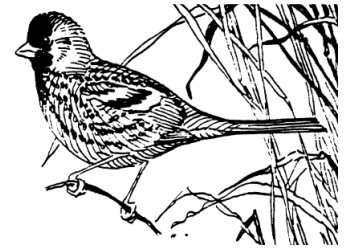


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# Eastern Iowa Birdwatch



The Iowa City Bird Club Newsletter

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Volume 31 Number 2

September 2011

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## Schedule

**Field trips** depart from the Dodge Street Hy-Vee in Iowa City unless otherwise noted. Meet in the southwest corner of the parking lot. Please contact the leader in advance if you plan to meet the group at the trip destination. Many of our trips are accessible to people with disabilities; for more information please contact the trip leader. **Meetings**, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Grant Wood AEA Southern Facility, 200 Holiday Road in Coralville, generally at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

**September 10, Saturday, 8 a.m. Cone Marsh** for fall warblers, shorebirds and other migrants. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Ken Hunt, 354-1079.

**September 15, Thursday, 7 p.m. Meeting.** Mark Madsen, President of the Johnson County Heritage Trust, will present "The Johnson County Heritage Trust: Preserving and Restoring Natural Habitats in Eastern Iowa."

**September 25, Sunday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pelican Festival at Hawkeye Wildlife Area.** Located at the DNR Headquarters, 2564 Amana Rd. NW (west of Highway 965 on the north side of HWA). For more information see page 6 or call Karen Disbrow at 430-0315.

**September 25, Sunday, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Pelican Gala Iowa Audubon Fundraiser** at the Kirkwood Room, 515 Kirkwood Avenue, Iowa City. Performance by Jon Stravers' Big Sky Band, silent auction, and food. Tickets are \$25 for students, \$45 for individuals, or \$75 for couples. Reservations are required by September 15 at [iowaaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:iowaaudubon@gmail.com). For more information contact Karen Disbrow at 430-0315.

**October 1, Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Hawk Watch at Stainbrook Preserve**, located along Mehaffey Bridge Rd. just north of Sugar Bottom Recreation Area, about three miles north of North Liberty. Bring a lawn chair and join us on the hill to watch for migrating raptors. Rick Hollis, 665-3141 or Chris Edwards, 430-4732.

**October 20, Thursday, 7 p.m. Meeting.** Justin Sipla, UI Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, will present "The Inner Ears of Birds and Dinosaurs: What the Balance Organs Tell Us About the Evolution of Flight."

**October 29, Saturday, 8 a.m. Waterworks Prairie Park** for sparrows and other late migrants. Jason Paulios, 331-6115.

Continued on next page →

## Schedule (continued)

**November 13, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area in Linn County** for loons, grebes, waterfowl, and gulls. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Chris Edwards, 430-4732.

**November 17, Thursday, 7 p.m. Meeting.** Linda Rudolph and Bill Scheible will present "Birding in Japan: Cranes and Eagles, Monkeys and Volcanoes."

**December 18, Sunday. Iowa City Christmas Bird Count.** Details in December newsletter.

## Other Dates of Note

**September 9-11, Friday-Sunday. Natural History Weekend at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory** on West Okoboji Lake. Designed for adult learners of all ages. For a schedule and more information, go to [www.lakesidelab.org/News.html](http://www.lakesidelab.org/News.html) or call (712) 337-3669 ext. 5.

**November 6, Sunday, 2 p.m. Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time** at Macbride Hall at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. The film highlights Leopold's career, tracing how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement.

### From Our President Karen Disbrow

It's hard to believe with the sweltering temperatures of 95° F the last couple of days that fall is here, but we will soon be seeing cooler temperatures and leaves changing colors. Fall also brings the migration of birds. Warblers and shorebirds are already on the move. The ducks and pelicans and hawks will start to move soon.

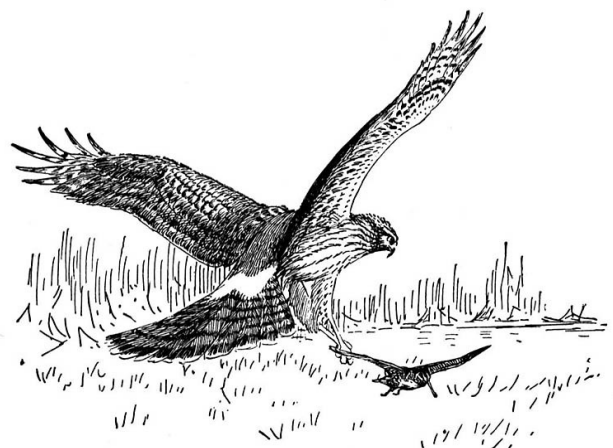
Our annual hawk watch is scheduled a bit later than usual this year, and should be at a peak time for seeing many hawk species. The Pelican Festival, previously held at Saylorville Reservoir, is being held at Coralville Lake for the first time this year, and we will share the pelicans that the bird club has always marveled at with the greater community.

Plans for next spring's Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting in Iowa City are moving along at a good pace. Tom Schilke, Vice President of the IOU, will be working with us on the banquet

speaker. The turnout of 117 people at the Fall meeting in Decorah was a big increase over recent years. We are expecting at least 100 or more next spring.

