

Iowa City Bird Club

Eastern Iowa Birdwatch is published three times per year (usually April, September, and December). Members are encouraged to send articles, reviews, notes, and comments to editor Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317, or e-mail at credwards@aol.com.

Annual membership dues are \$10.00, payable by January 1st for the coming year. Make checks payable to Eastern Iowa Birdwatch, and mail to Bernie Knight, 425 Lee St., Iowa City, IA 52246. Check your mailing label for the year you have paid through.

For general bird club information, contact Iowa City Bird Club president Chris Caster at 339-8343. **To lead or suggest a field trip**, contact field trip coordinator Karen Disbrow at 339-1017. **The club web site** is maintained by Jim Scheib and is located at www.jccniowa.org/~icbc/.

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Eastern Iowa Birdwatch
Chris Edwards, Editor
85 Whitman Avenue
North Liberty, IA 52317



The best new feature of this edition is the inclusion of rural street names for the first time. This will make it much easier to locate areas and share directions with other birders. Out of necessity, the street names are in very tiny print, so some users may want to keep a magnifying glass handy. Another new feature is that town and city boundaries are now shaded in gray, making it much easier to tell at a glance where they are located. This new edition has also been updated to include recent public land acquisitions and boundary changes. I noticed new listings for several neighboring counties that look like promising birding areas.

One minor irritant in this and previous editions regards those areas such as the Coralville Reservoir which have many different public locations in a small geographic area. There are so many names squeezed together on the map that it is difficult to determine the exact location of each area. Small locator arrows would help alleviate this problem. And as might be expected in an undertaking of this sort, a few minor errors have also crept in. For example, in Johnson County the label for Curtis Bridge is floating in space about five miles west of the actual location. These are minor nuisances at worst, and should not dissuade one from purchasing this indispensable atlas.

The *Iowa Sportsman's Atlas* is available at local sporting goods stores (including Fin & Feather) or directly from the publisher at the address and web site listed above. — *Chris Edwards*

News (Continued from page 7)

A **membership questionnaire** has been drafted in an effort to learn more about our diverse group. Some of you picked this up at the November meeting. The rest of the membership will receive this questionnaire in a mailing early next year. Please respond thoughtfully. If

desired, your answers will not be made public. Primarily the ICBC leadership will use the information to respond to requests from other organizations or individuals. Please mail this form to Chris Caster, 4 South Ridge Court, Coralville, IA 52241. If you have any questions e-mail chriscaster@msn.com.

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The **Friends of Hickory Hill Park** are promoting calendars for sale in local stores. They sell for \$9.50 and the profits will support a prairie restoration effort in 2003.

Richard Lynch, Ramona McGurk, Louise Murray, Ron Price, Anne Spence.

Birds (31 species): Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Nashville Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.
– Rick Hollis

November 21, Meeting. Jim Scheib gave a presentation of he and Sharon's May trip to Alaska and the Pribilof Islands. Jim created a wonderful VCR film to show, that combined movie footage with still photography and dubbed voice commentary. All the commonly seen birds were included. Footage included Red-necked Grebes, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, and Parakeet Auklets. The best photo may have been of a Willow Ptarmigan from a moving train at dusk. In addition to the spectacular birds, we were treated to numerous Alaska vistas, bits of Aleut culture, an enormous Fur Seal, numerous Moose, and the 'round-town Artic Foxes of St. Paul in the Pribilofs.

Jim also demonstrated how easy it is to create a life-long position for oneself within our organization. Jim has become the ICBC Webpage Editor and gave an extensive online review of his creation on the Johnson County Community Network server. I think we were all astounded with the breadth of what Jim has put together. I personally believe that this could be a resource for birders throughout the state. Read more about the new ICBC webpage in this issue of the newsletter.

Additionally, Jim's presentation showcased the marvelous capabilities of our new meeting place and raised the bar for presentations to follow. Thanks Jim.

Attendees: Jean and Ed Allgood, Chris Caster, Margrieta Delle, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Susan and John Drysdale, Linda and Roger Fisher, Bess and Ed Folk, Brad Freidhof, Therese Guedon, Ed Heffron, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Lorraine and Paul Kent, Tom Kent, Dave Kyllingstad, Nancy and Richard Lynch, John McLure, James Miller, Louise Murray, Gerald Pearson, Ron Price, Suzanne Sarlette, Sharon and Jim Scheib.
– Chris Caster

Book Reviews

Iowa Sportsman's Atlas. Published by the Sportsman's Atlas Company, P.O. Box 132, Lytton, Iowa 50561, (800) 568-8334, sportsmansatlas.com. 106 pages including place-name index. Suggested retail price \$19.95.

This new edition is a must-have item for all Iowa birders and outdoor enthusiasts who venture beyond the backyard. The atlas features detailed county road maps of all 99 Iowa counties, printed one per page. Public areas, including state and county parks, preserves, wildlife areas, boat ramps, nature trails, and historic areas, are labeled in red. The approximate boundaries of most of these areas are shown, although most of the smaller sites are indicated only by a star. Accompanying text on each page indicates the size, ownership, habitats, facilities, and allowable public uses for each site. Local motels are also listed, along with phone numbers for county conservation boards and local Department of Natural Resources officers.

Hermit Thrush, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– *Bob and Joan Stearns*

November 10, Red Rock Reservoir. Mild and calm weather turned into a blustery and cold day in the time it took our group of eight to drive to Pella and Red Rock Reservoir. A brief visit to Diamond Lake near Montezuma was included. Views of five Northern Harriers kept the drive interesting. The goal was waterfowl and gulls. There were very few gulls below the Red Rock Dam, and the number of waterfowl on the reservoir was unusually low. There were a few small rafts of both diving and dabbling ducks. We started below the dam and alternately worked the south side and then the north side of the reservoir from various vantage points.

The best birds were a pair of Western Grebes, and a Great Egret and two American White Pelicans were quite late for the season. Bonaparte's Gulls were common over the large water. The group carefully studied and discussed the plumage of a loon, before deciding it was a Common Loon, and the Horned Grebe was also studied as a possible Eared Grebe.

At the north end of Roberts Creek Lake there were numerous Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe. A final stop at the north end of Rock Creek Lake in Jasper County west of Grinnell produced more Killdeer and snipe, plus late shorebirds, Least Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper.

