

IOWA BIRD LIFE
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION





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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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Treasurer: *Mary Beth Hunt* (2014), 1201 High Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (birders@mahaska.org and iou@mahaska.org)

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Book Review Editor: *James J. Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

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Summer (Jun, Jul; deadline 3 August): *James J. Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov; deadline 3 December): *Paul Hertzell*, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzell@rconnect.com)

History Editor: *Thomas H. Kent*, 624 Larch Lane, Iowa City, IA 52245 (thkent@gmail.com)

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Message from the IOU President

Paul O. Roisen

Only forty-five days of my Presidential term left! I am sitting at my desk, in Mexico, thanks to Bob and Mary Cecil, wondering how two years could have slipped by so quickly. As I reminisced it became obvious that time does indeed “fly” when you are having fun. “Active” says it all when it comes to the accomplishments of the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union (IOU) during 2012.

Breeding Bird Atlas project—The five-year data gathering portion of the BBA II is complete. Approximately 3600 field hours were recorded almost doubling our best previous year. This does not include the hours spent entering the data and the time and miles driven to and from atlas block areas. The IOU Board of directors has generously set aside \$10,000 to aid in the publication of the endeavor. An “online” auction raised an additional \$6,320 for future publishing and distribution cost for BBA II. The generosity of our members is truly humbling.

The IOU Southern Wings Partnership—Contributors raised around \$3,000. Contributions from other organization in Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Dakota totaled \$27,500. This amount was pooled with a grant from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to restore native grasslands in the El Cerdado area of the Saltillo grasslands in Mexico.

Spring and fall meetings—Tom Schilke continued his tradition of producing memorable meetings. Attendance averaged 111 persons per meeting. As good as the birding was, the outstanding nationally recognized speakers such as Alvaro Jamarillo and Sheri Williamson were highlight of the meetings. Both speakers were impressed with the Iowa birding community and the IOU.

Constitutional change—The board has approved an amendment to the IOU Constitution in regards to term limits for the treasurer. Membership discussion and voting will take place at the 2013 spring meeting in Cedar Falls.

Membership increased sharply from 388 to 411 members, including 41 new members. We still have some work to do to return to the high of 447 members in 2007.

The Project Committee requested and was granted \$8,000, the largest distribution ever, to fund an unusually high number of deserving requests for grants. The committee was able to provide assistance for nine projects. The top two were “Cerulean Warbler monitoring project in NE Iowa” (Jon Stavers) and the newly formed organization “Iowa Young Birders” headed by Carl Bendorf.

Financial audit again shows that the books are “spot on”, demonstrating the tremendous value of having a consistent and knowledgeable treasurer and the support of Hunt and Associates. Much work was done to clarify our bookkeeping regarding expenses, income, life memberships, and bequest use.

OTHER RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

Co-nominated Effigy Mounds/Yellow River Forest Bird Conservation Area as a *Globally Important Birding Area*. Determination has not yet been finalized.

Iowa Young Birders (IAYB)—The IOU partnered with Iowa Audubon in support of the IAYB for a grant request from REAP/Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help fund field trips for these young Iowa birders. The grant was received and field trips are scheduled throughout Iowa during 2013. We have also committed to aiding IAYB in planning and leadership for these field trips.

AmeriCorps—Sent a letter of support to receive a grant from the United States government to fund Iowa DNR for work with Bird Conservation Areas and a Volunteer Monitoring position.

The IOU website has seen massive updates. It is a work in progress so you may not have noticed the changes. Ann Johnson, the website guru, continues to put countless hours into this effort. Financials, membership numbers, projects funded, a Facebook link, an “eBird” connection, and the events calendar are just a few of the improvements.

The Publications Committee continues to produce possibly the best publications in the nation. We get an incredible value for our dues. Please keep this in mind when making your donations.

Soapbox—Membership volunteers for committee (especially the Membership Committee), board memberships, and officers are vitally important. A vibrant organization requires active participation from many members. Without it we stagnate or disappear. We also need help with publication articles and committee work. Volunteers and candidates for leadership, particularly officers, have been very difficult to secure (it is my understanding that the nominating committee was turned down 6-7 times for the presidency and 12 times for the vice presidency in a recent election). A huge thank you to Mark Proescholdt, John Rutenbeck, and Sharon Stilwell, our current *ad hoc* nominating committee, for their untiring service in acquiring a slate of candidates for board positions each year. They have truly done well with this challenging job.

PLEASE find a way to give of your time or talents—we have lots of little jobs as well as some big jobs that need doing.

I look to 2013 with expectation and enthusiasm and invite all of you to becoming even more active in the work of the IOU. Concerns, comments, ideas, and volunteering are ALWAYS welcome!

4420 3rd Ave, Sioux City, IA 51106 (roisenp1950@yahoo.com).

Field Reports—Fall 2012

Paul Hertzell



Paul Hertzell

WEATHER

Conditions in Iowa this fall, as in so many areas of the central U.S. were extremely dry. According to the state climatologist, the three months making up the meteorological fall season ranked as the 37th driest autumn in 140 years of record-keeping, which doesn't seem that severe. However, it was preceded by a dry summer, including the 3rd hottest and 5th driest July on record, and in turn, the summer was preceded by the single warmest spring on record. By the time autumn arrived, Iowa needed rain, but instead, most areas faced continued shortfalls.

August temperatures were slightly below normal, breaking a string of ten consecutive warmer than normal months. The month fell 1.25 inches short of average rainfall. September mirrored August, with slightly below normal

temperatures, and continued precipitation shortfalls. The total of 1.63 inches made it the 18th driest September on record. October averaged 2.1 degrees below normal and another 0.51 inches below normal rainfall. November was the only fall month with above average temperatures, but like the other 3 months, precipitation was below normal.

BIRDS OF FALL

Habitat Conditions and General Trends

The most noticeable effect of the hot spring and summer together with the dry July and fall was the disappearance of surface water. Many many wetlands completely dried up. In Winnebago County, all of Myre Slough became a dry grass field early in the fall and has not held water since. In Hancock County, Eagle Lake, one of north Iowa's most pristine wetlands, lost all of its water and then burned. In Worth County, the marsh component to Rice Lake completely dried up, as did the marsh at Hanlontown Slough. In Cerro Gordo County, both ponds at Zirbel Slough went dry, along with Union Hills and all small wetlands. For the first time since I have lived in Mason City, I could cross the Winnebago River in sneakers. In Kossuth County, Matt Kenne wrote, "all wetlands were toast except Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, which held out until October before finally going dry." He also noted the Des Moines River was the lowest anyone could remember.

In the Iowa Lakes country, Dickinson County's Ed Thelen wrote, "many small wetlands were bone dry – some I don't think I've ever seen dry." Lee Schoenewe agreed but added one of the few hopeful notes – "As an indication of the complex hydrology of the glacial landscape in this area, there were a few marshes that held water better than others, including Dan Green Slough and Lost Island Marsh". In the far west, conditions were "very dry, with lots of the ponds and wetlands waterless", according to Paul Roisen, who noted the extreme northwest was the worst. On the other hand, he added the observation that the grasslands of the Loess Hills "seemed to maintain themselves reasonably well."

In the central part of the state, the potholes and oxbows of Polk County went 100% dry, according to Aaron Brees. He wrote, "All of the natural oxbows below Saylorville such as Cottonwood and Sycamore Accesses and Fisher Lake were and are still bone dry. All of the shallow wetlands at Chichaqua Bottoms, Errington Marsh, and Moeckley Prairie are dry and so are the oxbow wetlands west of Granger along Beaver Creek." Bery Engebretsen simply wrote "Water, what's that?" At Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Jasper County, Karen Viste-Sparkman wrote "Walnut Creek was practically dry, and stopped flowing, and its tributaries that have never been dry in the history of the refuge dried up completely."

In the east, Jim Forde wrote that nearly all wetlands went dry, including Otter Creek Marsh, Muskrat Slough, Sycamore Bottoms, and Cone Marsh. At the Hawkeye Wildlife Area, many surrounding areas, including Greencastle Avenue backwaters went entirely to grass. He wrote, "Oddly, Swan Lake never dried completely and was Hawkeye's only remaining water besides the main pool."

Even in the southeast, which was the part of the state receiving the most rain, wetland conditions were severe. John Rutenbeck noted, "Southeast Iowa had just over 4 inches of rain in October, which was the highest amount statewide that month. However, we had little rain the other 3 months and had ponds and lakes drying up or at near record lows." By the end of the season, the Mississippi River was so low barge traffic had to be restricted.

With low rivers and completely dry wetlands, waterfowl and shorebirds were not found at their usual widespread locations, or in their usual numbers. Instead, they were concentrated at a few key locations. In the north, for a time, Trumbull Lake, Dan Green Slough, both in Clay County, and Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Kossuth County provided some useable habitat. But by the end of September, most of this habitat was gone. At Saylorville, where water levels approached record lows, the sheer volume of water ensured edge habitat throughout the season, especially at the north end. Bery Engebretsen even noted "Saylorville had pretty good variety and numbers, perhaps even accentuated by the increased mudflats at Jester." In the Coralville Reservoir/Hawkeye WA area, only Swan Lake was able to provide lasting shorebird habitat. Elsewhere, Jim Forde noted "the good shorebirding of summer wasn't continued into autumn."

The dry conditions also affected the songbird migration. Several people commented that it was almost undetectable. Wolfgang Oesterreich wrote "fall migration was mostly a bust with shorebirds, vireos, warblers, and thrushes." At Neal Smith NWR, which was probably a good indicator of the conditions of grasslands throughout the state, the prairie vegetation was "shorter and more sparse than usual", according to Karen Viste-Sparkman. She also wrote, "Seed production was low for many species, so that may have had an effect on food available for birds in the fall and winter. Since the birds are normally pretty quiet

in the prairie in the fall, it was hard to tell if there were fewer around. I normally see Le Conte's Sparrows without much effort, but I only saw one on the refuge last fall and I was looking for them."

For some reason, there was an unusual number of species arriving early. Black-necked Stilt, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Merlin, Smith's Longspur, and Brewer's Blackbird arrived on record early dates, and Palm Warbler, Nelson's Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird arrived on 2nd-earliest dates. Apparently, the Smith's Longspurs liked what they found, because they also stayed to a 2nd-latest date.

All winter finches arrived early and often. Both crossbills, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins were plentiful, and for the first time in 14 years, Evening Grosbeaks were found in the state.

Unusual Species

Seven Accidental species were found including Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Whooping Crane, Arctic Tern, Rufous Hummingbird, Rock Wren, and Evening Grosbeak. And two Casual species, Sprague's Pipit and Bohemian Waxwing, were recorded.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **A** = area, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NA** = nature area, **NM** = National Monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **SI** = slough, **SP** = state park, **USFWS** = U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **USNWR** = Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **WA** = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: The first 70 were seen 20 Oct from atop the Hitchcock NA tower in *Pottawattamie* (MO). Another 170 were counted the following day and the most was 600 from the same location on 11 Nov. Other high counts were 538 on 24 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS), and 475 on 4 Nov at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). Smaller numbers were found in *Appanoose*, *Calhoun*, *Hamilton*, *Polk*, *Poweshiek* and *Story* (RLC, TMH, SJD, DTh, MP).

Snow Goose: Singles from summer (Dinsmore 2012) continued on 7 Aug in *Hamilton* (SJD) and 8 Sep *Woodbury* (BH, GLV). The first probable migrants were 10 on 23 Oct near Radcliffe *Hardin* (MP). On 6 Nov 9000 were counted from the watch tower at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO), and another 9000 on 12 Nov, but the big day was 11 Nov when 39000 were estimated there. 301 were at L Rathbun *Appanoose* 17 Nov (RLC), and smaller groups were reported from *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Hamilton*, *Hardin* and *Marshall* (CJF, MHB, PH, SJD, MP).

Ross's Goose: The first two were at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 28 Oct (JJD). All others – 27 on 6 Nov at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD), 1 on 14 Nov at Dog Creek O'Brien (DK), 1 on 17 Nov at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC), 3 on 18-22 Nov at Saylorville *Polk* (AB), and 1 on 19 Nov at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Cackling Goose: This species did not show up on time or in traditional numbers. There were only two reports of more than 100 birds – 290 were in Ames on 17 Nov (SJD) and 180 were at Mill Creek SP O'Brien

(TMH). Otherwise, the descending order of counts was 80, 67, 40, 37, 21, 20, 18, 16, 12, 11, 10, 7, 3, which makes a statewide total less than the 2010 single high count of 937.

Canada Goose: Locals began gathering in flocks as early as 8 Sep when 2000 were counted in *Emmet* (SJD). The migrant race *B.c. interior* was first reported on 2 Oct when 250 arrived at the NIACC ponds in *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Mute Swan: One was at Sand L *Johnson* on 6 Sep (MHB) and another on 4 Oct at L *Macbride Johnson* (JF) may have been the same bird.

Trumpeter Swan: The largest group reported was 9, an apparent family group, in *O'Brien* on 14 Nov (DK). Other family groups were 6 on 5 Aug at *Forney L Fremont* (CL), 7 on 18 Aug at *Jones Pond Monona* (GLV), and 2 on 23 Sep at *Snake Creek M Greene* (TMH).

Tundra Swan: The first Iowa reports occurred on 30 Oct along the Mississippi R – 170 at Pool #9 *Allamakee*, and 294 at Pool #13 *Clinton* (DK, USFWS). The peak concentration of 4745 occurred as it usually does at Pool #9 on 26 Nov (USFWS). On the same date another 1350 were at Pool #13. The only report away from the river was up to 10 at *Little Wall L Hamilton* 14–16 Nov (SJD, Jon Bahrenfus).

Wood Duck: The high count was 2041 on 24 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). Away from the Missouri R, the most was 400 on 12 Aug at *Mud Lake Clay* (SJD). The last two were at Pool #9 *Allamakee* 29 Nov (MP).

