

Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

I.O.U. NEWS

WINTER 1985

Newsletter of the Ornithologists' Union Volume 1 Number 1-4

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to introduce to you the brand new IOU newsletter, The I.O.U. News. The newsletter will be published quarterly and will be sent (at no extra cost, of course) to every IOU member. You will still be receiving our quarterly journal, Iowa Bird Life.

The I.O.U. News will be full of information about the IOU and about you, our IOU members. The information will be less technical than that in Iowa Bird Life and will keep you up to date on IOU meetings, committees, projects, field trips, and much more.

To be successful, we will be depending on you to help us. We will need your comments and suggests, and especially, your items for the newsletter. Our co-editors, Linda and Hank Zaletel, would very much like to have your input. Here are some possible items you could submit:

- Your local group's meeting and field trip schedule, especially events of wide interest.
- Unique activities or projects by your local group.
- Your local Christmas Count dates including name and phone number of who to contact.
- Ornithological honors and achievements by IOU members.
- Unusual and entertaining experiences with birds at your feeder.
- "Letters to the Editor".
- Information on bird feeding and nest boxes.
- Your "secret" techniques for birding, photography, etc. of a non-technical nature.

We are very excited about our new newsletter, but we want to make it your newsletter. Let Linda and Hank hear from you.

Carl J. Bendorf
President



NOTICE: Your December, 1985 issue of Iowa Bird Life will be late because of preparation of the five-year index and the fall field report.

IT'S HERE!

It's here, it's what you've been waiting for, it's The I.O.U. News! This is our first issue, and the content of future issues depends on you, the members. We want to hear comments, suggestions, and criticisms. We have regional editorships available--if you wish to get involved, let us know. Ann Barker is the eastern regional editor, and we appreciate her contributions.

Many thanks to the publication board for helping us get started. We are looking forward to many exciting issues to come.

- Hank & Linda Zaletel

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

A meeting will be held in Ames on Saturday, February 8, 1986 to update participants. Call or write Doug Reeves (515-432-2823) or Laura Jackson (515-281-4815), Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.



"I know they're ecologists trying to protect us, but they still make me nervous."



BALD EAGLE APPRECIATION DAYS

Each winter 100 to 400 Bald Eagles winter along the Mississippi River at Keokuk. This is one of the major wintering areas in the Midwest.

To give people an opportunity to view the eagles first-hand, there will be Bald Eagle Days on January 17-19 at Keokuk, Iowa. The event will include observation areas at the river and indoor sessions at the Keosippi Mall on Main Street. Spotting scopes will be furnished, and biologists will be on hand to answer questions. Indoor sessions will be from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and will include a live Bald Eagle.

The Quad City Audubon will hold its Bald Eagle Caravan for 1986 on January 18 and 19. The Caravan weekend includes a Saturday evening program with a film on eagles to be held at Butterworth Center, Moline, Illinois at 7:30 PM on the 18th; and field trips on Sunday, January 19 for observation. Participants will meet at 8:00 AM at the Lock 15 Visitors' enter on Arsenal Island.

