-horned Owl: One was nesting on 10 Feb in *Fremont* (KDY).

Snowy Owl: All: 1 on 21 Feb in *Floyd* (PH).

Barred Owl: The most northerly and northwestern birds were in *Ida* and *Buena Vista* (TLU, DTh).

Long-eared Owl: The most were 4 on 1–31 Dec at Lime Creek CA *Cerro Gordo* (PH), 5 on 24 Dec–27 Jan at Medicine Creek WA *Wayne* (AB), 5 and 4 respectively on 1 Jan at Green Valley L and Twelve Mile L *Union* (SJD), and 4 on 17–26 Feb at *Colorado Story* (HZ). From 1 to 3 birds were found in at least 12 counties throughout the season and the state.

Short-eared Owl: The most were 8 on 7 Dec at *Decatur*, where a few stayed for much of the season (NMI, JRL) and 7 on 31 Jan in *Poweshiek* (DK). From 1–3 birds were found in *Black Hawk* (TSS), *Guthrie* (JHW), *Jasper* (KVS), *Polk* (SJD), *Wayne* (AB), *Story* (SJD), *Hardin* (DJN), *Woodbury* (GLV), *Monona* (SJD), *Story* (MP), *Boone* (DNJ), *Madison* (EEA), *Dallas* (JB), *Poweshiek* (DK), and *Fremont* (DKy). Birds were present somewhere throughout the season.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The most were 2 through the season at Lime Creek CA (PH), 3 on 13 Dec at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TSS), up to 5 on 5–30 Jan near Ledges SP *Boone* (SJD, WO) with another on 10 Jan at Sparks Cem *Boone* (LGD), and 2 on 20 Jan at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD). Singles were noted in *Lucas*, *Warren*, *Union*, *Franklin*, *Ida*, *Marshall*, *Polk*, and *Monona*.

Belted Kingfisher: Unexpected was 1 on 6 Feb at Ada Hayden P (WO). It was a typical season including the absence of late season reports from the northwestern half of the state.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Nathan Miller estimated that 40 wintered in *Decatur*. For the rest of us, things were pretty sparse with singles only, and only from *Clinton*, *Scott*, *Page*, *Linn*, *Fremont*, and *Polk* (WMZ, KDy, DLF, DTh, and AMJ).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: 1 on 8 Dec in *Johnson* (JPa), 1 on 18 Dec in *Jackson* (WMZ), 1 on 12 Jan in *Lucas* (AB), and 1 on 19 Jan in *Warren* (JSi).

Northern Flicker: Considered by the few reporters to be very scarce although it is not consistently reported. There was a red-shafted form in *Johnson* throughout the period (JLF). Another was in *Cerro Gordo* on 13 Feb (RGo).

Pileated Woodpecker: There were no reports from outside the expected range. The closest, perhaps, were from *Boone*: singles at the Sparks Cem A on 30 Dec (LGD) and on 16 Jan at Camp Hantesa (JHW).

Eastern Phoebe: An excellent find but one day late for the Keokuk CBC was 1 on 18 Dec at the marsh at Montrose *Lee* (*SJD). Another was on the Eldora-Union CBC on 19 Dec. These brings to four the number of winter records of this species.

Loggerhead Shrike: All: 2 on 8 Dec and 1 on 14–17 Jan in *Fremont* (KDY), 1 on 24 Dec in *Wayne* (AB), 1 on 1 Jan in *Union* (SJD), and 1 on 5 Jan in *Warren* (JSi).

Northern Shrike: An excellent showing with reports of 1–3 birds from 31 counties throughout the season and the state; it was one of the best in several seasons.

Black-billed Magpie: None were reported from the usual location at Broken Kettle Grassland *Plymouth*.

Horned Lark: The biggest December

counts were 600 on 8 Dec in *Page* (DKy) and 356 on 16 Dec in *Cherokee* (TLu). There were then no reports until the 200 on 11 Jan in *Woodbury* (TLu); next came 125 on 26 Jan in *Dallas* (JB), 83 on 7 Feb in *Decatur* (JRL), and 100 on 13 Feb in *Kossuth* (RGo).

Tufted Titmouse: Nearing the edge of their range were up to 5 during the season at Camp Hantesa Boone (LGD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The season got off to a strong start with numerous Dec reports of 1–4 birds from 12 counties. Reports then declined, although there were 6 on 5 Jan in *Boone* (JHW); the only Jan–Feb reports were 2 on 5 Jan in *Appanoose* (RLC), 1 on 5 Jan in *Johnson* (JPB), 3 on 12 Jan in *Johnson* (CRE), and 2 on 2 Feb in *Dickinson* (ET).

Brown Creeper: Aside from birds in *Sioux* on 6 Dec (JVD) and *Woodbury* on 21 Jan (GLV), the most northerly report was of 4 on 29 Jan at Holst SF *Boone* (SSP).

Carolina Wren: Excluding CBCs, the most were 5 on 7 Jan in Burlington (JLF). The only birds away from roughly the southeast quadrant of the state were 1 on 15 Dec at *Winneshiek* (DeC), 1 on 16 Dec in *Story* (HZ), 3 on 3 Feb in *Page* (KDy), and 1 on 16 Feb in *Hamilton* (SJD).

Winter Wren: All: 3 on 15 Dec in *Sioux City* (GLV, TLu), 1 on 17 Dec at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JSi), 1 on 18 Dec in *Clinton* (WMZ), 2 on 19 Dec–17 Jan in *Burlington* (JLF), 2 on 16 Jan at *Woodland Mount Preserve Warren* (JSi), 1 on 15 Jan in *Polk* (AB), 1 on 14 Feb in *Polk* (JRC), and 1 on 29 Feb in *Boone* (SSP).

Marsh Wren: There was 1 on the *Sioux City* CBC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: All: 4 on 28 Dec in *Sioux* (JVD) and 1 on 29 Dec in *Appanoose* (JG).

Eastern Bluebird: High counts includ-

ed 25 on 16 Dec and 9 on 6 Jan in *Cherokee* (DB), 12 on 9 Jan in *Decatur* (JRL), 16 on 26 Jan in *Lucas* (JSi, JG), and 17 on 3 Feb in *Warren* (JSi). The most northerly were up to 7 on 6 and 13 Jan in *O'Brien* (LAS, TLu).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: 1 on 16 Dec in *Cherokee* (DB), and 1 on 13 Jan in *O'Brien* (TLu).

Hermit Thrush: All: 2 through 10 Feb in *Warren* (JSi, AB), 1 on 16 Dec in *Cherokee* (DB), 2 on 26 Dec in *Polk* (JG), 1 on 12 Jan in *Lucas* (AB), and 1 on 20 Jan in *Des Moines* (KDy). Jim Sinclair suspected that the local birds and perhaps the others in Iowa did not survive the winter.

American Robin: The biggest wintering flocks were 200 in *Decorah Winneshiek* (DeC) and up to 100 at the *Hooper/Ahquabi A*, a number that crept up to 200 by the end of the season (JSi). The only other counts of more than 50 birds were from *Appanoose* (RLC), *Scott* WMZ), and *Fremont* (KDy).

Gray Catbird: Singles were found at the *Princeton*, *North Linn*, and *Saylorville* CBCs.

Northern Mockingbird: All: 2 on 12 Dec and 1 on 5 Jan in *Decatur* (NMI) and 1 on 2 Feb near *Farragut Fremont* (KDy).

Brown Thrasher: There was 1 on 15 Dec in *Burlington* (JWR) and another on the *Sac* CBC.

Bohemian Waxwing: There were 2 on 6–13 Jan in *O'Brien* (*DB, LAS-details, TLu); another was on the *Burlington* CBC.

Cedar Waxwing: The most by far were 175 on 6 Jan in *Cherokee* (DB) and 140 on 6 Jan in *O'Brien* (LAS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: All: 2 CBC birds that showed up at *Hawkeye WA Johnson* for the third year in a row (MHB), 1 on 16 Dec in *Cherokee* (DB), 1 on 31 Dec–3 Feb at *Lime Creek CA Cerro Gordo* (PH, RGo), 15 on 6 Jan at *Waterman Township O'Brien* (LAS) and 1 there on 16 Feb (JG),

1 on 13 Feb in *Kossuth* (MCK), and 1 on 24 Feb in *Monona* (SJD). It seems counterintuitive that most winter records of this species were from northern Iowa.

Spotted Towhee: An adult made a few appearances to Denny Thompson's feeder near Saylorville Res during the season and another was seen at Saylorville Res on 16 Dec (SJD). Two other birds wintered: 1 in *Sioux* (JVD) and 1 in *Decatur* (JRL).

Field Sparrow: Excellent details were provided for 1 on 2 Feb at Lock and Dam 14 *Scott* (RLC-details). Yes, you read the location correctly.

Fox Sparrow: There were more than usual wintering birds, including singles at *Sioux*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Scott*, *Linn*, *Johnson*, and two locations in *Polk*.

Song Sparrow: Six birds were singing on 12 Jan in *Lee* (JG).

Lincoln's Sparrow: There was 1 on 2 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy).

Swamp Sparrow: The only reports away from extreme southern Iowa were 5 on 6 Jan at Saylorville Res (BE), and 5 on 2 Feb at Brenton Sl *Polk* (JSi).

White-throated Sparrow: Post-CBC reports consisted of 1–22 birds in *Winneshiek*, *Story*, *Warren*, *Fremont*, *Johnson*, and *Woodbury*.

Harris's Sparrow: Post-CBC reports include 1 wintering in *Decatur* (NMI), 1 on 21 Jan in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), 25 on 2 Feb in *Fremont* (KDy), and 1 on 28 Feb in *Dallas* (AB).

White-crowned Sparrow: Post-CBC birds included 1 on 24 Jan–17 Feb in *Scott* (WMZ), 16 on 2 Feb in *Fremont* (KDy), and 1 on 23–24 Feb in *Story* (WO).

Dark-eyed Junco: "Oregons" were noted on the Saylorville CBC (AB), singles on 4 Jan and 10 Feb in *Decatur* (NMI), 1 on 18–20 Jan in *Woodbury* (TLu), and 1 on 21 Jan at Red Rock Res (AB).

Lapland Longspur: The biggest counts by far came from *Decatur* with 420 on 6 Dec and 965 on 10 Dec (NMI). Other high counts included 150 on 8 Dec in *Dallas* (JB), 100 on 12 Jan in *Delaware* (BSc), 200 on 12 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DeC fide Larry Reis), 106 on 20 Jan in *Hamilton* (SJD), 100 on 20 Jan in *Wright* (SJD), 250 on 3 Feb in *Page* (KDy), and 100 on 16 Feb in *Lee* (RLC). Despite the continuous snow cover in much of the state, reports remained remarkably consistent with recent years.

Snow Bunting: It was a banner year for this species which pushed well into southern Iowa. Peak counts were 150 on 8 Dec in *Dallas* (JB), 436 on 8 Dec in *Polk* (JG), 150 on 13 Dec at Rathbun Res (RLC), 300 on 12 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DeC fide Larry Reis), 160 on 18 Jan in *Grundy* (MP), 200 on 13 Feb in *Kossuth* (RGo), 315 on 16 Feb in *Floyd* (PH), and 300 on 21 Feb in *Carroll* (RTh).

Red-winged Blackbird: Wintering flocks included up to 600 in *Woodbury* (TLu, GLV), 59 on 13 Jan in *Boone* (LGD), and 50 on 26 Jan in *Lucas* (JG, JSi).

Eastern Meadowlark: One in a group of five was identified by voice on 20 Dec in *Scott* (WMZ). Two on 19 Dec (JLF) and 4 on the Keokuk CBC were reported as "species" but could have been easterns. There were also reports from five CBCs in eastern and southern IA.

Western Meadowlark: Nathan Miller noted singing in *Decatur* during warm weather (they must have had some down there).

Meadowlark sp.: From 1–30 birds were reported throughout the season in the western half of the state although the only reports from the northern three tiers of counties were 8 wintering in *Sioux* and 2 on 4 Jan in *Lyon* (JVD).

Rusty Blackbird: All: 7 on 5 Dec and 4 on 10 Dec at two *Woodbury* locations (TLu),

6 on the Clinton CBC, and 1 on 5 Jan at Rathbun Res (RLC).