Gadwall: Peaked in late October across the state: 17800 on 30 Oct at Pool #13 *Clinton* (USFWS), 7500 on 27 Oct at *Saylorville Polk* (AB), and 1200 on 31 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

American Wigeon: The first was 1 on

13 Sep at *Saylorville Polk* (SJD) followed by another single at *Ada Hayden P Story* on 1 Oct (WO). High counts were along the two big rivers – 950 on 10 Oct at Pool #9 on the Mississippi *Allamakee*, and 350 on 7 Nov at De Soto NWR on the Missouri R *Harrison* (USFWS).

American Black Duck: First appeared on 30 Oct along the Mississippi R in *Allamakee* (DK) where as many as 200 were estimated by aerial survey (USFWS). Also reported from *Appanoose, Carroll, Hancock, Polk* (AB, MTW, RLC, SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: Assembled into large flocks in Sep and quickly departed. From 1550–2000 were at *Saylorville Polk* 5–13 Sep (AB, SJD), 2000 at L *Manawa Pottawattamie* 13 Sep (LJP, BKP), and 1105 at De Soto NWR *Harrison* on 20 Sep (USFWS). A straggler was left behind at the Slater sewage lagoons *Story* and found 19 Nov (SJD).

Northern Shoveler: Some high counts were 3700 on 16 Oct at Pool #9 *Allamakee* (USFWS), and 544 on 26 Oct at *Saylorville Res Polk* (SJD).

Northern Pintail: Peaked in the east on 16 Oct when 7245 were estimated by aerial survey at Pool #13 *Clinton* (USFWS), and in the west a month later on 14 Nov when 3000 were at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). There were scattered reports of small numbers in the interior of the state including 298 on 25 Oct at *Saylorville Polk* (SJD).

Green-winged Teal: High counts – east: 8560 on 30 Oct at Pool #13 *Clinton* (USFWS), central: 3087 on 25 Oct at *Saylorville Polk* (SJD), west: 9814 on 14 Nov at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

Canvasback: First arrived 1 Oct at Pool #9 *Allamakee* where they peaked on 5 Nov with 194,470 estimated by aerial survey (USFWS). This was actually down from previous years.

Redhead: The first notable group was 670 at Pool #13 *Clinton* which built to 1060 by 14 Nov (USFWS). Away from the river, the most was 112 at Saylorville *Polk* 7 Nov (SJD).

Ring-necked Duck: The first large gathering of migrants was a group of 3200 on 16 Oct at Pool #13 *Clinton* (USFWS). This grew to 8810 on 30 Oct and remained as high as 7050 through the end of Nov. In the central part of the state, the peak was 403 on 26 Oct at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD).

Greater Scaup: The first 6 were at Big Creek *Polk* 26 Oct (SJD). At Spirit L *Dickinson*, numbers varied from 21 on 3 Nov to 46 on 20 Nov (ET, LAS, SJD). Also found in small numbers in *Appanoose*, *Hamilton*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Webster*.

Lesser Scaup: Peaked in early Nov with 39,800 estimated at Pool #9 *Allamakee* (USFWS). In central Iowa, 2200-4000 were at Saylorville *Polk* 26 Oct–7 Nov (AB, SJD), and in the west the peak was 1600 on 14 Nov at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

Surf Scoter: The first were found 14 Oct at two locations – 5 at Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (RG) and 2 at East Okoboji L *Dickinson* that could be seen from ET's yard. There were 20 individuals reported from 12 locations, all immature/female types.

White-winged Scoter: All: 1 on 25 Oct at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF), 11 on 27 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), and 2 on 9 Nov at Pool #9 *Allamakee* (JF).

Black Scoter: The first 2 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 2 Nov (JF). All others: 1 on 18 Nov at Saylorville *Polk* (RIA, PHA, AB), 1 on 22-23 Nov at Jewell *Hamilton* (SJD), and 1 on 28 Nov at Pool #13 *Clinton* (JF). The five birds were the fewest since 2004.

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 juvenile/female type at Saylorville *Polk* 4 Nov (KTM, SJD), 1 juvenile male at Saylorville 24 Nov

(SJD), and 1 at Pool #13 *Clinton* on 24 Nov (JF).

Bufflehead: The first were 40 counted along the Mississippi R *Allamakee* 10 Oct, which grew to 3250 by the end of the month (USFWS).

Common Goldeneye: The first 10 found along the Mississippi R *Allamakee* were a bit early on 16 Oct (USFWS). The next was 1 on 27 Oct at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (MP). Peaked on 26 Nov when 2200 were at Pool #9 *Allamakee* and another 7700 were at Pool #13 *Clinton* (USFWS). Away from the river, notable counts were 219 on 20 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD) and another 200 on 24 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Hooded Merganser: The most was 56 on 2 Nov at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (LJP, BKP). Another 53 were at East Twin L *Hancock* 11 Nov (SJD), and 45 were counted at L Rathbun *Appanoose* 18 Nov (RLC).

Common Merganser: The first was a female on the Mississippi R *Lee* on 1 Nov (JWR). The most was 132 on 26 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Red-breasted Merganser: First few: 3 on 28 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JJD), then 2 on 2 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). The most was 80 on 18 Nov at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC).

Ruddy Duck: First detected along the Mississippi R *Clinton* by aerial survey 10 Oct, where a peak of 14500 was estimated on 16 Oct (USFWS). Away from the river, the first migrants were 7 at Cedar L *Linn* on 15 Oct (BSc), and peaks of 1450 were at Spirit L *Dickinson* 27 Oct (LAS), and 1700 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Oct (AB).

Northern Bobwhite: DNR August roadside surveys did not find any birds north of the southern third of the state. In that region, numbers were up in the central, down in the east. In Decatur County, Jeff

Livingston wrote “We have had 3 groups of 12-14 Bobwhite all fall, much improved from years past.” As many as 16 were reported near Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC, TMH). The wildness of two August individuals, one in *Polk* and another in *Boone* is difficult to judge, but reports from *Kosuth* in the far north are almost certainly of escaped birds.

Gray Partridge: A group of 10 was found 18 Aug in Palo Alto (POR), and another group of 14 was in Audubon on 13 Nov (DCH). DNR August roadside surveys recorded a statistically insignificant increase in numbers over 2011.

Ruffed Grouse: A single report came from Seed Savers *Winneshiek* on 22 Nov (CJL).

Red-throated Loon: There were two late-October juvenile birds, 1 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 15 Oct–2 Nov (JF, JLF, JG, MP), and 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20–22 Oct (SJD-photos, JB, AB). Then, in late November at both locations, individuals were found that may have been the same birds, or maybe not (JF, JG, SJD).

Pacific Loon: Two adults were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2, 3 Nov (DTh, JG, JB), a juv was at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* 11 Nov (SJD), and another juv was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 Nov (JMC).

Common Loon: The first two fall migrants were found 12 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), followed by four more 14 Oct (JB). Scattered reports continued from most large bodies of water, with Nov peaks of 40 at Saylorville (AB) and 73 at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* (SJD). One was still at Saylorville 24 Nov (DTh).

Pied-billed Grebe: The first large gathering was noted 31 Aug when 241 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). The species peaked there with 572 on 20 Sep (SJD), and then dropped off sharply after the last concentration of 140 on 13 Oct (JG).

Horned Grebe: The first two were 1 on 21 Sep at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF) and 1 on 22 Sep at Sandpiper RA *Polk* (RLC). Larger groups began to appear in mid-Oct with 25 on 12 Oct at Saylorville (DTh, SJD), 47 on 14 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KDy), 24 on 27 Oct at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* (LAS). The most was 65 on 1 Nov at L Manawa (DTh, LJP, BKP). Isolated individuals across the state lingered through the end of the season.

Red-necked Grebe: There were three reports of a single bird at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 12 Oct, 25 Oct and 2 Nov (DTh, SJD).

Eared Grebe: After a summer with no reports of breeding (Dinsmore 2012), an immature was found 27 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). The first migrant group was 5 on 6 Sep at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BSc). All others: from 1–5 were reported from *Appanoose*, *Clinton*, *Dickinson*, *Marion*, *Polk*, *Pottawattamie* and *Scott* through 25 Nov (AB, SJD, JG, JF, DTh, TNJ, RLC, WMZ).

Western Grebe: 1 or 2 could be found at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 7 Oct–4 Nov (LJP, BKP, KDy, DTh), 1 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 12 Oct (SJD), 1 or 2 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* 15 Oct–30 Nov (JF, JG), 1 was at Coralville L *Johnson* 31 Oct–15 Nov (JF, LGR), and 1 was at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* on 20 Nov (JF).

Double-crested Cormorant: 41 on 6 Aug at Rice L *Worth* likely summered there without breeding (PH). The first migrant group was 400 on 19 Sep at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC). Peak migration was early Oct; 9300 were counted from the hawk watch tower at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* between 1–9 Oct (MO). As many as 70 were still at Rathbun L 25 Nov (RLC).

American White Pelican: The first big concentration was 4200 on 11 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), where num-



Green Heron nestlings, Iowa City, Johnson, 2 August 2012. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

bers remained high through mid-Sep (BE, SJD). Elsewhere, 3000 were at Snyder Bend Woodbury 8 Sep (BFH, GLV), 4600 flew past the Hitchcock hawk watch tower *Pottawatamie* in the first two days of Oct (MO). Small numbers lingered in the central part of the state through the end of the season (RLC, SJD).

American Bittern: There were three reports: 1 on 3 Sep at Runnells WA *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 20 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), and 1 on 10 Oct at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ).

Least Bittern: The only report was 1 on 30 Aug at Green Island WA *Jackson* (CLW).

Great Blue Heron: The most was 131 on 26 Aug concentrated in Pool A at US-NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Great Egret: Groups of 50–100 were at Mt. Sterling Marsh *Van Buren* (RLC), US-NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) in Aug and early Sep. The last 2 were at Saylorville on 25 Oct (SJD).

Snowy Egret: All: 5 were at Forney L *Fremont* 5 Aug (KDy, CJL), and 1 was at the Ft. Madison riverfront *Lee* on 21 Sep (CRF).

Little Blue Heron: The only one was a juvenile at Medicine Creek WA *Wayne* on 8 Aug (CJL).

Cattle Egret: 9 were at Rapp P *Page* on 5 Sep (KDy), 2 were found in southern *Cerro Gordo* 22 Oct (BGM) and 1 was a Cedar L *Linn* 24 Oct (JF).

Green Heron: The last was 1 on 24 Sep at Hooper WA *Wayne* (JS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Up to 4



Roseate Spoonbill, Saylorville Res, Polk, 6 September 2012.
Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

were at Cedar L Linn in early Aug where at least 1 lingered through 10 Nov (BSc, JF). As many as 13 could be found at Forney L *Fremont* until 11 Aug (CJL, KDy), and 2 others were at Haynie Slough WA *Mills* on the same date (KDy). Elsewhere, singles were at Snake Creek M *Greene* on 23 Sep (TMH), Ada Hayden P *Story* on 10 Oct (WO), and Amana L *Iowa* on 15 Oct (JF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: At least one of two juveniles found in July in a small *Cerro Gordo* wetland (Dinsmore 2012) continued into Aug and could be found through 21 Aug (RG, PH). In addition, 1 was at Forney L *Fremont* 5 Aug (CJL), 1 was at Haynie Slough WA *Mills* 11 Aug (KDy), and 1 was in rural *Humboldt* 8 Sep (SJD).

White-faced Ibis: No reports.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: John McCecil found the state's third record for this species at Jester Park *Polk* on 5 Sep (*JMC, *AB, *JB, *JG, *SJD, *DA). It was last seen the morning of 8 Sep (SCS, CJC, MP). The

other two records are from 1960 at USNWR *Kossuth* and 1997 from *Waubonsie WA Fremont*.

Turkey Vulture:

The roost at L *Ahquabi SP Warren* peaked at 280 individuals on 30 Sep (JS). Flights at the hawkwatches were about average.

Osprey: The season total of 33 at the Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall* was the 2nd-highest in 23 years. The most was 13 on 1 Sep in the vicinity of *Saylorville Polk* (SJD). The last was 1 on 2 Nov

at Pine L SP *Hardin* (MP).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: An apparent juvenile made an appearance on 25 Aug at Otter Creek M *Tama* to the delight of the participants of an IOU field trip (*DA, *JB, *SJD, *PH). It remained in the area for a week, and was last seen 1 Sep at the same location (APC). This is the fourth modern record for this species.

Mississippi Kite: All: 1 on 8 Sep in Des Moines (RIC), 1 on 9 Sep at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO), and another at Hitchcock 16 Sep (MO).

Bald Eagle: The Hitchcock NA hawk watch *Pottawattamie* season total of 1067 was 3rd-highest in 11 years (MO). Numbers were about average at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP).

Northern Harrier: A group of 5 was at Dan Green Slough *Clay* on 19 Aug (LAS). Other high counts were 11 on 31 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS), and 15 on 30 Nov at Pinchey *Marion* (JS, RTT). The

migration at both hawk watches was un-spectacular.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The first was 1 on 2 Sep at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC), followed by another on 7 Sep at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB). Numbers at the two hawk watches were way down, with the season total of 268 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* the 3rd-lowest in 23 years (MP), and 772 at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* the lowest since counts began in 2002 (MO).

Cooper's Hawk: The season total of 50 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* was poor in comparison to the record of 236 (MO). The flight at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* was about average (MO).

