



I.O.U. NEWS

Spring 1989 Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Volume 5 Number 1

So That's How Its Pronounced! Jim Sinclair, Indianola

Those of us birders of the subspecies Birder *insecurii* are often unsure of the proper pronunciation of a particular bird species, genus or family. You know that feeling of insecurity that comes when the fellow birder you are having a discussion with, invariably someone perceived to be far more knowledgeable than you, pronounces the species in question differently from how you have been pronouncing it. What do you do at this point? Change your pronunciation of the bird in question in mid conversation? Look for an open window through which to escape or deftly redirect the conversation in the direction of one of those really tough to pronounce species such as the Sora or Dunlin?

This article will hopefully alleviate some of the anxiety caused by the following pronunciations, four of which are specific bird species, two are genera, one is a family and one a subdivision within a family. Pay attention now, a quiz will follow.

Plover- pronounced either *pluv'ər* or *plō'vər*. Derived from the old French *plovier* alluding to rain and the number of myths relating to plovers and rain.

Jaeger-*yā'gər* or *ja'gər*, another one that can be pronounced either way. Derived from the German *jager* or hunter from the old Norse *jaga*, to hunt.

Scoter-*skō'tər*, sorry this one has only one correct pronunciation. All of you who have seen a Black or Surf or White-winged *skaw'tər* please check your lists.

Buteo-*byōō'te ō*, there are no *byōō tā' ōs* soaring the skies of Iowa. *Buteo* is Latin for buzzard.

Ferruginous Hawk-*f ə'roō' jənəs*, I'm not sure that there is any doubt or question as to the pronunciation of this one but one can never be too cautious. *Ferruginous*, from the Latin *ferrugo*, rust, alludes to the color of the plumage of this species.

Pileated Woodpecker-either *pī' lē a' tid* or *pil' ē ā' tid* is correct. *Pileated* derives from the Latin for capped and refers to the prominent crest which adorns this species.

Bewick's Wren-*byōō' ik*, yes that's right, Iowa's rarest resident wren's name is pronounced the same as the more common General Motor's automobile. Audubon named this species after his English counterpart Thomas Bewick (1753-1828).

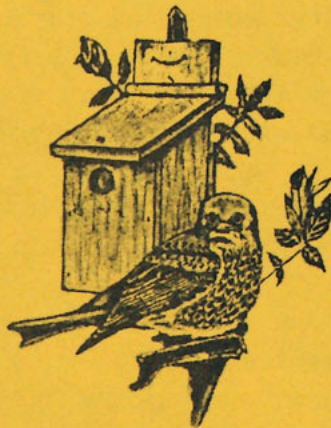
Northern Parula-par´ yələ or par´ ələ, alas the par´ ɔ̄ ə lə warbler does not exist. Parula is Latin diminutive of parus and means little tit.

References:

Gruson, Edward S. *Words for Birds*, New York, Quadrangle Books, 1972.

Stein, Jess and Lawrence Urdang, *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, New York, Random House, 1967.

Terres, John K. *Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1980.



The Iowa Bluebird Program **Rita Efta, Auburn**

The bluebird season is fast approaching. Hopefully many of the county conservation boards and other organizations are having or have already had bluebird workshops to help provide more nesting boxes and get more people interested in starting bluebird trails.

There has been a need for an organization to sponsor the bluebird program in Iowa. The newly formed Sac County Conservation Foundation has been founded to promote this cause.

A major 1989 goal is the publication of a bluebird directory. This directory will tabulate the submitted bluebird reporting forms of the preceding nesting season. In addition, it will identify others in your area who are interested in helping the bluebird and other birds utilizing the nest boxes.

Because of a lack of funds, a \$3.00 or more tax deductible donation will help cover the cost of compiling, printing and mailing of the directories. Send donations to the Sac County Conservation Foundation, RR3, Box 96A, Sac City, Iowa 50583.

If problems are encountered on your trail and you would like advice, send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the above address or call 712-688-2873.

