

I.O.U. NEWS

Summer 1991

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Newsletter

Volume 7 Number 2

Research on Iowa Birds

by Jim Dinsmore

A major success story in managing Iowa's non-game wildlife involves the American Kestrel. In the 1970s, many people thought that this species was declining in numbers and that it might even disappear from the state. In the early 1980s, Ron Andrews of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources noticed that the habitat along interstate highways in Iowa seemed suitable for kestrels but the lack of suitable nesting sites probably was limiting their use of those areas. Working with a Clear Lake boy scout, Ron got permission to attach kestrel nest boxes to the backs of interstate signs. Kestrels almost immediately made use of these new nest sites, and soon kestrel nest boxes were appearing on the interstate highways throughout Iowa.

In 1987, Illinois native Dan Varland began a study of these kestrels along Interstate 35 in central Iowa as a doctoral project at Iowa State University. Dan had long been interested in raptors and had taught at Iowa Western Community College in Clarinda for a number of years. Dan's study has looked at the behavior and mortality of young kestrels shortly after they leave the nest. This post-fledging period is one of the least known phases of life for many birds. Since the birds nested in nest boxes, it was easy for Dan to band the birds and place colored markers or radio transmitters on some of them. These markers allowed him to follow individual birds and broods to see where they went and what they did. Among other things, Dan found that often the young birds left the interstate right-of-way soon after they could fly and moved to nearby areas to feed. He also found some evidence that the young birds formed groups that hunted together. Surprisingly, only two of the 16 deaths he recorded among these young kestrels were a result of collisions with vehicles along the interstate. Most deaths were the result of predation by various mammals.

I-35 NORTH
EXIT 1 MILE

Dan found that working on these birds presented some challenging problems. The continual passage of high-speed cars on the highway meant that safety was a constant concern. Also, if the bird he was watching flew across the highway and out-of-sight, just to get to the other side of the road to find the bird again might require a drive of several miles to the nearest exit where he could cross over to the other side of the road.

Dan is now completing his dissertation and hopes to be done with work this summer of fall. He wants to get back into the college teaching area and is looking for a teaching position. Dan's work was supported by a number of organizations including the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the North American Bluebird Society (kestrels like bluebirds are cavity nesters), the Iowa Science Foundation, Big Bluestem Audubon Society, and the Iowa Nongame Wildlife Fund.



1990 Spring Meeting

by Hilda Sickels

The IOU Spring Meeting was held May 17-19, 1990 in Cedar Falls, Iowa at the Riverview Church camp and was sponsored by the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society. The weekend started on Friday evening with the social gathering in the camp dormitory lounge area. Catching up and general socializing took place. A lovely cake with the IOU symbol was an attractive centerpiece. People signed up for the trips with no guarantees given. Why no guarantees? The rain-swollen rivers overflowing their banks was the answer.

Saturday morning saw us up at 5:30 A.M. with rolls, juice and coffee for breakfast. Rubber boots on and prepared for rain, we ventured on our trips which were to Sweet Marsh (Bremer Co.), Dudgeon Park (Benton Co.), George Wyeth State Park, Blackhawk County Park, Hartman Nature Center and Waterloo Greenbelt locations.

Saturday was a very cool, windy and grey day so birding was more complicated. Though the weather was not very cooperative, a number of warblers were seen as well as other birds. By noon everyone was back at the camp for a buffet lunch which was catered by the HyVee Deli. From 12:30 until 2:15 there were three continuous workshops:

(1) Jim Dinsmore spoke on shorebirds, their migratory, breeding and nesting habits

(2) Nixon Wilson spoke on Lyme Disease, its incidence in Iowa, his interest and research about the subject. He had a number of specimens

(3) Francis Moore shared with the group information on local birding areas. Excellent maps were a part of the registration packet prepared for the weekend.

After a very short break, a paper on accipiter research was presented by Dave Conrads. He discussed the McBride Raptor Center in Iowa City and how it is contributing to the body of knowledge about accipiters.

The business meeting was held from 3:30 to 4:30 with the majority of the members attending. A lot of information was shared about the various activities of the group. IOU now has a traveling display that depicts IOU activities and its achievements. IOU pins are available for sale and will be at the next IOU meeting. The fall meeting will take place in Indianola with more details at the back of this issue.