As always I am looking for ways to increase the community's awareness of the Iowa City Bird Club and for venues in which the club can participate and share our love of birding with others.

Good Birding,  
Karen



## **2011 Johnson County Spring Count**

### **Chris Caster**

The Spring Count was held on the 7th of May and was as nice a day to be out as we've ever had. The early morning temperature was 57 and the afternoon high was 78. Skies were mostly clear and the winds didn't amount to much until evening. We managed to field a pretty good crew, despite missing a number of stalwarts from past counts. The species total was a very fine 166.

Jim Fuller contributed our best bird—and he wasn't even supposed to be helping this year. A beautiful male Black-throated Blue Warbler was coming to his feeder no less. This is a warbler we don't expect to see in the spring, only on fall migration if we're fortunate. I kidded that we will need to have a field trip scheduled to Jim's backyard next spring when we host the IOU meeting. Other notable birds in Jim's backyard were Bell's and White-eyed Vireos!

There were plenty of exciting birds to go around though. A pair of Eared Grebes was on the reservoir from Scales Point. From Twin View Heights were seen eight Willets and a Peregrine Falcon. A Snowy Egret was with five Great Egrets at the Mallard Ponds in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area. The best shorebird habitat was at Round Pond in HWA, where three more Willets, White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers, and Dunlin were seen. A Common Loon was at Sand Lake south of Iowa City.

Also at Sand Lake was a Summer Tanager. Amazingly Summer Tanagers were also found at Hanging Rock Woods and Squire Point. A Prothonotary Warbler was also at Squire Point. At the pasture along 500th Street and the Muscatine County line were two Upland Sandpipers, Northern Mockingbird, and Loggerhead Shrike. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was on the wires on the south side of Lone Tree. Three Henslow's Sparrows were singing along Grabin Rd. near the Iowa County line. Clay-colored Sparrows were found in two locations. Great-tailed Grackles were at a private pond along Hwy. 6 west of Oxford and a Virginia Rail was at Sycamore Bottoms.

Also of great interest was a possible Black Rail heard at the SW corner of Sycamore Bottoms. This was the same location where one had been reported on April 24th. Attempts were unsuccessful in flushing the bird during the afternoon or calling it out after dark. As most of you are aware, a Black Rail was discovered and confirmed in the Hoosier Creek area later in the month.

This year's birds-that-got-away included American Bittern, dowitcher sp., American Woodcock, Black Tern, Whip-poor-will, and Bank Swallow. What a really fun day. Thanks to everyone for helping!

Participants: Danny Akers, Mark Brown, Chris Caster, Bob Dick, Linda Donelson, Chris Edwards, Linda Fisher, Bruce Gardner, Rick Hollis, Ken Hunt, Jason McCurdy, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Jim Scheib.

Species list on next page.

## SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	216	Forster's Tern	18	Golden-winged Warbler	19
Wood Duck	49	Rock Pigeon	33	Tennessee Warbler	9
Gadwall	5	Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	10
Mallard	43	Mourning Dove	88	Nashville Warbler	79
Blue-winged Teal	100	Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Northern Parula	18
Northern Shoveler	60	Great Horned Owl	1	Yellow Warbler	28
Green-winged Teal	2	Barred Owl	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	17
Canvasback	1	Chimney Swift	13	Magnolia Warbler	3
Redhead	1	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Lesser Scaup	4	Belted Kingfisher	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	258
Hooded Merganser	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	20	Black-throated Green Warbler	22
Ruddy Duck	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	45	Blackburnian Warbler	6
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	Downy Woodpecker	47	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Wild Turkey	8	Hairy Woodpecker	6	Palm Warbler	51
Common Loon	1	Northern Flicker	14	Cerulean Warbler	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Black-and-white Warbler	23
Eared Grebe	2	Willow Flycatcher	2	American Redstart	52
American White Pelican	32	Least Flycatcher	26	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	13	Eastern Phoebe	4	Ovenbird	13
Great Blue Heron	13	Great Crested Flycatcher	23	Northern Waterthrush	15
Great Egret	5	Eastern Kingbird	23	Common Yellowthroat	72
Snowy Egret	1	Loggerhead Shrike	1	Wilson's Warbler	6
Green Heron	4	White-eyed Vireo	2	Summer Tanager	3
Turkey Vulture	45	Bell's Vireo	1	Scarlet Tanager	3
Osprey	2	Yellow-throated Vireo	17	Eastern Towhee	10
Bald Eagle	1	Blue-headed Vireo	11	Chipping Sparrow	62
Northern Harrier	1	Warbling Vireo	34	Clay-colored Sparrow	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Field Sparrow	16
Cooper's Hawk	1	Red-eyed Vireo	8	Vesper Sparrow	3
Accipiter sp.	1	Blue Jay	262	Lark Sparrow	4
Broad-winged Hawk	1	American Crow	35	Savannah Sparrow	2
Red-tailed Hawk	8	Horned Lark	1	Grasshopper Sparrow	2
American Kestrel	1	Purple Martin	6	Henslow's Sparrow	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	Tree Swallow	38	Song Sparrow	53
Virginia Rail	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	9	Lincoln's Sparrow	17
Sora	23	Cliff Swallow	83	Swamp Sparrow	14
American Coot	64	Barn Swallow	48	White-throated Sparrow	113
American Golden Plover	30	Black-capped Chickadee	73	White-crowned Sparrow	37
Semipalmated Plover	4	Tufted Titmouse	18	Northern Cardinal	150
Killdeer	28	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	41
Greater Yellowlegs	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	31	Indigo Bunting	14
Lesser Yellowlegs	76	Carolina Wren	1	Dickcissel	1
Solitary Sandpiper	8	House Wren	119	Bobolink	1
Willet	11	Sedge Wren	2	Red-winged Blackbird	522
Spotted Sandpiper	26	Marsh Wren	2	Eastern Meadowlark	162
Upland Sandpiper	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	21	Common Grackle	290
Least Sandpiper	45	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	38	Great-tailed Grackle	3
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	Eastern Bluebird	6	Brown-headed Cowbird	105
Baird's Sandpiper	2	Swainson's Thrush	7	Orchard Oriole	9
Pectoral Sandpiper	31	Wood Thrush	2	Baltimore Oriole	76
Dunlin	9	American Robin	192	Purple Finch	3
Wilson's Phalarope	1	Gray Catbird	93	House Finch	10
Bonaparte's Gull	8	Northern Mockingbird	1	American Goldfinch	89
Ring-billed Gull	29	Brown Thrasher	12	House Sparrow	52
Caspian Tern	3	European Starling	71	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	9
		Cedar Waxwing	11		
		Blue-winged Warbler	8		