Northern Goshawk: All: A juvenile was photographed 30 Sep at Sweet Marsh *Bremer* (JTM), 1 was at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* 25 Oct (MO), an adult was on the ISU campus in Ames 29 Oct (SJD), and 1 was in rural *Ringgold* 30 Nov (JRL).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reported from ten eastern and central counties where the species is a regular resident. A report from *O'Brien* in the west on 22 Sep (LAS) was unusual, as was the season total of 11 at Hitchcock NA hawk watch in the Loess Hills of *Pottawattamie*, the most since the hawk watch began in 2002 (MO).

Broad-winged Hawk: The flight at Grammer Grove *Marshall* in the east was about average, while the flight in the west, at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie*, was below average. High counts were 215 on 17 Sep at Hitchcock, and 203 on 15 Sep at Grammer Grove (MO, MP). The last was 1 on 11 Oct at Hitchcock.

Swainson's Hawk: After a couple of mid-summer reports (Dinsmore 2012), the first migrants were seen 14 Sep, one at the Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall*, and two at the Hitchcock NA hawk watch *Pottawattamie* (MP, MO). At Hitchcock, the

season total of 1042 was the highest since 2006 and three times the average over the five intervening years. The big day was 1 Oct when 961 were counted in the skies over the tower (MO). Away from the hawk watches, from 1–3 were seen in *Cedar*, *Polk* and *Pottawattamie* (CJB, JB, LJP, BKP) and the last 3 on 9 Oct were seen at *Algona* and *Hitchcock* (MCK, MO).

Red-tailed Hawk: Flights at both hawk watches were below average (MP, MO). Elsewhere, five Harlan's and 1 Krider's were reported, all between 13 Oct–15 Nov (RLC, BSc, JF, DK, MP).

Rough-legged Hawk: The first and only October bird flew past the tower at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* on 23 Oct (MO). November birds were found in *Winneshiek*, *Marion*, *Marshall* and *Woodbury* (RG, JS, MP, POR). The Grammer Grove *Marshall* hawk watch had only one bird, on 23 Nov (MP), and the season total of 20 at Hitchcock was the worst in their 11 years of operation (MO).

Golden Eagle: The first two were 1 on 7 Oct in *Decatur* (BAB) and 1 on 11 Oct at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO). Of 32 individuals found, 5 were from the eastern half of the state – 1 on 20 Oct near *Sully Jasper* (DK), up to 3 along Highway A26 *Allamakee* between 8–18 Nov (JF, BSc), and 1 on 18 Nov at *Marshalltown* (MP).

Yellow Rail: All: 1 on 22 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS, CJB, WWH), 1 on 29 Sep at *Errington M Polk* (DTh, RIA, PHA), 1 on 30 Sep at *Saylorville Res Polk* (SJD), and the last on 5 Oct at *Sugar Bottom RA Johnson* (JLF).

Virginia Rail: The only report was 1 on 3 Sep at *Jester P Polk* (RLC).

Sora: Up to 28 were counted at *Saylorville Polk* 3, 4 Sep (JMC, RLC, SJD), and 20 were at *Riverton WA Fremont* 28 Sep (KDy). The last few were 2 on 18 Oct at

Montrose M *Lee* (JJD) and 4 on 20 Oct at Dan Green Slough *Clay* (LAS).

American Coot: Peaked on the Mississippi R in mid-Oct when 59110 were estimated at Pool #13 *Clinton* on 16 Oct by USFWS aerial survey. High counts in the interior of the state were 9500 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB), and 4200 on 20 Nov at W Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD).

Sandhill Crane: Numbers at Otter Creek M *Tama* built to a peak of 45 of 23 Sep (PH, SJD, MP, JF). The only other large group was 27 on 27 Nov in rural *Decatur* (JRL). Smaller numbers were reported from *Carroll*, *Fremont*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Johnson*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Winneshiek*.

WHOOPING CRANE: A single individual passed overhead within 50 yards of an observer on 25 Nov near the Missouri R in *Woodbury* (*HH). No leg bands were noticed on the bird, and the date is reasonable for a migrant from the Canadian population. The last time birds from this population were recorded in Iowa was in the spring of 1999.

Black-bellied Plover: The first was 1 on 19 Aug at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK) where up to 8 could be found through 16 Sep. The second was an individual on 24 Aug at Otter Creek M *Tama* (DP). One was at Trumbull L *Clay* 27–29 Aug, and another was there on 27 Oct (LAS, MCK). Two were at Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* 28 Sep (GLV), and up to 31 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Sep–21 Nov (m.ob.).

American Golden-Plover: The first fall birds were 4 found 29 Aug at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF). Up to 164 could be found at Saylorville Res *Polk* in Sep (m.ob.), and another 160 on 10 Oct was the peak at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK). Other flocks were 120 on 25 Sep at a dry lakebed in *Clay* (POR), 107 on 25 Sep in *O'Brien* (RWZ), 6 on 9 Oct at Meier WA *Hardin* (MP), and 117

on 25 Oct in Ames (SJD). The last two were singles on 12 Nov at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS) and 22 Nov at Saylorville (SJD, AB).

Semipalmated Plover: Small clusters of about 20 were at Trumbull L *Clay*, Hawk-eye WA *Johnson*, and Saylorville *Polk* in Aug and Sep (SJD, CJC, RLC). Smaller groups were found at L Rathbun *Appanoose*, Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* and Otter Creek M *Tama* in Aug (RLC, MP). The last was 18 at Saylorville on 20 Sep (SJD).

Piping Plover: Four were found at Forney L *Fremont* on 5 Aug (CJL), and a juvenile was photographed at Saylorville Res *Polk* 10–20 Sep (SJD).

Killdeer: The most was 1500 on 11 Aug at Forney L *Fremont* (KDY).

Black-necked Stilt: An adult female 2–17 Aug at Burr Oak was a first record for *Winneshiek* and an earliest fall record for the state (DC, *LZ). A family group of 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 31 Aug–1 Sep (SJD, AB-photo) made the first time two distinct records have occurred in the fall.

American Avocet: From 6–18 could be found at Trumbull L *Clay* 1 Aug–8 Sep (LAS, SJD, ET, KTM), and from 3–17 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Aug–22 Sep (m.ob.). Others were 2 on 11 Aug at Forney L *Fremont* (KDY), 8 on 1 Oct at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (JF), 34 on 10 Oct at Rapp P *Page* (KDY), and the last 19 on 18 Oct at Sand L WA *Marshall* (MP).

Spotted Sandpiper: The last was 1 on 16 Oct at Alden *Hardin* (MP).

Solitary Sandpiper: 30 on 6 Aug at Hendrickson M *Story* was the most (MP). The last three were singles on 1 Oct at Diamond L *Poweshiek* (MP), 4 Oct at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC), and Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Greater Yellowlegs: The most was 17, which occurred twice, at Spring Run *Dickinson* on 29 Sep (LAS), and again on 26 Oct at

Saylorville *Polk* (SJD). On 31 Oct, 11 were at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS) and 12 more were at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK). The last was 1 at New Albin *Allamakee* on 25 Nov (TSS).

Willet: Occurred at two locations on 26 Aug: 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 2 at Swan L *Johnson* (JF).

Lesser Yellowlegs. Some high counts were 245 at Trumbull L *Clay* on 3 Aug (SJD) and 330 at USNWR *Kossuth* on 5 Aug (MCK). The last was 1 at Heron Bend *Lee* on 1 Nov (JWR).

Upland Sandpiper: One was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1–6 Sep (SJD, AMJ).

Hudsonian Godwit: A single wayward juvenile was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Oct (SJD).

Marbled Godwit: There were three occurrences – 2 on 8 Aug at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET), 1 on 16 Aug at Amana L *Iowa* (JF), and 2 on 8 Sep at Mud L *Clay* (SJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: a juvenile on 26 Aug at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD), 4 on 26 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 1 on 13 Sep at Saylorville (AB).

Sanderling: Found in July at Trumbull L *Clay* (Dinsmore 2012), birds continued there through 29 Aug (MCK). At Saylorville Res *Polk*, the first was found 4 Aug (AB) and was soon joined by others, peaking at 27 on 4 Sep (JMC). Also found in small numbers at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP), USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK), Sandhill L *Woodbury* (BFH) and Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RG). The last 5 were at Saylorville 25 Oct (SJD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Some high counts were 645 on 3 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD) and 1000 on 4 Sep at Jester Park *Polk* (JMC), which was also the last report.

Western Sandpiper: Reports with detailed included 1 adult at Trumbull L *Clay* 12 Aug (SJD-details) and 2 juveniles at Saylorville Res *Polk* 17 Aug–3 Sep (SJD-details,

AB-photo). There were three other reports without details.

Least Sandpiper: Some high counts were 565 on 3 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD) and up to 361 26 Aug–3 Sep at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD, RLC). The last 2 were at Saylorville 22 Nov (AB).

Baird's Sandpiper: The most was 41 on 29 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (MCK). Another 15 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (SJD), and from 1–7 were found in *Story*, *Tama* and *Kossuth* (MP, PH, DTh, AB) before the last 1 on 7 Nov at Big Creek *Polk* (SJD).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The most was 3500 on 3 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD). Up to 1000 were at USNWR *Kossuth* 5 Aug–31 Oct (MCK), and another 700 were at Forney L *Fremont* 11 Aug (KDy). Smaller numbers were reported at Cardinal Marsh *Winneshiek* (DC), Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC), Rice Lake *Worth* (PH), L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC), and Saylorville Res *Polk* where the last was found 21 Nov (SJD, AB).

Dunlin: The first was 1 on 30 Sep at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP). The most was 91 on 25 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). From 1–6 were also found at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK), near Alden *Hardin* (MP), and Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS). The last 4 were at Saylorville 29 Nov (SJD).

Stilt Sandpiper: After peaking at Trumbull L *Clay* in July (Dinsmore 2012), several hundred persisted through 8 Sep (MCK, SJD). Up to 206 were at Saylorville *Polk* 24–26 Aug (JB, AB, SJD), and another 95 were at USNWR *Kossuth* 26 Aug (MCK). Elsewhere, from 3–28 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC), Forney L *Fremont* (KDy), L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC), Rapp P *Page* (KDy), and Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP). The last was very late, found roaming the Saylorville shallows 13–25 Oct (SJD, AB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Found

at twelve locations around the state. The largest groups were 9 on 24 Aug at Bank Swallow Bend Warren (JS), 10 on 29 Aug at Trumbull L Clay (MCK), and 19 on 13 Sep at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD). Also found in Woodbury, Madison, Clarke, Kossuth, Tama, Warren, Winneshiek and Hamilton. The last 2 were at Saylorville 24 Sep (SJD).

Short-billed Dowitcher: All: 2 on 11 Aug at Forney L Fremont (KDY), 1 on 18 Aug at Jester P Polk (JB), 8 on 29 Aug at Otter Creek M Tama (MP), and a juvenile on 20 Sep at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Large group were 36 at Rapp P Page 10 Oct (KDY) and another 31 at Saylorville Res Polk 25 Oct (SJD). From 1–10 were also found at Forney L Fremont (KDY), Meier WA Hardin (MP), Folsom Area Mills (KDY), Dan Green Sl Clay (LAS), and Heron Bend Lee (JWR). The last was 1 on 9 Nov at Big Creek Polk (SJD).

Wilson's Snipe: The first few were 1 on 9 Aug at Cardinal M Winneshiek (DC), 1 on 11 Aug at Jensen M Madison (JS), and 2 on 30 Aug at Green Island WA Jackson (CLW).

American Woodcock: All: 1 on 7 Oct along the Trestle to Trestle Trail Polk (KVS), 1 on 27 Oct north of Liberty Johnson (RJH), and 1 on 13 Nov in rural Cedar (SJD).

Wilson's Phalarope: The most was 9 on 8 Sep at Jester P Polk (PH) which, along with 2 at Trumbull L Clay (SJD) on the same day, were also the last found.

Red-necked Phalarope: Small groups of less than 10 were found in Aug and Sep in Story, Clay, Tama, Polk, Kossuth, Hardin, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Cerro Gordo. The last was 1 on 4 Oct at Cedar L Linn (JF).

Sabine's Gull: A single juvenile was at Saylorville Res Polk 13–16 Sep (AB, RIA, PHA, JB, SJD) and 2 were there on 1 Oct (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: Two on 8 Sep at Jester Park Polk (PH) and 1 at W Okoboji L Dickinson (SJD) on the same day were the first. The peak was 276 on 17 Nov at L Rathbun Appanoose (RLC, TNJ) where the last were found 25 Nov (RLC).

Franklin's Gull: Some of the larger groups were up to 50,000 at Saylorville Polk in mid-Sep (BE, RLC, AB); 25,000 on 20 Sep in flight past the Hitchcock NA tower Pottawattamie (MO) shattered the old record of 16,000; at least 9,000 on 20 Sep at Clear L Cerro Gordo (PH); and 23,360 on 6 Oct at Red Rock Marion (SJD). The last was 1 on 25 Nov along the Mississippi R in Scott (JF).

Herring Gull: After the species bred for the second time on islands in the Mississippi R (Dinsmore 2012), an adult was found downriver at Ft. Madison Lee on 8 Aug (SJD). Away from the river, the usual early arrivals seemed scarce. DTh wrote it was odd he couldn't find one at Saylorville Polk before late Nov, although he missed one there 14 Oct (AB). Prior to that, 1 was at Coralville L Johnson 4 Oct (JF) and another at Cedar L Linn the next day (JF). The first at Clear L Cerro Gordo was found 9 Oct (RG). The most was 117 at Saylorville on 24 Nov (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: A record-early adult by one day was found 15 Oct at Red Rock Res Marion (JF-details). The other two fall reports were 1 on 6 Nov at Pool 14 Scott (JF), and a juvenile on 24 Nov in Polk (SJD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A 1st-cycle individual was at L Manawa Pottawattamie 18–20 Oct (LJP, BKP, RIA, PHA), and a single adult was there on 27 Nov (LJP, BKP). Other singles were a 2nd-year bird at Red Rock Res Marion 27 Oct (JF), an immature at Trumbull L Clay on 4 Nov (LAS), 1 on 6 Nov at Pool 14 Scott (JF), and an adult at W Okoboji L Dickinson on 25 Nov (LAS).