The banquet was also catered by the HyVee Deli. The food (pork chops, chicken, mash potatoes, salad, rice and cheese cake) was plentiful and delicious. The banquet speaker was Dr. Jill Trainer, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Northern Iowa. She discussed bird behavior as it related to "Sexual Selection of Bird Song." She discussed her research on the Long-tailed Maniken of Costa Rica. She completed her research at the Monte Vede Reserve. It was a very interesting and informative talk.

Sunday morning, bright and early, saw everyone have muffins, rolls, juice or tea in preparation for our birding day. The trips went to the same locations as on Saturday with one change. The weather cooperated!

Everyone returned by noon to a sandwich lunch that was just right! Compilation took place and we had a total of 155 species for the weekend. Following are some of the sightings: every member of the swallow family was seen; 27 species of warblers of which were seen the Blackburnian, Magnolia, Cape May, Golden-winged, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Wilsons to name a few. Two Common nighthawks were seen roosting on a tree limb; Cedar Waxwings, Sora, Coopers Hawk, Red-shouldered to mention some. A bright sighting was that of a beautiful Scarlet Tanager.

It was time to go. Good-byes were said. Thanks were given for a good weekend of fun, birding, good food and good company. Many thanks to Francis Moore, Bob Cecil, the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society and the HyVee Company for a successful weekend. Good-bye until September 13 where we will meet at Camp Wesley Woods.



The following people attended:

- Adel: Jan Eppard.
- Algona: Matt Kenne.
- Ames: Jim & Steve Dinsmore,
Darwin Koenig.
- Ankeny: Meridel Jackson.
- Booneville: Eloise & Eugene Armstrong.
- Cedar Falls: Ed & Jean Leonard, Jill
Trainer, Jan Warner,
Nixon Wilson.
- Cedar Rapids: Dale & Helen Fye.
- Centerville: Ray Cummins, Tom Johnson.
- Clarinda: Sue Stroyles.
- Clemons: Holly Humpal.
- Colo: Hank Zaletel.
- Davenport: Mary Lou & Pete Petersen.
- Decorah: Dennis Carter.
- Des Moines: Bob & John Cecil,
John Fleckenstein, Barbara Miller,
Hilda Sickles, Carol Strohmeier.
- Elma: Mary Jo Hartogh.
- Estherville: Harold White.
- Fairfield: Diane Porter.
- Fort Dodge: Mary Kuhlman.
- Gladbrook: Dorothy Rich.
- Glenwood: Doug Rose.
- Hastings: Barbara Wilson.
- Iowa City: Ed & Jean Allgood,
Dave Conrads, Margrieta Delle,
Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller,
Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, Jim Scheib,
Carol Thompson.
- Knoxville: Tim Schantz.
- Lake Mills: Sibyl Sand.
- Liscomb: Beth & Mark Proescholdt.
- Marshalltown: Jean Eige, Marlys Huff,
Beverly Otto, Betty & Ed
Savage, Alice Smith, Linda Tasler.
- Mason City: Carolyn Fischer,
Rita Goranson, Pat Hansen, Beth
McBride, Curt Nelson, Marty Pauley,
Jan & Jim Walter.
- Nora Springs: Reve Pedelty.
- Norwalk: Ann Johnson, Sue Spieker.
- Osceola: Beth Brown.
- Perry: Bob Myers.

Princeton: Ann Barker.
 Tabor: Ross Silcock.
 Walnut: Marietta Petersen.
 Waterloo: Jim Hamilton, Dick Kraemer,
 Francis Moore, Kathy Moye,
 Hazel Steuer, Opal Uher,
 Scott Zager.
 Waverly: Lois Eggleston.
 Unknown: Sharon Harmon.

Doug Rose 296
 Ann Barker 291
 Corey Blevins 273
 Mary Jo Hartogh 272
 Dick Bierman 268
 Matt Kenne 260
 Jerry Probst 260
 Dwight Blumer 251
 Lee Schoenewe 235



State and County Lists

12/31/91

by Pete Petersen

This year we had an increase of state totals from 16 to 20, but this is still less than half of what is reported to the American Birding Association. On a county basis, we have at least one total for 38 counties, one more than in the 1990 report for 1989.

