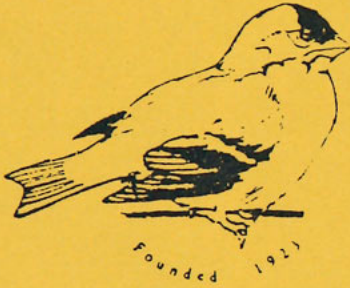


Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

I. O. U. NEWS

Summer

Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Vol. 2 No. 2



Vice President Jim Dinsmore is shown presenting plaque to Pete Petersen at the spring meeting. The covers of Pete's first and last issues of Iowa Bird Life as editor are shown in the upper left and lower right.

Dear fellow members,

Please accept my sincere regrets for not being able to attend the spring meeting. I would not have missed this meeting for anything less than the once in a lifetime chance to go birding in Alaska. Tom Kent and I flew nearly 2000 miles west of Anchorage to spend over three weeks in the rain and cold of Attu Island, the end of the Aleutian chain.

My regret at missing the meeting is heightened by missing the chance to personally honor and thank one of the great friends of the IOU, Pete Petersen. Pete, I want to join in thanking you for your many past, present and future contributions to the IOU. We all owe you a great deal of appreciation. I hope this plaque will serve as a small token of our esteem and gratitude. Pete, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the membership, and especially all of your many friends in the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, thank you.

Carl Bendorf, President



1985-86 board members. Front row l. to r. Francis Moore, Hank Zaletel, Beth Proescholdt, Phylis Harris. Back row l. to r. Jim Dinsmore, Ray Cummins, Carl Bendorf, Bob Myers.

Board Meeting at Grinnell - March 22, 1986

- * Publications Committee Report
 1. Tom Kent named new editor of Iowa Bird Life
 2. Report from Tom Kent on proposed IBL changes
 3. Separate IOU bank account approved for IBL editor
- * Decided to discontinue exchange of copies of IBL with other organizations
- * Proposed to sell back issues of IBL at a discount to reduce inventory
- * Named Carl Bendorf to fill the position on Records Committee for the departing Joe Schaufenbuel

Board Meeting at Springbrook - May 17, 1986

- * Discussed the new Articles of Incorporation and the steps needed to be taken at business meeting
- * Discussed the invitation for the fall meeting at Waterloo
- * Discussed the invitation for the spring 1987 meeting at Sioux City and the late May date
- * Appointed Beth Proescholdt, Ross Silcock, and Hank Zaletel to be the nominating committee for next year
- * Discussed possibility of having Phil Dumont as speaker at the fall meeting



FIRST IOU SUMMER FIELD TRIP

Fifteen birders came to the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest in Lee County on June 7 for the first IOU field trip. They braved poison ivy, mosquitos, ticks, and some tough walking, but were rewarded with a total of 64 species, including nearly all of those for which the area is noted.

The day's best bird was the Prairie Warbler which put on a great performance and was easily seen by all. Despite relentless pre-trip scouting, this species had not yet been found in 1986 and evidently timed its appearance to coincide with the outing. A similar surprise was the Hooded Warbler - the first record for this portion of Shimek Forest. As one birder pointed out, you put a lot of good birders in a good area, and things may quickly get exciting. An impressive total of 14 Warblers was tallied, including only two obvious migrants (Mourning and Tennessee). Other area specialties included Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer and Scarlet Tanagers.

Birding continued Saturday afternoon and again Sunday morning at the Ely Ford Area of Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. These trips yielded good views of the park specialty--the Yellow-throated Warbler.

- Bob Cecil, Keokuk

COUNTY MAPS

Have you ever been out in the boondocks looking for that elusive summer tanager and find it and then can't remember how to get back to the same spot? The Iowa Department of Transportation has the answer for you. It sells Iowa county maps in two sizes. The first size is a 8½" x 11" sheet in quarter inch scale. They sell for 10¢ each, \$9.00 per unbound set, or \$12.00 for a bound set with spiral binding that lays flat. The second size is 17" x 22" in half inch scale. They sell for 20¢ each, \$18.00 per unbound set, or \$24.00 for a spiral bound set.

Send your remittance with sales tax to the Iowa Dept. of Transportation, Accounting Department, Attn: Cashier, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010.