Participants: Bob Dick, Dara Dick, Jim Fuller (leader), James Huntington, Dave Kyllingstad, Jim Scheib, Bill Scheible, Pete Wickham.

Birds (48 species): Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe,

American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– *Jim Fuller*

November 17, Coralville Reservoir and Lake Macbride. The day was beautiful and probably warmer than we should have asked for, but the birds came slowly and painfully (with apologies to our president) like pulling teeth. We started with the 200 Ring-billed Gulls at the West Overlook Beach and finished with two first basic Herring Gulls at Hancher, where we searched in vain for a reported Horned Grebe. On Lake Macbride we saw a trio of Common Loons, a distant female Common Goldeneye, and a small raft of Hooded Mergansers. The best bird, far and away, was the Nashville Warbler seen across from the Lynches' House at the Cottage Reserve area of Lake Macbride. Although we did not see their occasional Pileated Woodpecker visitor, the kind use of the Lynches' wood burning stove and other facilities was greatly appreciated.

Participants: Bob Dick, Dara Dick, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Linda Fisher, Tony Franken, Ed Heffron, Rick Hollis (leader), James Huntington, Dave Kyllingstad, Nancy Lynch,

seldom-seen bird. Thanks Tom for a wonderful presentation.

Attendees: Jean and Ed Allgood, Chris Caster, Margrieta Delle, Dara and Bob Dick, Karen Disbrow, Susan and John Drysdale, Christian Eberhardt, Jim Fuller, Meredith Gooding, Therese Guedon, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Lorraine Kent, Tom Kent, Dave Kyllingstad, Nancy and Richard Lynch, Ramona McGurk, Gail and John McLure, James Miller, Kari Oeltjen, Diana Pesek, Jim Scheib, Bill Scheible.

– *Chris Caster*

October 26, Wickiup Hill and Pleasant Creek. After a cold and damp week, we were grateful that Saturday was warmer (in the low 40s) and overcast to partly sunny with a 5-10 mph breeze. It was the day before the official opening of the Wickiup Hill Educational Learning Center so we walked up to the completed building, viewing various animal tracks permanently embedded in the concrete walkway, and going onto the observation deck to see the bird feeder system and to enjoy the water feature that empties into a man-made marsh.

Before arriving at the Center, however, we walked the driveway with prairie grasslands on both sides and found several species of sparrows – House, Song, Swamp, and White-throated – in addition to a Sedge Wren. At the marsh boardwalk, we observed only the resident hybrid duck. Walking into the oak savanna, we were surprised at the lack of bird activity. Only a few of the usual suspects were identified – robin, goldfinch, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

We then went into what is called the “Village” area, an open, small rolling hills area, where an adult Cooper’s Hawk perched in a leafless tree before flying off to give us a great look. Fox and Field Sparrows were also around.

For a change in what had been done on the last Wickiup field trip, we decided to take a loop that wound to the backwaters of the Cedar River. We were very happy to see two Great Blue Herons fly low over us before we arrived at the river. Although not many other birds were seen or heard in this area, we all agreed that it was a very pleasant walk on a wonderful autumn day with birder friends.

Since we weren’t quite ready to call it quits for the day, we decided to go to Pleasant Creek. The leaders had found a few ducks the previous weekend, so we thought there might be some more fowl activity this weekend. We weren’t disappointed. We saw Lesser Scaup, Ruddy, and Ring-necked Ducks, in addition to an Osprey that let us watch him several times up close and personal. We also saw several rafts of American Coots, a few Pied-billed Grebes, and two Western Grebes (life birds for several in the group). A nice raft of decoy ducks was spotted but not able to be accurately identified except as duck species. A lingering Yellow-rumped Warbler, Barn Swallow, and Turkey Vulture were also noted as the increasingly chilly wind told us that we had been birding long enough.

Participants: Bob Dick, Dara Dick, Linda Fisher, Roger Heidt, Dave Kyllingstad, Diana Pesek, Bob and Joan Stearns (leaders).

Birds (43 species): Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Sedge Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird,

Participants: Chris Caster, Bob Dick, Dara Dick, Andra Dill, Mike Dooley (leader), Dave Kyllingstad, Ramona McGurk, Diane Pesek, Jim Scheib.

Species (55): Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rudy-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadowlark species, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– Mike Dooley

October 17, Meeting. Tom Kent gave a presentation on the identification of gulls using slides of his own making from throughout North America.

Twenty-eight species of gulls are seen in the American Birding Association area (N. America north of Mexico) – 8 of which are considered vagrants. Nineteen species of gull have been recorded in Iowa. Only five of the regular ABA area gulls have not been recorded in the state: Heermann's, Western, Glaucous-winged, Yellow-footed, and Red-legged Kittiwake. All of these are highly salt-water specific and thus

rarely found inland. Only Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls are known to occasionally nest in Iowa. A few Black-headed Gulls may possibly nest in northwest Iowa. For more, consult *Birds in Iowa*, by Kent and Dinsmore.

Scientists recognize the similarity of ABA area gulls by grouping 15 within a single genus, *Larus*. Gull identification is particularly challenging due to seasonal variations in plumage as they mature. In general, the birds transition from a darker-brown plumage to a graying of the back and wing and loss of markings on the head and tail. Gulls fledge with a juvenile plumage, which will transition from late summer to fall, into a 1st year winter or first-basic plumage. In late winter to spring, they transition to the 2nd year or second-alternate plumage. This pattern will continue for most gulls through the 2-4 years needed to reach maturity. For a 4-year gull like the Herring Gull, the result is eight recognized plumages, and additional variability through molts, solar-bleaching, and feather wear.

The good news for the less experienced is that 95% of all the gulls seen in Iowa are Ring-billed Gulls. These are followed in frequency by: Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, and Glaucous Gull. Other species will occur yearly in small numbers. With practice, birders can learn to confidently identify gulls. First learn to age Ring-billed and Herring Gulls in their winter or basic plumages and build your skill from there. As one's skill increases, the less-common gulls will become more apparent within the flocks.

Gulls can be difficult, but they can also be among the most rewarding groups of birds to learn. Due to their large size, preference for open habitat, and flocking behaviors they are usually easy to observe and their winter congregations below dams can be spectacular sights. As a group, gulls also present us with one of Iowa's best chances at discovering a

Richard Lynch, Gail McLure, John McLure, Darlyne Neff, John Neff, Kari Oeltjen.