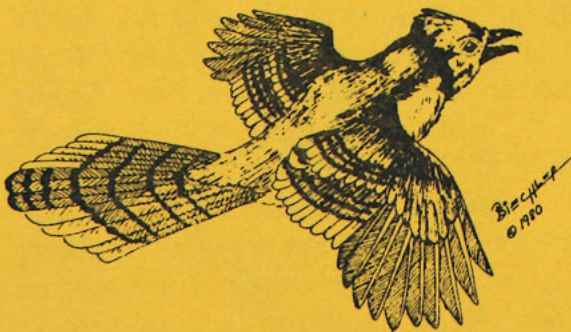
Research on Iowa Birds

One of the most interesting projects involving Iowa birds is being directed by Carter Johnson, an Associate Professor of Biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Although Carter's background is mainly plant ecology, he now is studying Blue Jays to try to understand their role in dispersing the seeds of various trees. He says that this work started when a jay feeding on his campus in Blacksburg, Virginia dropped an acorn near him.

In particular, he wondered how the seeds of species like oaks could be moved from woodlot to woodlot. These species have heavy seeds, and thus they need some animal to move them any distance. He reasoned that as the forests of the Midwest continued to be harvested, oaks would be confined to ever smaller isolated woodlots and there would be little chance of their seeds reaching neighboring woodlots. Unless there were some means

of dispersal, he thought that some of those tree species would gradually disappear from many of these woodlots. Most people thought that squirrels were the main means of dispersal, but squirrels generally do not move seeds very far. Johnson's chance encounter with a hungry jay led to the project now underway near Chariton, Iowa.

There he is studying Blue Jays to see how far they will move acorns, how and where they hide them when they cache the nuts, and in general what importance jays are as a means of dispersal for oak trees. In a nutshell, he has found that jays carry and cache an amazing number of acorns in the fall. Although the jays and various small mammals eat many of these acorns, many of the acorns do germinate. The jays seem to be able to separate sound nuts from those that are less likely to germinate, thereby increasing the chances that the ones they hide eventually produce a tree. Also, jays may carry the acorns several miles, and thus they are important in dispersing the seeds. Johnson believes that Blue Jays may well be more important than squirrels in dispersing acorns and that they will help ensure that oaks and other similar heavy-seeded trees can continue to thrive in the ever more isolated woodlots that cover the Midwest.



Natural History Foray **John Fleckenstein, Des Moines**

The 1989 Natural History Foray will be held in O'Brien and Cherokee Counties between 26 May and 4 June. The Foray is a gathering of students of natural history, professional and amateur, to survey flora, fauna and geology. This includes, of course, breeding birds.

Very little Breeding Bird Atlas work has been done in either of these counties. Therefore, I am organizing a block busting party for the weekend of 26-29 May. Three special atlas blocks are located in each county. They include large tracts of prairie, portions of the Little Sioux Valley, small woodlands, and extensive tracts of prairie grasses and juniper. I hope we can finish these blocks and spend some time on other blocks. We may record several good species. The Lark Bunting and the Burrowing Owl have been found here. The harrier and Short-eared Owl are also possible. In addition, we will see many prairie species.

If you have some time Memorial Day weekend, consider coming up to the great northwest and helping out with the Atlas. If you are interested, but can't make it then, maybe we can arrange something the following weekend. The Foray will be headquartered at Buena Vista College. Accommodations are available there. Several county parks offer camping opportunities across the area. If you are interested and would like more information, contact: John Fleckenstein, Dept. of Natural Resources, Des Moines, 50319 or 515-281-8967.

Breeding Bird Atlas News Carol Thompson, Iowa City

Included in this issue is a map of the breeding bird blocks and the status of each. The blocks are mapped as completed, in progress with greater than 30 species or five hours, or in progress with less than five hours or 30 species. The latter often represents a quick one time drive through the block, so additional help on these blocks is needed. As you can see there remains much work to be done. We would encourage everyone to use this map and try to fill in some of the gaps that exist. Perhaps there's a block near your house, or you may be able to take a weekend and bird one further away. More detailed maps of the breeding blocks can be obtained from Pat Schlarbaum at the Boone Research Station.

Perhaps you are working on a block that is not shown as such. **Please** send your cards in. Our information is only as good as what we receive. You don't have to wait until the block is done. We cannot adequately assess our progress or set priorities if we do not have the information.

Remember - this is our last year. We encourage coverage of the priority blocks. This will ensure coverage in every county.

If you think your block is done (i.e., you have to expend a lot of time to add new species) please let us know. We realize that the set limits for coverage are not attainable in every block and we are relying on individual bird's judgement as well as our set criteria.