Common Grackle: There were December reports of a small numbers of birds from *Winnebago*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Boone*, *Story*, and *Woodbury*. The last report was of 1 on 6 Jan in *Woodbury* (TLu).

Great-tailed Grackle: Remarkable was 510 on 11 Feb at a roost in Waterworks P in Des Moines (AB), easily Iowa's largest ever winter concentration (AB). The 41 birds on 20 Jan in *Warren* (RTr) were presumably part of this roost.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Post-CBC reports consisted of 1–6 birds in *Appanoose*, *Dallas*, *Marion*, *Scott*, and *Polk*.

Purple Finch: The 16 reports were pretty well distributed across the state and throughout the season. Peak counts were up to 35 wintering in *Decatur* (NMi), 15 on 16 Dec (TLu) and 18 on 12 Jan (DB) in *Cherokee*, and 50 on 12 Jan in *Warren* (JSi, AB). There were no other reports of more than 5 birds.

House Finch: Ann Johnson had the most with 75 on 20 Jan at her home in rural Norwalk.

Red Crossbill: The most were 5 on 5 on 28 Dec in *Sioux* (JVD), 6 on 31 Dec–26

Jan in *Ames* (SJD), and 9 on 13 Feb in *Marshall* (MPr). Smaller numbers were reported in *Warren* (AMJ), *Hamilton* (JG), *Page* (KDy), *Cherokee* (DB), *Van Buren* (JWR), and *Story* (JB). While certainly not an invasion year, it was better than most recent ones.

White-winged Crossbill: One on 10–30 Dec at Wolf Oesterreich's home in *Ames* got lots of visitors (WO, JHW, SJD, DP, JG). Presumably the same bird then appeared on 9–21 Jan at another *Ames* location.

Common Redpoll: All: 1 on 1 Dec in *Sioux* (JVD), 1 on 6 Dec in *Story* (WO), 1 on 15 Dec in *Winneshiek* (DeC fide Mike Daughton-photo), 1 on 1–23 Jan in *Iowa City* (JES, MHB), 1 on 6 Jan in *Dickinson* (ET), 4 on 25 Jan in *Linn* (BSc), 1 on 26 Jan in *Woodbury* (GLV), 6 during Feb in *Linn* (DP), and 4 on 21 Feb in *Mason City* (PH).

Pine Siskin: Among about 14 reports, the peak counts included 17 through the season at *Fairmount Cem Scott* (WMZ), 30 through the season at *Sioux Center Sioux* (JVD), 76 on 17 Dec in *Page* (KDy), and 16 on 5 Feb in *Des Moines* (AB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Three on 27 Jan in *Scott* (WMZ) are at the very northern edge of their range in *Iowa*.

CONTRIBUTORS

Reid/Pam Allen	RIA/PHA	W Des Moines	Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Ames
E/E Armstrong	EEA	Boonville	Keith Dyche	DKy	Shenandoah
Dick Bierman	DB	Cherokee	Chris Edwards	CRE	North Liberty
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Bery Engebretsen	BE	Des Moines
John Bollenbacher	JPB	Iowa City	Steve Freed	SMF	Milan, IL
Aaron Brees	AB	Des Moines	Jim Fuller	JLF	Iowa City
Mark Brown	MHB	Iowa City	Dale Fye	DLF	Cedar Rapids
Dennis Carter	DeC	Decorah	Jeff Livingston	JRL	Davis City
Chris Caster	CJC	Coralville	Jay Gilliam	JG	Norwalk
Robert Cecil	RIC	Des Moines	Rita Goransen	RGo	Mason City
Jane Clark	JRC	Clive	Paul Hertzell	PH	Mason City
Ray Cummins	RLC	Ottumwa	Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk
Larry Dau	LGD	Boone	Matt Kenne	MCK	Algona

CONTRIBUTORS (continued)

Darwin Koenig	DK	Ankeny	Tom Schilke	TSS	Waterloo
Tucker Luter	TLu	Bronson	Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
Nathan Miller	NMi	Davis City	Jim Sinclair	JSi	Indianola
Jeff Nichols	DJN	Boone	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
Wolf Oesterreich	WO	Ames	Ed Thelen	ET	Carroll
Shane Patterson	SSP	Ames	Rob Thelen	RTh	Carroll
Jason Paulios	JPa	Iowa City	Richard Trieff	RTr	Indianola
Diana Pesek	DP	Cedar Rapids	John Van Dyk	JVD	Sioux Center
Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Don Robinson	DR	Silvis, IL	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
John Rutenbeck	JWR	Burlington	Harley Winfrey	JHW	Boone
Jim Scheib	JES	Iowa City	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
Bill Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids	Walter Zuurdeeg	WMZ	Davenport

In addition, Carolyn Fischer, Catherine and Clark McMullen, Loren and Babs Padelford, Willard Piercy, Diane Porter, and Paul Roisen provided information which was used in species' summaries.

1315 41st St. Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)



Common Redpoll, Iowa City, 3 January 2008. Photograph by James Scheib, Iowa City, IA.



Juvenile Iceland Gull in downtown Des Moines, Polk, 8 December 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Northern Saw-whet Owl at Hooper WA, Warren, 9 February 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Short-eared Owl at Neal Smith NWR, 19 December 2007. Photograph by Jason Murphy, Pleasant Hill, IA.



Leucistic Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Linn and Julie Hunsaker yard, Mt. Pleasant, Henry, 6 September 2007 (IBL 78[1]:129). Photograph by Linn Hunsaker, Mt. Pleasant, IA.

Adult male Sharp-shinned Hawk at the Walnut Woods SP feeders, Polk, 3 February 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Dark morph Rough-legged Hawk on the Red Rock CBC, Marion, 15 December 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



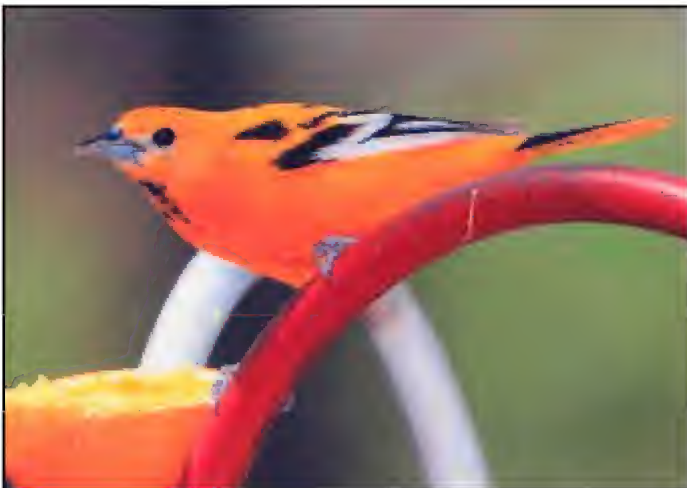
Snow Bunting along rural roadside, Dallas, 9 December 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Juvenile Northern Shrike in rural Decatur, 13 January 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



*Juvenile western Red-tailed Hawk in rural Hamilton, 3 February 2008.
Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*



Aberrant Baltimore Oriole, Boone, May 2007. Photograph by James Moreland, Boone, IA.

Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2007–2008

Chris Caster

The nasty weather in December must have dampened Iowa birders' enthusiasm because a number of counts weren't held or they didn't bother to report their data. Only 46 of the record 52 counts held last year were compiled (see Table 1). Missing from last year were the two Clayton County counts, Van Buren County, Wapello County, Worth County, and Westfield. Additionally three other counts were on life support: Union County had only one participant, while Siam-Hopkins and Humboldt County had just two. Certainly consideration should be given to sustainability when new counts are contemplated.

Conditions in the field were wholly reversed from the previous CBC. While December 2006 was the warmest in over 40 years, this past December winter came early, with frozen lakes and plenty of ice and snow. Only Muscatine and nearby West Mercer County did not report any snow cover. Yellow River Forest, Decorah, Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Bremer County, and Amana all reported 8 to 10 inches. So it is not surprising that open country birds were easier to find this year, while waterfowl were in short supply.

The total species count this season was 140 and that is the third year in a row that we have met or exceeded that threshold. The total number of birds counted however was 410,467, the second lowest count total of the past 10 years. This is largely explained by the lack of waterfowl and loss of six counts. Keokuk retook high-count status with a lofty 91 species, a position it has held in six of the last seven counts. Other high counts this year included Burlington and Davenport (85), Clinton (82), Princeton, Saylorville and Rathbun (79). Omaha (71) led the Missouri River counts. Mason City and Spirit Lake (52) led the Northern Third.

The average count this year had 12 people, 5.7 field parties, and found 58.2 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

Despite the reduction in overall numbers, thirteen species were seen in record numbers. As mentioned, waterfowl numbers, particularly geese, were down. Gull numbers were about average. It was a very good year for raptors and owls. It was a good year for gallinaceous birds and finches. It was an invasion year for Northern Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Snow Bunting. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer count are shown in Table 3.

Greater White-fronted Geese (8) were found on just three counts. Snow Geese (29) were at their lowest numbers, maybe ever. This makes the high count of ten birds on the Cedar Rapids count all the more unusual. The 10-year average is 25,552. Ross's Geese were unreported for the first time in eight years. Cackling Geese (92) had their lowest total since the 2004 species split. Even the hardy Canada Geese (45,100) posted their lowest total in seven years. A lone Mute Swan was on the Andalusia count. Another count week bird was in Ames. Trumpeter Swans (74) were reported in numbers second only to last year's record 119 birds. Nineteen Trumpeters were on the Lost Nation count. Tundra Swans (6) were all

found at Davenport. Possibly they were the same swans reported on the nearby Princeton count just four days later?

Nearly all puddle ducks were found in numbers well below their 10-year averages. Mallards (32,087) generally average over 70,000 birds. Nearly one third of this year's Mallards were at Sioux City. Wood Ducks (28) were about average. Gadwalls (113) were scattered statewide. American Black Ducks (47) posted abysmal numbers for the second straight year. Sixteen at Clinton was the high. Northern Shovelers (143) were high in Des Moines with 68 birds. Northern Pintails (9) had their third-lowest total in over twenty years. Green-winged Teal (35) were also scarce. Sixteen teal at Omaha was high for the third straight year.

Diving ducks were relatively numerous, and some species exceeded the ten-year average. Mississippi River counts, particularly Keokuk, along with the Saylorville, Red Rock, and Rathbun counts produced nearly all. But contributions came from the Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Missouri River counts as well. Greater Scaup (318) were nearly all at Keokuk or Red Rock. Lesser Scaup (710) had their third lowest count of the last ten years. Canvasbacks (13,371) were nearly all at Keokuk. Redheads (47) were about half the average. Ring-necked Ducks (428) away from the Mississippi were most numerous on the Des Moines count with twenty. Common Goldeneyes (7,877) were plentiful. A single White-winged Scoter was at Cedar Falls-Waterloo. Single Long-tailed Ducks were reported from four Mississippi River counts. Buffleheads (105) had their best showing in six years. Common Mergansers (17,249) were at well-above average numbers with these counts leading the way: Red Rock had 7,900, Rathbun 5,950, and Keokuk 2,514. Hooded Mergansers (144) were above average, while Red-breasted Mergansers (9) and Ruddy Ducks (177) were relatively scarce.

The deep snows brought out the Gray Partridges (160). This was the third highest count since 1991–1992. They were reported from fifteen counts and Ames had the high with 34. Ring-necked Pheasants (2,216) were also well reported. We would have been skunked on Ruffed Grouse this year if it weren't for a single bird at Decorah. However, it has been nearly twenty years since we had more than four birds on the CBC. Wild Turkey (3,000) were again well above the ten-year average. Only Sac County did not find a turkey. Northern Bobwhite (170) increased for the third straight year to numbers double the 10-year average. Like last year, Lamoni had the high with 64 birds.

Pied-billed Grebes (9) were found in below average numbers. American White Pelicans (87) were found in record numbers with 60 at Keokuk and 18 at Red Rock. Double-crested Cormorant (65) numbers were above average with 29 at Davenport. Great Blue Herons (145) were at their average.