Birds (45 species): Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, duck sp., Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– *Richard and Nancy Lynch*

October 13, Redbird Farm Wildlife Area and S&G Materials Sandpit. Our outing took place on a very chilly but sunny morning. On entering Redbird Farm we immediately encountered numerous sparrows in the brush along the trail. By far the most were White-throated Sparrows, but we did quickly identify a Lincoln's Sparrow along with probably the outing's best bird, an early American Tree Sparrow. Once into the meadow section and along the first pond, we encountered a number of Hermit Thrushes in the shrubs and small trees bordering the pond, three moving together at one point. At this point we also had a flock of half a dozen or more Fox Sparrows crossing the trail one at a time, and a few of us got a good look at a Swamp Sparrow. White-crowned Sparrow ended up as a notable miss for the day, however. While still on this leg of the walk we had a

Cooper's Hawk as a flyover, we heard the chatter of a Belted Kingfisher somewhere along the pond, and an Orange-crowned Warbler was in with the thrushes.

Moving toward the woods, the ponds didn't offer us much other than a Great Blue Heron and a flock of Wood Ducks which had lifted. The walk in the woods itself was mostly uneventful as well, giving us another Hermit Thrush and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. We had hoped for Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper, but none were seen. At one point an unidentified raptor rushed across the trail in front of us, quite close and at near eye-level, chasing another bird with apparently no regard for our presence.

We had better luck at the sandpit, with ten duck species, just about right for the date. Marsh ducks included Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal. The standard bay ducks were present—Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Lesser Scaup—as well as a small flock of Ruddy Ducks. American Coots were ubiquitous, as typical for mid-October at the sandpit. All our species were garnered on the eastern lobe; the west side was virtually empty. It was a little windy and nearly all of the ducks were concentrated at a couple of points close to shore. A good 40-50 gulls were present either on the sandy runoff in the northwest section or over the water, all Ring-billed. Actually the most satisfying sighting at S&G was probably the Osprey which continually scouted the waters, occasionally affording very close views. Driving up we also had an adult Bald Eagle over the water, though it was gone by the time we were situated.

For my own part, on the way home I checked various sections of Lake Macbride, and at Sandy Beach found Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gull, as well as a winter Common Loon near a raft of cormorants.

modern A-V equipment. Thanks to Karen Disbrow, Bernie Knight, and Margrieta Delle for the wonderful refreshments and for making all the last minute phone calls to notify members of the new location. Thanks also to the Tetraults for hosting the Zarwells during their visit.

Attendees: Jack Bagford, Chris Caster, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Linda Fisher, Penny and Tony Franken, Brad Freidhof, Sarah George, Therese Guedon, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Lorraine and Paul Kent, Bernie Knight, Dave Kyllingstad, Nancy and Richard Lynch, Ramona McGurk, Gail and John McLure, James Miller, Darlyne and John Neff, Rosemarie Petzold, Jim Scheib, Joan and Bob Stearns, Gerry and Dick Tetrault, Betty and Ric Zarwell.

– *Chris Caster*

September 21, Hawk Watch at Stainbrook Preserve. The hawk-watchers outnumbered the hawks on this beautiful fall day. About seventy people stopped by the hawk-watching site at Stainbrook Preserve overlooking the Coralville Reservoir, and many others visited nearby Macbride Nature-Recreation Area for hourly raptor programs and a bird-banding demonstration. The weather conditions seemed conducive for a good count, with mostly clear skies and a light northerly wind, but throughout most of the day the migrants were few and far between. A total of 45 raptors of 8 species were tallied. The highlight for many participants was a rare Sabine's Gull, which was seen regularly throughout the day and was a life bird for many people. The lucky few participants who stayed until the end of the count were treated to a close-up view of a beautiful Red-tailed Hawk which was released after having been caught and banded.

Participants: Jack Bagford, Chris Caster, Karen Disbrow, Mike Dooley, Christian Eberhardt, Chris Edwards, Julie Englander, Jim Fuller,

Karole Fuller, Roger Heidt, Kay James, Tom Kent, Kathleen Kuenstling, Darlene Kyllingstad, Dave Kyllingstad, Li-Hsien Lin, Christopher Lu, Ramona McGurk, Gail McLure, John McLure, Kari Oeltjen, Anne Perkins, Ed Perkins, Bill Scheible, Bob Stearns, Joan Stearns, and many non-club members.

Raptors (8 species, 45 individuals): Turkey Vulture (12), Osprey (6), Bald Eagle (3), Northern Harrier (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (3), Cooper's Hawk (3), *accipiter* species (2), Broad-winged Hawk (8), Red-tailed Hawk (7).

Other birds (26 species): American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Ring-billed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch.

– *Chris Edwards*

September 29, Birding by Boat at Lake Macbride. It was a beautiful fall morning when fourteen birders met at the home of Nancy and Richard Lynch on Lake Macbride and took to the water in canoes, kayaks and a pontoon boat. In all 45 species were found. The most interesting sighting was made by John and Gail when they canoed into a cove to find a Cooper's Hawk standing in the water much like a wader. After returning to the Lynches' for a tasty brunch prepared by Nancy, all agreed that this was a great way to spend a Sunday morning and that we must do this again next year.

Participants: Joey Abreu, Ann Bagford, Jack Bagford, Chris Caster, Karen Disbrow, Therese Guedon, Nancy and Richard Lynch (leaders),

more difficult to use because of the listing by the scientific names of genera and because of the many species not in the ABA area. The ABA site looks like an exact copy of the *ABA Checklist*, 6th edition, except for new entries in bold. I found one error – the AOU repositioning of Bullock's Oriole (in 2000) was not included. The *ABA Checklist* is an inexpensive and convenient spiral bound booklet useful for keeping bird records and looking up official bird names. It also lists all sightings for accidental species in North America. An up-to-date Iowa list based on AOU and ABA sources and new species accepted by the IOU Records Committee can be found on T. H. Kent's web site (home.mchsi.com/~thkbirds/).

Here are the changes (excluding scientific name changes) in the latest *AOU Check-list Supplement* (*Auk* 119(3):897-906, 2002) that affect the ABA North American species: Change Common Snipe to Wilson's Snipe (based on split from old world species which remains Common Snipe). Change Eared Trogon to Eared Quetzal. Split Tufted Titmouse into Tufted Titmouse and Black-crested Titmouse. Add Yellow-browed Warbler after Dusky Warbler. Add Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush after Townsend's Solitaire. Additional changes noted on the ABA web site include addition of Greater Sandplover, Band-tailed Gull, and Yellow-chevroned Parakeet to the "North American" list.