Glaucous Gull: A first-year bird feeding on exposed carp at Trumbull L *Clay* on 20 Oct was record-early by a week (*LAS).

Least Tern: 1 was at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* on 1 Aug (JS), another was at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 24 Aug (WO), and a third was found 6 Sep at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BSc).

Caspian Tern: After a few June and July reports (Dinsmore 2012), there were no August reports. The first fall sightings were a group of 5 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* on 3 Sep (RG) followed by 2 on 6 Sep at Sand L WA *Marshall* (MP). A count of 36 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Sep (RLC) grew to 203 by 1 Oct (BE, SJD). Also reported in smaller numbers from *Clay*, *Page*, *Pottawattamie*, *Appanoose*, *Story* and *Poweshiek*. The last two were found 7 Oct, one at Saylorville, and the other at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (AB, RLC).

Black Tern: August migrants were found in *Polk*, *Pottawattamie*, *Linn*, *Lee*, *Tama*, *Kossuth* and *Hardin*, with the two high counts 57 on 2 Aug at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD), and 50 on 26 Aug at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK). The last 4 were at Jester P *Polk* 15 Sep (RLC).

Common Tern: The first was 1 on 7 Aug at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RG), followed by another on 27 Aug at Sand L WA *Marshall* (MP). Two were at Coralville L *Johnson* on 7 Sep (JF), 1 or 2 were at Saylorville *Polk* 9–15 Sep (JB, ASB, RLC), 2 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 Sep (JWL), and the last on 19 Oct at Saylorville (SJD) was 3rd-latest.

ARCTIC TERN: A juvenile was found by AB 13 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*AB, *DA) and lingered until 1 Oct (*SJD). This is only the third year in which Arctic Terns have been recorded in Iowa, the other two being 1999 and 2010.

Forster's Tern: After a couple of July

reports (Dinsmore 2012), a few migrants began to appear in scattered locations in mid-August, most notably 13 at Sand L WA *Marshall* on 13 Aug (MP). The high count was up to 52 at Saylorville *Polk* 25 Aug (AB, SJD). Another 31 were at USNWR *Kossuth* on 5 Sep (MCK), and 10 more were at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 3 Sep (RG). The last was 1 on 20 Oct at Saylorville (SJD, AB, JB).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: An unusually large group was 33 on 2 Oct at Jewell *Hamilton* (SJD).

White-winged Dove: Apparently bred in or near Shenandoah *Page* where several pairs and at least 3 juveniles were present until 6 Oct (KDy).

Mourning Dove: The 83 in a single flock on 6 Nov in *Linn* was more than BSc had ever seen.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: As many as 6 were seen or heard on 18 Aug at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RLC). The last and only Sep bird was 1 found at Jester Park *Polk* on 4 Sep (JMC).

Black-billed Cuckoo: There were five August reports of single birds: 1 on 5 Aug in *Mills* (CJL), 1 on 13 Aug in *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 19 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), 1 on 20 Aug at Starr's Cave *Des Moines* (JWR), and 1 on 28 Aug at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD).

Barn Owl: A family group of 2 adults and 4 young lingered into early fall at a deer stand in *Van Buren* where they nested (George Sheppard-photos *vide* SJD). Another individual was encountered 30 Sep on the Livingston property in *Decatur* (BAB).

Eastern Screech-Owl: This widespread but elusive species was seen three times this fall, in *Dallas* (JB), *Appanoose* (RLC), and *Humboldt* (JN).

Great Horned Owl: There were two Nov reports of the pale, Arctic race with

singles in rural *Kossuth* (JN) and at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* (ET).

Snowy Owl: After a phenomenal continent-wide irruption in 2011-12 (Hertzel and Dinsmore 2012), this fall season felt like the beginning of a moderate aftershock with at least 11 distinct sightings. The first was a likely immature male photographed 1 Nov in northwest *Jackson* (Chuck Ernst). It was followed by individuals in *Carroll*, *Clayton*, *Guthrie*, *Buchanan*, *Sac*, *Lyon*, *Pottawattamie*, *Black Hawk*, *Harrison*, and *Clinton* (m.ob.). All sightings for the 2012-13 season will be summarized in greater detail following the departure of the last individual.

Long-eared Owl: The first were found 3 Nov at two locations with 2 at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and 1 near Donnellson *Lee* (BSc). These were followed by 1 on 9 Nov at the Garner Cemetery *Hancock* (RG), 1 found with a broken wing east of Decorah *Winneshiek* (CJL), and 1 at Yellow Smoke P *Crawford* on 24 Nov (Robert Manning).

Short-eared Owl: The first few were 2 on 13 Oct at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (Doug Sheeley) and 1 on 14 Oct at Bobolink WPA *Kossuth* (MCK). Reports continued to be steady through the end of the season. Some groups were 5 on 11 Nov south of Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (Paul Willis), up to 9 at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* 12–29 Nov (POR, GLV), and 10–12 along the Des Moines R north of Red Rock *Marion* 28–30 Nov (JS, RTT).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The first, on 13 Oct, flew into the nets at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie*, where 69 new captures took place through 19 Nov (JT). At Mount Ayr WA *Ringgold* banders had 41 captures during 16 Oct–14 Nov (JT). Two temporary banding stations, one in *Monona* and another in *Fremont*, added 13 more captures (JT). Elsewhere, individuals were found in *Cerro Gordo* (Greg Braun, Michelle Tue-photo),

Ida (DoP), *O'Brien* (LAS), *Kossuth* (MCK), *Carroll* (RS), *Johnson* (LGR, BSc), and *Polk* (SJD).

Common Nighthawk: The first signs of movements were 7 on 24 Aug in Cedar Rapids (BSc), followed on 26 Aug by groups of 44, 19, 85, 70 and 255 in five different counties (MCK, GLV, SJD, AB, MO). Numbers such as these continued through Sep and finally trailed off in early Oct, with the last 2 seen 23 Oct in *Winneshiek* (LS) and *Warren* (JS).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: The only report was 3 at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* on 5 Sep (KDY).

Chimney Swift: As usual, reports dried up in early October. Ten were still in Des Moines on 7 Oct (MCK) and the last was a single bird in the sky over Saylorville *Polk* on 12 Oct (AB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The last two were on 2 Oct in Ames *Story* (SJD) and 21 Oct in Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* (JGr).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: An adult female visited a home in Davenport from early Oct through 16 Nov (*SJD, Jo Ann Whitmore-photo, *POR).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Flights of 500 on 1 Sep and 240 on 5 Sep passed the tower at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (MO). Another 112 were counted at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* on 23 Sep (KDY). The last of the season was a group of 4 on 30 Sep in rural *Kossuth* (MCK).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Under-reported or unusually scarce, this species was mentioned only six times by contributors.

Northern Flicker: The most were 29 on 21 Sep at Heritage P Ankeny *Polk* (RIA, PHA). Red-shafted birds were reported on 22 Sep in Norwalk *Warren* (AMJ), on 11 Oct in Cherokee *Cherokee* (DB), and on 20 Oct in rural *Marion* (JS).



Hairy Woodpecker, Des Moines, Polk, 21 November 2012. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported from eight eastern and central counties, but also from Ft. Defiance SP *Emmet* 12 Aug (SJD), A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* 14 Aug (MCK), and L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 3 Nov (LJP, BKP).

American Kestrel: The season total of 78 at Hitchcock NA hawk watch *Pottawattamie* was their lowest ever (MO), and at Grammer Grove *Marshall* the season total was 3rd-lowest in 23 years of record-keeping (MP).

Merlin: The first was record early for fall on 12 Aug on the *Kossuth/Palo Alto* county line (SJD-photo). There is one July record from 1999. The next two were 1 on 1 Sep at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO) and 1 on 3 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP). The first arrival at the Glendale Cemetery winter roost in Des Moines *Polk*

was noted 18 Sep (RIC). A peak day was 1 Oct when 7 were counted at Hitchcock. Flights at both hawk watches were slightly under average. Of 9 birds identified to race, 7 were judged to be *columbarius*.

Peregrine Falcon: At Hitchcock NA hawk watch in *Pottawattamie*, the season total of 31 paled in comparison to last year's record total of 109 (MO). Only the 2003 season had a lower total. Elsewhere, Peregrines were reported from *Clay*, *Clayton*, *Hardin*, *Kossuth*, *Marshall*, *Polk* and *Scott*.

Prairie Falcon: Eight of nine birds were observed from the hawk watch tower at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie*. The first occurred 11 Oct, and the peak was 3 seen 11, 12 Nov (MO). The only report away from Hitchcock was a bird found 25 Nov in Sioux City *Woodbury* (BFH).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The first, on 12 Aug in *Humboldt* (SJD), was followed immediately by reports on 13, 14, 15 Aug in *Story*, *Kossuth* and *Wayne* (WO, MCK, RLC). The last two were on 9 Sep at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and 16 Sep in Iowa City (CJC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: At least 10 were seen and heard at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 18 Aug (RLC). The last was 1 on 5 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The first few were 1 on 11 Aug at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), 1 on 18 Aug at Saylorville *Polk* (AB), and 1 on 19 Aug at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (BE). Reports of 1 or 2 continued until the last on 3 Sep at Grammer Grove (MP).

Acadian Flycatcher: The last was 4 on 18 Aug at Lacey Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RLC).

Alder Flycatcher: The last identified by voice was 1 on 9 Aug at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Willow Flycatcher: The last was 1 on 17 Sep in rural *Dallas* (RIA, PHA).



Philadelphia Vireo, Boone, 29 August 2012.
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Great Crested Flycatcher, Trumbull L, Clay,
19 August 2012. Photograph by Kevin T. Murphy,
Waterloo, IA.

Least Flycatcher: An individual photographed on 28 Sep in Ames was getting late (SJD).

Eastern Phoebe: The last two were 1 in *Cerro Gordo* on 11 Nov (CJF), and 1 on 16 Nov at Scott County P *Scott* (JF) which was 2nd-latest for fall. There are two Dec records.

Great Crested Flycatcher: The last was 1 on 18 Sep at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* (DTh).

Western Kingbird: All: 1 on 9 Aug in *Harrison* (GLV), 1 on 19 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE, AB), and 1 on 27 Aug at Kindlespire P *Clay* (LAS).

Eastern Kingbird: Migrant groups moved through in late Aug and early Sep. There were 47 at Sedan *Appanoose* on 22 Aug (RLS) and another 46 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 3 Sep (AB). After that, only one was found, on 4 Sep at Wellsburg *Grundy* (MP).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reported in all four months of the fall season. The two Nov reports were 1 on 3 Nov at Red Feather

Prairie Polk (KVS, DTh) and 1 on 19 Nov in rural *Adams* (CJL).

Northern Shrike: There were 24 reports from 20 counties from all parts of the state except the far west. Ed Thelen, in *Dickinson* commented he saw more than usual, with the first few in late Oct. Two more were found 1 Nov, one in *Dickinson* (DCH) and another in *Story* (WO). Reports continued almost daily until the end of the season.

White-eyed Vireo: The last few were 2 on 25 Aug in rural *Jefferson* (DCP) and 2 on 3 Sep at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (K Dy).

Bell's Vireo: The only report was 1 on 25 Aug in rural *Jefferson* (DCP).

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last was 1 on 26 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP).

Blue-headed Vireo: The first few were 1 on 28 Aug at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD), 1 on 29 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (MCK), and 1 on 31 Aug at Pine L SP *Hardin* (MP).



Cliff Swallow, Saylorville Res, Polk, 12 August 2012. Photograph by John Bissell, Grimes, IA.



Tufted Titmouse, Iowa City, Johnson, 16 October 2012. Photograph by Jean Allgood, Iowa City, IA.

The last was 1 on 13 Oct at Trestle to Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Warbling Vireo: The last was 1 near Montezuma *Poweshiek* on 17 Sep (MP).

Philadelphia Vireo: The first two were found in August, at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 17 Aug (WO) and at Pine L SP *Hardin* on 31 Aug (MP). Eight reports followed, including 3 on 9 Sep in *Page* (KDY) and 3 on 15 Sep in *Marshall* (MP). The last was 1 on 30 Sep in Ames (SJD).

Red-eyed Vireo: As many as 32 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 3 Sep (SJD). The last was 1 on 3 Oct at Coralville dam *Johnson* (LGR).

Blue Jay: This species was on the move in late September when 240 were counted in Algona on 28 Sep (MCK) and 1042 flew past the tower at Hitchcock on 30 Sep (MO).

Black-billed Magpie: On 17 Sep at Waubonsie SP *Fremont*, a single individual was encountered by a DNR officer (Don Priebe *vide* KDy). In the extreme western

tier of counties, this species undoubtedly occurs more often than reports indicate.

Horned Lark: The first significant flock was 46 noticed 29 Oct in *Audubon* (DCH).

Purple Martin: Gone by the end of August. Last were 201 counted on 29 Aug in *Page* (KDY).

Tree Swallow: Huge swarms gathered at Saylorville *Polk* starting with 4280 on 13 Sep and peaking at 8185 on 5 Oct (SJD, RIA, PHA). The last 2 were at Credit Island *Scott* on 6 Nov (JF).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The most was 100 on 21 Sep at Gray's L *Polk*, where the last 6 were found 19 Oct (JB).

Bank Swallow: The first really large group was 1800 on 12 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD). The last was 2 on 20 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Cliff Swallow: The largest concentration was 2000 on 12 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD). The last was 3 on 20 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Barn Swallow: The last few were record late on 24 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and 27 Nov over the Mississippi R in *Scott* (WMZ).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 28 reports involving 55 individuals beginning with 1 on 15 Aug at Lake Meyer *Wineshiek* (MP). Eight were at *Algona* on 3 Sep (MCK), and another 8 were at *Hooper WA Warren* on 24 Sep (JS). Also reported from 14 additional counties.