Bald Eagles (5,139) to the delight of lakeshore developers everywhere, went over the 5,000 mark for the first time. Only Union County did not find an eagle—come on, Steve! Northern Harriers (83) were at their average. Sharp-shinned Hawks (91) were above average. Cooper's Hawks (138) shattered last year's record-high of 103. Single Northern Goshawks were reported from four counts. Red-shouldered Hawks (15) set a new record-high. Seven on the Cedar Falls-Waterloo count was high. Red-tailed Hawks (2,122) and Rough-legged Hawks (223) were reported in near record numbers. Like last year, single Golden Eagles were reported from four counts. American Kestrels (468) didn't seem to like the

cold and snow as they had one of their lowest counts of the last twenty years. Merlins (14) had another very good showing. Saylorville had the high with three birds. Five Peregrine Falcons was a new record. No Prairie Falcons were reported this year.

American Coots (71) were relatively hard to find. Killdeer (15) were below average and Wilson's Snipes (10) were at possibly an all-time low. Ring-billed Gulls (18,945) were well below average, while Herring Gulls (2,931) were well above. Thayer's Gulls (10) were on four counts with four birds apiece at Davenport and Red Rock. Glaucous Gulls (10) were also on four counts with five at Red Rock and three at Keokuk. Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Keokuk and Red Rock.

Rock Pigeons (11,849) were abundant. Eurasian Collared-Doves (319) again set a new high. Twenty-five counts reported birds during their count week. With count numbers probably assisted by snow cover, Mourning Doves (8,672) again established a new record high.

Eastern Screech-Owls (118) were above average. Twenty-one at Boone County were incredible—they've got some early risers there! Great Horned Owls (224), Barred Owls (162), and Long-eared Owls (52) all had good showings. Short-eared Owls (25) had their best year in nine. Northern Saw-whet Owls (16) were found in record numbers.

Belted Kingfishers (114) fell below average after last year's record of 209. Woodpeckers, except for Northern Flicker (462), were all above average. Even Red-headed Woodpeckers (280) had a relatively good count. Here are the numbers: Red-bellied Woodpeckers (1,970), Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (28), Downy (2,680) and Hairy (743) Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpeckers (109).

It was an unbelievable year for Northern Shrikes (109). Forty-four birds had been the previous record. Saylorville led the way with thirteen and Bremer County had eleven. Loggerhead Shrikes (5) were at their average. Blue Jays (5,599) were at near record numbers. American Crows (62,299) were about average. Horned Larks (6,122) had their best count in seven years. Black-capped Chickadee (6,399) and Tufted Titmouse (736) numbers were near their 10-year average. Red-breasted Nuthatches (455) posted eruption numbers. Fifty-one at Spirit Lake was high. White-breasted Nuthatches (2,920) were above average. Brown Creepers (233) were slightly below average. Lamoni had an amazing fifty-one creepers. Carolina Wrens (174) posted numbers second only to last year's record of 250. Winter Wren (34) numbers were above average. There was a Marsh Wren at Sioux City for the second straight year. Golden-Crowned Kinglets (68) were relatively uncommon. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (3) were right at the average.

Despite the cold, Eastern Bluebirds (764) and Hermit Thrushes (23) were found in numbers well above average. However, American Robins (1,013) were relatively scarce. Northern Mockingbirds (3) were nearly pushed out of the state after last year's record sixteen birds. Single Gray Catbirds were found at Princeton, North Linn, and Saylorville. Single Brown Thrashers were at Burlington and Sac County. European Starling (46,362) took something of a beating this year—but not enough. Davenport regained its rightful place as "Iowa's Starling Capitol" with 3,391 birds. Cedar Waxwings (1,827) had their lowest total in seven years. Yellow-rumped Warblers (27) fell slightly below average.

Sparrow numbers were generally good. Two Spotted Towhees and three Eastern Towhees were reported. American Tree Sparrow (12,109) numbers were nearly average. Field Sparrows (12) were found at Andalusia, West Mercer County, and Shenandoah. Fox Spar-

rows (20) were average. Song Sparrows (602) and Swamp Sparrows (114) were nearly average. One Savannah Sparrow was at Davenport. Single Lincoln's Sparrows were reported on five counts. White-throated Sparrows (456) were found in numbers well above average. Harris's Sparrows (186) were nearly average; DeSoto had 63 and Shenandoah had 56. White-crowned Sparrows (51) were average. Dark-eyed Juncos (30,830) were found in record numbers. Lapland Longspurs (487) were perhaps surprisingly scarce given the winter. Snow Buntings (1,226) were well-above average. Northern Cardinals (8,746) were at record numbers.

Icterid numbers were mixed. Red-winged Blackbirds (2,667) had their lowest total in seven years, however meadowlarks (819) were found in record numbers. The current trend is for more counts to identify meadowlarks to species. This year both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks moved from Table 3 to Table 2. Rusty Blackbirds (49) fell below average. Brewer's Blackbirds (4) were only reported from Shenandoah. Common Grackles (417) were about average. Two Great-tailed Grackles were at Omaha. Brown-headed Cowbirds (177) had their second lowest count since 1989–1990.

It was good year for finches. Purple Finches (843) and House Finches (3,031) were both above average. Common Redpolls (18) were reported from seven counts during count week. Twelve birds were at Spirit Lake. Pine Siskins (330) were above average. American Goldfinches (5,181) were average. A Red Crossbill was at Green Island and two White-winged Crossbills were at Ames. Ten years ago was the last time both crossbills were on the CBC.

House Sparrows (23,150) were nearly average. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (1,447) were found in record numbers. Burlington had 435 of those. Six birds at Amana, one at Lost Nation and one at Green Island now mark the boundary of their continuing expansion.

NOTABLE MISSES

The most notable miss was surely Ross's Goose, seen on nine of the last ten counts. Also missed were: Black Scoter (6 of last 10); Horned Grebe, Black-billed Magpie (5 of last 10); Surf Scoter, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sandhill Crane, Snowy Owl, Varied Thrush, American Pipit, Yellow-headed Blackbird (all 4 of last 10).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

There were some pretty good birds this year. The best was probably the Dunlin discovered on the Keokuk count. It was only the second time that it has been on the CBC. A Virginia Rail in Des Moines was a close second. It had been seen only twice in the last twenty CBCs. A Bohemian Waxwing was discovered in Burlington and was relocated in subsequent days. This bird had only been seen on two of the last fifteen CBCs. A first year Iceland Gull was photographed on the Red Rock count, Iceland Gulls have now been found in three out of the last five CBCs and may rate mention as a notable miss in the not too distant future. Other great birds included two Blue-winged Teal at DeSoto, a Bonaparte's Gull at Keokuk, a Townsend's Solitaire at Cherokee, and an Eastern Phoebe at Eldora-Union. Keokuk had a count-week phoebe.

4 South Ridge Court, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@earthlink.net)

Table 1. Site Data for 2007-2008 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow		Wind
				Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	Hr	L	H	Depth	
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River Forest	28-Dec	50	3248	6	4	26	269	6	2	20	0	0	22	27	10	NE 5-20
2. Dubuque	29-Dec	59	4473	15	7	43	262	16	0	0	2	3	18	28	5	N 0-5
3. Green Island	14-Dec	73	4920	15	11	52.25	353	12.25	0	0	0	0	13	28	4	NW 0-4
4. Clinton	18-Dec	82	10,643	10	4	33	309	6.25	6.25	63	7	8	25	36	5	SW 5-10
5. Princeton	20-Dec	79	7512	6	4	35.5	303	5.5	5.25	48	0	0	22	38	3	SE 0-10
6. Davenport	16-Dec	85	22109	15	6	56.25	480	6.75	7.5	66	14	19.75	12	24	5	NW 10-15
7. Andalusia	5-Jan	66	6331	10	3	27.5	293	3.25	3.5	34	0	0	37	46	5	SW 0-15
8. Muscatine	22-Dec	78	10681	10	4	30.75	295	8.5	3.5	41	8	9	36	42	0	NE 0-10
9. West Mercer County	21-Dec	77	7973	6	4	32.25	229	6.5	4.25	40	0	0	36	39	0	SE 0-5
10. Burlington	15-Dec	85	9263	11	5	42	240	28	1	5	2	14	23	28	3	N 10-15
11. Keokuk	17-Dec	91	58381	7	4	36	274	9	1.5	6	0	0	10	33	2	S 0-5
MISSOURI RIVER																
12. Sioux City	22-Dec	62	20948	15	8	51.5	463	14	1.75	1	3	10	11	22	2	S 0-5
13. De Soto NWR	23-Dec	54	9061	15	8	56	440	19.5	1.25	15	0	0	15	26	4	NNW 10-35
14. Omaha	16-Dec	71	7135	21	7	52.5	293.8	21.5	1	11	3	8	16	35	4	NW 7-10
NORTHERN THIRD																
15. Decorah	22-Dec	42	4198	7	4	27	271	6	1	10	6	12	27	36	9	NW 3-15
16. Bremer County	15-Dec	44	4895	9	6	30	431	11	1	5	0	0	10	24	8	SW 5-10
17. Mason City	15-Dec	52	11779	17	7	50	457	23	2.5	20	9	19	0	18	4	na
18. Spirit Lake	15-Dec	52	4586	6	3	16	225	0.5	0.25	0	30	10	6	18	4	SE 5-10
19. Humboldt County	22-Dec	17	1190	2	1	6	67	1	0	0	0	0	25	30	8	N 10-15
20. Cherokee	16-Dec	50	3709	7	3	19	251	3	2	13	4	16	-1	23	5	calm

MIDDLE THIRD																	
21.	Lost Nation	17-Dec	60	5086	9	4	36	373	4	2	17	1	2	16	25	4	SSE 0-5
22.	North Linn	19-Dec	55	5379	5	4	33.25	265	3	0	0	0	0	16	29	4	calm
23.	Cedar Rapids	15-Dec	65	11104	15	7	44	409	3	2	18	4	8	15	26	2	calm
24.	Iowa City	16-Dec	65	8980	32	12	87.25	615	21.8	4.25	50	18	47	10	19	3	NW 8-12
25.	Amana	29-Dec	37	738	9	3	16	25	4	2	8	0	0	20	25	8	S 0-10
26.	Cedar Falls-Waterloo	16-Dec	57	16360	9	7	42	471	17	2	12	0	0	8	17	8	NW 5-10
27.	Eldora-Union	19-Dec	32	1070	4	2	15	115	5	0.25	0.25	1	8	9	29	3	var. 0-5
28.	Marshalltown	27-Dec	31	1384	5	3	18	154	0	0	0	4	20	25	29	5	NNW 10-13
29.	Grinnell	15-Dec	27	493	8	3	12	35	3	1	na	2	12	10	22	4	NE 0-6
30.	Ames	15-Dec	60	24491	39	18	84	467	60	5.25	47	7	17	14	18	4	N 9-16
31.	Saylorville Reservoir	16-Dec	79	10428	24	13	97.5	757	45	2	2.5	0	0	5	20	3	W 0-5
32.	Des Moines	22-Dec	76	20211	15	9	55	453	22	1	2	5	25	20	40	3	NW 20-40
33.	Neal Smith NWR	5-Jan	46	1487	23	7	29.75	100	17.5	1.5	5	2	18	29	43	4	S 3-19
34.	Boone County	5-Jan	56	10247	38	19	116	637.5	56.75	11.5	86	18	46.75	28	41	2	S 1-13
35.	Jamaica	18-Dec	60	4518	7	4	30.75	318	11.5	1	17.5	0	0	27	34	4.5	SW 3-10
36.	Dallas County	15-Dec	58	4448	16	7	47.5	431	15	0	0	14	13.5	8	16	6	NE 3-12
37.	Sac County	29-Dec	27	892	4	2	6	60	4	0	0	3	15	10	20	3	NW 0-10
38.	Carroll County	22-Dec	44	2535	6	3	18	140	5	3	36	3	16	0	20	4	NINW 15-30
39.	Ida County	22-Dec	44	2982	8	4	43	278	26	2	15	11	40	12	21	3	NW 10-17
SOUTHERN THIRD																	
40.	Red Rock Reservoir	15-Dec	71	26071	8	7	41	410	11.5	0.5	2	0	0	8	19	4	N 5-15
41.	Rathbun Reservoir	15-Dec	79	14473	13	5	46	470	5	6.25	58	5	9	15	25	4.5	NNW 5-10
42.	Lamoni	30-Dec	66	8848	28	8	71.25	313	58.5	7	18.1	2	10	15	33	6	S 0-5
43.	Union County	1-Jan	52	4381	1	1	9.75	163	3	0	0	0	0	4	18	5	NW 15-25
44.	Taylor County	29-Dec	47	2422	7	3	24	168.8	11	0	0	1	8	11	36	5	SW 5-10
45.	Siam-Hopkins	22-Dec	35	960	2	1	6	1	61.3	0	0	0	0	22	28	1.5	NW 10-20
46.	Shenandoah	15-Dec	77	7444	10	4	66.5	274	9	0	0	19	20	13	18	6	N 3-8
TOTALS																	
														140	410467		