Field Trip and Meeting Reports

September 19, Meeting. Ric Zarwell, Audubon Iowa's IBA Coordinator spoke to us on the Iowa Important Bird Areas Program. The Iowa IBA Program was initiated in the spring of this year and we are still in Phase I, the site nomination process. Currently, over 130 sites have been nominated through the state. Thus far, the following sites have been

nominated in our own Johnson County: Coralville Reservoir/Hawkeye Wildlife Area/Lake Macbride State Park, F. W. Kent Park, Hickory Hill Park, Redbird Farms Wildlife Area, and the S & G Materials Sandpit.

All nominations must be approved by the Iowa IBA Technical Committee, which is made up of 15 of Iowa's best birders and bird conservationists. Phase II of the Iowa IBA Program will include surveying, monitoring, and development of educational activities at approved sites. The specific survey and monitoring methods to be used will be determined within the next few months and then announced to the entire Iowa birding community. The goal is for leaders from the IBA program, Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program, and Iowa Nature Mapping Program to meet and establish a single methodology to be used on all key habitats within Iowa. For more information or to nominate a site: www.iowabirds.org/IBA/.

Ric has been required to raise his own funding for the vital IBA Program. Any donations we can make are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. The Audubon tax ID# is 13-1624102. Checks should be made out to Audubon Iowa-IBA Program and sent directly to Ric Zarwell, PO Box 299, Lansing, IA 52151.

We were also introduced to Brad Freidhof, the new Johnson County Naturalist. Brad is originally from New Hampton and received a degree in biology and environmental science from Wartburg College. Most recently he has worked for the Pocahontas County Conservation Board. Brad looks forward to working with us and hopes to be a resource for the entire community.

Special thanks goes to Jim Scheib for locating a fine new location for our meetings with plenty of parking, adult-size chairs, lots of room, and

these beans to be shade-grown under the most bird-friendly conditions. They come in 12 oz. packages available from ABA Sales, online at the IOU Nature Store, or locally at Wildlife Habitat in Coralville. For each package sold, 15 cents goes toward ABA conservation projects and 15 cents is returned to the growers for community development. The ABA is holiday pricing Songbird Coffee at \$8/package for members. Last I checked it was available through the IOU and Wildlife Habitat at \$10/package.

You can also go online to purchase organic, fair-trade and shade-grown coffees from specialty roasters all across the country. Most of it starts at \$10/lb. I would warn that if you are only purchasing a pound of beans, the shipping and handling charges might drive the cost to \$14-16 and above. This is also true for the ABA and the IOU. The IOU Nature Store will charge a \$5.95 minimum shipping charge and a \$2.50 small order handling for that \$10/12oz. package of coffee. But if you purchase over \$25 the small order handling will be dropped and the shipping charge won't begin to increase until your total purchase exceeds \$120. So to reduce costs, I recommend ordering the new Sibley's *Birding Basics* with that coffee.

I recently purchased a package of Songbird Coffee at the Wildlife Habitat store. I got the Nicaraguan variety with the Wilson's Warbler on the wrapper. I didn't have to pay any shipping and I can trust that it was truly shade-grown. And I can honestly say it is the best tasting coffee I've ever brewed at home. Give it a try—for the birds!

Useful Websites:

Song Bird Coffee

www.songbirdcoffee.com

Atlanta Audubon

www.atlantaaudubon.org

Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center

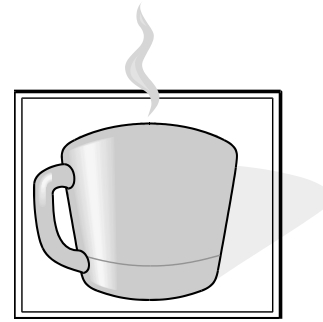
natzoo.si.edu/smbc/

Rainforest Alliance

www.rainforest-alliance.org

Transfair USA

www.transfairusa.org



Recent AOU Changes Tom Kent

Bird names and their taxonomic order are continually changing based on new information on species and new occurrences. Keeping up with these changes is difficult and annoying. Official names and the order of species have been the provenance of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List Committee and published in seven editions of the *Check-list of North American Birds* since 1886 (latest 1998) and supplements published in the *Auk* (latest 2000, 2002). The AOU area includes the Caribbean, Central America, and Hawaii, which means that many of the species are not familiar to many of us who only bird North America as defined by the American Birding Association (United States and Canada exclusive of Hawaii). The ABA publishes its own *ABA Checklist* (six editions, latest 2002) with annual supplements published in *Birding*. The ABA committee follows the AOU exactly for species names and taxonomic order, but in addition is the authoritative source for species that have occurred in the ABA area (hence countable on "North American" lists).

Now, these lists are available on ABA and AOU web sites (www.americanbirding.org/checklist/, www.aou.org/). The ABA site includes the latest changes (some of which are included on the main list and some not). The AOU site is

what I deem feigned naiveté their representative goes on to say, “Coffee buyers have noticed that farmers have removed the shade trees in order to clear the land. However, they have also noticed that the coffee trees themselves provide a dense, lush foliage for many birds and animals.”—Yeah, lush like a cornfield in August.

The Coralville Hy-Vee also sells the Café Fair brand of whole bean coffee in their organic foods section. It is labeled as being “organic” and “fair trade”. I inquired as to whether Café Fair, roasted by Steep and Brew Coffee of Madison, WI, marketed any shade-grown coffees. Their response was, “All of the coffee that Café Fair sells is shade-grown.” However I was suspicious of the claim and desired a third party’s opinion—their beans aren’t labeled as shade-grown, aren’t any more expensive than the Millstone (\$7/lb.), and the roaster never got back to me on any of the specifics I requested regarding where it was grown.