You are encouraged to work out your home count total and submit it as of December 31, 1991, to the author at 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803 by March 31, 1992. A list of species is not needed, just the total number through the end of 1991. Report only wild birds using your best judgement, heard as well as seen.

Iowa Totals — 200 minimum

Pete Petersen 353
 Gene Armstrong 338
 Eloise Armstrong 331
 Steve Dinsmore 330
 Jim Fuller 329
 Mark Proescholdt 325
 Beth Proescholdt 323
 Mary Lou Petersen 311
 Ann Johnson 306
 Pamela Allen 297
 Reid Allen 296

County Totals — 125 minimum

Appanoose: Dwight Blumer 250,
 Steve Dinsmore 153
 Black Hawk: Pete Petersen 230,
 Mary Lou Petersen 226
 Boone: Steve Dinsmore 239,
 Mark Proescholdt 157,
 Beth Proescholdt 155,
 Ann Johnson 148
 Buena Vista: Dick Bierman 181
 Cerro Gordo: Jan Walter 250,
 Jim Walter 250, Dick Bierman 174,
 Steve Dinsmore 165
 Cherokee: Dick Bierman 247
 Clay: Lee Schoenewe 217,
 Dick Bierman 178
 Clinton: Pete Petersen 246
 Des Moines: Jim Fuller 225,
 Pete Petersen 215
 Dickinson: Dick Bierman 195,
 Lee Schoenewe 187,
 Steve Dinsmore 158
 Fremont: Steve Dinsmore 211,
 Doug Rose 190,
 Mark Proescholdt 176
 Greene: Steve Dinsmore 203
 Guthrie: Steve Dinsmore 216
 Hamilton: 195
 Hardin: Mark Proescholdt 221,
 Beth Proescholdt 212
 Harrison: Dick Bierman 180
 Jackson: Pete Petersen 227
 Johnson: Jim Fuller 283,
 Pete Petersen 246
 Kossuth: Matt Kenne 253,
 Steve Dinsmore 176

Lee: Steve Dinsmore 161
 Linn: Pete Petersen 200
 Louisa: Pete Petersen 244
 Madison: Gene Armstrong 257,
 Eloise Armstrong 253
 Marion: Ann Johnson 229,
 Steve Dinsmore 181
 Marshall: Beth Proescholdt 244,
 Mark Proescholdt 243
 Muscatine: Pete Petersen 254
 O'Brien: Dick Bierman 173
 Pocahontas: Dick Bierman 173
 Polk: Steve Dinsmore 295,
 Gene Armstrong 294,
 Eloise Armstrong 293,
 Ann Johnson 250,
 Pamela Allen 250,
 Reid Allen 249,
 Pete Petersen 240,
 Mark Proescholdt 230,
 Beth Proescholdt 217
 Pottawattamie: Steve Dinsmore 169
 Scott: Pete Petersen 302,
 Mary Lou Petersen 266
 Story: Steve Dinsmore 271,
 Mark Proescholdt 212,
 Beth Proescholdt 153
 Tama: Mark Proescholdt 200,
 Beth Proescholdt 153
 Warren: Ann Johnson 231
 Winneshiek: Dennis Carter 158
 Woodbury: Jerry Probst 247
 Wright: Steve Dinsmore 205

Bird Walks at Effigy Mounds by **Dennis Carter** ---

The National Park Service has scheduled Saturday morning bird walks at Effigy Mounds National Monument in Allamakee County again this year. Walks will be held on the following dates: July 22; August 3,17,31; September 14,28. Walks are led by NPS volunteer Dennis Carter. They start in front of the Visitor Center at 7 a.m. and last about two hours.

Species found on walks last year included Bald Eagle, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Cerulean, Kentucky, and Prothonotary Warblers. More information can be obtained by calling Dennis Carter at 319/382-3754.