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2007–2008

Location	Gr	Sn	Cack	Ca	Tr	Wo		Am		No	Gr	
	W-f Go	Go	Go	Go	Sw	Du	Ga	Bl Du	Ma	Sh	Wi Te	Ca
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest				41		1		3	362			
2. Dubuque				298	9			5	897			10
3. Green Island				8		2	1		21	43		1
4. Clinton				50	11		2	16	292			2
5. Princeton			1	242		1	1		161			33
6. Davenport			8	2745		2	4		1216			30
7. Andalusia				311	17	1			125			
8. Muscatine				1188	1	1	4	3	280			6
9. West Mercer County	6			1736			6	1	539	11		
10. Burlington		2	8	2162			18		143	2		51
11. Keokuk		2	2	6333		4		5	1735		1	13229
Subtotals	6	4	19	15114	38	12	36	33	5771	56	1	13362
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City		4	8	3517			2		10348		3	
13. De Soto NWR		6		856					1859			
14. Omaha		2	5	1282		6		1	218		16	5
Subtotals	0	12	13	5655	0	6	2	1	12425	0	19	5
NORTHERN THIRD												
15. Decorah				111					59			
16. Bremer County												
17. Mason City			6	567	7			3	1189			
18. Spirit Lake			14	219		3	2		239			
19. Humboldt County				40					40			
20. Cherokee												
Subtotals	0	0	20	937	7	3	2	3	1527	0	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD												
21. Lost Nation				25	19			1	4			
22. North Linn				249					101			
23. Cedar Rapids		10		1534		2	3		2138			
24. Iowa City			6	876		1			435			2
25. Amana					4							
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		1		1189	2		27	4	711			
27. Eldora-Union				2								
28. Marshalltown				36					30			
29. Grinnell				34					96	2		
30. Ames				746	cw				62			
31. Saylorville Reservoir				49	1		5		51			1
32. Des Moines				3323	2		16	2	1868	68	1	
33. Neal Smith NWR				1								
34. Boone County	1			34					1			
35. Jamaica				1603			2		95			
36. Dallas County		cw		143		2			15			
37. Sac County				100								
38. Carroll County				1					14		1	
39. Ida County		1							92			
Subtotals	1	12	6	9945	28	5	53	7	5713	70	2	3
SOUTHERN THIRD												
40. Red Rock Reservoir				7515	1			1	5120	1		1
41. Rathbun Reservoir		1	18	2626			14		558	1	6	
42. Lamoni	1											
43. Union County			3	2529				2	638	1		
44. Taylor County				1								
45. Siam-Hopkins				50								
46. Shenandoah	cw	cw	13	728	cw	2	6		335	14	7	
Subtotals	1	1	34	13449	1	2	20	3	6651	17	13	1
TOTALS	8	29	92	45100	74	28	113	47	32087	143	35	13371

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2007–2008

Location	D-c Co	Gr Bl He	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	No Go	ac sp	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	bu sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest			32		1	2				27	3	
2. Dubuque		9	126		1	10				21	3	
3. Green Island	1	1	228	1	2	5				94	26	
4. Clinton		2	891	1	3	12			1	72	18	
5. Princeton		3	113		4	3				28	4	
6. Davenport	29	59	482	3	3	9				66	6	
7. Andalusia		1	422	8	2	3				37	2	
8. Muscatine	1	10	429	2	2					49	3	
9. West Mercer County		2	68	3		2				21	1	
10. Burlington	1	5	464	4	1	4				16	2	
11. Keokuk	13	38	971	4	2	1			2	32	2	
Subtotals	45	130	4226	26	21	51	0	0	3	463	70	0
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City		1	12		3	3	1			101	6	
13. De Soto NWR			49	4	3	1		1		91	1	3
14. Omaha		1	10	2	2	5			1	102		
Subtotals	0	2	71	6	8	9	1	1	1	294	7	3
NORTHERN THIRD												
15. Decorah			66		1					29	8	
16. Bremer County		1	17		1	2			1	26	9	
17. Mason City			11		2	2	1			25	1	
18. Spirit Lake		1	4		3	1				18	2	
19. Humboldt County			1		1					3		
20. Cherokee			8		2	2				12	2	
Subtotals	0	2	107	0	10	7	1	0	1	113	22	0
MIDDLE THIRD												
21. Lost Nation			39	3	3	7	1	1	1	69	5	
22. North Linn			59	2	1	2				38	6	
23. Cedar Rapids		1	81	1	1	7				66	10	
24. Iowa City			107	6	5	6		3		121	8	
25. Amana			18					3		25	4	
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			24		4	4			7	57	14	
27. Eldora-Union			24							29	1	
28. Marshalltown			14	1		4				26		1
29. Grinnell			1			2				3	2	
30. Ames			12	1	2	11				98	7	
31. Saylorville Reservoir		1	13	2	7	4				89	6	
32. Des Moines	2	2	63	2	5	2				53		
33. Neal Smith NWR			6	10	1	2				36	2	1
34. Boone County			56	3	9	3		1		91	8	3
35. Jamaica		1	9			1			1	38	3	
36. Dallas County		1	35	1	1	3				53	8	
37. Sac County			11							6		
38. Carroll County			22		2	1	1			28		
39. Ida County			4		1	2				47	1	
Subtotals	2	6	598	32	42	61	2	8	9	973	85	5
SOUTHERN THIRD												
40. Red Rock Reservoir		1	44	1		1				41	3	
41. Rathbun Reservoir	17	2	48	6	2					29	1	
42. Lamoni		cw	19	3	4	5			cw	94	15	
43. Union County					1	1				18	1	
44. Taylor County			7	5		cw			1	56	10	13
45. Siam-Hopkins			2	1	1	1				6	4	
46. Shenandoah	1	2	17	3	2	2				35	5	
Subtotals	18	5	137	19	10	10	0	0	1	279	39	13
TOTALS	65	145	5139	83	91	138	4	9	15	2122	223	21

Go Ea	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	Am Co	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu	Gl Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow
	4			1							78	12	93	6	3	3
	9			6			2				451		128		1	2
	10				1						118		268	10	2	5
	17				4		6	25			194	3	278	6	12	7
	18				2		617	432			269		450	4	9	12
	23		2	7	2		4022	1002	4		791		639	2	7	6
	12						58				382		392	3	1	1
	26						984	47			71		928	5	9	5
	14							2			98	2	341	3	10	14
	10			11		3	34	2			466		395	2	2	3
	3			6	2		10488	433		3	449	3	305		5	
	146	2	4	31	11	5	16211	1943	6	5	3367	20	4217	42	61	58
	9			5							875	14	25	5	3	1
	12	cw									128	10	81	2	1	2
	9						3				140	5	167		5	3
0	30		0	5	0	0	3		0	0	1143	29	273	7	9	6
	4										335		43	6	2	3
	5										334		128	1	1	2
	2										937		19	cw	6	1
	2			6							125		8	2	2	
											30					
	2										156	28	3	3	1	2
	15	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1917	29	201	12	12	8
	29										152		355	2	5	4
	8										157		212	2	8	2
	16			2			17	42			943		532	1	5	2
	23										230		426	1	8	4
	9										38		42		3	1
	13										804	3	247	1	3	5
	7										24		34		5	
	2										371		47			
													14		2	1
	14			2							539	9	310		5	5
	14	3									344	1	189	7	18	16
	12			6			3	5			555	23	514	3	1	2
	7										35	2	57		8	2
	26										426	44	185	21	35	16
	12										31	16	114	1		2
	16				3						189	8	91		1	1
											45		1		1	
	2										51	cw	46	2	2	cw
	6										57	5	3		3	
	216	8	0	10	4	2	21	47	0	0	4991	111	3419	41	113	63
	7			1			780	850	4	5	32	78	131	1	2	1
	20			9			1930	90			54	1	120	8	4	2
	17										153	1	117	7	16	15
	4										31	2	3		3	1
	4										38	cw	82	cw	1	3
	2												1	cw	cw	
	7			9							123	48	108		3	5
	61	1	1	19	0	3	2710	940	4	5	431	130	562	16	29	27
4	468	14	5	71	15	10	18945	2931	10	10	11849	319	8672	118	224	162

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2007–2008

Location	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest				7	4	37		25	9	3	4
2. Dubuque				4	5	52	1	76	20	7	3
3. Green Island	5			5	6	81	2	74	23	20	9
4. Clinton	1			6	3	80	3	59	14	29	3
5. Princeton	2	1	1	2	13	68		60	14	7	8
6. Davenport				9	3	70	1	98	10	6	4
7. Andalusia				6	12	61	1	50	16	9	5
8. Muscatine	3		1	5	5	69	1	72	32	16	10
9. West Mercer County	1		1	5	5	47	2	72	22	23	15
10. Burlington				3	8	49	1	62	8	6	2
11. Keokuk				2	2	49	1	57	4	15	7
Subtotals	12	1	3	54	66	663	13	705	172	141	70
MISSOURI RIVER											
12. Sioux City				1		52		74	11	8	
13. De Soto NWR						37	1	40	15	43	
14. Omaha				2	1	62	3	87	16	21	1
Subtotals	0	0	0	3	1	151	4	201	42	72	1
NORTHERN THIRD											
15. Decorah				7		48		58	20	3	4
16. Bremer County					1	14		47	1		2
17. Mason City	1		1	1		25		72	27	2	
18. Spirit Lake		1		2		30		89	31	7	
19. Humboldt County								2			
20. Cherokee						16		22	4	4	
Subtotals	1	1	1	10	1	133	0	290	83	16	6
MIDDLE THIRD											
21. Lost Nation		6			18	53	1	65	30	14	2
22. North Linn	2		1	2	2	40		65	14	6	6
23. Cedar Rapids				5	4	68	1	122	32	12	1
24. Iowa City				2	10	94	2	159	34	29	6
25. Amana		5			8	10		10	1	1	1
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	2		5	4		28		46	16	8	6
27. Eldora-Union				1	1	14		19	3		
28. Marshalltown				1		10		15	7	1	
29. Grinnell						7		8	1		
30. Ames	1	cw		2		143	4	206	54	5	
31. Saylorville Reservoir	2			3	2	91	1	123	32	15	2
32. Des Moines				8		38	1	65	11	7	
33. Neal Smith NWR		1		1		27		38	8	12	
34. Boone County	5		5	4	3	134		195	93	11	5
35. Jamaica	5	1		4	4	13		16	5	6	
36. Dallas County	1			3	3	35		72	9	10	
37. Sac County						7		13	2		
38. Carroll County						14	cw	21	12	1	
39. Ida County	8	1				6		15	5	4	
Subtotals	26	14	11	40	55	832	10	1273	369	142	29
SOUTHERN THIRD											
40. Red Rock Reservoir				1		16		25	2	7	
41. Rathbun Reservoir				2	5	22	1	35	10	15	1
42. Lamoni	2	5		1	150	96		96	51	40	2
43. Union County	9		1	1		6		4	1	3	
44. Taylor County	1	2		2	2	23		24	6	16	
45. Siam-Hopkins						8		8	1	5	
46. Shenandoah	1	2				20		19	6	5	
Subtotals	13	9	1	7	157	191	1	211	77	91	3
TOTALS	52	25	16	114	280	1970	28	2680	743	462	109