The Atlanta Audubon Society has put together an extensive shade-grown coffee website and I requested information from their Shade Grown Coffee Committee on whether Café Fair was indeed shade-grown. The Committee responded, “There are only a relative few coffees which have been certified as shade-grown by either the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center or the Rainforest Alliance. That being said, most of us believe that there is quite a bit of coffee out there that is shade-grown but hasn’t been certified. Certification costs are usually borne by the farmer, and even in times of relatively high coffee prices on the farm (i.e., before 1999), it’s likely that many farmers decided it wasn’t worth it. That doesn’t mean that any coffee that claims to be shade-grown is, just that there is a good chance it might be. Our practice in Atlanta Audubon, for better or worse, has generally been to take the word of the roaster. One thing that might help is to look for fair-trade certification. The reason is that

this certification system is well established. The rule of thumb from folks in the field is that the large majority of fair-trade coffee is also shade-grown, and that the economic help of fair-trade can help participating farmers continue to raise (hopefully) shade-grown coffee.”

The New Pioneer Co-op stores in Coralville and Iowa City both sell ten varieties of Café del Sol brand whole bean coffees labeled as shade-grown. They retail for \$10-13/lb. before the Co-op member discount. Café del Sol, a poorly named local roaster, also distributes beans to many area restaurants and shops. Some of these are: The Red Avocado, Adagio, Devotay, Motley Cow Café, Uptown Bill’s Coffee Shop, and Zip Drive Espresso. The Pioneer Co-ops also sell Equal Exchange brand whole bean coffees. They aren’t labeled shade-grown, but Equal Exchange was one of the pioneers of the “fair-trade” concept.

The Starbucks Coffee Company also responded to my shade-grown inquiry: “Starbucks purchases much of our coffee from small, multigenerational farms that use traditional growing methods. Our coffee buyers estimate that more than one-third of our coffee is grown under the canopy of shade trees in tropical forests. However due to the lack of a universal certification system for shade-grown coffee, it is difficult to consistently determine and accurately label our coffee as shade-grown. In 1998, Starbucks began a partnership with Conservation International to support coffee production on small coffee farms in Chiapas, Mexico. Starbucks purchases shade-grown coffee from these producers and when available is sold in stores under the label Starbucks Shade Grown Mexico.”

The American Birding Association has partnered with the Thanksgiving Coffee Company of Ft. Bragg, CA to produce its own brand called Songbird Coffee. I believe that we can trust

Shade-Grown Coffee — For the Birds!

Chris Caster

Conservation of proper habitat is essential to the survival of our songbirds. In the U.S., government programs have allowed much land to be set aside. But in Latin America, where many of our songbirds winter, conservation of bird habitat is dictated primarily by local economic pressures. These pressures have forced Latin American farmers to cut forests for timber and convert tracts of land to intense agricultural production. Here in Iowa, we can understand the impact this conversion must have on wintering songbirds.

Much of Latin American farmland is used to produce coffee. Coffee has historically been a forest species, requiring the protection of larger trees from sun and weather. Traditional coffee plantations grow coffee in relative harmony with the rainforest. Coffee plants, often with fruit and nut trees, are planted amongst the existing vegetation. Bird conservation groups have recognized the value of this habitat for wintering songbirds. From 1990 to 1994, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center found more than 150 species of birds on shade-coffee farms in Chiapas, Mexico. In 1996, the Center concluded that the remaining shade-coffee farms were among the last great refuges for migratory songbirds because shade-coffee farms had only 10% less avian biodiversity than undisturbed forest.

During the 1970s, sun-tolerant higher-yield coffee plants were developed. Large row-crop sun-coffee plantations now produce three-times the beans per acre, but host less than one-tenth the number of bird species compared to shade-grown plantations. Countries like Brazil, where conditions are not conducive to shade-grown production, have taken advantage of the sun-coffee plants and have recently thrown many

acres into coffee production. This has resulted in a glut of coffee worldwide, depressed prices, and tougher economic conditions for the traditional grower. More and more of the small farmers have been forced to “sell out” to larger producers.

According to Paul Katzeff, CEO of the Thanksgiving Coffee Company, “Sun-coffee is responsible for the loss of 85% of Costa Rica’s forests. The situation is similar in Guatemala, Colombia, El Salvador and Mexico.” And the land has suffered as much as the birds and the farmers. Intensive agriculture promotes erosion, siltation of waterways, and increased use of agrochemicals—many of which have been banned for use in this country.

In an effort to do the socially and environmentally responsible thing, specialty coffee roasters in Europe and the Americas are traveling to Latin America to buy green coffee beans directly from local cooperatives that utilize organic or bird-friendly practices. They pay a premium price, a “fair price”, so that the producers can afford to maintain the forests and properly feed, cloth, and educate their children in a healthy environment. However, purchasing this coffee in Iowa City at a “fair price” can be a challenge.

In the past I have bought the Millstone brand of whole bean coffee at the Coralville Hy-Vee. Millstone, a product of Folgers, I’ve learned is not shade-grown. “Folgers doesn’t buy coffee from any single farmer. The coffee beans are brought to a central area from farms all over a coffee-growing country and are mixed together before being sent to the United States. It’s not possible to determine which blends may be made from shade grown coffee beans.” And in

the purpose of obtaining the 10% discount they offer on bird food items. **Membership cards** will be issued with this newsletter for each registered member in the household. You must present this card upon checkout to receive the discount. Beginning next year, membership cards will be sent in a separate mailing after Christmas, to those who have paid their dues for the coming year. Thanks to Jim Scheib for creating this attractive card.



The annual Prairie Preview will be held in early March in Montgomery Hall at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. There will be a featured speaker (tentatively on invasive species) and many exhibits. Call Rick Hollis at 665-3141 prior to the event for more specific information including the date and time.

Continued on page 17.

into a template prior to photocopying. Mike Newlon used to send little half-page mimeographed notices of a field trip schedule and the *Birdwatch* was simply an expansion of that. I remember we titled it “Eastern Iowa” Birdwatch in deference to what was a fair number of non-Iowa City residents who were on Mike Newlon’s informal mailing list.” The start of the Iowa Birdline was announced in the first issue of the *Birdwatch* for 1982.

More detail concerning the Iowa Bird Club comes to light in vol 2 (no. 2) for March-April 1982 in a note from editor Carl Bendorf. He lists 78 subscribers and states “this list can be an indication of the nature and composition of the Iowa City ‘Bird Club.’ The Iowa City Bird Club is presently a very loosely organized group of people whose primary connection is a subscription to the *Birdwatch* and a common interest in birds. For a number of years, Mike Newlon has organized a field trip schedule and has served as compiler and field general of the Iowa City Christmas Bird Count.”...“But in recent years there have not been any other scheduled meetings or events.”...“the Iowa City Bird Club is not really a club.” Carl then asked for opinions about the club.