Brown Creeper: The first was 1 on 19 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG), followed by 5 at Waterworks P in Des Moines on 21 Sep (JB). Also reported from *Hamilton, Marshall, Des Moines, and Humboldt*.

ROCK WREN: One was found at the base of the watch tower at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 11 Oct (*Janis Paseka). This is the third Iowa record since 2000.

Carolina Wren: There were many reports from traditional locations in the eastern and central parts of the state. Jim Sinclair noted their apparent recovery in *Warren* from the effects of several severe winters. The only report from the far west was 2 on 2 Nov at Stone SP *Woodbury* (GLV).

Bewick's Wren: Following a summer with no reports, one was found at Sand Creek WA *Decatur* on 7 Aug (CJL), a non-traditional location.

House Wren: The last was 1 on 22 Oct at *Indianola* (JS).

Winter Wren: The first was 1 on 20 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG). As many as 7 were at Grammer Grove *Marshall* 3 Oct (MP), and the last was 1 on 5 Nov at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD).

Sedge Wren: The last two were 1 on 5 Oct at Haynie Sl *Mills* (KDy) and 1 on 15 Oct at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BSc).

Marsh Wren: The last two were singles on 1 Nov, one at Anderson L *Hamilton*

(SJD) and another at Sullivan Sl *Des Moines* (JWR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The last two were found 16, 17 Sep at Saylorville *Polk* (AB) and Montezuma *Poweshiek* (MP).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first was a group of 4 on 23 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and the peak was 6 at Sedan *Appanoose* 13 Oct (RLC). The last two were November birds, 1 on 3 Nov at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and 1 on 10 Nov at Liscomb *Marshall* (MP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first found was at Anderson L *Hamilton* on 28 Aug (SJD) and the second at Brown's L *Woodbury* 8 Sep (BFH). The most was 10 at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* on 18 Sep (DTh). The last was 1 on 10 Nov at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Eastern Bluebird: Some notable flocks were 20 on 15 Aug in *Wayne* (RLC) and 79 on 23 Oct in rural *Polk* (SJD).

Townsend's Solitaire: One at the Waterman Prairie O'Brien 28 Oct became 2 on 8 Nov, then 3 on 20 Nov (LAS, POR, SJD, TMH).

Veery: The last, on 23 Sep in Spencer (LAS), was getting late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: The two encounters were 1 on 5 Sep at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK) and 1 on 24 Sep in Cedar Rapids (JD).

Swainson's Thrush: The first two were in my Mason City yard on 30 Aug, followed by 2 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 31 Aug (RG). A total of 22 birds were reported with the most 5 on 5 Sep at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK). The last three were October birds, 1 on 4 Oct at Liscomb *Marshall* (MP), 1 on 7 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and a very late, but well-described individual on 24 Oct at *Algona* (MCK).

Hermit Thrush: The first few were 1 on 25 Sep at *Algona* (MCK), 1 on 28 Sep at



Cedar Waxwing, Iowa City, Johnson, 20 October 2012. Photograph by Jean Allgood, Iowa City, IA.

Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ), and 6 on 28 Sep at Clausen's Cove along the south shore of Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (LAS). The most was 12 on 15 Oct at Black Hawk Creek WA *Grundy* (RIA, PHA). Reports continued through the end of the season in southern Iowa.

Wood Thrush: The last 2 were in Cedar Rapids *Linn* on 2 Oct (LLS, JD).

Gray Catbird: The last was 1 on 2 Oct at Coralville Res *Johnson* (CJB).

Northern Mockingbird: Two of five reports were from counties not mentioned in the summer report (Dinsmore 2012) including 1 on 3 Aug in rural *Adams* (CJL) and 1 on 11 Aug at Calmar *Winneshiek* (LR).

American Pipit: The first on 10 Sep at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP) was almost two weeks ahead of the next on 22 Sep at Saylorville *Polk* (JB). The first substantial group was 80 on 3 Oct at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK). All reports were near water, with the most 425 on 20 Oct at Saylorville (SJD, AB).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: Found at two

locations with at least 2 birds were at Bobolink WPA *Kossuth* 3–11 Oct (*MCK, POR) and 3 or 4 birds were at Errington M *Polk* 7–20 Oct (*AB, *SJD, *DA, *JB, *CC, *CRE).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Three were photographed near Waterman Ave in *O'Brien* on 8 Nov (*POR).

Cedar Waxwing: Flocks of 100 or more were in *Woodbury* in Sep (BFH), *Linn* in Oct (WWH), and *Marion* in Nov (SJD).

Lapland Longspur: A flyover flock of 10 at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* on 14 Oct was the first (MCK). The most was about 1000 on 26 Oct in rural *Worth* (RG). Reports were concentrated in the central parts of the state, with none east of *Winneshiek* or west of *Dickinson*.

Smith's Longspur: Arrived early, and stayed late. The first 4 on 28 Sep at Snake Creek M *Greene* were record-early (SJD-details); other early reports were 1 on 3 Oct at Maynard Reece *Kossuth* was 3rd-earliest (MCK), 2 on 7 Oct at Errington M *Polk* (JG, AB), and 1 on 13 Oct at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (DTh). The 6 on 23 Nov at Big Creek *Polk* (AB) were 2nd-latest.

Snow Bunting: The first few were 1 on 30 Oct near Rippey *Greene* (SJD), 1 on 31 Oct at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK), and 6 on 1 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (DCH).

Ovenbird: The last was 1 on 16 Oct in *Johnston Polk* (DTh).

Louisiana Waterthrush: The only encounter was 1 on 8 Aug at Sand Creek WA *Decatur* (SJD).



Tennessee Warbler, Iowa City, Johnson, 7 September 2012. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.



Mourning Warbler, Boone, 15 August 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Northern Waterthrush: The first was 1 on 15 Aug at Lake Meyer *Winneshiek* (MP). Three were at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 13 Sep (RG) and the last was 1 on 20 Sep at Waterworks P in Des Moines (JB).

Golden-winged Warbler: There were 24 steady reports of 1–3 beginning on 12 Aug in *Humboldt*, *Clay* and *Warren* (SJD, JS) and continuing until the last on 13 Sep at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ).

Blue-winged Warbler: All: 1 on 14 Aug at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ), 1 on 15 Aug at L Meyer *Winneshiek* (MP), 1 on 26 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 1 on 2 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RIC), and 1 on 14 Sep at Pine L SP *Hardin* (MP).

Black-and-white Warbler: The first was 1 on 4 Aug at L Ahquabi *Warren* (JS), the most were 7 on 22 Aug at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), and the last was 1 on 24 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Tennessee Warbler: There were only

six reports of 1–3 starting on 11 Aug in Ames (SJD) and ending on 24 Sep at Hooper WA *Warren* (JS).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The first few were 1 on 9 Sep in Ames (SJD), 2 on 13 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG), and 1 on 13 Sep at Waterworks P in Des Moines (JB). There were 16 distinct reports with the most, 12 on 25 Sep at Algona, where the last also was found 24 Oct (MCK).

Nashville Warbler: One photographed at Trumbull L *Clay* 3 Aug was a bit early (SJD). The next was 1 on 17 Aug at Grimes *Polk* (JB). The most was 22 counted 25 Sep along the Des Moines R in *Kossuth* (MCK) and the last was 1 on 24 Oct at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD).

Mourning Warbler: One on 15 Aug at Lake Meyer *Winneshiek* (MP) was the first, and was followed by eleven others including one on 8 Sep in the Loess Hills of *Monona* showing characteristics intermediate with MacGillivray's Warbler (AB-photos).



Black-billed Cuckoo, Anderson L, Hamilton, 28 August 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Snowy Owl, Dallas, 13 November 2012. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Rough-legged Hawk, Saylorville Res, Polk, 18 November 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Merlin, Saylorville Res, Polk, 6 October 2012. Photograph by Kevin T. Murphy, Waterloo, IA.



Sprague's Pipit, Errington M, Polk, 7 October 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Nashville Warbler, Boone, 15 August 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Boone, 23 August 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA



Magnolia Warbler, Iowa City, Johnson, 19 August 2012. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.



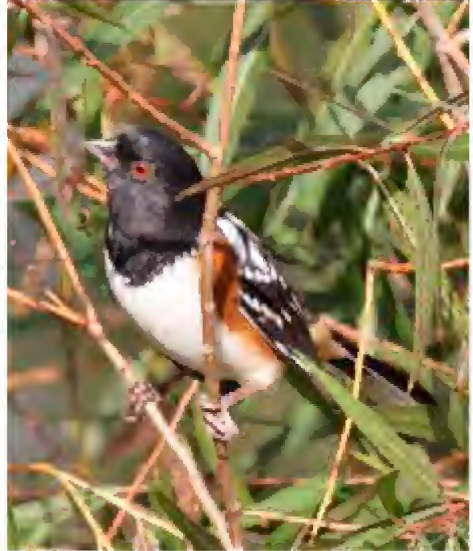
Savannah Sparrow, Woodbury, 30 September 2012. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Orange-crowned Warbler, Boone, 16 September 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Nelson's Sparrow, Sugar Bottom Rec Area, Johnson, 4 October 2012. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.



Spotted Towhee, Saylorville Res, Polk, 30 September 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



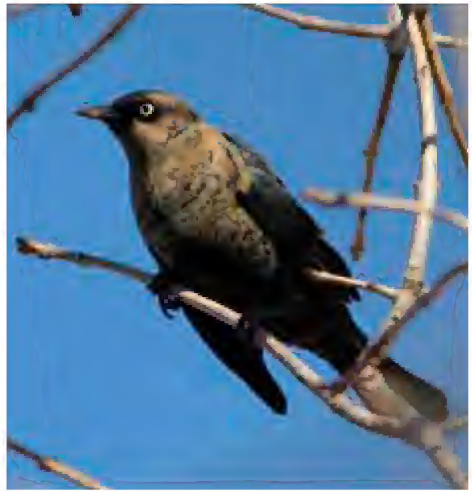
Scarlet Tanager, Boone, 19 August 2012.
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Song Sparrow, Carney M, Polk, 8 October 2012. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



White-winged Crossbill, Lake Park, Dickinson, 1 November 2012. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Rusty Blackbird, Diamond L, Dickinson, 10 November 2012. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

The last was 1 on 17 Sep at Voas Nature C Dallas (DTh).

Common Yellowthroat: Four at Otter Creek M *Tama* on 30 Sep were the last (MP).

Hooded Warbler: The only report was 2 on 8 Aug at the Donnellson Unit *Lee* (SJD), where up to 5 had been present during summer (Dinsmore 2012).

American Redstart: The most was 10 on 3 Sep at Indian Creek Nature C *Linn* (WWH) and the last was 1 on 1 Oct near *Montezuma Poweshiek* (MP).

Cape May Warbler: All: 1 on 27 Aug at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH) and 1 on 31 Aug at Jester P *Polk* (SJD).

Northern Parula: The first was 1 on 18 Aug at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RLC), where they were present during summer (Dinsmore 2012). The first in the north was 1 on 22 Aug at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ). Five of the 9 reports occurred 13–15 Sep (RG, MP). The last was 1 on 19 Sep at Pinky's Glen *Fremont* (KDy). On 16 Sep at L Ahquabi *Warren*, JS encountered an individual showing characteristics of Sutton's Warbler, a hybrid involving a Northern Parula parent and a Yellow-throated Warbler parent.

Magnolia Warbler: First to arrive were 4 on 16 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG). Another group of 4 was at Grammer Grove *Marshall* 3 Sep (MP). There were 10 reports with the last 1 on 23 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Bay-breasted Warbler: On 13 Sep, the first 3 arrived at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG), Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and Wabash Trace *Page* (KDy). Only five others were found (MP, KVS) with the last 1 on 30 Sep at Saylorville (SJD).

Blackburnian Warbler: On 12 Aug, the first 4 were found, two each at Trumbull L *Clay* and Frank Gotch SP *Humboldt*

(SJD). There were 9 other reports including 4 at Lake Meyer *Winneshiek* on 15 Aug (MP). The last was 1 on 18 Sep at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* (DTh).

Yellow Warbler: At Saylorville Res *Polk*, 57 counted on 31 Aug was the most I've ever had reported in fall (SJD). The last three were 1 on 29 Sep at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DTh), 1 on 29 Sep at Liscomb *Marshall* (MP), and 1 on 30 Sep at Saylorville (SJD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The first on 9 Aug at Algona was the first migrant warbler for MCK. Fifteen subsequent reports included 10 individuals found 13–15 Aug (RG, LZ, MCK, MP). The last was 1 on 30 Sep at Lake George P *Mills* (KDy).

Blackpoll Warbler: With a strong eastern trajectory in the fall migration route of this species, its occurrence in Iowa is rare. There were three well-described individuals: 1 on 19 Aug at Hickory Hills P *Johnson* (JH-details), 1 on 19 Sep at Waterworks P in Des Moines (AB-details), and a record-late individual photographed on 25 Oct at a feeder in Nevada *Story* (*Steve Lekwa).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A male and a female could be found at Squaw Creek P *Linn* 1–6 Sep (JF). Another female was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 13 Sep (SJD). A male was a Liscomb yard bird for MP on 30 Sep, and another male was a Johnston yard bird for DTh on 2 Oct.

Palm Warbler: One on 25 Aug at Otter Creek M *Tama* was 2nd-earliest (AMJ-details). There were only 8 other reports, but these included 24 individuals during the period 2–6 Oct (PH, SJD, RLC, JMC). The last was 1 on 15 Oct at Black Hawk Creek *Grundy* (RIA, PHA).