Lo Sh	No Sh	sh sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro
	6		119	214	29	126	16		27	1		1		6		1
	2		103	214		152	36	4	46	7	1			12		1
	6		226	429	44	185	14	2	98	11	11	2	4	98	3	3
			205	235	147	190	24	7	77	5	4	2		97	2	8
	3	1	161	114	145	162	17	3	98	10	4	2		22		3
		1	173	403	79	333	23	7	99	10	9	3		9	1	3
	2		109	78	80	118	26		82	11	2		1	45		18
			135	94	3	158	35	5	61	9	14	2	2	38	1	7
1	1		142	64	4	233	37	4	88	3	14	1	1	41	8	142
			86	69	176	68	21	6	49	2	8	3		14		24
	1		176	12000	503	105	40	2	51	2	40			31	2	1
1	21	2	1635	13914	1210	1830	289	40	776	71	107	16	8	413	17	211
	1		79	74	158	175		33	87	2		3		18		16
	2		63	88	304	105	17	8	51	1			cw	22		1
			75	61	192	274	34	19	126	10	22	3	2	33		5
0	3	0	217	223	654	554	51	60	264	13	22	6	2	73	0	22
	4		143	441	1	118	25	17	66							26
	11		65	269	32	68		2	27							
	2		172	4964	2	170		17	62	2						5
	2		57	29	217	189		51	107	6						
				4	10				1							
	2		70	40	552	68		8	39	2				25	1	1
0	21	0	507	5747	814	613	25	95	302	10	0	0	0	25	1	32
	1		224	175	23	194	13	13	82	5				3	1	5
	3	1	147	65	72	166	14	3	77	5				1		
			97	832	16	361	27	11	67	4	2		1	4		9
	3	1	233	1653	6	312	67	20	107	4	10			22		3
		2	25	28	2	29	1		14							
	8		107	9925	7	138		7	58	1						2
	3	1	32	37	20	34	4		28							
			50	58		25		1	17		2					
	2		18	47		5		2	10							
	7	1	250	15200	136	575	7	47	249	20	3	1				3
	13		165	413	463	279	14	8	99	10	1	2	1	21	3	17
	1		71	11000	37	75	15	12	68	3	13	2		4		98
	1		63	64	8	29		1	44	1		1	1			1
	3	1	151	1103	5	538	81	33	348	5	5		2	2		
	2		70	69	204	57	1	1	21	1		2		2		15
	4	1	141	128	80	119	12	32	50		1	1				13
			21	11	10	10		8	10	1						
	3		84	76	275	8		16	20	2			2			
	3		98	79	339	7		24	19	2						5
0	57	8	2047	40963	1703	2961	256	239	1388	64	37	9	7	59	4	171
	2		77	417	63	52	3	1	21					20		16
	1		181	113	147	91	16	9	24	1	1		10	38		5
	2		634	475	368	209	90	2	90	51	7	3	27	80	1	376
1			21	151	97	5	1	2	2				2	11		119
1	2		132	204	167	62		4	32	14			8	32		31
1			12	66	37	9			7	2			1	4		
1			136	26	862	13	5	3	14	7			3	9		30
4	7	0	1193	1452	1741	441	115	21	190	75	8	3	51	194	1	577
5	109	10	5599	62299	6122	6399	736	455	2920	233	174	34	68	764	23	1013

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2007–2008

Location	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	WWh Th Sp	Ha Sp	WWh Cr Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	440	48		71		1			1		
2. Dubuque	337	1		33		6			13		
3. Green Island	369	20	2	87		26		3	10		
4. Clinton	3122	44	12	580	2	21		2	3		1
5. Princeton	1090	25		770		19	1	6	4		1
6. Davenport	3391	9		380		68		3	44		
7. Andalusia	1467	7		238		33			24		1
8. Muscatine	2720	8		297	1	17		1	16		2
9. West Mercer County	2090	25	6	362	2	24		8	7		14
10. Burlington	707	138	1	860	2	30		6	27	1	2
11. Keokuk	547	96		396	1	41		11	43		6
Subtotals	16280	421	21	4074	8	286	1	40	192	1	27
MISSOURI RIVER											
12. Sioux City	2882	11		89					cw	5	
13. De Soto NWR	855	27		530		4				63	
14. Omaha	1273	212	cw	305	6	22	1	9	5	23	1
Subtotals	5010	250	0	924	6	26	1	9	5	91	1
NORTHERN THIRD											
15. Decorah	1033	28		97		1					
16. Bremer County	1382			283	1	1					
17. Mason City	976	67		69	cw		1		6	1	
18. Spirit Lake	988			111						1	1
19. Humboldt County	1000										
20. Cherokee	615	148	1	55	1				1	1	
Subtotals	5994	243	1	615	2	2	1	0	7	3	1
MIDDLE THIRD											
21. Lost Nation	420	26		58		15	1	3	30		
22. North Linn	1917	25		16		2			16		2
23. Cedar Rapids	1155	17		48		7			31		
24. Iowa City	623	37	2	353	1	20		15	25		2
25. Amana	150			6		6					2
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	561	45		317		1			4		
27. Eldora-Union	221			178							
28. Marshalltown	88			50							
29. Grinnell				5							
30. Ames	1678	90		479	cw	20			14	1	
31. Saylorville Reservoir	2816	363		1211		53		13	55	2	3
32. Des Moines	621	16		120	1	19		2	11		
33. Neal Smith NWR	85			160		6					
34. Boone County	2587	30		457		19		2		7	
35. Jamaica	857	137		82		7		2	1	4	
36. Dallas County	443	25		245		7			15	1	
37. Sac County	378									6	
38. Carroll County	397	14		60						7	
39. Ida County	964			5						1	
Subtotals	15961	825	2	3850	2	182	1	37	202	29	9
SOUTHERN THIRD											
40. Red Rock Reservoir	861	2		13		7		16	11		1
41. Rathbun Reservoir	305	53		63	1	7			1		2
42. Lamoni	952	2	3	1090		41		1	28	cw	1
43. Union County	278	2		24	1	2					
44. Taylor County	449	1		127		12			1		
45. Siam-Hopkins	130			88						6	1
46. Shenandoah	142	28		1241		37	1	11	9	56	8
Subtotals	3117	88	3	2646	2	106	1	28	50	62	13
TOTALS	46362	1827	27	12109	20	602	5	114	456	186	51

Da	La	Sn	No	Re	Ea	We	me	Ru	Co	Br	Pu	Ho	Co	Pi	Am	Ho	Eu
Eye	Lo	Bu	Ca	Wi	Me	Me	sp	Bl	Gr	He	Fi	Fi	Re	Si	Go	Sp	Tr
Ju				Bl						Co							Sp
414			189								2	40		2	94	436	
456			246								8	186	1	23	122	225	
654	6		274	25			1			5	9	90			139	785	1
985	60	166	274	842	4			6	11	52	23	46	1	3	67	820	
573	3	51	221	52	1		4		1	7	4	68		1	91	807	12
1260	1	40	493	793				7	318	62	4	111		19	206	999	17
491			226	21	6					2	2	81		32	45	793	235
298	62	26	224	31				9	1	6	13	81			133	651	269
441	4	1	279	2	1			2			145	30		1	45	212	314
1113	10	20	364	5				1		1	9	91		8	112	640	435
460	42	40	173				4		3	1	5	44			115	319	156
7145	188	344	2963	1771	12	0	9	25	334	136	224	868	2	89	1169	6687	1439
1044		12	38	44			39		6	3	8	17		6	53	503	
2316			112	112			143		5		8	5	cw	1	121	430	
1010	2		206	74			57	3	2		51	6		60	177	420	
4370	2	12	356	230	0	0	239	3	13	3	67	28	0	67	351	1353	0
451			191								26	79			141	307	
487		81	105					1	1		3	136	1	1	49	1028	
725	cw	233	161	2					10		14	150		1	131	712	
501	42	76	37	6		6		2	6		10	47	12		47	965	
5	23	4	5													15	
911	2	84	23	9			4				35	45		1	166	339	
3080	67	478	522	17	0	6	4	3	17	0	88	457	13	3	534	3366	0
578		12	354	4			2		1		34	192			26	1142	1
357	9	2	282	2			6			4	36	41		1	55	927	
579		5	519	1				1			2	121		6	88	1037	
875			687	3			5		1		22	151		10	202	758	1
40			35							20		10			20	130	6
673		17	202	4			8	2	1		30	89		14	42	794	
98			40				10					11			24	82	
179			95								12	10			28	160	
78			69									8			23		
1562	1	204	367	1		1	10	1	1	2	4	166		61	171	697	
1587	1	67	299	15			36	5	4	5	15	90	2	9	125	782	
588	4	20	144	54			4	4	2	2	1	41		9	102	213	
355	20	4	99	20			13				1	23			116	82	
1579	1		332	1			9	1			18	51		5	268	1002	
419	8	1	41	2		74		2			3	18		4	35	274	
907	46	4	153	14			41		2		86	126		6	210	711	
63			28								1	12		7	27	110	
694	1	3	68				44				3	71	1	1	113	301	
621		20	28	1			7		5		13	50		10	105	277	
11832	91	359	3842	122	0	75	195	16	17	33	281	1281	3	143	1780	9479	8
219		9	152				14		1		2	29			169	466	
470	3	1	189	2		26				3	47	74		22	184	549	
1259	50	1	332	85		143			2		92	45		2	574	641	
206	1		58				17				19	3			6	65	
401			102			29		1		2	14	6			138	132	
298	60		26	6		16						cw			43	50	
1550	25	22	204	434	2	21	11	1	33		9	240		4	233	362	
4403	139	33	1063	527	2	235	42	2	36	5	183	397	0	28	1347	2265	0
30830	487	1226	8746	2667	14	316	489	49	417	177	843	3031	18	330	5181	23150	1447

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2007–2008

Species	Counts
Mute Swan	Andalusia (1), Ames (cw)
Tundra Swan	Davenport (6)
swan sp.	Princeton (6), De Soto (3)
American Wigeon	Burlington (1), Union County (1)
Blue-winged Teal	De Soto (2)
Northern Pintail	Keokuk (3), Sioux City (4), Des Moines (2)
White-winged Scoter	Cedar Falls-Waterloo (1)
duck sp.	Omaha (21)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah (1)
Common Loon	Rathbun (3)
Virginia Rail	Des Moines (1)
Dunlin	Keokuk (1)
Bonaparte's Gull	Keokuk (1)
Iceland Gull	Red Rock (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Keokuk (1), Red Rock (1)
Eastern Phoebe	Eldora-Union (1)
Marsh Wren	Sioux City (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	W. Mercer County (1), Omaha (2)
Townsend's Solitaire	Cherokee (1)
Gray Catbird	Princeton (1), North Linn (1), Saylorville (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Andalusia (2), Lamoni (1), Taylor County (cw)
Brown Thrasher	Burlington (1), Sac County (1)
Bohemian Waxwing	Burlington (1)
Spotted Towhee	Saylorville (1), Lamoni (1)
Eastern Towhee	Keokuk (1), Neal Smith (1), Lamoni (1)
Field Sparrow	Andalusia (7), W. Mercer County (4), Shenandoah (1)
Savannah Sparrow	Davenport (1)
sparrow sp.	De Soto (26)
Brewer's Blackbird	Shenandoah (4)
Great-tailed Grackle	Omaha (2)
Red Crossbill	Green Island (1)
White-winged Crossbill	Ames (2)

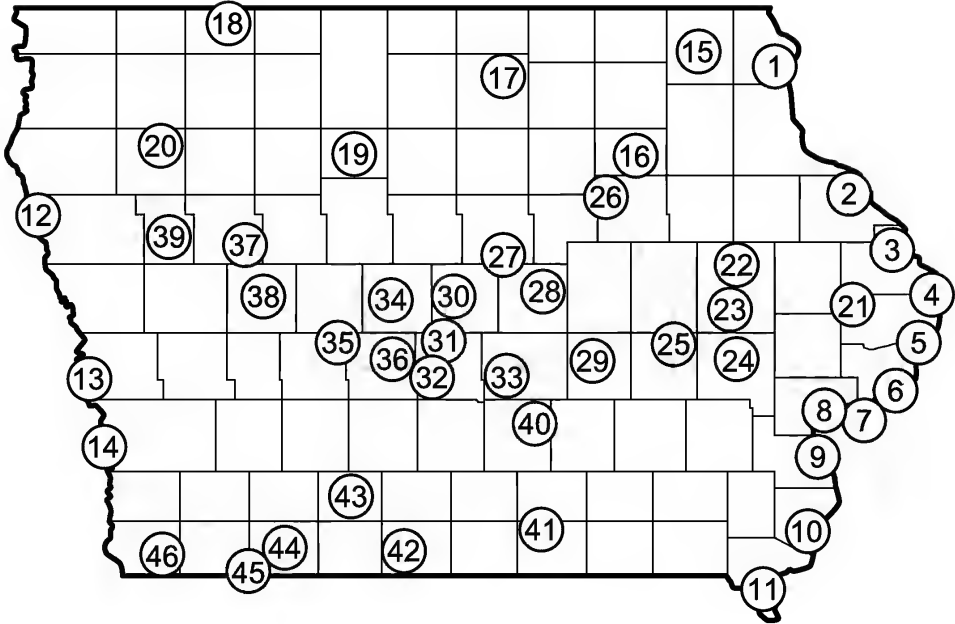


Figure 1. Christmas Bird Counts in Iowa, 2007–2008 (see tables).