The winners of the Breeding Bird Atlas contest will be announced at the Spring I.O.U. meeting. We will run a contest again this year. The following are

the categories:

- * Most blocks covered based on 10 or more hours or 40 or more species.
- * Most total species in a block.
- * Most hours.
- * Most confirmed species in a block
- Most unusual bird confirmed.
- Addition of a new nesting species to the Iowa record.
- Confirmed Sharp-shinned Hawk nesting.

The categories marked with an * are open for both individuals and clubs. No more than one prize will be awarded to any one individual or club. Please indicate when you send in your cards that you would like to be considered for one or more of the categories.

We are also going to have a couple of special awards to be given in conjunction with the I.O.U. Spring meeting. We will have breeding bird trips both days and will give prizes for: 1. Most species added to a block in Scott County. 2. Most species confirmed in a block in Scott County.

Overall we have the following observation (total species) in all categories:

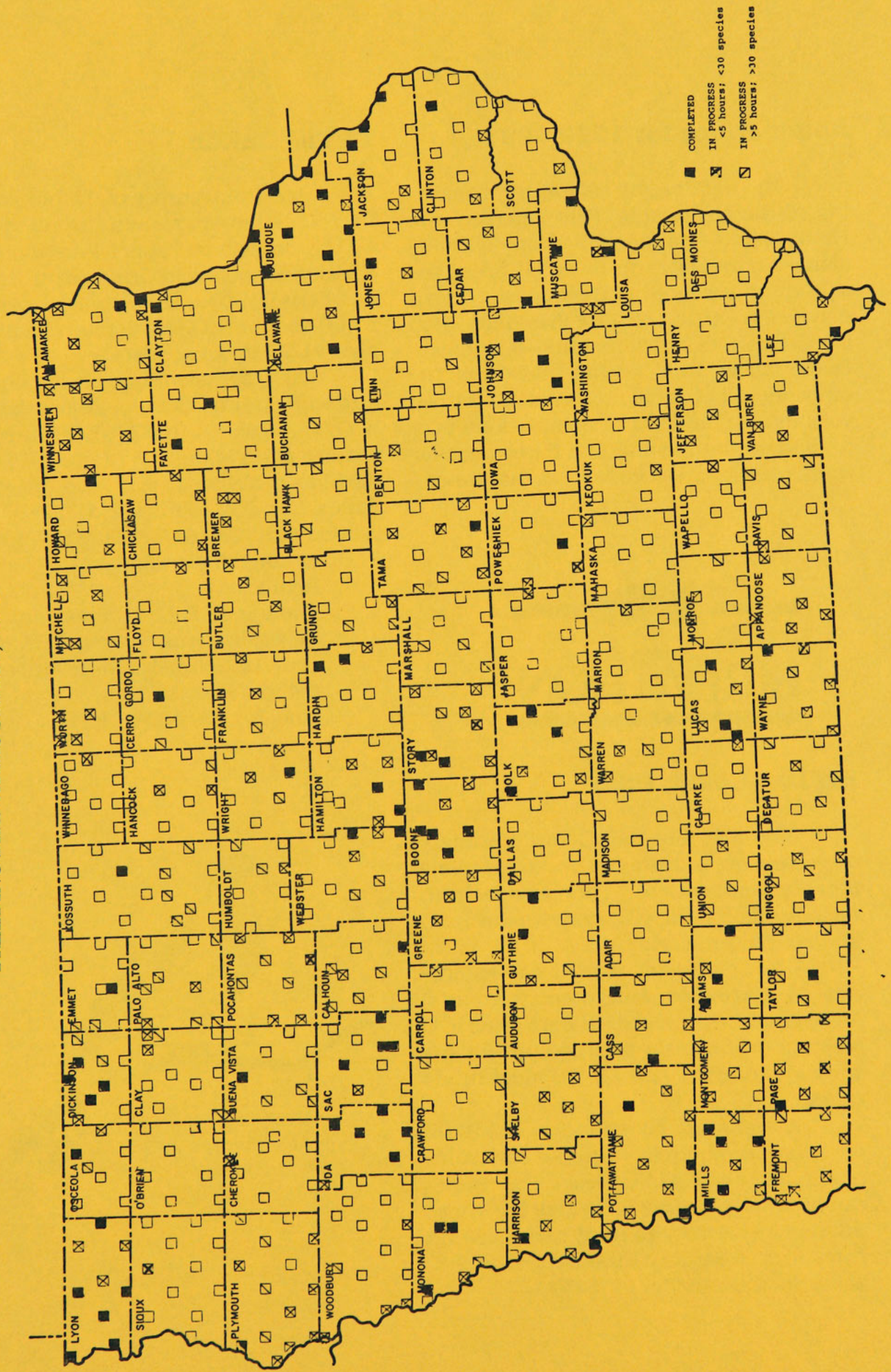
1447 observed	7.6%
6566 possible	34.6%
5538 probable	29.2%
5447 confirmed	28.6%