# PELICAN FESTIVAL

## September 25, 2011

### Hawkeye Wildlife Area

### 2564 Amana Rd NW

### 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

# FREE!

#### EXHIBITORS:

- Iowa Ornithologist's Union
- Eastern IA Beekeepers Assoc.
- Iowa Native Plant Society
- Johnson Co. Conservation
- Johnson Co. Heritage Trust
- Johnson Co. Songbird Project
- Macbride Raptor Project
- Prairie State Mushroom Club
- U. of I. Museum of Natural History
- And others

## *1st time at Coralville Lake*

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Pelican Viewing with bird experts
- Bird & Conservation Organization displays & gift items for sale
- Face painting by Funny Face Designs (\$4.00 - \$7.00)
- Free pelican tattoos (temporary)
- Mushroom Foray -11:15 – meet at big umbrella
- Swisher Fire Dept. – Fire Safety

**Food Concession  
provided by Boy  
Scout Troop 218**

#### HOSTED BY:

- Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Iowa Audubon
- Iowa City Bird Club
- Cedar Rapids Audubon

#### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 11:30 American White Pelican
- 12:15 Macbride Raptor Center
- 1:15 Ospreys
- 2:00 Chimney Swifts
- 2:35 Falcons

Call 319-338-3543 for more information

Photo by Cecil Organ

## Hickory Hill Park Warbler Walk Results

### April 27-May 20, 2011

Jim Scheib

Day of Week	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	
Species / Date	27	28	29	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	Days
Blue-winged Warbler									X	X									2
Golden-winged Warbler				X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		11
Tennessee Warbler						X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11
Orange-crowned Warbler								X		X			X		X	X			5
Nashville Warbler				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15
Northern Parula										X				A					2
Yellow Warbler					X				X	X				A	X		X	X	7
Chestnut-sided Warbler								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11
Magnolia Warbler							X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		8
Cape May Warbler												X	X	X	X	X			5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X								10
Black-throated Gr. Warbler				X			X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
Blackburnian Warbler						X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
Yellow-throated Warbler																			0
Palm Warbler	X						X		X										3
Bay-breasted Warbler														X		X			2
Blackpoll Warbler									X	X	X	X	X	X		X			7
Cerulean Warbler																			0
Black-and-white Warbler				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				12
American Redstart				X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12
Ovenbird						X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X		9
Northern Waterthrush						A		X	X	X		X	X	A	X		X		9
Kentucky Warbler																			0
Connecticut Warbler																			0
Mourning Warbler									X		X			X	X	X			5
Common Yellowthroat						X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	9
Hooded Warbler																			0
Wilson's Warbler													X	X		X			3
Canada Warbler										X		X		X		X	X		5

X = Found on Warbler Walk. A = Found but not on Warbler Walk.

Other highlights: Pileated Woodpecker 5/6; Black-billed Cuckoo 5/12; Summer Tanager 5/12;  
Acadian Flycatcher 5/13; Kentucky Warbler 5/14, 5/15; Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/17.

