

I.O.U. NEWS

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A Monument to Birdwatching: Historic Chimney Swifts' Tower to be Restored

Lyle Muller

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For the last half of her life, Althea Sherman sat in a 28 foot tall wooden tower and watched birds. It was important work because Sherman was discovering close-up what we know today about the Chimney Swift.

Now an Iowa City area group wants to preserve Sherman's work as an ornithologist and artist. The Johnson County Songbird Project has moved the historic Sherman Chimney Swifts' Tower from Harpers Ferry, in northeast Iowa, to Iowa City for restoration.

Group members hope to restore the dilapidated structure next year, open it to birdwatchers here and follow up on the meticulous notes Sherman took while observing birds in northeast Iowa.

"Its a very unique structure, serving a very unique purpose," Margrieta Delle, 703 Streb St. [Iowa City], said of the tower. "It took a little ingenuity to think up something like this." Sherman, who lived from 1853 to 1943, was in her mid-40s when she developed an interest in

how Chimney Swifts nested and lived. She lived near the Clayton County settlement of National and had the tower built there.

The tower had a 9-foot square base and a 2-foot square, 14-foot long artificial chimney extending through the roof. Winding stairs were built around the chimney so Sherman could watch Chimney Swifts through peepholes. Specially designed windows in the chimney allowed her to look up and down the chimney's interior.

Sherman did the bulk of her work from 1918 to 1936. She produced more than 400 pages of detailed, handwritten notes that described the habits of the birds she watched. She also illustrated birds.

Her chief discovery was that the swifts did not feed at night as previously thought. Sherman wrote several articles, was recognized nationally for her work and wrote a book, "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard."

Bob Daubendiek, a northeast Iowa outdoorsman, bought the tower after Sherman's death and moved it to a Harpers Ferry campground he owned. Failing health kept him from restoring the tower.

Current campground owner, Larry and Phyllis Kruger, were looking for

someone to take the structure when Johnson County Songbird Project members learned of its availability last August. The Krugers donated the tower and Songbird members moved it to Iowa City on a flatbed last Saturday [31 October 1992].

Barbara Boyle of Oxford, heading the local effort, said her group decided to move the tower to Iowa City instead of back to National because there was no one interested in taking it in the National area.

"National, itself, is nothing but a cornfield; there's the (Clayton County) fairgrounds, a restaurant and a few houses," Boyle said. "Rather than us going back and forth, we decided to bring it here."

The tower is being stored in Iowa City in warehouse space donated by Southgate Development Corp. Renovation is to take place next spring or summer, Boyle said. Songbird members are working with the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department in an effort to find a spot for the tower.

The tower eventually will be open to the public, and long-range plans call for getting it on the National Register of Historic Places, Boyle said. The group is also planning a fund-raising event to defray the \$10,000 cost of moving and restoring the building.

To donate, contact Boyle at 319/628-4824 or write to: Johnson County Songbird Project, 2511 Highway 1 SW, Iowa City, IA 52240.

Breeding Bird Atlas

John Fleckenstein, Des Moines

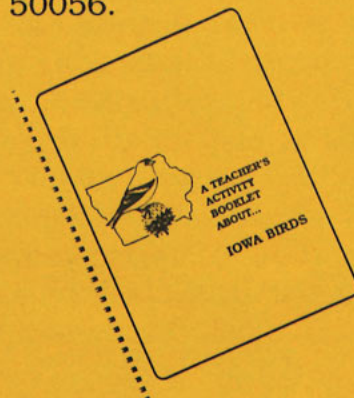
The Breeding Bird Atlas project, co-sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union is nearing conclusion. Field work and data analysis are complete, and we

are beginning to write species accounts. The final product will be a book summarizing data on each of the bird species known to breed in Iowa. We would like to include a photo of each species described in the publication. If you have photos which you would like us to consider for the publication, we want to see them. Pictures can be of adult or young birds at the nest or just the bird itself. We are looking for black and white photos or high contrast color photos which can be converted to black and white. Slides or high quality prints should be sent to John Fleckenstein, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. We would like to receive pictures by 15 February 1993, and John will acknowledge all photos as they are received. We can not pay for photos but will acknowledge all those used. We can send a receipt noting the donation which may be used for tax purposes.