We have 421 blocks worked on out of 861 total, 82 of which are completed. Using the set criteria, the top five birds reported in breeding bird blocks are: Red-winged Blackbird 92.6%; American Robin 91.7%; House Sparrow 89.5%; Barn Swallow 87.4%; Mourning Dove 86.9%.

There is one species on the list not reported at all - Golden-winged Warbler.

And to close, please submit stories or interesting anecdotes that may have happened to you while atlasing. These would be fun to read in the newsletters.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS STATUS, 1988



Nominations for 1989-1991

The nominating committee, consisting of Darwin Koenig, Pete Petersen and Hank Zaletel has assembled the following slate of candidates to be voted on at the upcoming meeting at Davenport: President - Jim Dinsmore; Vice President - Bob Cecil; Board of Directors (three openings) - Diane Porter, Jim Sinclair and Carol Thompson. All of these positions are for two year terms. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting, and the election for these positions will be held at that time.



Big Day Count 1989

The IOU Big Day Count's primary objectives are to have fun and to promote friendly competition. They also help to raise funds for the IOU endowment fund and special projects.

The counts are divided into categories of **statewide and county** counts. Awards will be presented at the Spring IOU meeting for highest species count for the state and county, and for the most funds raised.

A minimum contribution of \$10.00 per team is required. The Big Day rules remain the same as last year. The counts can be taken any time up to May 16. Those wishing to participate need to request an entry form from Ray Cummins at 609 S. Main St., Centerville, IA 52544.

To The Editor:

Recent inventory of the holdings of the N.O.U. Library show a glut of copies of N.O.U. Occasional Paper #4 *An Annotated Bibliography of Iowa Ornithology* by T.C. Stephens, 1957. The original price is \$3.00 and the N.O.U. will retain that price plus \$1.25 to cover postage.

Other occasional papers include *The Birds of Dakota County, Nebraska* by W.G. Youngworth, 1957 (\$1.00 plus \$.75 postage & handling). A *Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States* by P.A. Johnsgard, 1980 (re-printed with 1986/87 updates) \$7.00 plus \$1.50 postage & handling.

Remit to:

Thomas E. Labeledz, President
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union
Univ. of Nebraska State Museum
W436 Nebraska Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0514





Sat., April 22 Cedar Rapids Audubon field trip to Cone Marsh. Meet at the intersections of highways 1 and 218 at 7:45 AM. Keith Carris: 319-377-7478.

Big Bluestem Audubon field trip to Hendrickson Marsh for shorebirds. Steve Dinsmore: 515-292-1038.

Wed., April 26 Rolling Hills Audubon meeting at 7:30 PM, Indianola Public Library, 207 North B St., Indianola. Gladys Black will speak on "Nesting Birds."

Sun., April 30 Cedar Rapids Audubon field trip to Bixby State Park and Brush Creek Preserve. Meet at Coe College parking lot at 7:00 AM. Neil Bernstein: 319-364-1047.

Sat., May 6 Big Bluestem Audubon field trip to Saylorville Reservoir for waterbirds. Steve Dinsmore: 515-292-1038.

Iowa City Bird Club field trip to Dudgeon Park in Vinton for warblers. Meet at Univ. of Iowa parking lot (Clinton & Market) at 5:30 AM. Jim Fuller: 319-338-3561.

Sat., May 13 Big Bluestem Audubon field trip to Brookside Park, Ames for warblers. Steve Dinsmore: 515-292-1038.

Quad City Audubon field trip to Credit Island. Meet at 6:30 AM at the army tank, Credit Island. Ann Barker: 319-289-3175.

Sat., May 27 Iowa City Bird Club field trip to Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City. Meet at north parking lot off Dodge St. at 7:00 AM. Rick Hollis: 319-338-4834.