Sandhill Crane at Lake Laverne, Ames

Larry Dau

A juvenile Sandhill Crane decided to stop its migration southward and spend the winter in Ames, becoming a fixture on the Iowa State University campus. The crane identified with the crows and Canada Geese and was often seen flying and foraging with them, seemingly picking the crows as a first choice for companionship.

Carl and Linda Kurtz first saw the bird flying with a group of crows over South Duff Avenue near Highway 30 in late afternoon on 22 November. They were able to follow it to the Cold Water Links Golf Course in south Ames where it was spotted near a pond on the course, hanging out with a group of Canada Geese. After that, there were reports from ISU students and staff that placed the crane on campus. Several of the reports had him walking about and feeding with groups of crows on central campus and sometimes acting so tame that he could be approached at a distance of a few feet. Others mentioned seeing

a large bird with a long neck circling with the flocks of crows heading for their evening roosts. It was reported that an unusual “trill” call could be heard mixed in with the caws of the crows!

I work at ISU and usually walk on campus. With all the reports, I was constantly on the lookout for the crane and especially kept an eye on Lake Laverne. I kept thinking the lake would be a good place for the crane, with aerators for open water, food being placed out for the swans, and most importantly, crows and geese hang out there. On 3 January, the crane did indeed show up at the lake mixed in with a group of about 90 Canada Geese. He was not spotted at the lake again for more than two weeks. As the students started filtering back to campus for the beginning of the spring term, Steve Dinsmore started receiving reports of the crane again being seen on campus. On Sunday, 20 January, Steve remained at the lake as evening approached, to see if the crane might be coming in late each night to roost. Steve was about to give up at 5:45 P.M., when the crane suddenly appeared with that last group of crows that come to campus each evening. Then on Tuesday morning, 22 January, I found the crane at Lake Laverne on my way to work (Figure 1 and front cover photo). For the rest of January and much of February, the crane was present at the lake for at least part of each day. He tended to stay at the lake and not leave at all when the weather was very cold and/or when lots of snow was present.

One of the neatest things about having a Sandhill Crane in such close proximity is observing some of the aspects of crane behavior one does not normally get a chance to view. My office is only a few hundred feet from Lake Laverne and I walk by the lake on my way to and from work, plus I was able to easily check on its status at break and lunch time. This bird became accustomed to lots of walk-by traffic and could be observed from fairly close distances. I have even seen him walking on the sidewalk around the lake!

In frigid cold weather, the crane would at times roost directly on the ice rolled up in



Figure 1. Sandhill Crane sleeping on ice on Lake Laverne, Ames, on 22 January 2008. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

a ball with the head tucked under a wing, and really looking much like the Canada Geese that are roosting nearby on the ice (Figure 1). When not so cold, the crane tended to stand on one leg, with head tucked under wing as a resting pose. The crane can often be observed drinking water. Normally it bends over to scoop up some water with its open bill, closes the bill, and then points its head straight toward the sky and swallows. On an extreme below-zero day, I observed the crane opening and shut-



Figure 2. Sandhill Crane striding around Lake Laverne, Ames, on 14 April 2008. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

ting its bill while pointing its head straight upward, to apparently help in the swallowing process.

There was some worry about the crane getting enough food, so we started throwing shelled corn on the ice. He liked the corn, but so did the geese and crows. Campus services asked that shelled corn not be provided, because they did not want to encourage the other birds they considered pests. They agreed that I could throw out an ear or two of dried corn on the cob, which they thought would not be as attractive to the other birds. There was some question about whether a crane could actually pick kernels of corn from a whole ear. Well, they can! He pecked at the

ear of corn to dislodge kernels and sometimes held it down with one foot, as it became lighter, to help the process. He would at times even pick up and shake a nearly empty ear of corn to get the kernels loose. When the crane was very cold, it would puff out its feathers and the brown colors were much more prominent on this juvenile bird. When holding its feathers down more tightly against the body, the brown is less prominent and the gray color becomes more apparent. The crane continued to identify with the crows. When a crow landed nearby and cawed, I have seen this bird crane its neck (no pun intended) looking for the crows and then start its “trill” call.

What is the future of this crane? He has an extremely good chance of over-wintering and appears to be in great health with strong flight capabilities. Will spring bring strong urges to migrate and try to find other cranes? Will it follow some migrating Canada Geese north? Will it stay around the ISU campus or golf course? Time will tell. Many people watch out for this bird and students can sometime be seen standing near the lake, taking pictures with their cell phones. This rare winter visitor has become quite the campus celebrity. The ISU staff, with whom I work, has fondly named him Ichabod!

Addendum, 24 April 2008

Since first writing and submitting this story for the winter edition of *Iowa Bird Life*, I

can now provide an update for this bird. As spring thaw began, the crane appeared to have a very hard time giving up the safety of his normal, favorite spots on the ice. Eventually he moved to land on the south shore of Lake Laverne (Figure 2). He tended to spend his days following the resident swans around, foraging alone or preening near people sitting on the park benches. Often he could be found wading in the water along the south shoreline and down in the nearby creek bed.

I observed and photographed another unusual behavioral trait with this bird. In mid-April, he became frightened and took flight. When coming in for a landing, the crane actually landed in the middle of the lake, swam up to the swans and swam around with them for 10 minutes before going to shore. I have found reports of crane chicks swimming, but can find no real references to adults swimming, other than speculation.

There was some assumption that we could very well have a permanent resident Sandhill Crane! This bird seemed to have an uncanny ability to feel comfortable with whatever large bird was currently nearby and maybe even also with humans. He really never left the lake for any extended period of time for over two months. Then on 23 April, a friend witnessed him becoming agitated with a student who was nearby. The crane took flight, flew one large circle above the lake and headed due west and has not returned to date. I am not sure if he did finally migrate or just went somewhere else in the Ames area. I have a feeling he could very well reappear on campus sometime in the future. Maybe he enjoyed the digs so well, he will over-winter again!

1644 Maple View Place, Boone, IA 50036 (lgdau@netins.net)

Clark's Nutcracker in Guthrie County

Hank Zaletel

I had just spent the weekend of 14–16 September 2007 at the Conservation Center at Springbrook State Park teaching an Introduction to Birdwatching class for the program *Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW)*.

As I headed home, I took Iowa Highway 4 north. The junction of Iowa Highway 141 and Highway 4 is quite unusual. Iowa 141 comes from the east and jogs to the north for one-fourth mile and then goes west. Iowa Highway 4 is a north/south route.

In the middle of the junction is a cemetery with a large number of cedar and other evergreen trees. As I was waiting to enter Highway 141 to go to the east, I looked north to the farm lot and saw a bird on a fence post, and then I proceeded east.

At first, I thought the bird was a shrike, but when I backed up I noticed that it did not have a mask. The bird was stocky, of blue jay size; with a long, slender, sharp-pointed bill; black eyes; and a gray head, back, and breast.

It had a dull, off-white coloring on the forehead. It had very black wings with white patches on the lower wing. It had a central black tail feather surrounded by white edges, which were about the same size white as the central black feather.

I quickly eliminated a shrike because it did not have a mask, and a mockingbird because it did not have yellow eyes or a slightly curved bill. I am quite familiar with this bird because our family sees it every summer when we vacation in Estes Park, Colorado, thus, an easy identification, a Clark's Nutcracker.

The bird sat on the fence post for about two minutes. It was about 20 yards away. It then flew down to the ground chasing an insect and I had a good view of the white trailing wing patches on the back lower part of the wing and the white outer tail feathers.

The bird then flew over the hood of my truck not five feet from me. It landed in the field about fifty yards to the south. I watched for another ten minutes until it took off to the west.

Even though I had a cell phone, I did not have any numbers of people who could get a message to the birdline. I drove to Perry and called Dick Stillwell who then put the information about the sighting on the IA-Bird listserv.

I returned home and then put a more detailed listing on the listserv. The bird was looked for during that afternoon by many but was not relocated.

This represents Iowa's seventh record Clark's Nutcracker; the last was seen in 1996.

1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net)

Captain John Feilner's Sioux City Birds

Matthew C. Kenne

The brief birding activities of Captain John Feilner at Sioux City, Iowa, in May of 1864 were the results of an ambitious program to scientifically explore the western United States. Spencer F Baird, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., was the visionary behind the plan to increase the museum's western research material with the assistance of the United States Army. Realizing in the 1850s that trained observers with scientific education accompanied army units throughout the frontier, medical officers and topographical engineers were recruited by Baird to collect natural history specimens

for the Smithsonian. He used his considerable influence to have interested officers posted to promising locations, and regularly sent out supplies and encouraging letters. In time, hundreds of Baird's "missionaries" shipped tens of thousands of natural history artifacts east for study.

John Feilner was a Bavarian immigrant who entered the U.S. Army at 25 years of age in 1856. He was posted as the topographer of Company F of the First Dragoons on frontier duty in California. When not soldiering, Feilner pursued his interest in nature by recording observations on subjects ranging from grasshoppers to badgers, and gathered a collection of 300 bird skins and nearly that many eggs—a personal hobby that was getting out of hand. Luckily, in 1859 Feilner met John Xantus, a Hungarian immigrant Dragoon already collecting for Professor Baird out of Fort Tejon. Xantus encouraged Feilner to contact the Smithsonian, and soon Feilner was receiving his own arsenic, bags of shot, gallons of alcohol, and books from Baird.

Baird requested Feilner to make a collection from the Modoc Indian lands around Mt. Shasta and Klamath Lake in May 1860, during which he survived another of several hostile Indian encounters. Feilner skirmished with Indians and collected specimens out of Fort Crook through 1861, specimens that included the first Flammulated Owl from North America. He re-enlisted in the army, and, with a letter of recommendation from Baird, was commissioned an officer in time for his newly designated First Cavalry to ship back east. Feilner's naturalist activities had to be put aside for Union wartime duties.

While the War of Rebellion raged to the east and south of Iowa, the war against the Sioux raged to the north and west. The Santee Sioux uprising of 1862 caused the deaths of 800 settlers in Minnesota, and this was followed by an inconclusive Dakota Territory campaign against them in the summer of 1863, led by General Alfred Sully. From his headquarters at Sioux City, Iowa, General Sully planned to resume the offensive during the summer of 1864. In preparation for the upcoming expedition, Captain John Feilner received the following message (U.S. Government 1891):

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST, Milwaukee, Wis., April 15, 1864.

Captain JOHN FEILNER,

First U. S. Cavalry, Engineer:

CAPTAIN: In addition to your duties as topographical engineer of the expedition of General Sully into the Indian country, you will please make to these headquarters upon your return as full a report as possible upon the geology, botany, natural history, and physical character generally of the region over which the operations of the expedition will extend. As full meteorological observations should be made as opportunity and the means at your disposal render practicable. I need not remind you of the important results to science which will ensue from even a partial success in these observations.