## Book Reviews

### Chris Edwards

**The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Donald and Lillian Stokes. Little, Brown and Company, 2010. 792 pages. Paperback, \$24.99.**

**The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds. Richard Crossley. Princeton University Press, 2011. 530 pages. Paperback, \$35.00.**

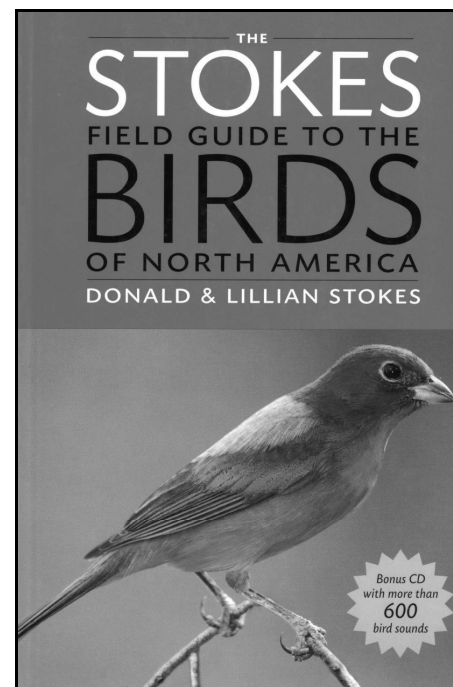
Among the ever-more-crowded category of North American bird field guides, these recent offerings are worth a look. They each contain much useful information, but are quite different in their approaches.

The new *Stokes* guide is a complete update of the earlier *Stokes Field Guide to Birds*, which was published more than a decade ago and split into separate eastern and western editions. I was not a fan of those volumes, or other early photographic-based guides, but this edition has been improved in all aspects. The back cover proclaims, “This is the ultimate field guide for today’s birder—the biggest, most colorful, most *useful* identification guide to birds ever produced.” The claim of “biggest” isn’t just hyperbole – although this book has slightly smaller dimensions than the big Sibley guide, it is heavier, has more pages (792 vs. 544), and includes more species (854 vs. 810). It would take a serious commitment to carry this book in the field.

Compared to the previous edition, the page layout is much improved, with less wasted space and more photographs and text for each species. Most species are allotted one full page, but species with complex plumages (particularly hawks, shorebirds, and gulls) are given two pages, and some species including many vagrants are given a half-page. The photo selection and reproduction is generally excellent. The text for each species starts with an emphasis on shape, a feature that is

underappreciated by most beginners, and continues with a description of the bird in various plumages. Brief descriptions of habitat and voice are included, as are listings of known subspecies and hybrids, useful information which is not generally included in most field guides. The book comes with a CD containing MP3 audio files of 150 common species, a nice primer for those who are new to studying bird songs and calls.

In summary, this would not be my first choice to identify birds in the field, but it makes an excellent supplementary reference to keep at home or in the car and is a good value.

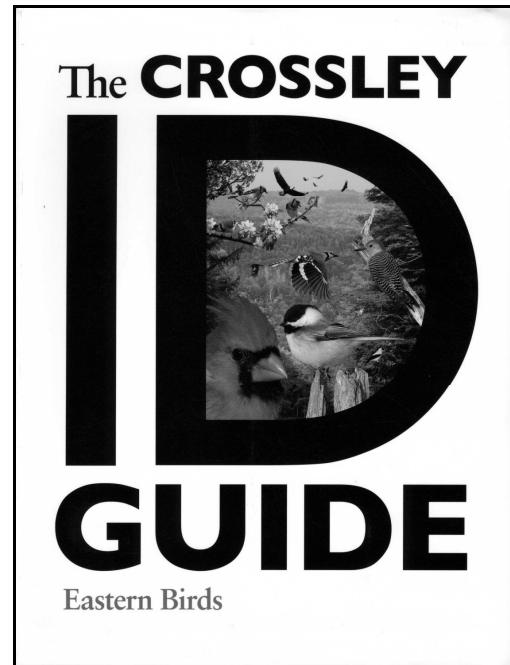


The *Crossley ID Guide* received a lot of pre-publication hype, with bold claims that it would “revolutionize” birding. That’s a lot to live up to, and in my opinion it falls short of that mark. It takes a unique approach, with scant text and an emphasis on photo montages, that has only recently been made possible through advances in digital photography and software. It’s a large, heavy book which is closer to textbook-size than field guide-size. For each species, the author started with a background photo depicting appropriate habitat, and then superimposed anywhere from several to dozens of photos of

the species in various positions and plumages, with large detailed photos in the foreground and distant swimming or flying birds in the background. This results in a visually interesting book which I think will appeal to some birders but not others. The scenes are meant to be life-like, but are not really so – how many of us have seen two dozen Mississippi Kites, perched and flying, within a single binocular view? The real question is whether this approach will aid in the identification of birds, and I think that’s questionable. Personally I find the distant photographs of birds such as waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, and raptors to be most useful, because we often view those birds and attempt to identify them at a great distance. For most other bird groups, I would not turn to this guide first for an identification. I suspect that beginning birders might find it somewhat overwhelming to find a match for an unknown bird among the thousands of photographs in this book.

There are several smaller matters about this book that irritate me. First, the birds are not presented in taxonomic order, but are placed into artificial groupings such as “Swimming Waterbirds”, “Flying Waterbirds”, “Walking Waterbirds”, etc. This makes it difficult to find many species without using the index. With the profusion of bird books in use today, I think it’s important for authors and publishers to provide some consistency and stick to taxonomic order (even if it does change regularly). Second, the text makes heavy use of the 4-letter bird banding codes when referring to similar species. For example, the account for Semipalmated Sandpiper refers to “WESA” (Western Sandpiper) and “LESA” (Least Sandpiper). This saves space, but I find it to be very user-unfriendly, as even many experienced birders are not familiar with most of these codes. Finally, for such a large and expensive guide, I would have preferred to have coverage for all of North America. I probably will not spend \$35 for a second Western volume containing a lot of species overlap, if and when it becomes available.