Carl Bendorf remembers: “At the time the *Birdwatch* was started, there were no dues, no officers, no meetings except for the CBC organizing meeting, so it really wasn’t a club as many people think of that term. Since it seemed to be working pretty well, I felt that a “subscription charge” to cover postage and a few supplies was more appropriate than dues. Mike Newlon was supportive of the upgrade from his announcement flyers to a newsletter format, but I recall his advice was to not to try to over organize.”

The Bird Club held an informal meeting at Cal and Bernie Knight's on 7 November 1982, which was attended by about 40 people and included a

presentation by Mike and Georganne Neubauer on Panama (*Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* 2(6) Nov-Dec 1982). Another meeting followed on 30 January 1983—a presentation by wildlife biologist Bob Dolan at the Newlons’.

In 1983, the *Birdwatch* was reduced to 4 issues per year, and in 1984, Carol Thompson became editor. A going away party was held at the Knights’ for the Newlons on 9 December 1984.

On 16 February 1986, a meeting was held at Tom Kent’s for a presentation by Kent and Bendorf on their California trip and to discuss the formalizing of the Iowa City Bird Club, i.e., “having meetings, workshops, etc. in addition to our field trips” (*Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* 5(4) winter 1985). At that meeting, Bud Gode was elected President and Barb Beaumont continued as field trip coordinator and Carol Thompson as editor. It was decided to hold three to four meetings a year (*Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* 6(1) spring 1986).

Thus, the sequence of events leading to the formalization of the Iowa City Bird Club were as follows: (1) idea initiated by Sam Dunkle in 1974 and several meetings held; (2) Mike Newlon started the field trips in 1975; (3) meetings to plan CBCs started by Mike Newlon in 1979; (4) formal schedule and reports of field trips began with the publication of the *Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* edited by Carl Bendorf in 1981; (5) members listed and defined as the subscribers to *Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* in 1981; (6) a few meetings with talks held at members homes from 1982 to 1986; and (6) structure of Iowa City Bird Club formalized with a President and regular meetings in 1986.

News (Continued from page 2)

We had a request from the Wildlife Habitat store to assist them in identifying club members for

to Mark Twain NWR. In 1976 we had our first February trip to the Mississippi to look for wintering Bald Eagles.

“For the first year or so, we were the University of Iowa Bird Club and met at the student union. As it became clear that much of our membership was not associated with the University, we became the Iowa City Bird Club. Sam had hoped for us to become a chapter of the National Audubon Society and initiated negotiations to that end, but we were never able to come up with the membership increase that would have qualified us as a chapter. Sam left a year or so after the club was founded. The club gradually grew, two undated membership lists show totals of 35 and 90 members.

“At the time the club was founded, the Iowa City Christmas Count took its present form. My understanding is that it had been run previously as an invitation-only effort of F. W. Kent and some of his birding companions. [F. W. was always looking for participants; it is hard to imagine that he would ever exclude anyone/thk.] Nick Halmi was the compiler in 1974 when the count had 22 observers, 7 parties, and totaled 49 species.

“Carl Bendorf founded *The Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* in 1981. The cost was \$3 per year for six issues. This format was used until, January 1983 when the number of issues was reduced to four per year. Carol Thompson took over as editor with Vol. 4 n. 1 in early 1984. (Coincidentally this issue had the announcement by Mike Newlon of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.) Ruth Williams was field trip coordinator from 1983 to 1985. Barbara Beaumont took over as field trip coordinator until 1989.

“There appears to have been only one ICBC meeting held in the early 80s that being in November 82 at the Knight’s home. The club

was organized in its present form on February 16, 1982 when Bud Gode was elected president. The first meeting under new organization was held on April 9, 1990 [sic, 1986].”

I found Sam Dunkle listed as a participant in the 1974 Iowa City Christmas Bird Count. Years later (1991) he visited his mother in a care facility in Cedar Rapids and found Iowa’s only Common Ground-Dove.

The first meeting that I can remember attending that might be considered the Iowa City Bird Club was for CBC planning (and perhaps other topics). I’m fairly certain that this was December 1979, as that was the year Mike Newlon became compiler of the CBC (The Newlons first participated in the CBC in 1975, a year after Nick Halmi succeeded F. W. Kent as the compiler). I remember the meeting, because I distributed a chart of all the Iowa City CBC bird records since the first in 1950. Mike was not happy with this, since he considered (correctly) that the past CBCs were a somewhat casual, unscientific affair run by the Kents. After 1979 we have had annual planning meetings for the CBC and more systematic coverage of the count circle.

In 1981, Carl Bendorf started the *Eastern Iowa Birdwatch*, which was definitely tied in with the Iowa City Bird Club, “The first issue of *The Eastern Iowa Bird Life* [sic] is an outgrowth of the Iowa City Bird Club field trip schedule.” (*Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* 1(1) Jan-Feb 1981).

Carl Bendorf notes (personal communication): “Tom Shires was very encouraging about starting a newsletter. Tom helped me write and type up the first couple of issues. I remember what a big job that was since it was before word-processing on a PC and easy page layouts. I had to count words in advance, estimate the column length, type on an electric typewriter, cut out little scraps of paper, and paste them

Early History of the Iowa City Bird Club

Tom Kent

The Iowa City Bird Club was not formalized until 1985 when Bud Gode was elected President and regular meetings were initiated. The formation of an Iowa City bird club was first started in 1974. My recollections of interaction among Iowa City birders date back to the late 1940s.

The first birders that I knew in Iowa City, besides my father F. W. Kent (University Photographer), were Pete (dentist, anatomy professor) and Marguerite Laude and Bob (oral surgeon) and Jean Vane. The Vanes moved to Cedar Rapids but frequently birded with the Kents and Laudes. The University attracted several graduate students and trainees during the 1950s and 1960s, most notably Tom Morrissey (zoology) and Max Pepernik (psychiatry). In a sense, there was an informal "club" of Iowa City birders led by F. W. Kent (Kent, F. W., and T. H. Kent. 1975. *Birding in Eastern Iowa*. Published by the authors, Iowa City). The Kents and Laudes regularly attended meetings of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club and Audubon Screen Tour lectures. Pete Laude died in 1966 and Fred Kent became less active in the early 1970s.