Pine Warbler: Three found in Algona during 9–22 Sep (MCK) poses an interesting puzzle regarding their origin. Another was at Saylorville *Polk* on 18 Sep (DTh),



Wilson's Warbler, Trumbull L, Clay, 18 August 2012. Photograph by Kevin T. Murphy, Waterloo, IA.



American Tree Sparrow, Diamond L, Dickinson, 10 November 2012. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

and 1 at the same location 20 Sep may have been the same bird (RIA, PHA). The only other one was 1 at Eldora *Hardin* on 21 Sep (MP).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The first was found 8 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), followed by 1 on 14 Sep at Pine L SP *Hardin* (MP). Some high counts were 100 on 25 Sep along the Des Moines R in *Kossuth* (MCK) and 182 on 6 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Yellow-throated Warbler: All: 1 on 6 Sep at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF) and 1 from 26 Oct–14 Nov at Pierce Creek *Page* (K Dy).

Black-throated Green Warbler: The first was 1 on 11 Aug at Jensen M *Madison* (JS). Eleven reports followed of 1–3 from east and central counties through 1 on 29 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP). Then, after a lull of three weeks, a late individual was found 17 Oct north of Iowa City *Johnson* (JLF).

Canada Warbler: Starting with 2

on 11 Aug at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), steady, almost daily reports continued through 2 Sep at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* (KVS). Two weeks later, a lone straggler was found at Seed Savers *Winneshiek* on 17 Sep (DC).

Wilson's Warbler: There were 15 reports starting with 1 on 12 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD). Of 48 individuals, 35 were found in the 3-day period 27–29 Sep (LAS, SJD, DCH, MCK). The last was found 2 Oct in Mason City trapped in an auto that had been left overnight with a window open (Tammy Hertzfel-photo).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The only report was 1 on 18 Aug at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RLC).

Spotted Towhee: The first few were a male on 30 Sep at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 1 Oct in rural *Decatur* (BAB), and 1 on 2 Oct at Waterworks P in Des Moines (RIA, PHA). At least 16 individuals were reported during the period 30 Sep–4 Nov includ-



Le Conte's Sparrow, Snake Creek M, Greene, 28 September 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

ing 2 on 14 Oct in a Spirit L yard *Dickinson* (ET).

Eastern Towhee: The last was 1 on 20 Oct at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (WWH).

American Tree Sparrow: The first were 5 on 21 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), followed by 9 on 23 Oct in rural *Audubon* (DCH). The 40 on 3 Nov at L Rathbun *Appanoose* was the first large group (RLC).

Chipping Sparrow: The last was 1 on 17 Nov at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Clay-colored Sparrow: There were six reports of single birds spanning the period 28 Aug–25 Sep, but only one, on 6 Sep at Big Creek *Polk* (SJD) had good details.

Field Sparrow: The last was 1 on 22 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Vesper Sparrow: No one reported more than 3 at a time. One on 25 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* was the last (WO).

Lark Sparrow: There was one report

of single bird on 8 Sep near Lost Island L *Clay* (SJD).

Savannah Sparrow: Began gathering in late September. Some high counts were 31 on 28 Sep at Riverton *Fremont* (KDY) and 20 on 13 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC). The last was 1 on 10 Nov at Diamond L *Dickinson* (MHB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The last few were 1 on 2 Oct at Harrier M *Boone* (DCH) and 3 on 3 Oct at Horseshoe Bend *Louisa* (CF).

Henslow's Sparrow: Eleven in *Ringgold* on 6 Aug were undoubtedly still on territory (CJL). The last few were 1 on 30 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and 3 on 3 Oct at Horseshoe Bend *Louisa* (CF). Some high counts were 12 on 23 Sep at Lakin Sl *Guthrie* (TMH) and 10 on 2 Oct at Harrier M *Boone* (DCH).

Le Conte's Sparrow: At Horseshoe Bend *Louisa*, the first 3 were right on time on 20 Oct (CF), which is the 25-year median arrival date. The last were 2 on 20 Nov at Ainsworth *Washington* (WWH).

Nelson's Sparrow: One on 6 Sep at Harrier M *Boone* (DCH) tied the 2nd-earliest date. There is one late August record from 1931. The next report was up to 7 at Kirchner Prairie *Clay* on 23 Sep (LAS). The most was 8 on 2 Oct at Harrier M (DCH), and the last was 1 on 14 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KDY).

Fox Sparrow: The first, on 26 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), was the only September bird. The next was 1 on 1 Oct in Mason City (RG). Found in clusters across the state, some high counts were 12 on 13 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC), 10 on 27 Oct at Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* (WWH), and 25 on 1 Nov at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first was 1 on 12 Sep at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek*



Harris's Sparrow, Lakin Sl, Guthrie, 26 October 2012. Photograph by Tyler M. Harms, Ames, IA.



White-crowned Sparrow, Boone, 6 October 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

(LZ), followed by another on 13 Sep at Big Creek Polk (SJD). Some notable counts were 16 on 23 Sep at Lakin Sl Guthrie (TMH), 37 on 28 Sep at Anderson L Hamilton (SJD), and 12 on 7 Oct at Trestle to Trestle Trail Polk (KVS). The last was 1 on 27 Oct at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Swamp Sparrow: The highest count was 120 on 13 Oct at Sedan Appanoose (RLC).

White-throated Sparrow: The first was 1 on 12 Sep at Willowglen Nursery Winneshiek (LZ), followed by 3 at Waterworks P in Des Moines and 5 at Parker's Woods Cerro Gordo on 13 Sep (JB, RG). The most was 60 on 13 Oct at Sedan Appanoose (RLC).

Harris's Sparrow: The first 2 were found 23 Sep along Summerset BP Warren (JS) and were followed by almost daily reports over the next month. KVS commented that numbers at Neal Smith NWR Jasper

were high this fall. The peak was 50 at Tannery Ponds Woodbury on 15 Oct (GLV).

White-crowned Sparrow: The first few were right on time with 1 on 23 Sep at Lakin Sl Guthrie (TMH), 1 on 24 Sep at Otter Creek M Tama (MP), and 1 on 26 Sep at Anderson L Hamilton (SJD). Reports dried up in late Oct with the last on 27 Oct at Sugar Bottom RA Johnson (WWH).

Dark-eyed Junco: The first were found on 21 Sep at Bacon Creek P Woodbury (GLV), Johnston Polk (DTh), and Hinton Plymouth (BFH). The 25-year median arrival date is 22 Sep. The first substantial flock was 21 in an Ames yard Story (TMH). A bird showing characteristics of the western "Oregon Junco" was photographed in Mason City Cerro Gordo on 18 Nov (PH).

Summer Tanager: There were eight reports of single birds right up until the last on 23 Sep at Waubonsie SP Fremont (KDy).



Dark-eyed Junco, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk, 28 October 2012. Photograph by Kevin T. Murphy, Waterloo, IA.



Blue Grosbeak, Waterworks P, Johnson, 26 August 2012. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

Scarlet Tanager: An oddly mottled adult was at A.A. Call SP Kossuth on 5 Sep (MCK). Ten steady reports ended with 1 on 16 Sep at Starr's Cave Des Moines (JWR), but an 11th was found after a 3-week intermission on 7 Oct at Grammer Grove Marshall (MP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The last was a single male on 29 Sep at Chichaqua WA Polk (DTh).

Blue Grosbeak: The most was 8 on 5 Aug in Monona (GLV), all males. But there were far more reports from the east, including 1 or 2 in Adams, Johnson, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison and Wayne. The last bird found alive was 1 on 28 Aug at Anderson L Hamilton (SJD). A deceased bird was picked up 21 Oct near Arcadia Carroll (ET).

Indigo Bunting: The last was 1 on 2 Oct at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Dickcissel: Disappeared early with the last encounter a group of 40 on 15 Aug at Rathbun WA Wayne (RLC).

Bobolink: Roving flocks of 100-200 persisted in Decatur until the last sighting on 30 Sep (BAB).

Eastern Meadowlark: The last was about 20 on 6 Oct at Buckshot M Appanoose (RLC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Most left in early August although we don't know why they depart so quickly. After that, there were two isolated sightings at Dan Greene Sl Clay, on 29 Sep and 17 Nov (LAS).

Rusty Blackbird: The first was a 2nd-earliest individual on 21 Sep at Swan L Johnson (JF). The first flocks were found on 20 Oct with 27 in rural Marion (JS) and 25 at Dan Green Sl Clay (LAS). Another 17 were at Squaw Creek P Linn 25 Oct (BSc) and 24 were at De Soto NWR Harrison 26 Oct (KDY).

Brewer's Blackbird: Three on 26 Sep in rural Audubon were record-early by 4 days (DCH). They were followed by 1 on 6



Dickcissel, Trumbull L, Clay, 15 August 2012. Photograph by Kevin T. Murphy, Waterloo, IA.



Red Crossbill, Ottosen, Humboldt, 1 August 2012. Photograph by Jacob A. Newton, Ottosen, IA.

Oct in Des Moines (JMC) and 2 on 11 Oct at Swan L Johnson (JF). The most were 200 on 11 Nov at Crystal L Hancock (SJD). Other noteworthy groups were 54 on 25 Oct at Anderson L Hamilton (SJD) and 50 on 31 Oct at USNWR Kossuth (MCK).

Great-tailed Grackle: The 63 on 6 Oct at Keg L Mills were the most, and 19 on 27 Nov in rural Fremont were the last (KDY).

Orchard Oriole: The only report was 1 on 3 Aug at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Baltimore Oriole: The last 4 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP Van Buren 18 Aug (FLC).

Purple Finch: The first was a lone female at a feeder in Ventura on 13 Sep (PL) and was quickly followed by 9 at Adel Dallas on 14 Sep (TL) and then 2 at Little Wall L Hamilton 15 Sep (SJD). The most were 16 on 14 Nov in rural O'Brien (DK).

Red Crossbill: There were 24 reports

from 21 locations (6 cemeteries) involving at least 212 individuals. Although a few small groups were present during summer (Dinsmore 2012) and into August and September, the noteworthy flocks were not found until November. Some of these were 20 at Cedar Memorial Cemetery in Cedar Rapids Linn (JF), 25 at Springdale Cemetery Clinton (JF), 20 at Eagle Pt. Clinton (JF), 30 at Fairmount Cemetery Scott (JF), 50 at Waukon Allamakee (JF), and 20 at Hooper WA Warren (JS). Of 8 attempts to identify the subspecies by call, 1 group was confirmed as Type 3 after recording their voice, and the other 7 were also thought to be Type 3 birds (SJD).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Evidently, it was an irruption year for most winter finches, including both crossbills. The first 9 were found at Lake P Cemetery Dickinson on the very early date of 1 Nov (LAS,



White-winged Crossbill, Ames, Story, 7 November 2012. Photograph by Tyler M. Harms, Ames, IA.

DCH). The most were up to 56 at a time at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* 8–12 Nov (*SJD, DGE, RIA, PHA, CJF, TMH). Also found in *Allamakee, Boone, Hancock, Kosuth, Scott* and *Story*. White-winged Crossbills, which were reclassified “casual” by the records committee in 2012, apparently did not like this designation and arrived in considerable force to let us know.

Common Redpoll: First found on 27 Oct at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (KVS), redpolls were reported from ten widely scattered counties. Some noteworthy groups

COMMENT

This article was made possible by the collective contributions of 87 field observers whose initials appear in the text and whose names are listed below, plus another 13 whose full names are contained in the text, for an even 100. They contributed a total of 2577 records containing not just data, but also many supporting details, comments, and photos that help properly frame the summary of events. The comments are especially helpful in understanding the data, separating species, clarifying circumstances, and sometimes just

were 16 on 9 Nov at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 28 on 17 Nov at Buffalo Basins WMA *Franklin* (PH), and 40 on 28 Nov at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

Pine Siskin: At least 1100 individuals were reported from 26 locations across 16 counties spanning the entire state. The first report was 1 on 19 Sep at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD), but was quickly followed by a steady stream of encounters with larger and larger flocks. There were 75 on the Livingston property in *Decatur* on 14 Oct, 130 were at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 20 Oct (WO), 80 were at Pine Hill Cemetery *Polk* on 10 Nov (AB), as many as 200 were at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* the same day (RIA, PHA, SJD, CJF), and at least 72 were at my Mason City *Cerro Gordo* feeders on 27 Nov (PH). Thirteen other reports involved 25–65 birds.

EVENING GROSBEAK: This fall, for the first time in 14 years, Evening Grosbeaks were found in Iowa. Three males were observed in mid-November visiting feeders at three scattered locations. The first was found 7 Nov at Oxford *Johnson* (*Mark Muller), the second was photographed on 10-11 Nov in Carroll *Carroll* (*Shirley Schirck), and the third was photographed on 19 Nov in Ridgeway *Winneshiek* (*Ellen Bell). The last time an Evening Grosbeak was recorded in Iowa was 19 April 1998 (Kent 1998).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 4 on 12 Oct in Cedar Rapids (BSc) and 1 on 18 Nov along the Mississippi R *Scott* (WMZ).

adding perspective. Here is a short sample: “a bird continuing from summer”, “appeared today following yesterday’s cold front”, “on a spit of land among a group of gulls”, “probably a serious underestimate”, “white underparts marked by prominent black arrowheads”, “foraging in shallow water”, and “the most I’ve ever seen in Iowa”.

These reports covered at least 339 distinct locations in Iowa from 76 of Iowa’s 99 counties, although 60% of all reports came from just 10 heavily-birded counties. These counties, in order of greatest frequency, are Polk, Appanoose, Kossuth, Linn, Cerro Gordo, Story, Johnson, Pottawattamie, Clay, and Marshall. The reports contributed to the summarizing of the presence of 275 species from August 1 to November 30. There were 22 other common species for which at least some data were contributed, but which are not included in this report.