In sum, I recommend that potential buyers spend some time studying this book at the store before deciding whether the unique approach appeals to them.



## **25 Years Ago in *Eastern Iowa Birdwatch***

The Summer 1986 issue featured a report on the first Iowa City Bird Club meeting, held April 9, 1986, at the Iowa City Recreation Center. Forty people attended including birders from Davenport and Wellman. The meeting was presided over by President Bud Gode. A warbler workshop panel featured Tom Kent, Carl Bendorf, and Tom Staudt. They reviewed the timing and abundance of migrant and nesting warblers in Iowa, and discussed methods of identification including voice and habitat.

Carol Thompson led a March 16 field trip to the Mississippi River from Ft. Madison to Keokuk, with help from birder Bob Cecil of Keokuk. Large numbers of ducks were seen including thousands of Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaup. Participants included Rick Hollis, Ramona McGurk, and Mary Noble.



## Field Trip and Meeting Reports

**April 9, Kent Park.** Our trip started out with fog and about 50 degrees. When we finished it was overcast and warmer, with no fog. One of our first birds was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near the Conservation Education Center, in the dark fog that made identification difficult. Later as the fog thinned, we got much better looks at this species. In between we saw a decent number of birds. Several male Eastern Bluebirds put on a nice show for us, and a female bluebird carried grasses into an old woodpecker hole. We saw an Eastern Phoebe hawking bugs.

I pulled my best Carnac imitation by saying, "It seems like we should be seeing Hermit Thrushes," only to have one pop up less than ten feet away and stay still until everyone saw it. We saw the Tree-nesting (Canada) Goose. This is at least the third year we have seen a goose nesting in the same dead tree. After walking around the ponds, we returned to the Conservation Education Center and then caravanned through the park, picking up a number of species before ending at the ponds that are visible from the Knight Family Pavilion.

Participants: Barry Buschelman, Karen Disbrow, Lynn Doxie, Bruce Gardner, Katie Heine (*Daily Iowan*), Rick Hollis (leader), Jennifer Hommel, Ken Hunt, Bill Lottes, Sue Lottes, Joan O'Kanes, Carol Rosenberger, Tom Rosenberger, Ben Rowold, Sharon Somers, Linda Stark, Tom Wells.

Birds (46 species): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Pheasant, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker,

Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch.

– Rick Hollis

**April 16, Hawkeye Wildlife Area.** While waiting for the group to meet me at Swan Lake, watching an otter through the snow squalls, I wondered what the Beginner Birder Course did to the birding gods to get such consistently lousy weather for our field trips. And I wondered what kind of fools would be coming out on a day like today. Their names are listed below. While the precipitation ended, the winds never let up. Among the waterfowl, which were scattered at ponds and ditches away from Swan Lake, Blue-winged Teal were by far the most numerous, followed by Northern Shovelers. Other waterfowl were much less numerous. Divers were conspicuous by their absence.

The main stops were Swan Lake, the northern section of Greencastle Avenue, Round Pond, and on west to the ford near Williams Prairie. At the ford, discretion overcame courage and we turned around, as I have already lost one car in the water. We stopped at the Gun Club Ponds and then called it a day. Passerines were only seen mostly as blow-bys. We did see one interesting flock of 50+ Horned Larks or possibly longspurs. They flew back and forth along a field east of Babcock Access Road. They circled and bobbed and we never saw them land. Even the one time that they flew overhead, we were unable to identify them.

Participants: Jerry Denning, Karen Disbrow (co-leader), Bruce Gardner, Rick Hollis (co-leader), Jennifer Hommel, Ken Hunt, Carol Rosenberger, Tom Rosenberger, Ben Rowold,

Sharon Somers, Kristin Stalther, Elliott Stalther, Ben Stalther.

Birds (43 species): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, meadowlark sp., Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Sparrow,

Other: River Otter, White-tailed Deer, Muskrat.

– Rick Hollis



**April 23, Fledgling Field Trip at Kent Park.** I led four active youngsters and their parents and grandparents on a trip around the pond by the Conservation Education Center. Among the interesting things we saw were a magnificent Pine Warbler, and a Tree Swallow marriage (a female begging for food, the male flying off, and then returning to feed the female). A good time

was had by all, and one young man told me he hoped to come along with us in the future.

Birds (27 species): Canada Goose, Lesser Scaup, Wild Turkey, Broad-winged Hawk, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird.

– Rick Hollis

**May 1, Ghost Bird Fundraiser at Macbride Hall.** Approximately 75 people attended our screening of the film *Ghost Bird*, which was a fundraiser for the restoration and cleaning of the Laysan Island Cyclorama in Bird Hall. We raised over \$1475 through ticket sales, gift items, and donations! Thank you everyone for coming and supporting this beautiful and historic exhibit.