Many new birders appeared in the Iowa City area in the 1970s. The following active birders were first noted on Iowa City Christmas Bird Counts as follows: Jim Taylor (1969), Nick Halmi (1971), Daryl Peterson (1972), Tom Shires (1973), Marlyn Glasson (1974), Thomas Staudt (1974), Rich DeCoster (1975), Margrieta Delle (1975), Jim Fuller (1975), Carol and Mike Newlon (1975), Rick Hollis (1976), Bernie and Cal Knight (1977), Carl Bendorf (1979), James Huntington (1979), Ruth Williams (1979), Ramona McGurk (1980), and Jim Sandrock (1980). The number of participants increased

rapidly during this time. Nick Halmi replaced F. W. Kent as CBC compiler in 1974 and Mike Newlon took over in 1979.

The first attempt to form an Iowa City Bird Club is attributed to Sam Dunkle, an undergraduate student from Sioux City (his mother was a sister of one of my high school classmates). I remember Sam coming to my office to enlist me in the club. Carl Bendorf (personal communication) recalls M. L. Huit relating a similar incident. Mike Newlon's recollections (*The Eastern Iowa Birdwatch* 10(4) Winter 1990) read as follows:

"The club was founded in late 1974 by Sam Dunkle, a UI undergraduate. Sam was good at calling meetings, but it never seemed to occur to him to arrange for something to happen at them; mostly he would talk about things we could do in the future. After several meeting of this type, I figured that some birding might help; I had heard of some Long-eared Owls at the Coralville reservoir, so at the February 1975 meeting I organized an impromptu field trip for the following weekend. We went to the Swan Lake area and found Snow Buntings along the road and Long-eared Owls in the big pine grove to the north.

"After that I appointed myself field trip chairman and began recruiting trip leaders and sending out a half-page quarterly notice of field trips. As we had no source of income, the second notice carried an appeal for dues of \$1 per year to cover the cost of copying and mailing. Early field trip leaders included Daryl Peterson, Sam Dunkle, Nick Halmi, Mike Newlon, Jim Fuller, Bill Knowles, Marlyn Glasson, and Rich DeCoster. Trips went to the reservoir, Cone Marsh, Lake McBride, and one

with the Friends of Hickory Hill Park and a person to coordinate our involvement in the Adopt-a-Road program, if we choose to participate. When the Important Bird Areas Program gets going we might desire an ICBC coordinator for that. We might even want to host another Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting, requiring an organizational team. And Chris Edwards still hopes to turn over the organizational duties of the Christmas Bird

Count for next year. All of this requires increased participation from the membership. If we all do a little, together we can do a lot.

The Iowa City Bird Club can be a wonderful resource for our community and an advocacy group for our birds, but only if *we* make it happen.

Union, Nature Conservancy, Iowa Audubon, Iowa DNR, Macbride Raptor Project, Iowa Nature Mapping Project, American Birding Association, and more. A link is available for the Iowa Records Committee, a list of which birds to report, and a documentation reporting form. Birding checklists available at this site include those for Johnson County, the state of Iowa, the ABA checklist, and the AOU North American birds list.

This is a club site and needs to become what members want it to be. Please visit the site and e-mail suggestions to Jim Scheib.

From Our President Chris Caster

If there was an ICBC President's Award, it would certainly go to Jim Scheib. It was Jim who secured our new meeting place, with its space, abundant parking, presentation technology, and adult-size chairs. At each meeting Jim is there early to open and setup. And of course if you haven't seen the web page he recently created for the club, you owe it to him. He certainly put a lot of time and energy into creating this wonderful resource. I'm sure I speak for the group in extending a big thank you to Jim and Sharon both. The support they have given has been tremendous.

We also should thank the ladies who provide the refreshments at each meeting. Like Jim, Margrieta Delle arrives early to setup our snack table. Others help out from time to time. This comes out of the pockets of those involved. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated.

And a special thanks must also go to those folks who have opened up their homes to us for various club events: the Scheibs, Fullers, Kents, Lynches, and recently the McLures. I hope I'm not forgetting anyone.

The commitment of our members through the years has been the key to our success as an organization. It will be important to our future that we continue to attract new members. It has been my perception that the ICBC is not well known throughout the community. Many people confuse us with the Johnson County Songbird Project. That is unfortunate, because we are a vibrant organization with much to offer. One way for the club to gain notice is to get more involved in the community with projects that suit the talents and interest of our members.

Recently contacts have been made with various groups anxious to form partnerships with us. Julie Seal, of the Iowa City Senior Center, would love to have some of us put together a series of presentations on bird topics for their membership. These would be recorded and broadcast on the Iowa City cable television channel. Gwen Prentice, the superintendent of Lake Macbride State Park, wishes to have persons available to lead bird walks for their campers. Jodeane Cancilla and Gail Dawson, of the Macbride Raptor Project, are always looking for volunteers and desire to increase our involvement in their programs on International Migratory Bird Day (the Spring Count) and the Fall Hawk Watch. Brad Freidhof, the new Johnson County Naturalist, would also appreciate ICBC involvement in developing programs at Kent Park. Sarah Walz and the Friends of Hickory Hill Park would like to go in with us on some kiosks at the park entrances and possibly a feeder station. Chris Henze, of the Johnson County Secondary Road Department, hopes the ICBC will participate in the Adopt-a-Road Program.

These are all opportunities to increase community awareness of the ICBC and build our membership. Certainly more opportunities will follow, but they will require even more members to take leadership roles. I can envision a need for a person to coordinate our activities

will pay for an entire year of *Eastern Iowa Birdwatch*. Check your mailing label for the most recent year for which you have paid. If your label says "02", please send \$10 for 2003. Make your check payable to "Eastern Iowa Birdwatch" and send it to Bernie Knight, 425 Lee Street, Iowa City, IA, 52246.

Remembering Cal Knight

Rick Hollis

As most of our readers know, Cal Knight died in November. Cal had been an active member of the Iowa City Bird Club since before we ever formally organized into a club, before we had meetings, when all we had were field trips. I was asked to put together a few memories of birding with Cal. I first met Cal and Bernie on one of those field trips that came off the Xeroxed list of trips that Mike Newlon put out in the mid-1970s. I tried to think about some of the things that Cal taught me or places Cal showed me but they are too numerous to write about. So I decided to limit myself to a couple of favorite memories of Cal.