Sat., June 10 Quad City Audubon field trip for Scott Co. breeding bird atlas. Meet at parking lot on north side of Ramada Inn, N. Brady St., Davenport at 6:30 AM. Pete Petersen: 319-355-7051.



**The Quad City Audubon Society Welcomes
The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Meeting**

Izaak Walton League
Davenport, Iowa
May 19-21, 1989



Friday, May 19 7-9 PM	Social gathering at Deere-Wieman House, 817 11th Ave., Moline, Illinois (see map for directions.) Refreshments; information about the meeting, field trips, and birding the Quad City area.
Saturday, May 20 5:30 AM	Breakfast, Izaak Walton League (IWL)
6:15 AM	Bacon, eggs, toast, hash browns, coffee, juice. Field trips depart from the IWL parking lot. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Princeton Marsh, Scott Co. Park - Prothonotary and other late warblers; Pileated Woodpecker.2. Cordova - Albany, Illinois, along the Mississippi. Lark Sparrow.3. Wildcat Den State Park, Bluebird Trail. Parula and Louisiana Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, Mockingbird.4. Credit Island, Sunset Marina, BlackHawk Park. Brown Creeper, warblers including Prothonotary, Pileated Woodpecker.
11:00 AM	Late registration. IWL.
11:30-12:30	Lunch, IWL. Sliced cold meats, salads, breads, coffee, tea and dessert
12:30-1:15 PM	Tim Brush, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at Marycrest College "Birds of Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve."
1:15-2:00 PM	Jim Sandrock "Genesis, the Jubjub bird, Che-wink, Che-bec, <i>Jamaicensis</i> , Walt Whitman — and other (good?) stuff about bird names and the naming of birds!"
2:00-2:45 PM (choose one)	A. Carol Thompson, research geologist, Iowa DNR "Iowa Geology and Landforms" B. Ed Timper, Iowa Falconers Association "Introduction to Falconry." Demonstration with a hybrid Peregrine and Harris' Hawk.
2:45-3:30 PM (choose one)	A. Pete Petersen: Flycatcher Identification Workshop. B. Ed Timper, Iowa Falconers Association (repeat).
3:45 PM	IOU business meeting
6:30 PM	IOU banquet. Roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, salad and dessert. Banquet speaker: Peter C. Petersen, Deere-Wieman Ornithologist "Natural History of the Galapagos Islands."
Sunday, May 21 5:00 AM	Earlybird field trip leaves from IWL parking lot. Destination Syracuse State Wildlife Area, Mockridge, Sherman County Park. Woodcock, Wild Turkey, Lark Sparrow.
5:30 AM	Breakfast, IWL (same as Saturday)
6:15 AM	Field trips depart from the IWL parking lot. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Princeton Marsh, Scott Co. Park, Goose Lake - Yellow-headed Blackbirds, shorebirds.2. Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve, Wiese's Slough - Prothonotary Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker.
8:00 AM	Late field trip departs from IWL parking lot. Destination: Credit Island, Pine Hill Cemetery - warblers.
12:00 AM	Lunch and bird list compilation, IWL. Catfish fry, ham, french fries, cole slaw, roll, butter and dessert.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Motels (all within a 5-min. drive of Izaak Walton League)

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Rates</u>
Exel Inn - 6310 Brady St., Dav.	319/386-6350	25.95-30.95
Steeplegate Inn (Best Western) 100.W. 76th	319/386-6900	50.00-57.00
Ramada - 6263 Brady St., Dav.	319/386-1940	50.00-57.00
Super 8 - 410 W. 65th St., Dav.	319/386-9810	32.57-39.11
Motel 6 - 6111 Brady St., Dav.	319/391-8997	21.95-27.95
Holiday Inn - 5202 Brady St., Dav.	319/391-1230	54.00-60.00
Comfort Inn - 7222 Northwest Blvd., Dav.	319/391-8222	29.95-33.95

(all motels except Comfort Inn are on Highway 61 south)

Campsites

Scott County Park - 319/285-9656	\$2.50-3.00	\$5.00
West Lake Park - 319/381-3589	\$2.50	\$5.00

A note about Deere-Wiman House: the site of our Friday night gathering is a lovely 115 year-old Victorian mansion on a seven acre estate high atop the bluffs in Moline overlooking the Mississippi River. For many years it was the home of several generations of the Deere and Wiman families, descendants of John Deere, founder of the farm implement manufacturing company. It is maintained by a trust set up by the family. Among its features are beautiful formal gardens and an entire Bien chromlithograph edition of Audubon's "Birds of America," displayed on the walls throughout the house.