General Sully has been furnished with a copy of this letter, and will give you all the

assistance at his command in carrying out these instructions as far as circumstances will permit. I have myself made very complete collections, both of natural history and botanical and mineralogical specimens, by instructing 2 or 3 enlisted men how to make them, and keeping them constantly employed. I need not suggest to you that it is best to bring in specimens of everything, however common, as it is of as much, if indeed not of more interest to science to determine the geographical distributions of known species than to discover what is new.

The ordinary extra pay will be given to enlisted men employed by you in this service.

I am, captain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. POPE,
Major-General, Commanding

Two weeks later, Captain Feilner reported to General Sully's staff at Sioux City. With few mapping duties to perform as the expedition prepared for march, Feilner focused his attentions on collecting. He soon found men to train in the art of specimen preparation and transportation: Siegmund Rothhammer, a hospital steward with the Sixth Iowa Cavalry, and H. Bryant. Rothhammer recalled Feilner's orders in his journal (Rothhammer 1864 and 1865):

"...I was by him (Feilner) put in charge of the Collection of Specimens... My instructions were to collect principally Birds, Nests & Eggs, Insects & such mineralogical specimens as could well be transported, ... small Mammals as could be obtained, (and) Skulls and Skeletons of Indians."

The first of Feilner's and Bryant's surviving bird specimens are a Clay-colored Sparrow skin and a Lark Sparrow skin from the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), Harvard University, taken 4 May. On 5 May, Feilner collected a Swallow-tailed Kite, the skeletal remains of which are currently in the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Smithsonian Institution. Swallow-tailed Kites were reasonably common Iowa nesters during Feilner's lifetime, although Sioux City was likely near the western edge of their range. Rothhammer's only recorded Iowa specimen is that of an Eastern Wood-Pewee from 24 May (NMNH).

Water birds collected at Sioux City are represented by an American Coot skeleton, a Franklin's Gull, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and a Hudsonian Godwit (all Feilner NMNH). The Hudsonian Godwit was considered a rare bird at the time, especially compared to widespread nesting Marbled Godwits, and the species wasn't definitively reported in Iowa for another 20 years. The remaining 13 specimens of land birds are of eleven species: two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (Feilner NMNH, Bryant MCZ), male Scarlet Tanager, Black-billed Cuckoo, Red-eyed Vireo, male Indigo Bunting, male American Redstart, and an alcohol-preserved Ruby-throated Hummingbird (all Feilner NMNH), male Yellow Warbler (Feilner MCZ), Lincoln's Sparrow and male Dickcissel (both Bryant MCZ), and two male Cerulean Warblers taken 13 May (Feilner NMNH, Bryant MCZ). Cerulean Warblers would not be reported from the Sioux City area for the next 35 years. It is interesting to note that, of

the species with marked plumage difference between the sexes, either the collectors or the Smithsonian appear to have been biased towards keeping colorful male specimens.

Feilner and his assistants packed the material gathered around Sioux City and shipped it back to Baird, and then the 1864 Sully Expedition began their move up the Missouri River in early June. Gathering garrison units along the way, the entire force came together at Fort Sully, near present day Pierre, South Dakota. After final supply and orders, the campaign against the Sioux finally began on 26 June.

For the first two days of the march, Captain Feilner's group rode away from the main body of troops to search for artifacts, despite warnings from General Sully's staff. On 28 June, Feilner and his assistants again moved ahead of the troops to visit Medicine Rock, a sacred spot for Indians and a landmark for white travelers in present-day Potter County, South Dakota. After examining Medicine Rock, the three men headed to the Little Cheyenne River to water their horses and wait for the rest of the column.

Perhaps Feilner no longer took Indians as a serious threat after two years of cavalry combat in the East. Regardless, he underestimated the Sioux—his men were ambushed by three braves, and Captain John Feilner was shot and killed. The men of Company A of the Dakota Cavalry heard the shots from their position at the head of the approaching troops, and were dispatched to pursue the fleeing braves with gruesome results for the Indians.

With the death of Captain Feilner and the subsequent lack of an official army scientific report, Feilner's bird specimens have been overlooked in the literature of Iowa birds. There are almost no specific bird observations from the area during the forty years between John James Audubon's passage up the Missouri River and Daniel H. Talbot's Sioux City collecting, so Feilner's birds help fill that gap, and recall a time when Iowa was on the edge of unknown country.

Data were obtained from records held in the following institutions and accessed through ORNIS data portal (<<http://ornisnet.org>>) on 2 December 2007: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge; United States National Museum, Washington D.C.

Thanks to Brad Tennant, Presentation College at Aberdeen, South Dakota, for sharing with me his research on Captain John Feilner; and Craig Ludwig, National Museum of Natural History, and Jeremiah Trimble, Museum of Comparative Zoology, for providing information and answering questions about Feilner's specimens.

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709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511 (mkenne@netamumail.com)

Third Annual IOU Meeting, 1926

Hank Zaletel

The Third Annual Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held at Atlantic, Iowa, 14–15 May 1926.

More than forty members registered on that Saturday morning. The afternoon program began at 1:30 P.M. Papers were given by Althea Sherman, Weir Mills, Phil DuMont, Dr. L. T. Weeks and George Bennett.

At the business meeting, a committee was formed to take steps in selecting of a state bird. The banquet speaker was President Walter Rosene and poems were read by Dr. L. T. Weeks.

"The following morning, at five o'clock, at least thirty-five people gathered at Sunnyside Park for the field trip. Small parties were formed under able leadership, and scattered in different directions. The combined list contained eighty-eight species, which was considered good as it was not a region for water birds, a few only being seen along a small stream. A breakfast was served at the Park at seven-thirty, was very much enjoyed, and after a group photograph was taken and a ride around the city for the out of town visitors, concluded the meeting which was conceded by all to have been the most enjoyable that had been held since the Union was organized, the field trip being out of the question at previous meetings."

Source: Minutes of the Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Held at Atlantic, May 14–15, 1926.

1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiaowa.net)

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

Banding birds was the topic of the lead article in the June 1958 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Mrs. W. C. DeLong described her use of bird banding as a way to introduce young people to birds as well as a means of studying bird movements.

In another article, William Youngworth reported on some of his experiences with Prairie Falcons in the Sioux City region. In 24 years, he had 20 reports including three specimens of Prairie Falcons from in or near Sioux City, mostly from late fall and winter.

In another article, a housewife busy raising five young children in rural Marshall County wrote of her experiences with birds that she found in her yard. The author, Beth Proescholdt, would eventually become one of the IOU's best known and most beloved members and a regular attendee at IOU meetings for many years.

Among the notes, one by Harold Ennis described a Sandhill Crane that he found in April 1958 at Muskrat Slough in Jones County. Rare birds in Iowa fifty years ago, cranes have nested at Muskrat Slough several times in recent years and a pair returned again this spring.

Finally, buried in the minutes of the spring meeting at Vinton, is the report of a proposal to open a Mourning Dove hunting season in Iowa. After some discussion, the group went on record as opposing this proposal.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Budget Meeting

22 March 2008

The IOU business and budget meeting was held at the home of Robert Cecil in Des Moines. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; board members John Bissell, Tim Humpal, and Bill Scheible; and IOU members Karen Disbrow, Doug Hunt, Ann Johnson, Mike Johnston, and Hank Zaletel. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M.

Treasurer's Report. Tammy Hertzell reported that there was a deficit of \$3,910.19 in 2007,

although much of this was because of planned spending from the Ann Barker Memorial bequest for archiving past issues of *Iowa Bird Life (IBL)*. She also reported that almost \$1,000 was made on the IOU Texas trip and that we also made money on the meetings. The IOU had a balance of \$74,400 as of the end of 2007, although the expenses of the California trip have not yet been reimbursed. In response to learning that IOU had IRS reporting problems regarding its nonprofit status, the treasurer will present the report information to the membership and then submit the report in time for the 15 May 2008 IRS deadline. The Virginia Crocker estate made a bequest of \$5,000 to the IOU, which, when received, will be placed in the Memorial Fund.

Tammy reported that last year's revenues were \$19,050. Donations again exceeded the budget estimate, with recent years exceeding \$2,500. Sales, however, have come in below estimates. It was proposed that the sales revenue be set at \$1,000. On-line sales would be estimated at \$250, interest income at \$2,000, special revenue (silent auction) at \$500, and \$2,500 in donations in addition to the \$5,000 Virginia Crocker bequest.

Publications Committee Report. Ann Johnson reported that the total cost of the committee's publications were estimated to be about \$15,000 for 2008, of which \$1,000 will be for the Web site and listserv and the remainder for the newsletter and the journal.

Membership Committee. Karen Disbrow reported that Chris Caster will do the design for the new tee shirts using five Iowa birds. She has a cost estimate of \$8.00 per shirt with the screen printing an extra \$1.00 on an order of 100. Polo style shirts would range in cost depending on size from \$19.70 to \$22.50 on an order of 60. More dressy shirts would be \$32.59 for long-sleeved and \$28.50 for short-sleeved and would be available by pre-order only. Karen also reported that she has a budget to \$500 for printing but doesn't need that much, noting that her only expenses had been printing the tri-fold Field Checklist of Iowa Birds at 17 cents per copy. Realizing that these had been sold at a loss at IOU meetings, she raised the price to 25 cents although she makes them available at cost to birding stores. She estimated her total expenses for 2008 would be \$2,954 for shirts, about \$400 for checklists, and proposed a total budget of \$3,600.

Records Committee. Ann Johnson will propose a budget of \$100.

Library and Historical Committee. Hank Zaletel will propose a budget of \$25.

Projects Committee. Now that the Projects Committee has become a standing committee, its budget line item will be found under standing committee budgets. Doug Harr will propose a budget for the year of \$2,000 and noted that they have two requests for funding.

Meetings Report. It was reported that meeting expenses were estimated to be \$1,200 in 2007. A question was raised regarding the amounts of honoraria paid to speakers, and it was reported that they ranged up to \$500 plus travel expenses. Hank Zaletel noted that we have some excellent speakers in Iowa and surrounding states, and that we didn't always need big name speaker. It was decided that the matter of honoraria would be decided on a

case by case basis. It was suggested that a wireless microphone be purchased for speakers. No costs were available. Hank Zaletel mentioned that the teacher's guide, of which 10 or 20 remained, had been promised for free to teachers. Since, however, the postage was \$3.00, he inquired if an effort could be made to recover that cost. It was decided to absorb the cost and to provide reimbursement for the postage.

Tammy Hertzell, after polling officers, will propose the same officers' budget as last year, and will propose budgets for bank fees at \$320, insurance at \$360, and treasurer's bond at \$460. She discussed the IOU's bequests, noting that we have had seven in the past 20 years totaling about \$20,000. Consequently there remains \$14,937.80 in the membership fund following last year's expenditure of \$5,666.37 from the Ann Barker memorial. Based on the information provided, the total proposed budget for 2008 expenses will be \$23,505, which will require a transfer of \$5,200 from the general fund.

It was moved by Tim Humpal and seconded by Bill Scheible to accept the proposed 2008 budget. All ayes, motion carried. President Rutenbeck thanked Tammy for her work.

NEW BUSINESS

Library and Historical Committee. Hank Zaletel reported that Richard Trieff had been nominated to fill a membership on the committee. John Bissell moved and Karen Disbrow seconded that Richard be appointed. All ayes, motion carried.

Publications Committee. President Rutenbeck reported that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources had requested collaboration with the IOU whereby the on-line version of the Central Iowa Birding Trail could be placed on <www.iowabirds.org>. Ann noted that it would not consume a significant amount of the site's allotted capacity and that it would result in no additional cost to the IOU. Bill Scheible moved and Tim Humpal seconded that that we participate. It was not known at this time whether future requests for additional trails would be received. All ayes, motion carried.

Ann Johnson also brought up the fact that the actualized cost of our publications is about \$32.03 based upon a membership of 441. Because the basic membership cost (Goldfinch) is \$20, and 203 of our members belong at that level, the organization is operating at a significant loss on those members, and that a dues increase should be considered. Proposals included raising dues by \$5, by \$10, and eliminating the Goldfinch level, making the basic membership \$35. A reduced rate on a two year membership was also proposed, noting that if new members joined for two years, there would be a higher likelihood that a meeting would be held in their area which in turn might entice them to become more involved in the organization. There was also concern expressed that a significantly higher basic membership might cause enough members to drop their memberships that there would be no net gain in revenue. After discussion, it was determined that the elimination of the Goldfinch level would be discussed at the spring meeting.