I especially want to thank the Leno and Cilek Ace Hardware stores for selling tickets, providing the use of their popcorn popper (popcorn was enjoyed by all!), and the door prize. Pauls was another active participant with a generous donation of door prize selections. These others also sold tickets at their various locations: Birds Eye View in Coralville; Wildlife Habitat in Cedar Rapids, For the Birds in Burlington; the Johnson County Conservation Department at Kent Park; Doug Harr at Iowa Audubon; and various Audubon Chapters around the state. Thank you all for helping this event to be a success.

– Karen Disbrow

**May 14, Hickory Hill Park.** This field trip was scheduled to visit several Johnson County Heritage Trust properties, however before the trip started I went over to Hickory Hill Park

where I ran into James Huntington. The trees next to the pavilion by the parking lot were filled with warblers and other birds. In addition to uncountable numbers of Tennessee Warblers, there were several to many Nashville, Bay-breasted, Cape May, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Magnolia, and Blackpoll warblers. I went over to Hy-Vee to meet the other folks on the field trip, and we decided to stay at Hickory Hill Park.

We birded by the pavilion until about 8:45, and then went into the woods. We continued to see Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian and Tennessee Warblers, and then hit a group of six male Scarlet Tanagers. With them was an individual that clearly had a tanager bill, dark wings with wing bars and a light (not drab) lime green-yellow head. It definitely was not a female Scarlet or Summer Tanager. The four of us saw it clearly as it sat at eye level or below us for several minutes about 20 feet away. My best guess is that it was a female Western Tanager, but none of the field guide pictures I checked later matched the bird exactly. I went back to look for the bird several times later but didn't find it again. Continuing down the trail we heard and then saw a Kentucky Warbler, before wrapping up our outing.

Participants: Lynn Doxie, Bruce Gardner, Patty Kiefer, Mark Madsen (leader).

Birds (37 species): Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet

Tanager, probable Western Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, American Goldfinch.

– *Mark Madsen*

**May 15, Gardner's Woods.** Seven Iowa City Bird Club members met at Hy-Vee for the short three mile trip out Highway 1, then onto Rapid Creek Road until it intersected Dingleberry Road (home of the most stolen road sign in Johnson County). The group then proceeded to explore the 80-acre timber in search of any remaining warblers or other interesting birds. The timber has no formal trails so walking was a bit tough. Special recognition goes to Karen for navigating the entire hike with a cane and no problems. The north side of the property borders Rapid Creek and has a great vantage point from the top of some 25-foot tall cliffs. Most of the ten different warblers were seen at the creek. The timber is the home to a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers but they were not to be found on this visit.

Participants: Jerry Denning, Karen Disbrow, Lynne Doxie, Bruce Gardner (leader), James Huntington, Mark Madsen, Diana Pesek.

Birds (24 species): Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown Creeper, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat.

– *Bruce Gardner*

**May 21, Ryerson's Woods.** The woods were very quiet on this morning and the rain didn't help matters. We salvaged the trip thanks to the plant expertise from Therese, Diana, and Ken! Some great plants included: Maidenhair Fern, Interrupted Fern, Large-flowered Bellwort, and

Showy Orchis. The trees were fully leafed out so we had trouble tracking down the few high canopy singers. We were able to see Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting quite well in the woods and spent some time learning the throaty croaks of a family of Great Crested Flycatchers.

Mark Madsen had told me about a Cooper's Hawk nest earlier in the week but I wasn't able to figure out what part of the forest he was talking about. Just when we were giving up hope of finding it we looked down on the trail to see that Mark had drawn an arrow in the path! So as the rain and mosquitoes poured down we all got a glimpse of the Cooper's Hawk on the nest. As we gathered to say goodbye a small feeding flock appeared at the parking lot and we were treated to views of Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Participants: Jerry Denning, Therese Guedon, Diana Horton, Ken Hunt, Pat Kieffer, Diane Mattda, Jason McCurdy, Jason Paulios (leader), Ben Rowold, Sharon Somers.

Birds (31 species): Cooper's Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Black-throated Green Warbler, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– Jason Paulios

**June 4, Breeding Bird Atlas Trip to Hawkeye Wildlife Area.** Our group met at Hy-Vee bright and early at 6:30 and headed to BBA Block 526, which is the eastern one-third of Hawkeye

Wildlife Area. After leaving a car at the Sand Point parking lot, we returned to James Avenue and then hiked the mile-long trail west which comes out just north of the aforementioned parking lot. It was a productive walk and we saw many birds, including a pair of Eastern Bluebirds at a nest site and a male Orchard Oriole. We looked around Swan Lake, watching a mother and fawn White-tailed Deer browsing in the shallows at the east end of the lake.

We then headed west on Swan Lake Road. The stretch just west of Half Moon Avenue was especially productive. There we saw Lark Sparrows, a Grasshopper Sparrow, many Dickcissels, and a pair of Tree Swallows nesting in an old woodpecker hole in a dead tree. We also ran into Jason McCurdy there, who joined us for the rest of the morning. We continued on to the parking lot at the end of Babcock Access, where we found half a dozen Eurasian Tree Sparrows, including a pair entering a nest hole in a snag across the water.

After leaving Babcock, we headed back east and walked a portion of Swan Lake Road just west of James Avenue, hoping to find Bell's Vireo. No luck, but just as we were about to leave, Jason spotted a bird fly into the top of a fence post. Ken peered down into a small crack with his pocket flashlight, and was startled to see a Black-capped Chickadee staring up at him from its nest! During the morning, we confirmed breeding for five species: Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird, Baltimore Oriole, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

Participants: Chris Edwards (leader), Bruce Gardner, Ken Hunt, Jason McCurdy, Ben Rowold.