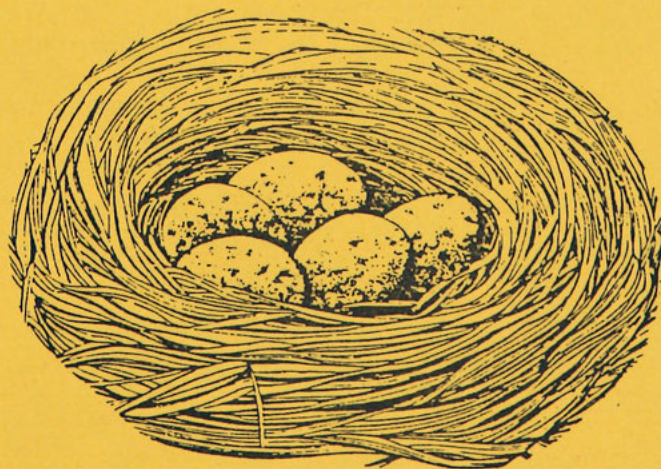
SUCCESSFUL BIRDATHON

Seven teams of birders covered the state and saw a total of 214 species. The winning team of Steve Dinsmore, Eric Munson, and Gordon Brown of Ames saw a record 171 species. Publicity included a front page article in the May 15 Des Moines Register. The article focused on the efforts of Tom Kent and his team, including their chartering of an airplane to fly from Iowa City to southwest Iowa. Finally, in an attempt to outdo this last effort, Tom Kent and Tom Staudt pedaled the Iowa City area and tallied 115 species.

Donations are still being collected, and a total will be given at a later date.

Final team species totals:

Steve Dinsmore, et al. - Ames	171
Tom Kent - Iowa City	152
Eugene Armstrong - Booneville	140
Barb Wilson - Hastings	120
Jim Sinclair - Indianola	117
Carol Thompson - Iowa City	116
Tom Kent Bicycle Trip	115

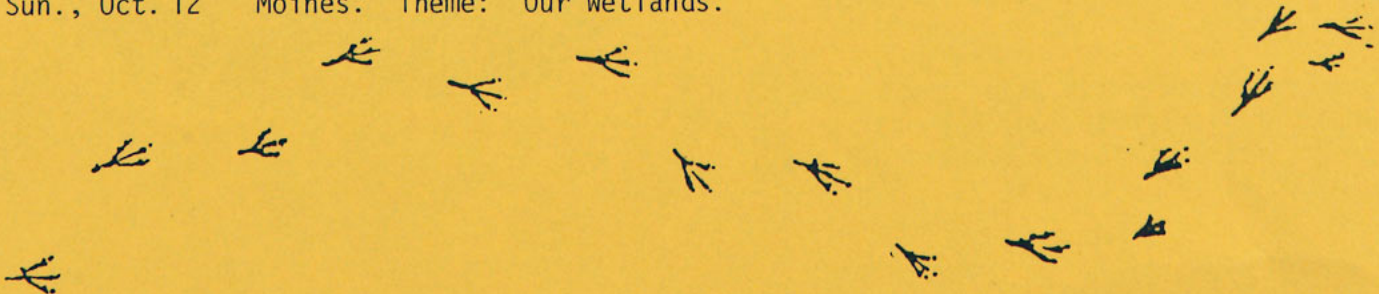


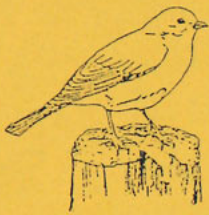
COMING EVENTS IN IOWA



Please send us your Christmas bird count dates as soon as possible. This year's count will be from December 18th to January 4th.