Teacher's Guide Available

The long awaited *Teacher's Activity Booklet About...Iowa Birds* written by Linda Zaletel, Rick Hollis and Beth Brown has finally been published. Copies are available for purchase at a cost of \$4.00 per book and \$2.00 postage and handling.

Make checks payable to the IOU and remit to: Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056.



IOU Field Trips

Ann Johnson, Norwalk _____

SNAKE CREEK MARSH - "Only a crazy birder!" seemed to be the phrase of the morning as twenty-five crazed IOU members from all parts of the state (and Nebraska) converged on Greene County's Snake Creek Marsh on 26 September 1992. The weather was, in a word, wet, but expectations were high as our local expert, Bob Myers of Perry, was set to lead us on a search for the elusive Yellow Rail. After donning rain gear, the group's first success was the LeConte's Sparrow. A number of these beautiful little short-tailed sparrows delighted the crowd. More difficult to see, but also in the vicinity, was a gorgeous specimen of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The grass was tall and wet and the mosquitoes seemed ravenous, but we forged on in search of our prize. My experience with Yellow Rail in September has been that once you are about to give up, the odds increase. True to form, all of a sudden one materialized right in front of Chuck Fuller. It flushed twice so that everyone got satisfactory looks, much to Bob's relief. Although the temptation is great in these situations to continue pursuing the bird, we all determined that further harassment was unnecessary. The Yellow Rail was indeed the prize of the day and was a new state or life bird for many members.

RED ROCK RESERVOIR - Nearly thirty birders saw November 7th dawn cold but not windy on Lake Red Rock. Local guru Tim Schantz had driven all night from Louisiana to lead these intrepid souls to some of the nooks and crannies dear to his heart. Thousands of Ring-billed Gulls were scattered on the lake and swirling below the dam, but even the inveterate gull watchers could only

find Herring and Bonaparte's among them. A few waterfowl species were identified on the lake, but a small pond containing 60 Hooded Mergansers looked to be the day's highlight.

As the group grew in size, Jim Sinclair took some folks to search a nearby pine grove while the rest headed for the north side of the lake. A stop at the marina produced 36 Common Loons. As it was nearing lunch time, the north group headed towards Cordova Park with a planned stop at the Robert's Creek dam. While scoping a raft of Mallards, Diane Porter (of the fall meeting Black-throated Blue fame) showed again that her eyesight is great with the comment, "What's that white duck?" That white duck became Red Rock Reservoir's first record of Red-throated Loon! The bird eventually flew towards the marina, where the after lunch bunch also got some fine views. When birders developed "telescope blindness", a Snow Bunting hopped among the broken asphalt for entertainment. Late in the afternoon, as Eloise was searching diligently for her year's Snow Bunting, the Armstrong's discovered Red Rock's first Pacific Loon! Three loons in one day can quickly turn a slow field trip into a bonanza.

Report of the IOU Field Trip Committee

Ann Johnson, Norwalk _____

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the field trip survey. Preliminary reports are mixed, but by and large members are willing to go almost anywhere and see almost anything. The schedule for 1993 attempts to cover much of the state. Members of the committee will provide greater detail prior to their scheduled trip (watch your newsletter), but mark your new calendar now so you

don't miss the fun. Each trip will have a leader assigned to help novice birders sharpen their skills, so our field trips should be fun for everyone. Contact persons are listed to help with your questions. In case of inclement weather, Jim Fuller will have the latest information available on the Birdline 319/338-9881.



1993 IOU Field Trip Schedule

April 3, 1993 Kossuth County and vicinity

Targets: Longspurs, waterfowl, and raptors.

Contact: Matt Kenne 515/295-9620

June 4-5, 1993 Southwest Iowa

Targets: Chuck-wills-widow, Least Tern, Piping Plover, nesting species (Blue Grosbeak, Western Kingbird, warblers).

Contact: Babs & Loren Padelford 402/292-5556

July 10, 1993 Green Island

Targets: Rails, bitterns.