EAGLE WATCHING MADE EASY - A PEARL FOR THE LAZY BIRDER

If you're in Davenport, hungry or thirsty, on a frozen mid-winter day, head for the Dock, a restaurant at the foot of Perry Street. Here you can sip a glass of wine or enjoy a gourmet meal next to a picture window overlooking the river just below the dam. Bald Eagles can almost always be found fishing 50 yards from your table or roosting in the trees on the tip of Arsenal Island directly across the river. If you prefer not to partake of food or drink, the city parking lot just west of the restaurant has plenty of spots on the edge of the levee facing the river. The view is just the same, and you can closely observe our nation's symbol from the warmth of your car.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Jan. 5, 1986	Amana	Lanny Haldy	(319) 622-3895 (H) (319) 622-3567 (W)
Dec. 21, 1985	Big Bluestem Audubon, Ames	Hank Zaletel	(515) 377-2889
Jan. 1, 1986	Boone County	Mark Widrlechner	(515) 292-4014
Dec. 21, 1985	Burlington	Charles Fuller	(515) 856-3518
Dec. 22, 1985	Cedar Falls	Francis Moore	(319) 232-0217
Dec. 21, 1985	Cedar Rapids	Dale & Helen Fye	(319) 337-5935
Dec. 21, 1985	Centerville	Bill Heusinkveld	(515) 856-2342
Jan. 4, 1986	Clinton (Fulton, Il.)	Peter C. Petersen	(319) 355-7051
Dec. 22, 1985	Davenport	Peter C. Petersen	(319) 355-7051
Dec. 28, 1985	Des Moines Audubon	Eugene Armstrong	(515) 996-2726
Jan. 4, 1986	Desoto	Ross Silcock	(712) 629-5865
Dec. 28, 1985	Fort Dodge	Mina Landes	(515) 573-3482
Dec. 21, 1985	Iowa City	Tom Staudt	(319) 337-5935
Dec. 23, 1985	Jamaica	Ray Cummins	(515) 856-3518
Dec. 28, 1985	Keokuk	Bob Cecil	(319) 524-6407
Jan. 4, 1986	Lehigh	Mina Landes	(515) 573-3482
Dec. 18, 1985	Lost Nation	Sharon Kaufman	(319) 847-7202
Dec. 21, 1985	Lucas County	Beth Brown	(515) 342-2783
Dec. 29, 1985	Muscatine	Peter C. Petersen	(319) 355-7051
Dec. 28, 1985	North Linn	Weir Nelson	(319) 848-4846
Dec. 28, 1985	Omaha	Betty Grenon	
Jan. 2, 1985	Oakville (Aledo, Il.)	Peter C. Petersen	(319) 355-7051
Dec. 19, 1985	Princeton (Camanche, Ia., Cordova, Il.)	Peter C. Petersen	(319) 355-7051
Dec. 21, 1985	Shenandoah	Betty Walter	(712) 246-5086
Dec. 22, 1985	Tri State	Ross Silcock	(712) 629-5865
Dec. 21, 1985	Waterloo	Francis Moore	(319) 232-0217

Your count missing? Next year let us know--we'll put it in the newsletter!



MIDWINTER RAPTOR SURVEY

Each year since 1977, Dean Roosa, State Ecologist, has coordinated a "midwinter raptor survey" under the auspices of the State Preserves Advisory Board and the State Conservation Commission. This survey is conducted from mid-January to mid-February, when the wintering populations are most stable, and after the Christmas Counts have been completed.

Cooperators are asked to select a township and survey it for all raptors on a day when the weather is suitable (i.e., not foggy, raining, snowing or too windy). Much of the survey can be done by driving county roads, but those townships with considerable topographic variation require some walking. Types of habitats (e.g. woodland, plowed crop ground, unplowed crop ground, pasture), and percentage of each, are recorded. All raptors are recorded, although it is biased toward those diurnal species.

The goal of the project is to (a) eventually arrive at an estimate of the wintering population of raptors (particularly diurnal species); (b) determine the location of the best wintering habitat in Iowa; (c) determine long-term trends in wintering raptors in Iowa.

Directions, field forms, and copies of 1985 results will be sent out in late December or early January. It is important that participants have experience in field identification of birds of prey.

If interested, potential participants may receive more information



MIDWINTER RAPTOR SURVEY (Cont'd)

and results of a previous survey by writing or calling:

Dean Roosa
State Conservation Commission
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-8676



SONGBIRD PACKAGES

The State Forest Nursery grows tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings. The nursery has wildlife and songbird packages available again this year.

The wildlife package is geared toward rural landowners. It contains 50 conifers, 50 hardwoods, and 100 shrubs at a cost of \$19.00. City dwellers can order the songbird package for enhancing their yards for wildlife. This package includes 20 shrubs with high food and cover value and costs \$10.00.

Call or write the State Forest Nursery at 2404 South Duff, Ames, IA 50010, 515-294-4622, for more information.