- Wed., July 30 - Iowa City Bird Club meeting at the First National Bank Bldg. in Towncrest, 1117 William St. Workshop on shorebirds. Bud Gode (319) 351-5245.
- Sat., Aug. 9 - Quad City Audubon Society field trip to Maquoketa for a walk through the Brush Creek area, followed by a tour of Pat Costello's Old Mill Gallery. Half-day trip. Bring knee boots for creek wading. Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot on the north side of Ramada Inn, N. Brady Street, Davenport. Leader: Pete Petersen (319) 355-7051.
- Mon., Aug. 11 - Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City. "What Bird Is That?" - a beginner's bird identification class. 7:00-8:30 PM. Ellen Lipp (515) 423-5309.
- Sat., Aug. 23 - Cedar Rapids Audubon Society field trip - shorebirding at the Coralville area. Leave at 7:00 AM from the Coe Gym. Iowa Citians meet at 7:30 at the Hwy. 218 turnoff to the Ranch Supper Club. Bring your scope. Leader: Keith Carris (319) 377-7478.
- Sat., Aug. 23 Iowa City Bird Club canoe trip down the Maquoketa River from Monticello to Eby's Mill. Canoes can be rented near the put-in place. Meet in
Rain date: Aug. 24 Monticello just below the dam at 9:00 AM. Call Barb Beaumont (319) 626-6227, if going.
- Sat., Sept. 6 - Iowa City Bird Club field trip to Coralville Reservoir. Meet at the parking lot just north of the Iowa Memorial Union at 7:00 AM. Leader: Carol Thompson (319) 338-5361.
- Sat., Sept. 13 - Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) to Ledges State Park. Meet behind C.Y. Stephens in Ames at 8:00 AM. Will look for migrating warblers and hawks. Steve Dinsmore (515) 292-3152.
- Sat., Sept. 20 - Rolling Hills Audubon (Indianola) to Runnells Game Area and Red Rock. Meet at Runnells overlook 2 miles south of Runnells on Highway 316. Jim Sinclair (515) 961-4616.
- Sat., Sept. 27 - Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) to Saylorville Reservoir. Meet behind C.Y. Stephens in Ames at 8:00 AM. Optimum time for migrating herons, egrets, pelicans, cormorants, gulls. Hank Zaletel (515) 377-2889.
- Sat., Sept. 27 - Midwest Bluebird Recovery Program - joint meeting, Iowa and Minnesota. Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City. Rita Efta (712) 688-2873.
- Fri., Oct. 3- - Inland Bird Banding Assoc. will meet at Deere-Wieman House in Moline,
Sun., Oct. 5 Illinois. Feature speaker is Dr. H. Elliott McClure. Pete Petersen (319) 355-7051.
- Fri., Oct. 10- - North Midwest Regional Audubon Conference at Camp Sunnyside near Des
Sun., Oct. 12 Moines. Theme: Our Wetlands.





MIDWEST BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Bluebird Recovery Committee of the Minneapolis, Minnesota, chapter of the National Audubon Society has established a network of people throughout the Midwest who are volunteering time and effort to re-establish Bluebirds.

Since its startup in 1979 with 11 people reporting 5 Bluebird pairs nesting and 22 fledgelings, the program has grown to over 2200 people writing for information and maintaining trails. Bluebird trails have been established periodically by concerned individuals, but only recently has this large-scale effort begun to show promising results.

With the ever-increasing number of people requesting information on Bluebirds, Wisconsin and Iowa are gradually taking on the responsibility of providing the necessary literature and help needed to keep the interest in Bluebirds at its present peak in their respective states.

I have been helping with the changeover answering requests and sending out Bluebird information. Doug Reeves and Laura Jackson of the Nongame Program have been helping also and plan to take over the responsibility of continuing the program and keeping up the interest.

Of the people who reported back to the Midwest Bluebird Recovery Program in 1985, 6789 Bluebird nest boxes were monitored with 2178 broods, a 64% increase over 1984; 7796 eggs were laid and 7231 baby Bluebirds fledged--a whopping 69% increase over 1984!

There is still great concern between the number of eggs laid and the number of young fledged, which is attributable mostly to forces such as house cats, raccoons, snakes, English Sparrows, and House Wrens. There is not much that can be done to control House Wrens (which will pierce and remove Bluebird eggs) except to erect a wren house or gourd in the vicinity and leave the Bluebird boxes open for 3 or 4 days to discourage their use of it. This has been researched and works about 95% of the time. The cat, raccoon, and snake can be controlled using aluminum sheets wrapped around posts. The English Sparrow must be eliminated in order to have a successful Bluebird trail, either by trapping them or frequently moving their nests to discourage them. For control of blowfly or other insects, Rotenone 1% works well sprinkled on the nest before young hatch.

A workshop in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Division has been held each fall to bring together dedicated Bluebirders to discuss pertinent information which has been gathered throughout the Bluebird season. There will be a joint workshop with Minnesota and Wisconsin on Sept. 27 at the Lime Creek Nature Center in Mason City, Iowa. There will also be a regional directory which will include all the results from the Midwest area which should be ready near the end of the year. In order to be included in the directory, you need to send in a report form giving the results of your Bluebird trail. Be sure to have them in by Sept. 15 or bring them to the workshop. We want to get an overall picture of the Bluebird population in Iowa and what needs to be done in the future.