REGISTRATION FORM - SPRING MEETING

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Registration fee: \$3.00 per person.....\$ _____

Meals (per person; please circle those desired)

Saturday - breakfast (3.50), lunch (5.00), banquet (9.00).....\$ _____

Sunday - breakfast (3.50), lunch (5.50).....\$ _____

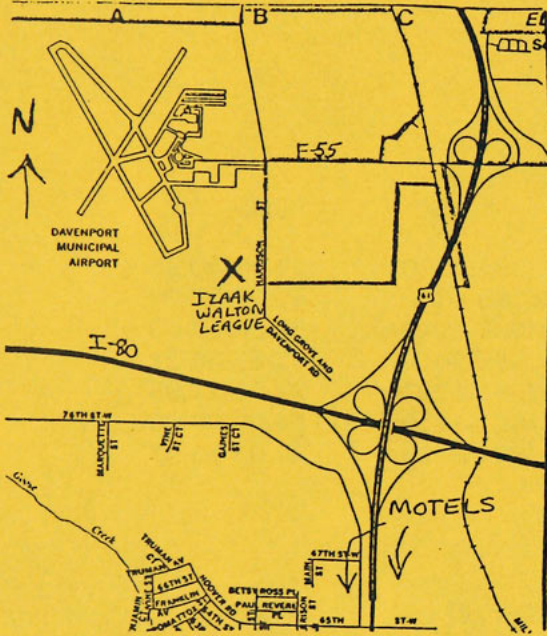
Please register by May 11!

Total enclosed.....\$ _____

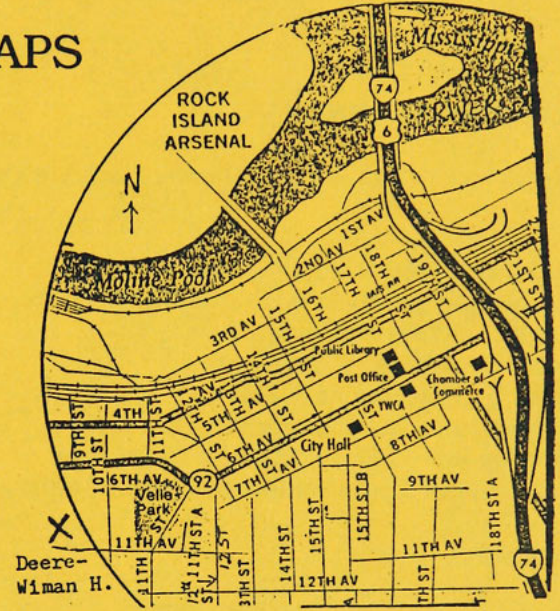


Send registrations (and make checks payable) to Tom Rockwell, Quad City Audubon Society Treasurer, 514 W. 16th Ave., Coal Valley, Illinois 61240. For information, call Ann Barker (319) 289-3175, or Pete Petersen (319) 355-7051.

MAPS



To Izaak Walton League (meeting HQ):
 From I-80, take exit #295B - Highway 61 North.
 Go north about 1 mile; take second exit
 (Co. #F-55 West - Airport - Mt. Joy.) Go
 west about 1 mile to a stop sign at the
 entrance to the Davenport Municipal Air-
 port. Turn left and proceed south on
 Harrison. IWL is .4 mile ahead on right.



To Deere-Wiman House, 817 - 11th Ave., Moline:
 From I-80, take I-74 east (you'll actually be
 going south) and cross the Mississippi. Take
 the second exit (7th Ave.) Turn right off the
 ramp and go west on 7th Ave. several blocks
 to a "T" intersection (12th St.) Turn left.
 Go only 1 block south on 12th St. and turn
 right on 11th Ave. Go west on 11th Ave. a-
 bout 3 blocks. You'll see Deere-Wiman House
 on your right and its parking lot on the left.

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 52240

NONPROFIT ORG.

IOWA BIRDLINE
 **319-338-9881**