This report also makes use of data collected and previously published elsewhere. Some of the sources of these data are USFWS fall aerial surveys along the Mississippi River, USFWS waterfowl counts at De Soto NWR, Iowa DNR August Roadside Surveys, Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the IA-Bird listserv.

CONTRIBUTORS

Pam Allen	PHA	W Des Moines	Jacob Gilliam	JG	Norwalk
Reid Allen	RIA	W Des Moines	Rita Goranson	RG	Mason City
Ben Baldwin	BAB	Davis City	Janet Greer	JGr	Council Bluffs
Matthew Baumann	MBa	Robins	Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames
Carl Bendorf	CJB	Arlington Heights, IL	Douglas Harr	DCH	Ogden
Dick Bierman	DB	Cherokee	Helen Harvey	HH	Sioux City
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Paul Hertzell	PH	Mason City
Aaron Brees	AB	Saylorville	Rick Hollis	RH	North Liberty
Beth Brown	BLB	Osceola	James Huntington	JH	Iowa City
Mark Brown	MHB	Iowa City	Bill Huser	BFH	S Sioux City, NE
Dennis Carter	DC	Decorah	Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk
Chris Caster	CJC	Coralville	Thomas Johnson	TJ	Centerville
Robert Cecil	RIC	Des Moines	Matthew Kenne	MCK	Algona
Art Check	APC	Nevada	Darwin Koenig	DK	Ankeny
Raymond Cummins	RLC	Centerville	Carl Kurtz	CK	St Anthony
Larry Dau	LGD	Boone	Corey Lange	CJL	Lenox
James Dinsmore	JJD	The Villages, FL	Tom Lawson	TL	Adel
Stephen Dinsmore	SJD	Ames	Jeff Livingston	JRL	Shannon City
Jim Durbin	JOD	Cedar Rapids	Paulette Lugg	PL	Ventura
Keith Dyche	KDy	Shenandoah	Tucker Lutter	TLu	Bronson
David Eastman	DE	Cedar Falls	Jim Mason	JTM	Janesville
Chris Edwards	CRE	Solon	John McCecil	JMC	Des Moines
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale	Bruce McKee	BGM	Mason City
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Mason City	Kevin Murphy	KTM	Ames
James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids	Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
Chuck Fuller	CF	Burlington	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Ames
James L Fuller	JLF	Iowa City	Mark Orsag	MO	Gretna, NE
Tim, Kathy Gedler	TAG	W Des Moines	Babs Padelford	BKP	Bellevue, NE

CONTRIBUTORS, continued

Loren Padelford	LJP	Bellevue, NE	Ed Thelen	ET	Spirit Lake
Shane Patterson	SSP	Ames	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
Diana Pesek	DP	Cedar Rapids	Jerry Toll	JT	Omaha
Marietta Petersen	MaP	Walnut	Bill Tollefson	BT	Cedar Rapids
Don Poggensee	DoP	Ida Grove	Richard Trieff	RTT	Indianola
Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb	Stuart Sparkman	SCS	Des Moines
Larry Reis	LR	Calmar	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Paul Roisen	POR	Sioux City	Walt Wagner-Hecht	WWH	Cedar Rapids
Linda Rudolph	LGR	Coralville	Scott Wilson	SLW	W Des Moines
John Rutenbeck	JWR	Burlington	Charles Winterwood	CLW	Dubuque
Linda Scarth	LLS	Cedar Rapids	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
William Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids	Ric Zarwell	RWZ	Lansing
Tom Schilke	TSS	Waterloo	Lee Zieke	LZ	Decorah
Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer	Walter Zuurdeeg	WMZ	Davenport
Jim Sinclair	JS	Indianola			

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1432 E State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

Roseate Spoonbill at Saylorville Reservoir

John McCecil

By late summer of 2012, with low water levels resulting from several months of below average precipitation, the upper reaches of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County had large areas of mudflats attracting a wide variety of waterbirds. By early September, the northernmost bands of what remained of Hurricane Isaac had passed through southeast Iowa. This powerful storm that moved generally north from the central Gulf Coast offered hope that southern species might be trapped in its winds and pushed north of their normal range.

On 5 September 2012, I revisited the area after several consecutive days of checking for anything unusual, noticing that each day brought a change in the variety of birds present. As I scanned the mudflats off Jester Park I noted many Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons lining the shores. In one group about 40 m distant I saw a bird bent over, moving side to side, feeding behind one of the egrets. I saw that its primaries and secondaries had a pink hue. I could see nothing else about it from that vantage but it was clear this was some-



Figure 1. Roseate Spoonbill, Saylorville Res, Polk, 6 September 2012. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

thing unexpected and I waited for the egret to step aside. The bird in question suddenly lifted its head out of the water and looked directly at me; I was stunned to see a Roseate Spoonbill staring at me with its diagnostic flat spoon-shaped bill (Figure 1).

I studied the bird carefully for several minutes. The bird had a typical long-necked and long-legged heron profile, and the pink coloration and bill shape are unique to a Roseate Spoonbill. It had a soft pink color on the wings, belly, and legs. The pink color faded to white on the chest and neck. Its head was white and it lacked the head pattern and hot pink greater coverts of an adult spoonbill. I immediately alerted other birders. After about two minutes, the bird flew up and away over some vegetation and out of view. I continued to watch for the bird to reappear as I waited for other birders to arrive. As people began to show up, I still had not yet relocated the spoonbill, but was certain it had not departed the area. Finally, after climbing the hill to lodge at the south end of the park, I relocated the spoonbill in the distance, foraging in its characteristic manner of swaying side to side with its bill submerged. On the basis of plumage I aged the bird as a subadult; it lacked the head markings and brighter pink wing coverts of an adult bird.

In the days that followed, I came back to see the bird several times and it was last seen on 8 September 2012, despite later searches. This represents the third Roseate Spoonbill record for Iowa, the others being from 16 August 1960 at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Kossuth County (Burgess 1960) and 4-14 August 1997 at Waubonsie W.A., Fremont Co. (Dinsmore 1998). All three records have been of juvenile spoonbills.

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3505 Washington Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310 (jcecil01@gmail.com)

Swallow-tailed Kite at Otter Creek Marsh

Danny Akers

The morning of 25 August 2012 was a beautiful Saturday for field trips as part of the annual fall Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting in Marshalltown. I elected to participate in a field trip to Otter Creek Marsh in Tama County, where the day began by viewing shorebirds, terns, and large numbers of swallows on the south side of the marsh. But our field trip was about to become even more exciting. We arrived at the north observation area of Otter Creek Marsh just after 9:15 A.M. and began walking down the recently mowed path



Figure 1. Swallow-tailed Kite, Otter Creek M, Tama, 25 August 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

to and on the dike, enjoying flycatchers and Indigo Bunting families along the way. Around 9:35 A.M., I was scanning to the west when I spotted a medium-sized, slender white bird that was perched atop a tree, approximately 200 m away. The bird immediately caught my attention and I initially thought it was perhaps a small egret but was unable to process what exactly I was observing before the bird took flight a couple of seconds later. The bird flew towards our group and as it came around some trees I knew immediately I was looking at a Swallow-tailed Kite!

As the bird flew low over the edge of the marsh, it slowly gained altitude during the next few minutes. I noted it was a medium-sized raptor, smaller than a Red-tailed Hawk, with a white body and head (Figure 1). It had a black, deeply forked swallow-like tail and white underwing coverts contrasting with the black primaries and secondaries. After disappearing out of sight from the dike, the bird was still visible from the parking area where it was seen by several other field trip participants. The bird frequented this general area for the duration of its stay. What a way to cap off another memorable Iowa Ornithologists Union meeting!

The Swallow-tailed Kite was last reported on 1 September 2012 and it was observed by more than 45 birders in the eight days it was present. This is the fourth modern record of a Swallow-tailed Kite in Iowa, with prior records from 14-15 May 1992 in Cedar Falls, Black Hawk Co., 14-15 Sept 2000 in Portland Township, Cerro Gordo Co. (*Iowa Bird Life* 71:34, 179), and 3-4 Jun 2004 near Iowa City, Johnson Co. (Scheib 2004). A quick eBird search (<<http://ebird.org/ebird/map/>>) yielded reports of no less than seven Swallow-tailed Kites in the Midwest and Ohio River valley this fall, including an early August bird in central Ohio, a pair of mid-August birds in northern Kentucky, late August birds in Iowa and Kansas, and two birds in northeastern Illinois, both in the first half of September.

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P.O. Box 92, Ankeny, IA 50021 (birdmandan1231@hotmail.com)

Rufous Hummingbird in Scott County

Stephen J. Dinsmore and Kevin T. Murphy

On 12 November 2012 Dinsmore received a call from Karen Hansen about a lingering hummingbird at her Davenport feeder. Based on her description, the bird appeared to be an unknown species of *Selasphorus* hummingbird. On 13 November we traveled to her home and viewed the bird from 7:20-8:35 A.M. at close range and in excellent lighting. The size and buffy color identified the bird as a *Selasphorus* hummingbird, and the extensive amount of rufous in the rectrices quickly eliminated the possibility of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (Figure 1 and 2). The bird had a characteristic hummingbird bill – long (slightly longer than the length of the head), dark-colored, and very slightly decurved. The crown and nape were dull metallic green. The mantle was the same color but also washed with dull rufous. The eye was dark and there was a prominent white spot just posterior to the eye. The throat was white with a large, roughly circular-shaped metallic orange/red central spot and fine darker spotting along the edges. The bird had a white half-collar below the



Figure 1. Rufous Hummingbird, Scott, 14 November 2012. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

throat, a white central breast and belly, and bright rufous sides to the belly, flanks, and vent. The folded wings were black with dull metallic green upperwing coverts. The legs and feet were dark-colored. We carefully studied the rectrices (numbered from innermost to outermost, e.g., R1 is innermost) in flight, when the bird spread its tail while perched, and later from photos. R1 was arrowhead-shaped with a dull green tip fading to a rufous base. R2 was similar, but more asymmetrical with a tiny white tip, black subterminal region, narrow band of green, and then a broad rufous base. This feather had the characteristic subterminal shallow indentation on the inner web and was confirmed in photos. R3, R4, and R5 were similar to each other and gradually became

narrower moving outward; each had a broad white tip, wide black subterminal region, narrow green band (except R5 and possibly R4), and broad rufous base. The bird did not vocalize. On the basis of the throat pattern and the presence of green on R2 we concluded this bird was an adult female Rufous Hummingbird.

After the sighting we consulted hummingbird expert Sheri Williamson and forwarded her photos taken by SJD, Paul Roisen, and Jo Ann Whitmore. She was able to confirm the bird's age, sex, and species identity. References indicate that the white tip to R2 is more indicative of a juvenile female (Williamson 2002), but Sheri indicated that this feature is variable and present on some adult females (Sheri Williamson, pers. comm.). We believe the evidence points towards an adult female in this case.

The Rufous Hummingbird is a rare visitor to Iowa and the Midwest. It can occur at any season, including winter, although most records are from the period July to November. Iowa has few confirmed records of Rufous Hummingbirds, but many records labeled as *Selasphorus* sp. probably pertain to this species.

LITERATURE CITED

Williamson, S. L. 2002. Hummingbirds of North America. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, MA.

5711 Valley Road, Ames, IA 50014 (cootjr@iastate.edu)
124 Terrace Drive, Waterloo, IA 50702 (ktmurphy@iastate.edu)

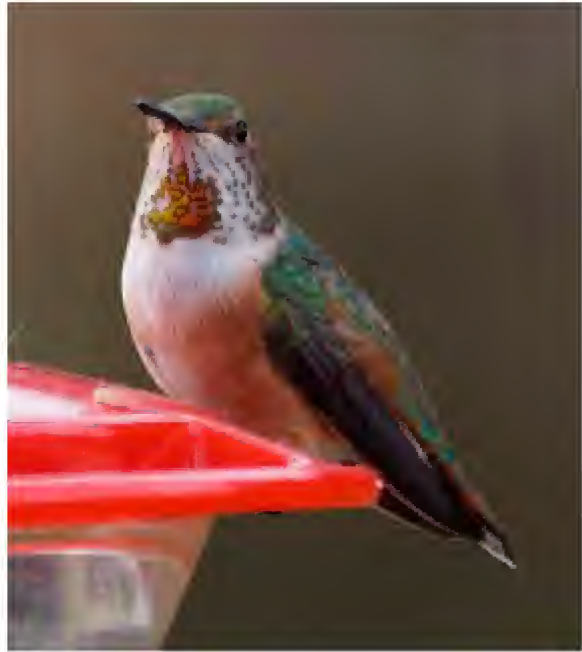


Figure 2. Rufous Hummingbird, Scott, 14 November 2012. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

The March 1963 issue leads off with the traditional report on the 1962 Christmas Bird Count. A total of 22 counts were made, and 94 species were found, the same total as in the previous two years. Davenport again had the high species total with 72 including 13 waterfowl species. Notably missing from any count were both Canada Goose and Wild Turkey although both the Yellow River Forest and Burlington counts mentioned that turkeys were present in their areas. Obviously, in recent years, both of those species have become abundant in Iowa. Some of the more interesting finds were Bohemian Waxwing on two counts, Ruby-crowned Kinglets on four, and 400 Brewer's Blackbirds in Iowa City.

Another continuing feature is the annual summary of bird banding in Iowa by Dean Roosa. In 1962, total of 17 banders sent in reports, and they banded 7,440 birds of 138 species. The most frequently banded species were Blue-winged Teal (1,028), Dark-eyed Junco (701), and American Coot (514). Some of the more interesting species that were banded were Bohemian Waxwing, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.