To help relieve the strain from the Minnesota program, Iowa will go on its own next year. We have a good start now--let's keep up the interest. The Bluebird is a beautiful bird to have around. I will be willing to take anyone on a field trip on my extensive trail any Sunday. Just give me a call (712-688-2873). If you need report forms, write to me, Doug Reeves, or Laura Jackson.

- Rita E. Efta
Auburn, IA 51433

SCENES FROM THE SPRING MEETING



L. to R. Bob Myers, Barb Wilson, Tanya Bray, Jim Sinclair



Vice President Jim Dinsmore



Jim and Pauline Mairs



Ruth Buckles Signs in Doug Reeves

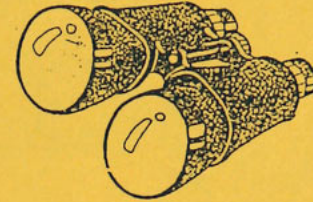


George Crossley, Ed Crocker, Mary Montgomery



Rita Dewall and Gail George help themselves to the good food

I.O.U. FALL MEETING
 WATERLOO - CEDAR FALLS
 SEPTEMBER 5-7, 1986



The full agenda for the weekend has not been finalized but will be soon. Be prepared for a fun and exciting birding weekend in this Iowa birding hotspot!!!

Partial agenda: Sept. 5 - Social get together, 7-9:00 PM
 Sept. 6 - Field trips early - rest of day not scheduled at press time
 Sept. 7 - Field trips. Lunch at 12:30

There will be workshops, field trips, Saturday evening banquet, lots of good birding opportunities to explore, including: George Wyth State Park, Sweet Marsh, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Hope Martin City Park, Black Hawk County Park, the Waterloo Greenbelt, and for the more adventurous: Big Marsh, Dudgeon Park, several Wapsipinicon River accesses or Volga River Recreation Area.

It would be a good idea to make your hotel/motel reservations early. There are probably going to be other conventions in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area at this time.

WATERLOO-CEDAR FALLS HOTELS/MOTELS:

			Approx. Rates
Bel-Air Motel	Hwy. 218 N., Waterloo	234-9441	\$18/20
Best Western - Vegabond Motel	4711 University Ave., Cedar Falls	277-1412	\$21/29
Black Hawk Motor Inn	115 Main St., Cedar Falls	277-1161	\$23/27
Cedar Falls Motel	1315 W. 1st St., Cedar Falls	277-1256	\$18/22
Comfort Inn	1809 LaPorte Rd., Waterloo	235-4461	\$27/31
Conway Inn	225 W. 5th & Jefferson Sts., Waterloo	235-0301	\$23/30
Excel Inn	3350 University Ave., Waterloo	235-2165	\$25/35
Holiday Inn	5826 University Ave., Cedar Falls	277-2230	\$45/53
Holiday Inn - Civic Center	4th & Commercial Sts., Waterloo	233-7560	\$35/53
Midwest Lodge	4410 University Ave., Cedar Falls	277-1550	\$41/45
Motel 6	4117 University Ave., Cedar Falls	277-6900	\$18/23
Pine Tree Motel	1515 LaPorte Rd., Waterloo	235-7083	\$15/23
Ramada Hotel	214 Washington St., Waterloo	235-0321	\$39
Twin Torch Inn	300 W. Mullan St., Waterloo	234-7791	\$25

CAMPING AREAS:

Black Hawk Co. Park	West Lone Tree Road, Cedar Falls
Hope Martin City Park	Fletcher Ave. between U.S. Hwy. 63 & 218, Waterloo
George Wyth State Park	Hwy. 20 between Waterloo & Cedar Falls



Iowa Birdline Phone Number
 1-319-622-3353



CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

A tip of the hat to the following members who have donated funds over and above the regular membership fee.

Bill & Ann Barker - Davenport, IA
Carl Bendorf - Iowa City, IA
Robert Bradley - Cedar Rapids, IA
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Brooke - Des Moines, IA
Linda Brown - Ames, IA
Dorothy Cornett - Centerville, IA
George & Frieda Crossley - Dubuque, IA
Marjorie Fee - Knoxville, IA
Msgr. Edward Greer - Sigourney, IA
Elwyn Hand - Des Moines, IA
Richard Hanft - Nichols, IA
Darwin Koenig - Montezuma, IA
Mina Landes - Ft. Dodge, IA
Mary Noble - Iowa City, IA
Ed Savage family - Marshalltown, IA
Margaret Seeck - Lohrville, IA
Tom Staudt - Iowa City, IA
Carol Thompson - Iowa City, IA
Russell Widner - Marshalltown, IA

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