



Birding Pioneers in Iowa

Often, the first pre-settlement records of birds that lived in Iowa were from midden piles left by American Indians. Cardinals, for example were recorded in some of the archeological digs.

A number of well-known explorers noted the variety of birds seen on their explorations. Lewis and Clark mentioned flocks of Canada geese along the Missouri River on their expedition between 1804-06. Zebulon Pike passed through Iowa in 1805 and hunted passenger pigeons. Thomas Say, an early biologist, reported long-billed dowitchers, passenger pigeons, Carolina parakeets, swallow-tailed kite, Mississippi kite, sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlews, ravens, and greater prairie-chickens in the Pottawattamie County area near Omaha between 1819-1820.

Joel A. Allen spent time in central and western Iowa collecting birds and mammals. This resulted in the first papers on Iowa birds and mammals. Allen was also a founder of the American Ornithologists' Union. John James Audubon visited Iowa briefly in 1843 and mentioned Carolina parakeets, ravens, lark buntings, wild turkeys, sandhill cranes, and pileated woodpeckers near the present site of Sioux City.

The first book on the birds of Iowa was published in 1907 by Rudolph M. Anderson. In 1933 Philip A. DuMont revised and updated the list, and in 1971 Woodward H. Brown published an annotated list of 369 species in Iowa.

In 1897 the Iowa Ornithologist Union (IOU) was formed to compile the state list but there is no evidence that the project was completed. This early group only lasted five years.

On February 28, 1923, Thomas C. Stephans encouraged the reformation of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and, in 1931, published the first *Iowa Bird Life*. Many local Iowans wrote about birds: "How to Know the Wild Birds of Iowa and Nebraska" by Dietrich Lange 1906; "Bird Notes from the Journal of a Nature Lover" by William G. Ross; "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard" by Althea R. Sherman, 1952; and "Birding in Eastern Iowa" by Fred W. and Thomas H. Kent, 1975; "Waterfowl in Iowa" by Jack W. and Mary R. Musgrove, to name a few.

IOU is still an active group that publishes the journal *Iowa Bird Life* and a newsletter. Many new books on birds in Iowa have been published, including, "Birds of Iowa" by Gladys Black, (1979); and "Iowa Birds" by James J. Dinsmore, Thomas, H. Kent, Darwin Koenig, Peter C. Petersen, and Dean M. Roosa (1984); "The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas" by Laura Spess-Jackson, Carol A. Thompson, and James J. Dinsmore (1997); "Birds in Iowa" by Thomas H. Kent and James J. Dinsmore (1996); and "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard" by Althea R. Sherman (1952,1996).

The IOU Records Committee periodically updates the Field Checklist of Iowa birds. The 1996 edition is included in this booklet.



FIELD CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Revised 1996

DATE _____ TIME: _____ to _____

LOCATION(S): _____

WEATHER: Temp: _____ - _____ Wind: _____ - _____ mph from _____

Sky: _____

OBSERVER(S): _____

SPECIES: _____

REPORTING SIGHTINGS: Observers are encouraged to submit written details of unusual observations to Field Reports editors (see back cover of *Iowa Bird Life* for deadlines and addresses).

Unusual sightings should always be substantiated by notes taken at time of observation and, if possible, with photographs. Species for which written description is desired are marked as follows:

* = provide key details of bird's appearance/song

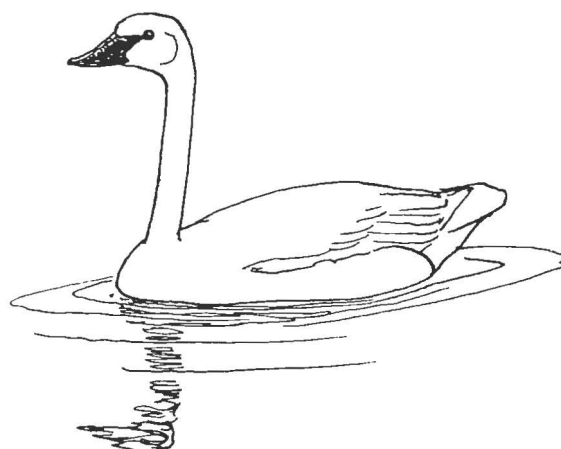
** = fully document bird's appearance and behavior

= document if away from range indicated

Species not on this checklist are accidental and should be fully documented; the documentation will be reviewed by the I.O.U. Records Committee. Also document birds that are out of season.

IOWA BIRDLINE: Unusual birds should also be reported immediately to the Iowa Birdline (319) 338-9881. This recorded summary of weekly observations is updated every Monday. After listening to the message, you can report your interesting observations and request information.

INFORMATION: For membership information, reporting forms, and prices for checklists and other materials, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Treasurer of I.O.U. (see *Iowa Bird Life* for address).