To the editor:

I would like to congratulate the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and in particular to praise Jim Fuller for running one of the best birdlines in the country. As a frequent caller of birdlines throughout the

c o n t i - **THANKS!**
 nent, I can attest

to the high quality of the Iowa Birdline. Jim's attention to detail, constant updates and ability to communicate make our birdline consistently worthwhile. I hope everyone who uses the Iowa Birdline and who appreciates the personal touch and dedication of Jim Fuller will go out of their way to express their thanks at the next opportunity.

Jim Sinclair,
 Indianola

IOU People ---

Karole and **Jim Fuller** received the Conservation Award presented by the Johnson County Land Trust. **Rick Hollis** and **Carol Thompson** were presented Governor's Volunteer awards; Rick for his work on the Feeder Survey and Carol for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Long-time IOU member **Edwin Kline** of Ames died on 26 May 1991. Ed joined the union in 1965 and frequently attended its annual meetings with his wife, Marjory. Until his retirement a few years ago, he was a Professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University where his speciality was in the area of meat science.



Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

Rare Bird Alerts

• 159 Sapsucker Woods Road • Ithaca, New York 14850 • (607) 254-BIRD •

ALABAMA	Statewide	(205) 987-2730
ALASKA	Statewide	(907) 248-2473
ARIZONA	Phoenix	(602) 832-8745
	Tucson	(602) 798-1005
ARKANSAS	Statewide	(501) 753-5853
CALIFORNIA	Arcata	(707) 826-7031
	Los Angeles	(213) 874-1318
	Monterey	(408) 375-9122
	Morro Bay	(805) 528-7182
	Northern California	(415) 528-0288 or 524-5592
	Sacramento	(916) 481-0118
	San Bernadino	(714) 793-5599
	San Diego	(619) 435-6761 or 479-3400
	Santa Barbara	(805) 964-8240
	San Francisco	(415) 528-0288
	S.W. Sierra/San Joaquin	(209) 782-1237
COLORADO	Statewide	(303) 973-7207
DELAWARE	Statewide	(301) 652-1088 or (215) 567-2473
FLORIDA	Lower Keys	(305) 294-3438
	Tallahassee M-F (6pm-6am) Sa-Su (24 hrs)	(904) 222-2084
GEORGIA	Statewide	(404) 509-0204
IDAHO	Southeast	(208) 236-3337
ILLINOIS	Central Illinois	(217) 785-1083
	Chicago	(708) 671-1522
INDIANA	Statewide	(317) 259-0911
IOWA	Sioux City	(712) 262-5958
	Statewide	(319) 338-9881
KANSAS	Statewide	(913) 329-4499
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	(504) 293-2576
	New Orleans	(504) 246-2473
MAINE	Statewide M-F (5pm-8pm) Sa-Su (24 hrs)	(207) 781-2332
MARYLAND	Statewide	(301) 652-1088
	Harford County	(301) 638-0290
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	(617) 259-8805
	Western Massachusetts	(413) 569-6926
MICHIGAN	Statewide	(616) 471-4919
	S.E. Michigan	(313) 278-4288

MINNESOTA	Statewide	(612) 544-5016
	Duluth	(218) 525-5952
MISSISSIPPI	coastal areas	(601) 467-9500
MISSOURI	Statewide	(314) 445-9115
	Kansas City	(816) 795-8177
	St. Louis	(314) 938-5349
MONTANA	Statewide	(406) 721-2935
NEBRASKA	Statewide (5 pm - 8 am)	(402) 453-0724
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Statewide M-F (5 pm - 9 am) Sa-Su (24 hrs)	(603) 224-9900
NEW JERSEY	Statewide	(201) 766-2661
	Cape May	(609) 884-2626
NEW MEXICO	Statewide	(505) 662-2101
NEW YORK	Albany	(518) 439-8080
	Buffalo	(716) 896-1271
	New York	(212) 832-6523
	Rochester	(716) 461-9593
	Syracuse	(315) 682-7039
NORTH CAROLINA	Statewide	(704) 332-2473
OHIO	Cincinnati	(513) 521-2847
	Southwestern Ohio	(513) 277-6446
	Cleveland	(216) 289-2473
	Columbus	(614) 221-9736
	Blendon Woods Metro Park	(614) 895-6222
	Toledo	(419) 877-5003
	Youngstown	(216) 742-6661
OKLAHOMA	Oklahoma City	(405) 373-4531
OREGON	Statewide	(503) 292-0661
	Southern Oregon M-F only (10pm-6am)	(503) 826-7011
PENNSYLVANIA	Western Pennsylvania	(412) 963-0560
	Philadelphia	(215) 567-2473 or (301) 652-1088
	Wilkes Barre	(717) 825-2473
RHODE ISLAND	Statewide	(401) 231-5728
SOUTH CAROLINA	Statewide	(704) 332-2473
TENNESSEE	Statewide	(615) 356-7636
TEXAS	Statewide	(713) 821-2846
	Austin	(512) 451-3308
	Northcentral Area	(817) 261-6792
	Lower Rio Grande Valley	(512) 565-6773
	San Antonio	(512) 733-8306
	Sinton	(512) 364-3634
UTAH	Statewide	(801) 538-4730
VERMONT	Mon-Sat (5 pm - 8 am) Sun (all day)	(802) 457-2779
VIRGINIA	Statewide	(301) 652-1088 or (804) 929-1736
WASHINGTON	Statewide	(206) 526-8266
WISCONSIN	Statewide	(414) 352-3857
	Madison (except 9-3 weekdays)	(608) 255-2476
WYOMING	Statewide	(307) 265-2473

THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

FALL MEETING

CAMP WESLEY WOODS

INDIANOLA, IOWA

SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 1991



Come see for yourself the excitement generated by fall in south central Iowa. New surprises appear annually and you may be one of the lucky people to set precedents for future generations. Events for the fall meeting will all be held at Camp Wesley Woods south of Indianola in a beautiful setting of oak/hickory timber. Birding should be excellent close to "home" or field trips to Red Rock Reservoir may produce a variety of water-related species. Accommodations are available on the grounds or in nearby Indianola.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 13	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Registration and Social Get-Together for getting acquainted and reacquainted and sharing exciting tales of summer
Saturday, September 14	6:30 a. m.	Continental Breakfast
	7:00 a. m.	Field trips leave
	12:00 noon	Lunch
	1:00 - 3:30 p. m.	Workshops Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge Dick Birger Gull Identification Techniques Tom Kent Birding Red Rock and Warren County Tim Schantz/Ann Johnson
	3:30 p. m.	Business Meeting
	6:30 p. m.	Banquet - Tim Schantz "The Farallons - An Ecological Trap"
Sunday, September 15	6:30 a. m.	Full Breakfast
	7:00 a. m.	Field trips leave
	12:00 noon	Cookout lunch and Compilation

All events take place and meals will be served at Methaqua Lodge near the parking lot at Wesley Woods. Field trips will leave from the parking lot and cover Red Rock Reservoir and related areas, Lake Ahquabi State Park, and Warren County Conservation Board parks.

Directions to Camp Wesley Woods - From the intersection of Highways 92 and 65/69 in Indianola, go west approximately 2.5 miles and watch for the sign to Camp Wesley Woods. Turn south onto paved County Road R63 and go about 4.5 miles. At the end of the pavement you will see a sign directing you to the left (east) on Nixon Street. Follow to the end of the road where you will end up in the Wesley Woods Parking lot. If you are coming from the west, follow Highway 92 to County Road R63, about 10 miles from Interstate 35.