Birds (66 species): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift,

Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

– *Chris Edwards*



**June 11, Breeding Bird Atlas Trip to Hawkeye Wildlife Area.** We met at 6:30 and the leader made a game-time decision to head to Hawkeye Wildlife Area, since it had been so productive the week before. This time we concentrated on BBA Block 525, the area directly west of Greencastle Avenue. We started at the parking lot just south of the Gun Club Ponds, and walked west and then north through the sand prairie to Swan Lake Road, enjoying the many wildflowers blooming along the way. We then walked east to Greencastle Avenue and then back to the parking lot. In the

woods just north of the Gun Club Ponds, we found a calling Least Flycatcher, a very rare breeder in Iowa. Soon after, we spotted an American Robin on a nest, and near the water's edge, we watched a Common Grackle settle onto its nest in a tree. At the ponds, we briefly saw a Prothonotary Warbler across the water to the east.

As we approached our vehicles, I heard a bird song that piqued my interest. It was similar to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Orchard Oriole songs that we had been hearing, but was different, sounding more like a Purple Finch. We listened to it for several minutes, but were unable to spot it in the thick vegetation along the road. Then it flew west about a hundred yards to a tall tree, and from the road I could make out just enough to put the pieces into place – an immature male Blue Grosbeak! We walked quickly to the spot, but by then the bird had flown and we were unable to relocate it. Blue Grosbeak is a regular breeding species in extreme western Iowa, but it is very rare in eastern Iowa.

Next we drove west on Swan Lake Road to Round Pond. We attempted a hike around Round Pond, but recent heavy rains had swollen a stream that blocked our path. We walked along Swan Lake Road instead, where we enjoyed looks at a male American Redstart and a Lark Sparrow. We drove another mile west on Swan Lake Road, stopping at a willow thicket to view a Willow Flycatcher. As it was now approaching noon, the group decided to call it a day. On my way home, I made another stop at the site where we had seen the Blue Grosbeak. There was no sign of it, but in the same location there was now a male Black-and-white Warbler, another rare Iowa breeding species.

During the morning, we confirmed breeding for five species: Eastern Kingbird, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, and Common Grackle.

Participants: Chris Edwards (leader), Jerry Denning, Bruce Gardner, Ken Hunt, Gerry Peterson, Ben Rowold.

Birds (55 species): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch.

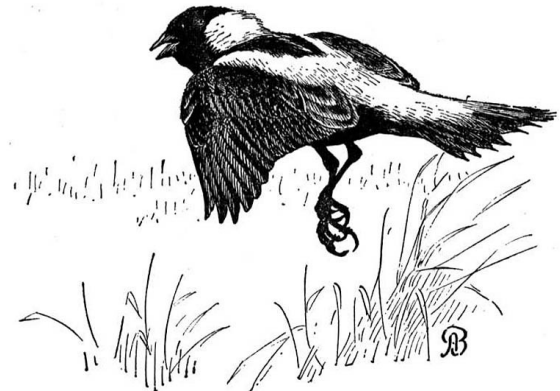
– Chris Edwards

**June 18, Turkey Vulture Festival at Coralville Dam East Overlook.** This was a joint venture of the Army Corp of Engineers and the Iowa City Bird Club, with several other participating organizations. The event was aimed primarily at children and others young at heart, and approximately 50 people attended which we felt was a good turnout for a first-year event.

The free face painting, sponsored by the bird club, was extremely popular, as were the games provided by The Iowa Children's Museum. Park Rangers from the Army Corp of Engineers provided Turkey Vulture tattoos, a coloring contest, and snacks, and the Johnson County

Conservation Department shared mammal skins, turtle shells, and live snakes. The Macbride Raptor Center provided wings and feet from a Turkey Vulture and a Wild Turkey to demonstrate the vast wing differences and weight differences in these birds. Macbride Raptor Center staff also gave a program at the campground that evening. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union display and checklists were also used to show the diversity and numbers of bird species that can be seen in Iowa. The Johnson County Songbird Project provided information, and a picture display board, with photographs by Barbara Buss, showed the raising of Turkey Vultures in a barn loft in Johnson County in 2007. A very special thank you to Dr. Tex Sordahl of Luther College for attending. He has written two papers on Turkey Vultures, and shared many insights and answered many questions.

– Karen Disbrow & Terry Escher



**June 25, BBA Block 523, Cedar River, Johnson County.** No specific location was predetermined for this outing. I was simply asked to choose a BBA block that needed some work. We ended up going to the Cedar River Block in northeast Johnson County since less than three hours of surveying had been done there. Although it was overcast all morning, the rain held off until after we decided to call it a day just before noon.

Most of this block is private property, so all of the birding was done from the car and from walking some roadsides. There was a lot of open country with farmland and grassland, and

some woodland habitat, mostly along the river. We covered six of the nine portions of the block and managed to tally a respectable 56 species. There were three confirmed nesting species: a male Common Yellowthroat was feeding a begging youngster, Cliff Swallow nests were abundant along the bridge crossing the Cedar River, and we observed Great Crested Flycatchers carrying food into two different nest cavities.