REGULAR SPECIES

(records in at least 8 of 10 years)

Loons

____ Common Loon

Grebes

____ Pied-billed Grebe

____ Horned Grebe

____ Red-necked Grebe

____ Eared Grebe

____ Western Grebe

Pelicans

____ American White Pelican

Cormorants

____ Double-crested Cormorant

Bitterns and Herons

____ American Bittern

____ Least Bittern

____ Great Blue Heron

____ Great Egret

____ Snowy Egret

____ Little Blue Heron

____ Cattle Egret

____ Green Heron

____ Black-crowned Night-Heron

____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Swans, Geese, and Ducks

____ Tundra Swan

____ **Trumpeter Swan

____ **Mute Swan

____ Greater White-fronted Goose

____ Snow Goose

____ Ross' Goose

____ Canada Goose

____ Wood Duck

____ Green-winged Teal

____ American Black Duck

____ Mallard

____ Northern Pintail

____ Blue-winged Teal

____ Cinnamon Teal

____ Northern Shoveler

____ Gadwall

____ American Wigeon

____ Canvasback

____ Redhead

____ Ring-necked Duck

____ Greater Scaup

____ Lesser Scaup

____ Oldsquaw

____ Black Scoter

____ Surf Scoter

____ White-winged Scoter

____ Common Goldeneye

____ Bufflehead

____ Hooded Merganser

____ Common Merganser

____ Red-breasted Merganser

____ Ruddy Duck

American Vultures

____ Turkey Vulture

____ Kites, Hawks, and Eagles

____ Osprey

____ *Mississippi Kite

____ Bald Eagle

____ Northern Harrier

____ Sharp-shinned Hawk

____ Cooper's Hawk

____ *Northern Goshawk

____ (Accipiter species)

____ Red-shouldered Hawk

____ Broad-winged Hawk

____ Swainson's Hawk

____ Red-tailed Hawk

____ Rough-legged Hawk

____ *Golden Eagle

Falcons

____ American Kestrel

____ Merlin

____ Peregrine Falcon

____ *Prairie Falcon

____ Partridge, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail

____ Gray Partridge

____ Ring-necked Pheasant

____ #Ruffed Grouse (NE)

____ Wild Turkey

____ Northern Bobwhite

____ Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

____ Yellow Rail

____ King Rail

____ Virginia Rail

____ Sora

____ Common Moorhen

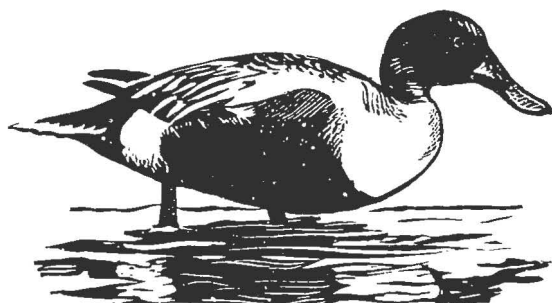
____ American Coot

Cranes

____ Sandhill Crane

Plovers

____ Black-bellied Plover





___ American Golden-Plover
___ Semipalmated Plover
___ Piping Plover
___ Killdeer

Stilts and Avocets

___ American Avocet
Sandpipers and Phalaropes

___ Greater Yellowlegs
___ Lesser Yellowlegs
___ Solitary Sandpiper
___ Willet
___ Spotted Sandpiper
___ Upland Sandpiper
___ Hudsonian Godwit
___ *Marbled Godwit
___ Ruddy Turnstone
___ Sanderling
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
___ *Western Sandpiper
___ Least Sandpiper
___ White-rumped Sandpiper
___ Baird's Sandpiper
___ Pectoral Sandpiper
___ Dunlin
___ Stilt Sandpiper
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
___ Short-billed Dowitcher
___ Long-billed Dowitcher
___ (Dowitcher species)
___ Common Snipe
___ American Woodcock
___ Wilson's Phalarope
___ Red-necked Phalarope

Gulls and Terns

___ Franklin's Gull
___ Bonaparte's Gull
___ Ring-billed Gull
___ Herring Gull
___ **Thayer's Gull
___ **Lesser Black-backed Gull
___ Glaucous Gull
___ **Great Black-backed Gull
___ **Black-legged Kittiwake
___ Caspian Tern
___ *Common Tern
___ Forster's Tern
___ Least Tern
___ Black Tern

Pigeons and Doves

___ Rock Dove
___ Mourning Dove

Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Owls

___ Barn Owl
___ Eastern Screech-Owl
___ Great Horned Owl
___ Snowy Owl
___ Burrowing Owl
___ Barred Owl
___ Long-eared Owl
___ Short-eared Owl
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl

Goatsuckers

___ Common Nighthawk
___ #Chuck-will's-widow (S)
___ Whip-poor-will

Swifts

___ Chimney Swift

Hummingbirds

___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Kingfishers

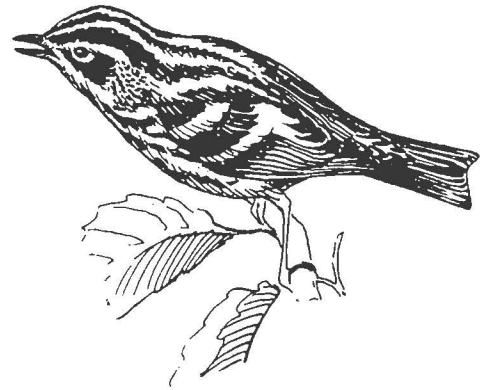
___ Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

___ Red-headed Woodpecker
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
___ Downy Woodpecker
___ Hairy Woodpecker
___ Northern Flicker
___ Pileated Woodpecker

Tyrant Flycatchers

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
___ Acadian Flycatcher
___ Alder Flycatcher
___ Willow Flycatcher
___ Least Flycatcher
___ (Empidonax species)
___ Eastern Phoebe
___ Great Crested Flycatcher
___ Western Kingbird
___ Eastern Kingbird
___ **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher



Larks

___ Horned Lark

Swallows

___ Purple Martin
___ Tree Swallow
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow
___ Bank Swallow
___ Cliff Swallow
___ Barn Swallow

Jays and Crows

___ Blue Jay
___ American Crow

Titmice

___ Black-capped Chickadee
___ Tufted Titmouse

Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch
___ White-breasted Nuthatch

Creepers

___ Brown Creeper

Wrens

___ Carolina Wren
___ Bewick's Wren
___ House Wren
___ Winter Wren
___ Sedge Wren
___ Marsh Wren

Kinglets and Gnatcatchers

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Thrushes

___ Eastern Bluebird
___ Townsend's Solitaire
___ Veery
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush
___ Swainson's Thrush
___ Hermit Thrush
___ Wood Thrush
___ American Robin
___ Varied Thrush

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

___ Gray Catbird
___ Northern Mockingbird
___ Brown Thrasher

Pipits

___ Water Pipit

Waxwings

___ *Bohemian Waxwing
___ Cedar Waxwing

Shrikes

___ Northern Shrike
___ Loggerhead Shrike
___ (Shrike species)

Starlings

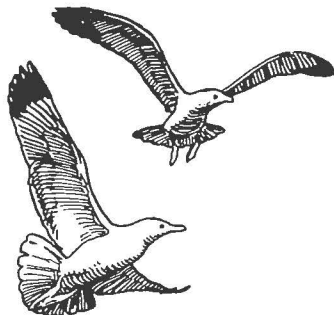
___ European Starling

Vireos

___ White-eyed Vireo
___ Bell's Vireo
___ Solitary Vireo
___ Yellow-throated Vireo
___ Warbling Vireo
___ Philadelphia Vireo
___ Red-eyed Vireo

Wood-Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler
___ Golden-winged Warbler
___ Tennessee Warbler
___ Orange-crowned Warbler
___ Nashville Warbler
___ Northern Parula
___ Yellow Warbler
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler
___ Magnolia Warbler
___ Cape May Warbler
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
___ Black-throated Green Warbler
___ Blackburnian Warbler
___ Yellow-throated Warbler
___ **Pine Warbler
___ Prairie Warbler
___ Palm Warbler
___ Bay-breasted Warbler
___ Blackpoll Warbler
___ Cerulean Warbler
___ Black-and-white Warbler
___ American Redstart
___ Prothonotary Warbler
___ Worm-eating Warbler
___ Ovenbird
___ Northern Waterthrush
___ Louisiana Waterthrush
___ Kentucky Warbler

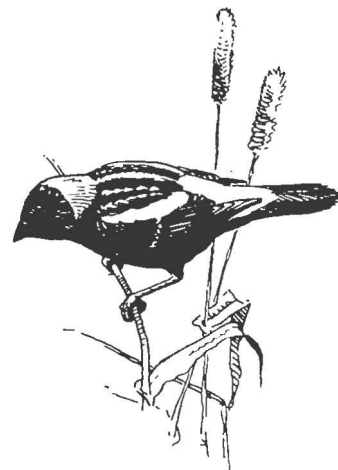




- Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
(Meadowlark species)
Yellow-headed Blackbird

- House Sparrow
Eurasian Tree Sparrow

____**Red-throated Loon
 ____**Pacific Loon
 ____**White-faced Ibis
 ____**Black-necked Stilt
 ____**Whimbrel
 ____**Red Knot
 ____**Red Phalarope
 ____**Laughing Gull
 ____**California Gull
 ____**Iceland Gull
 ____**Sabine's Gull
 ____**Rock Wren
 ____**Mountain Bluebird
 ____**Western Tanager
 ____**Pine Grosbeak



NOTES:



The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is a non-profit group organized in 1923 to promote the study and enjoyment of birds. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Members receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News*. Spring and fall meetings provide good birding opportunities and a chance to meet fellow birders.