FIRST ANNUAL IOWA BIRDATHON

The First Annual Iowa Birdathon, sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, will be held during May 10-18, 1986, and is open to any and all teams of observers.

More information will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.



1 9 8 6 W I N T E R B I R D F E E D E R S U R V E Y

SPONSORED BY THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

AND THE IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION NONGAME PROGRAM

On two consecutive days during January 23-26, 1986, observe your feeder and using this form, describe your feeder and record the birds that visited you. In the space provided, list highest number of each species that you saw together at any one time. For example, if you saw 10 juncos at 9:00, 11 at 12:00 and 7 at 4:00, the number you should record is 11. If additional individuals of the species could be identified by unusual markings, sex, race, etc., record the total. For example, if you saw 3 male cardinals at 9:00, 10:00 and 3:00 and at 11:00 you saw a female cardinal, the number you should record is 4. Use the space below for any species not listed. Count only on the two consecutive days and record only the birds that you see at your feeder, under your feeder or in the trees around your feeder. Do not count the flock of crows that you saw flying overhead or the robin that you saw 3 miles away on your way to visit a friend. If you cannot get an exact count, record your best estimate. An honest estimate is far more useful to me than 'umpteen' or 'too many to count.'

Please feel free to copy this form and give it to friends.

Mail the completed form to me by February 1, 1986:

R. J. Hollis
3351 Lower West Branch Road
Iowa City, IA 52240

If you would like a personal reply, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and be patient; it may take 12 months before I can get back to you.

The form to use is on the back of this page. Please fill it out carefully. Thank you and enjoy yourselves.

SUPPORT IOWA'S NONGAME PROGRAM --

CONTRIBUTE TO THE "FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION FUND"

ON YOUR IOWA TAX RETURN



FEEDER SURVEY JANUARY 23-26, 1986

1. Name _____
- 2A. Address _____
- 2B. County _____ 2C. City _____ 2D. Zip _____
3. The feeder survey period this year runs from Thursday, January 23rd to Sunday, January 26th. Count the birds on two consecutive days only. That is, Thursday and Friday, Friday and Saturday, or Saturday and Sunday. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.
Check one: ___ Thursday (1/23) and Friday (1/24),
 ___ Friday (1/24) and Saturday (1/25), or
 ___ Saturday (1/25) and Sunday (1/26).
4. Is your feeder in Town (including suburbs) or in the Country?
Circle T or C
5. If this is a rural address, give the distance and direction to the nearest town _____
6. Check the one or two descriptions which best describe the area within 1/2 mile of your feeder:
___ suburban, with shrubs and small trees but few big trees
___ town, with many mature trees in neighborhood.
___ downtown with mostly buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.
___ pasture
___ row cropland (corn, beans, etc.)
___ timber
7. Is there a continuous source of unfrozen water within 1/2 mile of your feeder? Circle Yes or No.
8. Type and number of feeders: ___ Thistle, ___ Sunflower(only), ___ Fruit, ___ Safflower, ___ Peanuts, ___ Mixed seed, ___ Peanut Butter, ___ Suet, ___ Cracked Sunflower, ___ Corn, ___ Millet (only), ___ (other) _____
9. On what date did you start feeding this year: About _____
10. Comments or additional description of your feeder: _____

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES ON JANUARY 25 OR 26

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ Ring-necked Pheasant | ___ White-throated Sparrow |
| ___ Rock Dove (Common Pigeon) | ___ White-crowned Sparrow |
| ___ Mourning Dove | ___ Harris' Sparrow |
| ___ Red-headed Woodpecker | ___ Dark-eyed Junco (All races) |
| ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker | ___ Red-winged Blackbird |
| ___ Downy Woodpecker | ___ Grackle (Common) |
| ___ Hairy Woodpecker | ___ Brown-headed Cowbird |
| ___ Flicker (All races) | ___ Purple Finch |
| ___ Blue Jay | ___ Common Redpoll |
| ___ Crow (American) | ___ Pine Siskin |
| ___ Black-capped Chickadee | ___ Goldfinch American |
| ___ Tufted Titmouse | ___ Evening Grosbeak |
| ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch | ___ House (English) Sparrow |
| ___ Brown Creeper | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Robin (American) | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Cedar Waxwing | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Starling (European) | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Cardinal (Northern) | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Tree Sparrow (American) | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Song Sparrow | ___ TOTAL SPECIES SEEN |



IOWA BIRDLINE

After four years as the primary voice of the Birdline, Rick Hollis has turned over this duty to Carl Bendorf. We thank Rick for being instrumental in getting the birdline off the ground and for the excellent work (almost 200 reports!).