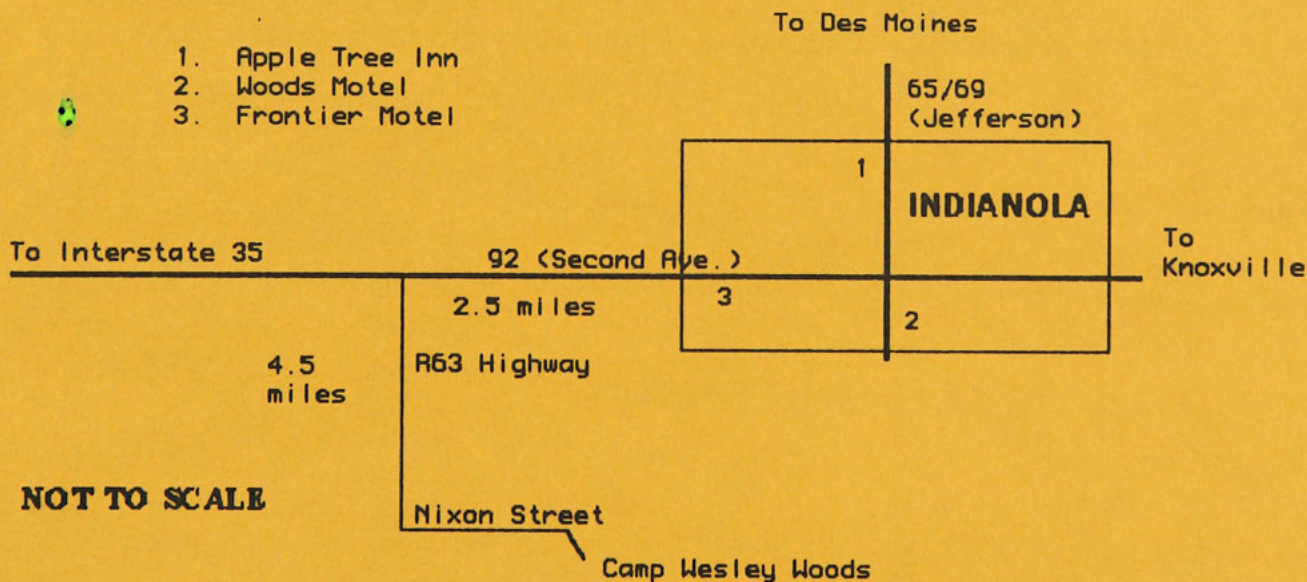
ROLLING HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY invites you to Indianola for the Fall 1991 Meeting of the IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Completed registrations are due to Ann Johnson, 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 by **August 15, 1991**. Make checks payable to Rolling Hills Audubon Society. Accomodations at the camp consist of cabins in the woods sleeping a minimum of six and a maximum of fourteen, dormitory style. Restrooms are nearby. Bring your own bedding and towels. Camping, with electricity, is also available on the grounds (see registration form) or across the lake at Lake Ahquabi State Park.

INDIANOLA MOTELS -

Apple Tree Inn, 1215 N. Jefferson, Indianola (515) 961-0551	\$37.06 - \$47.96
Woods Motel, 906 S. Jefferson, Indianola (515) 961-5311	\$20.00 - \$35.00
Frontier Motel, 901 West Second Ave., Indianola (515) 961-6283	\$24.52 - \$27.25

If you have any questions, call Ann Johnson at (515) 961-5353 (work) or (515) 961-2002 (home). Camp Wesley Woods phone number is (515) 961-4523.



Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone # _____



MEALS AND REGISTRATION

- No. _____ Registration @ \$5.00
- No. _____ Sat. Breakfast @ \$2.50
- No. _____ Sat. Lunch @ \$4.50
- No. _____ Sat. Banquet @ \$6.00
- No. _____ Sun. Breakfast @ \$3.75
- No. _____ Sun. Lunch @ \$4.25

CAMP ACCOMODATIONS

- No. ____ Friday Night Cabin @ \$9.00
- No. ____ Sat. Night Cabin @ \$9.00
- _____ Friday Camping @ \$7.00
- _____ Sat. Camping @ \$7.00
- _____ RV Air Conditioning @ \$2.00/night

TOTAL \$ _____

Summer

IOU Summer Field Trip June 22, 1991

Seventeen birders journeyed to Lee County in Southeast Iowa to the IOU Summer Field Trip at the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest. Ignoring threats of poison ivy, ticks, and chiggers, they searched amid some early rain for the area's avian specialties. While the birds were more easily heard than seen, the group found Hooded, Worm-eating, Cerulean, and Blue-winged Warblers, plus Yellow-breasted Chat, Louisiana Waterthrush, and White-eyed Vireo. The Bewick's Wren proved elusive, unseen and singing only twice. A number of the more common species was also found, including Carolina Wren, Scarlet Tanager, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

Bob and John Cecil served as field trip leaders.

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

HANK & LINDA ZALETEL
715 WEST
COLO, IOWA 50056

Thomas H Kent
211 Richards St
Iowa City IA 52246

IOWA BIRDLINE
 **319-338-9881**