The field notes section compiled by Woodward Brown continued its gradual growth. Iowa had a cold January, and gulls and most waterfowl departed for an extended period. Despite that bad weather, there were numerous reports of waterfowl, hawks, and sparrows as well as other typical wintering species. Among the winter seed-eating birds, only five Red Crossbills and one each of Common Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak were reported.

The book reviews included a review of the classic "The Life of Birds" by Joel Carl Welty, who at one time taught at Parson's College in Fairfield. For a number of years this highly readable book was used as a textbook for ornithology classes throughout the United States.

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

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Business Meeting

4 May 2013

The IOU spring business meeting was held at the Riverfront Conference Center, 439 N. Division St., Cedar Falls. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. In attendance were Tom Schilke, vice-president; Stuart Sparkman, secretary; Mary Beth Hunt, treasurer; board members Keith Dyche, Jay Gilliam, Karen Viste-Sparkman, and Dennis Thompson; and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen called for the minutes to be approved for the 25 August 2012 meeting. Hank Zalatel moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Pam Allen seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: President Roisen announced that a complete audit of the IOU books was undertaken by Dick Stillwell and John Rutenbeck, and improvements have been made in bookkeeping and in preparing and sharing of financial reports. He urged members to peruse these documents through the Union's web site.

The Membership Committee will meet regarding recruitment and retention.

Money has been allocated from the treasury to digitize the archives of the IOU Records Committee.

The board of directors has allocated \$10,000 in support of publishing the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt reported on 2012 finances. Total income decreased by \$1,800 last year. Some of this decrease is attributed to whether people pay their annual dues in December or January. Total expenses were up by \$9,000. The increase is attributable to extra money spent on conservation projects, one time expenses for digitizing IOU News archive, and

five issues of *Iowa Bird Life* paid for (instead of four) in 2012. The IOU ran an \$8,400 loss in 2012. Further financial details can be viewed by members on the Union's web site.

President Roisen explained how the decision the board of directors made at the November 2012 meeting to reclassify the lifetime membership fund has made our financial reports much easier to read and understand, and he thanked Ann Johnson for making the documents easily available to the members on the web site.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Pam Allen announced that membership is holding steady compared to last year. She urged members to go invite someone you know to join. Total membership at the time of this meeting is 375.

Records Committee: Ann Johnson announced that Paul Hertzell will replace Rita Goranson on this committee. She urges birders submitting sighting records to do so sooner rather than later and to include photographic evidence if possible. Results of the committee's deliberations are available to members on line. All of the records of this committee are to be digitized, and all records since 2002 are done. Ann expressed a desire to somehow interface these records

with e-Bird, but at this time that is not an easy task.

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that the finances for publications are pretty stable, with about \$10,000 spent on the last four issues of *Iowa Bird Life*. The total bill for publications in 2012 is just over \$13,000. Ann has requested that the board make receiving the newsletter electronically the default situation, and this policy will take place soon. Issues will only be mailed to members who specifically request a hard copy. Tyler Harms will be the new spring field reports editor. Steve Dinsmore reported that the next issue of the newsletter is forthcoming, and again expressed that all articles, submissions, and ideas for same will be gladly received.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr reported that traveling displays made four events this winter, including pelican and bald eagle festivals and Prairie Preview in Iowa City. IOU merchandise was sold at these events, and some has recently been sold online. Members were urged to take any opportunity to put the traveling displays into the public view. Doug asked the group's opinion about new logo item ideas such as sweatshirts, fleece vests, book bags, and lens cleaner packets.

Projects Committee: Bill Scheible reported that 17 grant applications were received this year seeking \$27,000 in grants. Clearly grant opportunities through public agencies are becoming very scarce. The committee had \$5,000 to disburse, and chose nine of the applications to fund in part. Recipients include Springbrook Education Center, County Conservation Boards of Madison, Mills, Ringgold, and Mitchell counties, and projects including nesting grassland birds, Cerulean Warbler monitoring, raptor banding, and Peregrine Falcon education. Awardees are required to pro-

vide a brief report of how the money was used post facto. Bill mentioned that the IOU may wish to consider fundraising to be able to provide more grant money to worthy projects. One idea is for members to donate \$0.10 for every species on their Iowa year list and designate it for projects. A member suggested approaching corporations who budget for non-profit donations and see if we could get a sponsor for projects.

Library/Publications Committee: Hank Zaletel reported that he has delivered a large amount of material, including newer articles and older items from Jim Dinsmore and Kay Niyo, to the Special Collections Archive at Iowa State University. He will write an article for an upcoming newsletter with details. Hank also put out an appeal for more members to help with this committee's work.

Nominating Committee: John Rutenbeck reported that the slate of candidates and the proposed amendment to the constitution have been published in *IOU News* as per the constitution and elections would proceed immediately.

Board of Directors (At Large): Keith Dyche, Gerald White, Tyler Harms. Steve Dinsmore moved that the three aforementioned members be elected to the board by acclaim. It was seconded by Doug Harr. There was no further discussion or nominations. Motion carried.

Vice President: Dennis Thompson. Carl Bendorf moved that Dennis Thompson be elected Vice-President. Steve Dinsmore seconded. There was no further discussion or nominations. Motion carried.

President: Paul Roisen. Karen Disbrow moved that Paul Roisen be re-elected President. Rick Hollis seconded. There was no further discussion or nominations. Motion carried.

Amendment to the IOU constitution,

proposed by the Board of Directors, to remove the term limit requirement for the office of treasurer. John Rutenbeck moved to accept this amendment as published in *IOU News* (Volume 29, Issue 1, page 5). Hank Zaletel seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: President Roisen remarked that he is looking for sites for future IOU meetings. Sac County has a new nature center, making it a potential future meeting site.

President Roisen thanked Tom Schilke and the members of the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society for their planning, time, and work. It was an outstanding spring meeting. The group used the meeting as a fundraiser and will use some of the money toward the construction of a swift tower.

Hank Zaletel mentioned that years ago IOU had published a teachers' activity book on the subject of Iowa birds. He would like to update this publication and make it available to teachers through the IOU web site. He asked interested members to help with the project, specifically with respect to electronic media. It was suggested that those who download this material from us

for their use receive a request for a donation.

Carl Bendorf addressed the board regarding Iowa Young Birders (IYB). In the last nine months there have been eleven I. Y. B. field trips and the number of participants has averaged around 8 or 9 youths. The trips run from 9:00 A.M. to noon and are family friendly, with parents and younger siblings involved as well. The experience is educational. Trip leaders work on having young people practice describing what they see and learning to identify birds on their own. Carl expressed appreciation for the IOU's support in launching this endeavor and ongoing sponsorship. There was a public television piece produced about Iowa Young Birders which was good, but could have focused more on the kids.

President Roisen thanked outgoing board members Tom Schilke and Don Brown for their service to IOU.

Hank Zaletel moved to adjourn. Karen Disbrow seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

4 May 2013

Note: On 1 September 2012 the board of directors voted in response to a request to amend the constitution in order that the name of the Membership Committee be changed. The motion to amend was made by Karen Viste-Sparkman and seconded by Dennis Thompson. Motion carried. On 21 January 2013 the board of directors voted in response to a request to rescind the previous name change approved on 1 September 2012. The motion to rescind was made by Dennis Thompson and seconded by Karen Viste-Sparkman. Motion carried.

The IOU spring board meeting was held at the Riverfront Conference Center, 439 N. Division St., Cedar Falls. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 12:52 P.M. Also in attendance were Tom Schilke, vice-president; Stuart Sparkman, secretary; Mary Beth Hunt, treasurer; and board members Keith Dyche, Jay Gilliam, Karen Viste-Sparkman, and Dennis Thompson.

Welcome: President Paul Roisen thanked Tom Schilke for doing a great job organizing IOU meetings and outgoing director Don Brown for his service. He also thanked Dennis Thompson for his willingness to serve as the next vice-president.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen called for the minutes to be approved for the 25 August 2012 and 11 December 2012 meetings. No additions or corrections to the previous minutes were offered. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt reported on 2012 finances. Total income decreased by \$1,800 last year. Some of this decrease is attributed to whether people pay their annual dues in December or January. Total expenses were up by \$9,000. The increase is attributable to extra money spent on conservation projects, one time expenses for digitizing IOU News archive, and five issues of *Iowa Bird Life* paid for (instead of four) in 2012. The IOU ran an \$8,400 loss in 2012.

Mary Beth Hunt continued with a report on the 2013 budget. It appears that expenses this year for the newsletter and *Iowa Bird Life* could exceed budget by \$2,000. Other areas of expense appear to be within budget. Total income is up in the first four months of 2013, although most of the increase is already designated for disbursement.

President Roisen remarked that the changes we made at the November 2012 meeting in accounting for lifetime memberships have made our financial reports much easier to read and understand.

Mary Beth Hunt remarked that from a financial standpoint, soon we must either stop funding projects or find a way to raise additional funds. Some discussion followed about the general criteria for funding decisions. Directors were reminded that an important purpose of funding projects is to promote the IOU and increase membership. This discussion was tabled.

Old Business: President Roisen informed the board that the audit of our books by Dick Stillwell and John Rutenbeck has been carried out and everything is in order. President Roisen also expressed thanks to Dick and John for their work.

Through the constitutional amendment to be voted on today at the general membership meeting, the board of directors seeks to allow the holder of the treasurer's office to be exempt from the term limitations imposed on IOU officers.

Hank Zalatel is finished digitizing old issues of *IOU News*.

President Roisen and Dennis Thompson plan to meet with the Membership Committee to facilitate a discussion and activities designed to strengthen our recruitment and retention of members.

Ann Johnson addressed the board. She requested that some of the funds previously allocated by the directors for the purpose of digitizing IOU Records Committee archives be spent on a reliable, durable scanner to facilitate this project. Mary Beth Hunt made a motion, amended by Tom Schilke, to authorize Ann to purchase or rent such hardware necessary to scan these archives and to be available for other IOU archiving or pub-

lications projects. Seconded by Karen Viste-Sparkman. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business: Elections will be held today at the membership meeting. President Roisen will stand for another term. Dennis Thompson will be considered for the new vice-president. Also being considered will be Tyler Harms (to finish the remaining year of Dennis Thompson's term as a director-at-large), Gerald White (to begin a new term), and Keith Dyche (to begin a second term).

There is a possibility that the IOU Spring 2014 meeting will be held in Sac County.

Hank Zaletel addressed the board regarding the Library/Historical Committee. He requested approval for the following amended passages in the by-laws for that committee:

Library/Historical Committee Structure

1. The committee shall consist of up to five members.
2. Terms on the committee shall be five years. Attempts should be made to stagger the terms so that continuity can be maintained on the committee. Terms shall begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of the appointment.
3. [no change]
4. The committee shall elect officers, which shall include at least a chairperson.

Library/Historical Committee Finances

1. If the committee anticipates the

need for funds to carry out its function, a budget should be submitted to the board (via the president) prior to the budget meeting for the next calendar year.

Jay Gilliam moved that the board accept these changes to the by-laws of the Library/Historical Committee as of 4 May 2013. Stuart Sparkman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Carl Bendorf addressed the board regarding Iowa Young Birders (IYB). In the last nine months there have been eleven IYB field trips and the number of participants has averaged around 8 or 9 youths. Carl expressed appreciation to the board for the IOU's support in launching this endeavor and requested additional financial sponsorship for this organization in the amount of \$500. Tom Schilke moved that IOU donate up to \$500 of net income from the IOU spring 2013 meeting to Iowa Young Birders. Dennis Thompson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mary Beth Hunt moved that Tyler Harms be added to the Projects Committee. Jay Gilliam seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be held at Clinton, Iowa in October 2013.

The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 1:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Photo Quiz

Stephen J. Dinsmore

In the last issue I included a short photo quiz as a possible regular feature in future issues of *Iowa Bird Life*. I received a few favorable comments and am interested in any feedback offered by readers. And please consider submitting one of your photos for consideration as a future photo quiz, or even volunteering to summarize the answer! I'm now taking requests for the next issue...

So, what about the Photo Quiz bird from the last issue (*Iowa Bird Life* 82:188)? Some things that stand out initially are its presence on the ground, the large, conical bill, the streaked underparts, the white mark on the wing, and its relatively long tail. A helpful general identification approach is to initially narrow an unknown bird to a particular family of birds. There are many possibilities with this bird, but the bill shape, overall appearance, and the fact that it is foraging on the ground should suggest a sparrow of the Family Emberizidae. But this bird doesn't look like a "typical" sparrow with the long tail and black coloration on the wings and tail. Are there any Iowa birds that could fit this individual's general appearance? Well, one that might is an Eastern Towhee. An adult towhee has the same general structure and proportions as the mystery bird and shows a prominent white patch at the base of the primaries, but differs by having more strikingly patterned upperparts and unstreaked underparts. Towhees like to forage on the ground, where they often have a stance similar to this bird with the long tail held slightly cocked upward. Eastern Towhees also show white on the outer edge of the outer rectrices, much like this bird. But how can we explain the prominent streaking on the mystery bird? As it turns out, this streaking is typical of juvenile towhees of all species, although juvenal plumage is held for only a few weeks and is seldom seen by most birders. If you participated in the recent Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project you might have encountered an individual like this one, but by fall they have molted and begin to appear more like an adult. This juvenile Eastern Towhee was photographed in Boone County on 23 July 2012 by Larry G. Dau.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$30, 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>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

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 (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" 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 cootjr@iastate.edu. 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 Co-editors: John and Anna Bissell, 328 SE Cedarwood Drive, Grimes, IA50111-1143 (John.annabissell@gmail.com)

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

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.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 and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring: 11–13 October 2013, Clinton.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Townsend's Solitaire, *O'Brien*, 8 November 2012. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Blue Grosbeak, Waterworks P, *Johnson*, 25 August 2012. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

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