My office phone rang one afternoon. "Rick, there's a Burrowing Owl out in central Iowa – Bernie and I are driving out to see it, want to come along?" It did not take me long to say yes since there are not too many Burrowing Owls in Maryland. This one incident sums up one of the central points of Cal's behavior towards other birders – his generosity. At this point, we really did not know each other well. I had long hair and probably looked like a long-haired hippie ax-murderer, but I was another birder so there was space for me in the car. We drove out to central Iowa, Cal stopped by a fence post in the middle of nowhere, we waited a minute, and the Burrowing Owl popped out of its burrow.

Another favorite Cal memory was some time after one of his hip replacements. I was walking

near Hickory Hill Park in private property to the north. I saw someone else and thought to myself, "I'm in trouble," but when I put my glasses up I saw it was Cal. I walked up to him and let him know I was amazed that he was walking on the hilly ground. I shouldn't have been surprised. It was warbler season and you couldn't keep him down. Here he was, thirty years older than I with a fairly fresh artificial hip, and his long legs were making me keep a pretty quick pace or he would have run away from me.

What a generous birder. As an organization, the club will miss the many little things Cal did for us behind the scenes. As individuals, many of us will miss Cal in so many ways.

Iowa City Bird Club Website Now Available

You can now access the Iowa City Bird Club's website at <http://www.jccniowa.org/~icbc/>. (Note: the ~ in the address is a tilde character that is located at the upper left corner on most keyboards.) The site was developed and is supported by Jim Scheib. The server space is provided free of charge by the Johnson County Community Network (www.jccniowa.org) and Internet Navigator (www.inav.net) of North Liberty.

The site includes the Eastern Iowa Bird Watch newsletter, club information, club contacts, maps, and resource links for birders. Club contacts can be e-mailed directly from the site. Maps include directions to meetings, the Hy-Vee meeting area for field trips, and selected birding areas in east central Iowa and other parts of the state. Maps include topographical maps, interactive maps, aerial photographs, and some hand-drawn maps.

Resource links include the Iowa Ornithologists'

Continued on next page →

March 8, Saturday, 6:30 a.m. Burlington area for Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Winter Wren, waterfowl, and more with local guide Chuck Fuller. We will be returning to Iowa City by 5:00 p.m. so bring a sack lunch or snack. Bob and Joan Stearns, 846-3286.

March 27, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Meeting. Karl Jungbluth, member of Audubon Iowa Board of Directors, and Science and Operations Meteorologist at the Des Moines National Weather Service Office, will present on observing bird migration using weather radar and discuss the role of weather systems on bird movements/fallouts. Also, Sarah Walz with Friends of Hickory Hill Park will discuss a partnership with the ICBC.

March 30, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. Cone Marsh for waterfowl and other early migrants, possibly including longspurs. Chris Edwards, 626-6362.

Other Dates of Note

December 14, Saturday. Cedar Rapids CBC. Contact Jim Durbin, (319) 377-7194.

December 28, Saturday. North Linn CBC. Contact Weir Nelson, (319) 848-4846.

February 14 – 17, Friday – Monday. Great Backyard Bird Count, an annual nationwide bird survey sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For more visit www.birdsource.org.

January 11 – 12, Saturday – Sunday. Quad City Bald Eagle Days. For more information on this or other Bald Eagle events at Dubuque, Clinton, LeClaire, Muscatine, or Keokuk, contact the Mississippi River Visitor's Center at (309) 794-5338 or www.mvr.usace.army.mil/missriver/bedweb/bew2.htm.

News

Anyone interested in the **Adopt-a-Road Program** should be present at the February meeting. Chris Henze, of the Johnson County Secondary Road Department, will be present to answer questions of the membership regarding the club's possible participation in this program. Participants are required to perform litter cleanup twice yearly. The county provides bags, signs, vests, and trash pickup. Participants can also help the county with wildflower plantings, weed control and periodic burns. Currently a number of hardtop roads are available for adoption. These include: Scales Bend Rd., Mehaffey Bridge Rd. from N. Liberty

to Solon, Sugar Bottom Rd. and the Herbert Hoover Highway. It would make sense to adopt a road of birding interest, of manageable length, and safe to work. Apparently a roadside sign promoting the club's involvement would not be placed, but Chris assures that our efforts would be promoted by other means. We should try to come to a decision on this at the March meeting, so that events could be planned for the Spring-Summer schedule.

Continued on page 7.

RENEWAL NOTICE

Our annual \$10 membership dues are payable now for the new year. Your dues

Eastern Iowa Birdwatch



The Iowa City Bird Club Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 3

December 2002

Schedule

▶▶▶ PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION ◀◀◀

Field trips, unless otherwise noted, leave from the Dodge Street Hy-Vee; meet in the SW corner of the parking lot near the recycling bins. Please contact the leader in advance if you plan to meet the group at the trip destination.

Meetings are generally held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Grant Wood AEA Southern Facility, 200 Holiday Road in Coralville.

December 10, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Christmas Bird Count Planning Meeting, hosted by John and Gail McLure, 1 Brickwood Knoll. From I-80, take Dubuque St. two miles north and turn right on Lakeview Drive; continue 0.3 miles and turn right on Brickwood Knoll.

December 15, Sunday. Iowa City Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to participate or be a feeder watcher but won't be attending the planning meeting, please call CBC Coordinator Chris Edwards at 626-6362 before December 10.

January 12, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Bird Feeder Watch Social. Come for coffee and rolls and see what Jim and Sharon Scheib have at their feeders this winter morning. The Scheibs live at 10 Longview Knoll north of Iowa City. For directions call Jim and Sharon at 337-5206.

January 25, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Mississippi River near Davenport for wintering gulls and waterfowl. If river conditions are not favorable, an alternate local destination will be chosen. Chris Caster, 339-8343.

February 8, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. Annual Amana Turkey Walk and Feast. Join us for an early morning hike to look for turkeys followed by breakfast at the Amanas. Meet at the Coralville Hy-Vee parking lot on Highway 6 West in Coralville. Please call Ed Allgood at 338-8090 if you plan to attend.

February 20, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Meeting. Mel Moe, Iowa DNR Wildlife Biologist, will present on the reintroduction of the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in southwest Iowa. Also, Chris Henze of the Johnson County Secondary Road Dept. will discuss the Adopt-a-Roadway Program.

February 23, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. Owl Prowl. We'll spend the afternoon searching for roosting owls, possibly including Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared, Great Horned, or Barred. Karen Disbrow, 339-1017.