Contact: Jim Fuller 319/338-3561

September 18, 1993 Grammer Grove (Marshall County)

Targets: Hawk watch with Beth Proescholdt, warblers with Mark.

Contact: Ann Johnson 515/961-2002

November 20, 1993 Red Rock Reservoir

Targets: Waterfowl, gulls, off-course rarities.

Contact: Ann Johnson 515/961-2002

Kossuth County Field Trip

Matt Kenne, Algona

An IOU field trip will be held on Saturday, April 3, 1993, in the Algona area. The centerpiece of this trip will be Union Slough NWR with its wetlands, marshes, and upland grasslands. We will look for returning waterfowl, raptors and longspurs as winter releases its grasp on the Far North. Rare species to watch for include swans, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Brewer's Blackbird, Ross' Goose, and I'm hoping someone can show me how to find Smith's Longspurs.

Depending on spring road conditions, this visit could be easy driving with frequent stops or no driving with as much walking as an individual wants.

We'll follow the Des Moines River back to Algona for fast food, or bring your own. We can then prowl the riverbottom around Algona (floodwaters permitting) or the timber of A.A. Call State Park to search for Pileated Woodpecker.

The trip will leave from the K-Mart parking lot at the intersection of Hwys 18 & 169 at 7:30 A.M.

Algona motels:

Acreage Motel, 1914 Hwy 18 E.,
515/295-2428

Burr Oak Motel, Hwy 169 S.,
515/295-7213

Candlelite Motel, 920 S. Phillips
(Hwy 169), 515/295-2441

Super 8 Motel, Hwy 169 & Norwood
Dr., 515/295-7225



Big Day 1992

Ray Cummins, Centerville

The 1992 IOU Big Day saw seven teams with 18 participants spend 113 hours in the field between May 7-12 identifying 226 species. A total of \$717 was collected lead by a \$404 effort of the Jackson/Clark Expedition of Maridel Jackson and Jane Clark.

The county team honors went to the SW Bushwackers from Fremont County with 141 species. Team members included Doug Rose and Ross Silcock.

The state team total was taken by the E. Davenport All Stars of Pete Petersen and Brian Blevins. They repeated for the fourth consecutive year setting a new state record of 195 species. This eclipsed the 1991 total of 177 by 18 species

IOWA BIRDLINE



319-338-9881

Heard on the Iowa Birdline - Summer and Fall

Jim Fuller, Iowa City

Reports to the Birdline described here are unrecorded and as yet not accepted. All rare bird sightings should be documented and reported to the Field Reports Editor or the Records Committee.

October was the month of vagrants, as a pair of birds with only two previous state records made an appearance.

While attending a Bluebird trail in Cherokee County, Marion Brewer and Vernon Bierman discovered a Lewis' Woodpecker near Washta on Oct. 14, and it stayed in the area through the 18th. At Rathbun Reservoir, Jim Sinclair and Rick Trieff found a female Vermillion Flycatcher on Oct. 25.

Lake Rathbun was also the site for a Red Phalarope (Nov. 8-10) found by Tom Kent. Another sighting of this species was reported by Tim Schantz at Red Rock Reservoir on Sept. 19. Red Rock produced other exciting birds, with a juvenile Laughing Gull (July 18-Aug. 9), a Mississippi Kite (Sept. 1), and Red-throated and Pacific Loons (Nov. 7-8). As many as three Pacific Loons were at Rathbun (Nov. 6-7). A Townsend's Solitaire was reported from the Loess Hills in Fremont County on Nov. 11.

King Rails were close to the Mississippi River. At Green Island Wildlife Area in Jackson County, a single adult, as well as a family group afforded many a close observation the first two weeks in July, and up to five birds were on a river sandbar north of Burlington (Aug. 16-Sept. 6).

All unusual owl reports were of road-kill individuals. Snowy Owls were found near Nevada (Nov. 5) and Decorah (Nov. 6), and a Burrowing Owl in Pocahontas County (Sept. 11).