Travel Committee. Mike Johnston reported on the committee's intent to become a standing committee and distributed a draft statement of purpose to publish in the *IOU News*. After its publication, the membership will be asked to vote on it becoming a standing committee, which would be followed by the development of bylaws. There were no objections to proceeding with making the ad hoc travel committee a standing committee.

Publications Committee. Ann Johnson demonstrated the <www.iowabirds.org> Web site, including demonstrations of the officer's menu, meeting registration, new members, trip evaluations, bylaws of the committees, and other features.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert I. Cecil, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Business Meeting

10 May 2008

The IOU spring business meeting was held at the Nelson Pioneer Farm near Oska-loosa. President John Rutenbeck called the meeting to order at 2:17 P.M. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; board members John Bissell, Carolyn Fischer, Jim Fuller, Bill Scheible, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: Robert Cecil reported that the minutes from the fall 2007 business meeting were published in *IBL* 77(4):187–190. It was moved by Hank Zaletel and seconded by Steve Dinsmore to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Hertzell distributed the Statement of Cash Flows for the Periods Ending 31 Dec 2006 and 31 Dec 2007. The statement will be published in *IBL*. Tammy then explained that the IRS tax issue had been resolved and that the IOU had been excused from paying a fine. Additionally, provisions are being made to assure that future officers will submit IRS form 990 by the due date of 15 May. The current balance of the IOU is \$69,997.84. It was moved by Pete Wickham and seconded by Paul Hertzell that the report be accepted. All ayes, motion carried.

Membership Report: Doug Hunt reported that there were currently 411 paid members; last year there were 414 at this time. There are sixty members who have not yet paid for this year.

Records and Publications Committees Report: Ann Johnson reported that the Records Committee had not had to review many records from this winter, which perhaps may have

had something to do with the weather. Ross Silcock was named as the committee's newest member. Finally, Harley Winfrey has fully assumed editorship of the *IOU News*.

Membership Committee: Karen Disbrow reported that polo shirts are now available by special order. IOU brochures are being distributed to nature centers, and IOU members are needed to assist in delivering them.

Projects Committee: Chris Caster reported that the committee was seeking a new member to replace Doug Harr. Of the \$2,000 allocated to the committee this year, \$1,000 had been committed to the re-creation of the Sherman Swift Tower in Clayton County and \$1,000 to Larry Stone and Jon Stravers to support work on their new book on Gladys Black. The committee also received several requests for funding that they could not fund. Planned are face-to-face meetings twice per year to consider projects.

Treasurer's Audit Committee: Judy Garton reported that she and Mary Kuhlmann had reviewed the IOU's books and found them to be in good order.

Old Business: Nikki Nagl reported on the status of the Breeding Bird Atlas project. There are 791 blocks. To date, 60 persons have entered their profiles and 50 blocks have had work done. Nikki is meeting with groups in eastern Iowa to encourage volunteer participation and she is seeking similar groups in western Iowa. Steve Dinsmore added that block selection included those on a standard grid, like a checkerboard, and that some additional blocks were added because of the presence of specialty habitats. Ann Johnson used the <BBA.iowabirds.org> website to illustrate specific aspects of each block and demonstrated data entry. BBA field cards were also distributed.

President Rutenbeck discussed the need for a dues increase, explaining that the actual cost to the organization per member was \$32 while the basic level of dues was \$20. The board of directors will further consider the problem at the upcoming board of directors meeting and at the fall IOU meeting. Paul Roisen reported that the fall meeting would be held in Iowa Falls on 12–14 September. It was reported that the Travel and Trips Committee was considering the development of bylaws for its establishment as a standing committee.

Paul Hertzell noted that of the 419 species of birds that have occurred in Iowa, only about 325 are seen each year, so it was remarkable that Jay Gilliam saw a record 320 species in 2007, photographed many, and documented all accidental and casual species. Jay was then awarded the *IOU News's* Top Birder plaque.

Steve Dinsmore noted that it was extremely rare that an IOU Honorary Membership was bestowed. Jim Dinsmore and Steve felt, however, that a member of extraordinary service to the IOU, including creation and maintenance of its website, secretary of the Records Committee, and numerous other positions in her 40-plus years of continuous membership was deserving of the honor. Jim and Steve nominated Ann Johnson for an IOU Honorary Membership. Hank Zaletel seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Reporting for the Nominating Committee, Mark Proescholdt thanked Bob Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; and board members Carolyn Fischer and Tim Humpal

for their service to the organization. Nominees for terms of office included Doug Hunt for treasurer, Cathy Konrad for secretary, John Bissell for a second board term, and new board members Ken Lowder and Tom Schilke. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be accepted. All ayes, motion carried.

Linda Donelson gave a slide show of the very successful California trip led by Jim Fuller and Bill Scheible, and Paul Roisen introduced new members.

The meeting concluded at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert I. Cecil, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

10 May 2008

The IOU spring board meeting was held at the Nelson Pioneer Farm near Oskaloosa. President John Rutenbeck called the meeting to order at 4:15 P.M. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; board members John Bissell, Carolyn Fischer, Jim Fuller, Bill Scheible, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: Robert Cecil reported that the minutes had been reviewed by board members and published in *IBL* 77(4):190–192.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Hertzell provided current financial information. She also reported that the California trip expenses were less than anticipated leaving a \$3,700 surplus. This was probably not the norm and should not be counted on from future trips. Tammy was thanked for her work.

Projects Committee Report: Chris Caster requested an annual allocation for the committee, which would help in the timing of solicitations of proposals and funding. President Rutenbeck noted that the board was late this year in making allocations since the budget meeting had been postponed several times due to weather. Chris questioned what level of financial commitment would enable the IOU to give us a presence in the state, adding that one group has requested annual funding and that at least two other proposals had merit. After discussion of two of the proposals, one for the ornithology class at Wartburg College and another for the Carroll County Conservation Board to help con-

struct a pond study area, it was moved by Bill Scheible and seconded by Robert Cecil to contribute \$500 to each. Tammy Hertzell proposed to amend the motion to use money from the Virginia Crocker bequest since it is assumed that she would have wanted the money to go to educational projects. On the amended motion, all ayes, motion carried. Chris reported that the committee will change the application deadline to 1 Nov. He then returned to the topic of applicants requesting ongoing funding and suggested that these should be considered by the board rather than the Projects Committee. The options were discussed but no decision was made. It was moved by John Bissell and seconded by Paul Roisen to contribute \$750 to the Hitchcock Hawk Watch for raptor banding. All ayes, motion carried.

Membership Committee Report: Karen Disbrow reported that the Membership Committee had been working on a design for shirts and distributed a sample. Work is still needed on the color transfer.

Library/Historical Committee Report: Hank Zaletel reported that terms have been established for members and that current members are Rick Trieff (2012), Hank Zaletel (2011), Barb Edson (2010), and Sue Spieker (2009).

Publications Committee Report: Ann Johnson nominated Jim Dinsmore for the Publications Committee. Bill Scheible so moved and Jim Fuller seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business: President Rutenbeck provided additional information on the recent discussion of the need for a dues increase. Among surrounding states, dues for their organizations ranged from \$15 to \$30. To cover the actual cost of membership, the dues would have to be \$35 which would represent a 75% increase in the basic membership level, affecting about half of the membership. After discussion of various alternatives including lower preliminary memberships, Chris Caster proposed that the new basic membership should be \$30. Jim Fuller moved and John Bissell seconded that it should be recommended to the membership to raise the basic membership cost to \$30. All ayes, motion carried. The membership will be notified of the board's decision and will be asked to support the change at the upcoming fall meeting.

Linda Donelson reported that the Travel and Trips Committee had been reconsidering the intention to form a standing committee because of the difficulty in finding experienced trip leaders, dedicated organizers, and other challenges. She added that out-of-state trips "were a nightmare." The committee will continue to discuss this issue.

It was moved by Bill Scheible and seconded by John Bissell to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robert I. Cecil, secretary

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES & BUDGETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Revenues	2007 Revenues
Dues:	
Prepaid Memberships	877.00
Fledgling (\$12) - Students & New Members	60.00
Goldfinch (\$20) - Regular Membership	4,220.00
Bluebird (\$35)	4,025.00
Baltimore Oriole (\$50)	2,200.00
Great Egret (\$75)	450.00
Osprey (\$100)	1,400.00
Institutional	615.00
Total Dues	13,847.00
Donations:	
Specified - Publications	20.00
Unspecified	2,824.00
Total Donations	2,844.00
Meeting Income	9,001.40
Bird Trip Income	11,755.00
Sales	693.00
Merchandise, T-shirts, Denim shirts, Hats, Pins, Patches, Misc.	
Sales - Designated to Publications	274.55
Interest Income:	
Checking/Savings	66.81
Treasured CD	2,349.52
Total Interest Income	2,416.33
Special Revenue Generators	85.00
Total Revenues	40,916.28

Expenses	2007 Expenses
Iowa Bird Line	
Standing Committees:	
Publications:	
Newsletter	3,039.84
IBL	10,117.19
Internet Service	958.32
Total Publications	14,115.35
Total Standing Committees	14,115.35
Meeting Expenses	7,933.12
Bird Trip Expenses	10,386.75
Sales - Merchandise	20.16
Outside Projects/Donations	6,000.00
Officers	
Treasurer	33.07
Total Officers	33.07
Bank & PayPal Fees	312.65
Insurance	
Liability	359.00
Total Insurance	359.00
Others - Conservation, Education, Gen. Fund	5,666.37
Total Expenses	44,826.47

Net Surplus (Deficit) (3,910.19)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIODS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND DECEMBER 31, 2007

Current Assets at December 31, 2006		
Checking	865.89	
Savings	8,061.05	
Treasured CD	55,661.89	
Total Current Assets at December 31, 2006		64,588.83
Y-T-D 2007 Net Surplus / (Deficit)		(3,910.19)
Current Assets at December 31, 2007		
Checking	11,407.33	
Savings	1,309.90	
Treasured CD	47,961.41	
Total Current Assets at December 31, 2007		60,678.64

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2007

Current Assets	At December 31, 2006	2007 Budget	2007 Incr (Decr)	At December 31, 2007
Checking	865.89			11,407.33
Savings	8,061.05			1,309.90
CD - Treasured CD	55,661.89			47,961.41
Total Current Assets	<u>64,588.83</u>			<u>60,678.64</u>
Fund Balances				
Publications Fund	3,580.49	13,200.00	(8,115.35)	8,665.14
Life Membership Fund	11,293.89		(980.00)	10,313.89
Outside Projects Fund	6,794.60		(6,000.00)	794.60
Total Specific Funds	<u>21,668.98</u>	<u>13,200.00</u>	<u>(15,095.35)</u>	<u>19,773.63</u>
Memorials	14,937.80		(5,666.37)	9,271.43
General Operating Fund	27,982.05	(13,200.00)	16,851.53	31,633.58
Total Fund Balance	<u>64,588.83</u>		<u>(3,910.19)</u>	<u>60,678.64</u>

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional \$20, Goldfinch \$20, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Address and e-mail changes, paper forms for new members, and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer (see inside front cover). Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Doug Hunt, 1201 High Ave. West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (iou@mahaska.org).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/8" wide by 6-1/8" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at Kay@KayNiyo.com. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1])**, **April 1 for spring issue [2]**, **July 1 for summer issue [3]**, **October 1 for fall issue [4]**. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Harley Winfrey, 1450 Oriole Rd., Boone, IA 50036 (hsbhwinfrey@hotmail.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (jabissell@mchsi.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 4 South Ridge Ct., Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@earthlink.net).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address changes to Membership Coordinator Douglas Hunt, 1201 High Ave., West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (iou@mahaska.org).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Fall 2008: 12–14 September 2008, Iowa Falls

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Sandhill Crane that resided at Lake Laverne, Iowa State University, Ames much of Winter 2007–2008 (see article inside). Photograph on 22 January 2008 by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Brown Pelican, Fort Madison, 18 December 2007. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

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