Iowa Birdline Phone Number
1-319-622-3353



Don't miss any unusual winter birds.
Call the Iowa Birdline!

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President:

Carl Bendorf
825 7th Avenue
Iowa City, IA 52240

Editor, Iowa Bird Life:

Tom Kent
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

Co-Editors, The I.O.U. News

Hank & Linda Zaletel
715 West Street
Colo, IA 50056



Information for new members! Give an IOU membership to a friend for a holiday gift. Please check one of the classes of membership listed below and send your remittance to: Hank Zaletel, I.O.U. Treasurer, 715 West Street, Colo, IA 50056. Make checks payable to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Thank you for your support!

- Regular (\$12.00)
 - Family (\$12.00+) - fill in mailing address and list additional names here:
 - Name of spouse/child under 18 (\$4.00) _____
 - Name of child under 18 (\$2.00) _____
 - Name of child under 18 (\$2.00) _____
 - Name of child under 18 (\$2.00) _____
 - Contributing (\$12 plus your contribution) Total \$ _____
 - Life (\$250 or 4 annual payments of \$62.50) Total \$ _____
- Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



THIS IS NOT A RENEWAL NOTICE



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

The new members for 1985 are:

Renee Baade - Gurnee, IL
Mrs. Robert Barnhouse, Jr. -
Oskaloosa, IA
Bob & Margaret Borgmeyer - Ames, IA
Jeanne Brodersen - Atlantic, IA
Cecelia A.S. Burnett - Ames, IA
Nancy Carl - Kellogg, IA
Cons. Educ. Ctr. - Guthrie Center, IA
Stephen Dunbar - Iowa City, IA
John Fleckenstein - Des Moines, IA
Miss Francis Flick - Des Moines, IA
Sharon Flotho - Marshalltown, IA
Michael Foley - Indianola, IA
Dale & Helen Fye - Cedar Rapids, IA
Leland Gonseth - Murray, IA
Ronald Gutschow - Milwaukee, WI
Coleen Hill - Baxter, IA
Beth Hobbs - Jefferson, IA
Bill Huser - South Sioux City, NE
Linda Johnson - Ft. Madison, IA
Joe Jordan - Cedar Falls, IA
Mrs. Eugene Kehoe - Spencer, IA
Dan E. Lorenz - Cedar Falls, IA
Barb Lovick - Mason City, IA
Mary Grace Mayer - Keota, IA



T.J. McMillan - Ames, IA
Joel McMillin - Iowa City, IA
Bonnie Mitchell - Avoca, IA
Mrs. C.E. Mott - Mason City, IA
Richard & Margie Oyer - Kalona, IA
June & Robert Parks - Glenwood, IA
Daryle Parsons - Kellogg, IA
Betty Patterson - Atlantic, IA
Bryan Pierce - Burlington, IA
Carl Priebe - Sidney, IA
Dan Ray - Middle, IA
Jean Richter - Glenwood, IA
Steve Ristau - Des Moines, IA
Matt Skretta - Mt. Vernon, IA
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Swartz -
Ottumwa, IA
William & Ann Tweeton -
Washington, IA
Sanford & Eleanor Tyler - Chester, IA
Terry Ward - Cedar Falls, IA
Hiram Webber - Iowa City, IA
Alan Wormington - Leamington,
Ontario, Canada

Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

IOWA BIRD LINE
319-622-3353

ZALETEL
715 West St.
Colo, Iowa 50056