The Prairie Warbler first identified at Shimek State Forest in Lee County in May was still present into July, and a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Yellow River State Forest thrilled many at the IOU fall meeting (Sept. 12-13). A Yellow Rail was also a first for a large percentage of the participants on the IOU fall field trip to Snake Creek Marsh in Greene County on Sept. 20

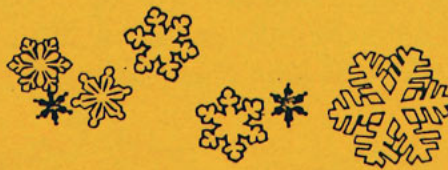


Christmas Bird Counts

Princeton	Thurs., Dec. 17	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
New Boston	Fri., Dec. 18	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
Ames	Sat., Dec. 19	Mike Meetz	515/382-2534
Omaha	Sat., Dec. 19	Loren Padelford	402/292-5556
Rathbun	Sat., Dec. 19	Bill Heusinkveld	515/856-2342
Grinnell	Sat., Dec. 19	Ken Saunders	515/236-4844
Mason City	Sat., Dec. 19	Jan Walter	515/424-1413
Bremer	Sat., Dec. 19	Francis Moore	319/232-0217
Shenandoah	Sat., Dec. 19	Barb Cunningham	712/246-1203
Lake McConaughy	Sat., Dec. 19	Ross Silcock	712/629-5865
Cedar Rapids	Sat., Dec. 19	Pete Wickham	319/363-6884
Red Rock	Sat., Dec. 19	Ann Johnson	515/961-2002
Quad Cities	Sun., Dec. 20	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
Saylorville	Sun., Dec. 20	Steve Dinsmore	515/292-3152
Lucas	Sun., Dec. 20	Beth Brown	515/342-2783
Waterloo	Sun., Dec. 20	Francis Moore	319/232-0217
Iowa City	Sun., Dec. 20	Carl Bendorf	319/351-4958
DeSoto	Sun., Dec. 20	Bob Starr	712/322-4723
Lost Nation	Mon., Dec. 21	Pete Petersen	319/351-7051
Jamaica	Tues., Dec. 22	Ray Cummins	515/856-3518
Tri-State	Sat., Dec. 26	Ross Silcock	712/629-5865
Decorah	Sat., Dec. 26	Dennis Carter	319/382-3754
Des Moines	Sat., Dec. 26	Dennis Thompson	515/254-0837
Sioux City	Sat., Dec. 26	Bob Livermore	712/239-3954
Glenwood	Sun., Dec. 27	Doug Rose	712/527-3380
Muscatine	Sun., Dec. 27	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
Yellow River	Mon., Dec. 28	Dennis Carter	319/382-3754
Montgomery Co.	Sat., Jan. 2	Dave Carlisle	712/623-3432
Clinton	Sat., Jan. 2	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
Boone	Sat., Jan. 2	Mike Meetz	515/382-2534
Union County	Sun., Jan. 3	Barb Bussenbarrick	515/782-7111
Keokuk	???	Bob Cecil	515/277-5709
Dubuque	???	John Miller	319/556-2269
Lamoni	???	Don Gillaspey	515/784-3734

Coming Dates

- Jan. 7 Loess Hills Audubon (Sioux City) program
Thurs. "The Loess Landscape Resource Study" by Mimi Askew
 at 7:30 PM at the Sioux City Art Center. Bob Livermore:
 712/239-3954.
- Jan. 7 Upper Iowa Audubon program "Heritage Seeds" by Kent
Thurs. Whealy, Preus Library, Luther College at 7:30 PM. Dennis Carter:
 319/382-3754.
- Jan. 14 Quad City Audubon program "New Trends in Binoculars
Thurs. and Telescopes" by Bruce Silver of the Camera Corner at 7:00 PM at
 Butterworth Center. Doris Sandvick: 319/225-6191.
- Jan. 16 Quad City Audubon field trip. Meet at Casey's. Hwy 67
Sat. Princeton at 2:00 PM for woodland birds and owls. Ann Barker:
 319/289-3175.
- Jan. 19 Des Moines Audubon program "The Rainforests of
Tues. Guatemala" by Karlene Kingery at Westminster Presbyterian Church
 at 7:15 PM. Jane Clark: 515/223-5047.
- Feb. 11 Iowa City Bird Club program on the Coralville Reservoir
Thurs. Nesting Bird Survey by Tom Kent at Lucas Elementary School
 at 7:00 PM. Tom Kent: 319/337-5231.
- Feb. 13 Iowa City Bird Club Amana Turkey Walk, Freeze and
Sat. Feast. Meet at Randall's in Coralville at 6:30 AM. Carl Bendorf:
 319/351-4958.
- Feb. 16 Des Moines Audubon program "Birding in South Texas" by
Tues. Pam and Reid Allen at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 7:15 PM.
 Jane Clark: 515/223-5047.
- Feb. 18 Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) program "Nature
Thurs. Photography" by Ty Smedes at ISU Vet Med 2532 at 7:30 PM.
 Maridel Jackson: 515/964-0140.
- Feb. 20 Big Bluestem Audubon owl prowl (Boone, Polk, Story Cos.)
Sat. Paul Ovrom: 515/292-8862.



Winter Bird Survey Results

Winter this past year really started at Halloween but was over by January. Trick-or-treating in many communities in 1991 was canceled by fierce ice storm. Then in November, several snowstorms hit various parts of the state. But fears of a long hard winter were relieved after the New Year when January proved to be the tenth warmest in 120 years. Although temperatures averaged 10 degrees higher than normal, on the actual days of the survey there was light snow cover in many areas.

Bird-wise, how did all of the weather changes affect the birds? The results of the bird feeder survey showed we had four species increase significantly and 10 species decrease. However, only a few of the increases or decrease set new highs or lows — most of the changes were within the range of bird numbers observed during the last nine years. The most frequently observed species were the Black-capped Chickadee (85% of the households observed this species), Northern Cardinal (84%), Dark-eyed Junco (84%), Blue Jay (80%), House Sparrow (76%), Downey Woodpecker (70%), White Breasted Nuthatch (63%), Goldfinch (62%), and Starling (50%).

Robins hit a new low this year with only 1.1 percent of the households observing them during the feeder survey (table 1). They also set a 10 year low during the Christmas Bird Count. The Robins likely left the state in search of warmer weather and more fruit when the early storms struck. Cedar Waxwings were also low on both surveys, however, there was not a significant decrease in waxwing numbers during the bird feeder survey between 1991 and 1992. Waxwings too, are fruit eaters and would have moved in search of food.

Goldfinches also set a new low. Goldfinches tend to be Iowa's latest nesters.

Many young are fledged during August and September. Goldfinches also eat seeds, particularly the "fluffy" seeds of dandelions, thistles, goldenrod, and asters. The Halloween ice storm could have been particularly hard on young Goldfinches which had only been out of the nest a couple of months. Foraging for seeds in ice-covered foliage would have been difficult. Goldfinches however rebounded from a similar low seen in 1987.

Woodpeckers such as the Red-headed, Red-bellied and Flicker decreased in 1992. Although all of the changes were statistically significant compared to 1991, all of the decreases were within the normal range of observation during the past nine years. Sparrows such as tree, song and Harris' Sparrow showed a similar trend. All three species were down compared to 1991 but still within a normal range. Tree Sparrows on the Christmas Bird Count however were down 35 percent compared to their 10 year average.

After a record high last year, pheasants decreased in 1992. Once again, though, they were within the normal range of observation. It really was not much of a finch year overall. Pine Siskins were low on the Christmas Count and hit the second lowest ever on the bird feeder survey. Interestingly, Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks increased compared to last year. However, the grosbeaks were well below invasion year numbers while the Redpolls were about average. All of these finches species tend to be cyclic in Iowa and vary year by year based on food sources up north.

House Finches continue to expand in the state. More House Finches were observed during both the Christmas Count and feeder count than Purple Finches. Amazingly, House Finches which originally invaded Iowa from the east, were now seen by 21 to 36 percent of the households in all regions. It is odd to think that just a few years ago House Finches were so rare in Iowa, they were not even included on our survey form. Our last increase was the White-throated Sparrow. It was at a 10-year high during the Christmas Count and set a new high during the feeder survey.



Table 1. BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Percentage of households that observed each bird species during the Iowa Winter Bird Feeder Survey, 1984-1992.

SPECIES	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Pheasant	03.0	04.7	03.4	03.4	05.9	04.5	04.8	09.1	03.7
Rock dove	06.6	07.1	07.3	05.0	06.2	04.9	05.1	04.8	04.3
Mourning dove	13.0	13.8	08.9	10.4	18.5	19.4	19.0	24.0	22.9
Redheaded woodpecker	21.8	13.1	11.7	06.7	12.0	09.8	13.0	15.8	12.1
Redbellied woodpecker	35.2	30.0	35.7	38.7	37.7	49.9	39.8	47.2	40.2
Downy woodpecker	61.4	59.9	65.4	67.8	72.6	77.4	73.5	74.9	70.0
Hairy woodpecker	30.7	28.5	33.7	35.9	35.0	41.7	37.7	36.5	34.2
Flicker	18.4	17.7	17.8	18.7	22.9	21.7	21.2	25.6	18.0
Blue jay	84.6	82.7	84.7	83.7	87.2	81.8	82.1	86.5	80.9
Crow	05.7	15.2	18.1	15.7	16.8	16.8	17.2	22.2	19.7
Black-capped chickadee	81.8	78.2	82.6	81.4	80.5	87.3	84.5	85.8	85.0
Tufted titmouse	22.2	21.0	18.7	20.6	19.6	22.7	21.6	27.0	26.0
Red-breasted nuthatch	09.9	04.5	NA	07.8	04.4	05.5	11.1	05.9	05.6
White-breasted nuthatch	59.7	51.2	NA	70.3	64.6	74.3	67.2	69.1	62.7
Brown creeper	03.9	03.8	05.5	08.9	07.3	10.2	09.4	04.5	05.6
Robin	00.7	02.2	03.5	01.3	03.4	07.0	04.3	02.6	01.1
Cedar waxwing	07.1	02.2	03.9	02.0	03.1	03.7	04.9	02.1	01.1
Starling	58.9	60.4	59.5	52.7	60.5	53.7	56.3	54.5	50.2
Cardinal	83.3	81.1	80.6	79.2	79.9	78.4	80.4	87.3	84.3
Tree sparrow	30.2	38.3	23.0	17.8	22.9	17.7	21.9	33.1	23.4
Song sparrow	13.7	11.5	10.6	06.2	10.9	06.3	08.4	15.5	08.0
White-throated sparrow	07.3	05.4	05.5	03.9	03.8	03.2	06.0	05.6	07.9
White-crowned sparrow	05.5	04.3	03.8	02.7	02.1	00.8	02.7	04.2	03.7
Harris' sparrow	02.9	06.4	06.0	03.1	05.8	03.9	07.9	07.9	05.3
Darn-eyed junco	88.7	87.1	88.7	82.2	84.7	70.7	82.3	90.9	83.9
Red-winged blackbird	02.4	02.5	02.6	00.8	01.6	00.6	01.9	01.9	01.8
Grackle	04.3	12.9	13.5	12.8	13.6	11.2	11.5	11.8	11.6
Brown-headed cowbird	03.6	03.6	03.8	02.8	04.8	02.1	02.1	02.7	03.2
Purple finch	34.8	19.1	42.9	22.9	29.9	24.0	26.9	29.6	25.8
Common redpoll	04.3	03.5	03.9	01.6	03.4	00.7	03.2	02.7	04.3
Pine siskin	15.4	20.4	22.4	22.8	20.2	05.4	34.4	14.0	09.8
American goldfinch	72.9	71.6	70.6	63.6	71.3	69.5	71.0	70.6	62.2
Evening grosbeak	05.3	00.2	14.4	00.9	01.7	00.5	00.8	00.2	00.4
English house sparrow	77.4	79.5	82.5	78.5	82.6	79.8	83.8	79.3	76.4
House finch	00.06	00.4	00.3	00.2	01.0	05.2	07.5	19.5	27.3
Total participants	1754	922	965	1031	956	840	1200	1346	1290

1993 WINTER BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

SPONSORED BY THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION
AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE'S NONGAME PROGRAM

On two consecutive days during January 28-31, 1993 observe your feeder and using this form, describe your feeder and record the birds that visited you. In the space provided, list the 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 males and females can be distinguished (cardinals, downy woodpecker etc.) record the combined total. For example, if you saw 3 male cardinals at 11:00 then 1 male and 2 females at 2:00, record 5 cardinals—the highest count for the males and the highest count for the females combined. 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 birds which just flew past your house and did not use your feeder area. We want information only about birds influenced by your feeders. If you cannot get an exact count, record your best estimate. An honest estimate is far more useful than "umpteen" or "too many to count."

Mail the completed form to me by February 12, 1993:

R. J. Hollis
3351 Lower West Branch Road
Iowa City, IA 52245

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. Look for results in the Iowa Nongame News and the I.O.U. newsletter.



BIRD FEEDER SURVEY JANUARY 28-31, 1993

Please fill out carefully.

Feel free to copy the form for friends and patrons. Thank you and enjoy yourselves!

1. Name _____
- 2A. Address _____
- 2B. County _____ 2C. City _____ 2D. Zip _____
3. The feeder survey period this year runs from Thursday, January 28th to Sunday, January 31st. Count birds on two consecutive days only. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.
 Check one: ___ Thursday (1/28) and Friday (1/29),
 ___ Friday (1/29) and Saturday (1/30), or
 ___ Saturday (1/30) and Sunday (1/31).
4. Is your feeder in Town (including suburbs) or in the Country? Circle T or C.
5. Check the DONE description which best describes the area within a 2-block circle around your feeder:
 ___ suburban, houses with shrubs and small trees but few trees wider than 20 inches.
 ___ suburban bordered by: (circle 1) timber, grass, field or row crop.
 ___ town, neighborhood has many mature shade and street trees.
 ___ downtown with mostly buildings, sidewalks, roads, parking lots, high rises
 ___ pasture
 ___ row crop (corn, beans, etc.)
 ___ timber
 ___ farmstead with mature trees and shrubs around house.
6. Type and number of feeders: ___ Thistle, ___ Sunflower(only), ___ Fruit, ___ Safflower,
 ___ Peanuts, ___ Mixed seed, ___ Peanut Butter, ___ Suet, ___ Cracked Sunflower, ___ Corn,
 ___ Millet(only), ___ unfrozen water, ___ other _____
7. On what date did you start feeding during 1992-93? About _____
8. Comments or additional description of your feeder or yard:

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES DURING TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ 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 Blackbir | ___ 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 | ___ White-breasted Nuthatch |
| ___ House Finch | ___ Brown Creeper | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Robin (American) | ___ (other) _____ | ___ Cedar Waxwing |
| ___ (other) _____ | ___ Starling (European) | ___ (other) _____ |
| ___ Cardinal (Northern) | ___ (other) _____ | ___ Tree Sparrow (American) |
| ___ (other) _____ | ___ Song Sparrow | ___ TOTAL DIFFERENT SPECIES |

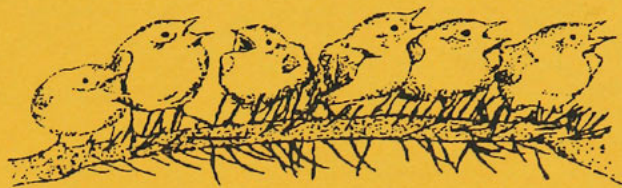
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- ___ I would like to receive the free Nongame News. (NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY)
- ___ I would like information about the Iowa Ornithologists Union which is a statewide bird organization.

If you see a rare or unusual bird, please report it to the Iowa birdline 319-338-9881

Overall, Iowans continue to be very "classy" bird feeders. The most popular types of seed included thistle (75%), sunflower (74%), suet (68%), and mixed (61%). Although it was not a tremendous winter for bird feeding, we still had 1,290 people participate in this year's survey. People living in towns, subdivisions surrounded by other habitats and regular subdivisions participated the most in the survey. Farmsteads and people living in timbered areas also participated in fairly good numbers. We still need more people from other rural habitats and downtown areas to report their sightings.

From the DNR's *Nongame News*.



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