There were 20 probable nesters. Highlights of this group were pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers and Willow Flycatchers. Among the possible breeders heard and/or observed, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, and Orchard Oriole were notable.

Participants: Mark Brown (leader), Mark Madsen, Ben Rowold.

Birds (56 species): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– *Mark Brown*

**June 26, Indiangrass Hills.** It was a good thing we departed Iowa City at 6:30, because it got pretty warm by noon. But the morning was gorgeous and we not only walked a loop around the entire SE quadrant of IgH, but finished up the outing by 11:00. Our first birds were Red-headed Woodpeckers, as there were a number of them flying about near the pole barn. Eastern Bluebirds were heard there as well. Across the road we heard singing Common Yellowthroats, Eastern Meadowlarks, Dickcissels, and our first Henslow's Sparrows. We got a scope on a very cooperative male and he kept us entertained for some time. Soon we had a male Bobolink calling and watched as he flew towards the road to perch on a telephone line. The first group of trees provided looks at Baltimore Oriole, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Brown Thrasher. Heading down the hill we heard Indigo Bunting and Orchard Orioles singing. As we neared the creek we heard a Sedge Wren and soon had a look at another. An Eastern Kingbird was foraging nearby. In the top of the large dead tree by the creek a Brown Thrasher seemed to sing endlessly. It was impressive enough that three other thrashers were hanging about below for a time. The tree also hosted goldfinches and a House Wren.

We headed south along the east bank. Where the mowed trail ended, we jumped the creek and continued along an ATV trail. Soon we had brief looks at Orchard Orioles in a mulberry. We continued south. This area was more wooded. We spooked a family of Red-tailed Hawks with two juvenile birds at the IgH south boundary. From there the trail meandered east. New birds along this section were Eastern Wood-Pewee and Eastern Towhee, and a pair of Wild Turkeys. At the southeast corner we headed up a steep hill that I remember visiting years ago with Mike Dooley. The IgH folks were hosting the state plant group and this was one of their best prairie plots. It still looked very good to me, and was probably gorgeous in July. At the top of the hill was another large field, which we walked west. At the western edge we found another ATV trail that took us

back down the hill and to the familiar mowed trail leading back to our cars. This was the furthest I had ever led a group at IgH and I think we were all pretty tired as we left.

Ken and I decided to go get some lunch and we enjoyed the air conditioning at a Subway back on I-80. At noon we returned to IgH and walked a couple of fields to the south and west of the pole barn. The IgH lands to the west of I Ave. are in the Lake Iowa Park Breeding Bird Atlas block. We were able to spend about two hours looking for breeding birds. Close to the pole barn we found newly fledged House Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds and a Cedar Waxwing on a nest. The waxwing flew and so I reached up with my camera phone to take a picture of the eggs. Unfortunately we were then also able to confirm Brown-headed Cowbird as a breeder. At the base of the hill was a wetter field that contained numerous Sedge Wrens, but we never did find a nest. Heading back up hill, we encountered Grasshopper Sparrows and nearly stepped on one sitting on five eggs. We also had an Eastern Meadowlark that seemed very agitated by our presence, so was a probable breeder. There were many more Bobolinks in this field and we saw one male paired with a female. We also had two Savannah Sparrows and a Yellow Warbler singing. Back by the pole barn we managed to greatly agitate a Brown Thrasher, but were unable to find an active nest. It was a super trip as always. Indiangrass Hills never disappoints. Thanks to everyone for coming out and being good sports on the hike.

Participants: Chris Brochu, Chris Caster (leader), Jerry Denning, Tony Franken, Ken Hunt, Pat Kieffer, Jason McCurdy, Ben Rowold, Tom and Carol Rosenberger, Sharon Summer.

Species (45): Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn

Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

– *Chris Caster*

**July 3, Breeding Bird Atlas Survey.** This was a survey of the Buck Creek block in Johnson County southeast of Hills. A relation of Bruce Gardner owns the area we visited and he obtained permission for us to bird there. The area is along the east bank of the Iowa River. Going west from the intersection of Sand Road and 560<sup>th</sup> Street SE is a dirt lane. About one hundred yards down is a gate, which had been left open for us. We parked Bruce's car there, and piled into the back of my pickup to make our way towards the river. However we soon came to a downed tree and we were forced to hike it from that point. That proved fortunate, because most of our bird sightings came on the walk.

A weedy field was to our right with Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, and American Goldfinches. It also had some occasional wet areas that contained Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, and leopard frogs. To our left was a creek that provided a wooded corridor containing Wood Ducks, Great-crested Flycatchers, Baltimore Orioles, Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Eastern Kingbird. Lark Sparrows were heard singing from the tall trees along our path.

After a few hundred yards the dirt road turned south across the creek and petered out at the edge of a cornfield. What used to be the road was now choked with weeds and I made the regrettable decision to plow forward. Why are



weeds always higher and thicker after you get into them? They hadn't yet dried from the morning dew and we all got soaked. Fortunately everyone was a good sport and it wasn't too long before we came out of the weeds. Walking along the edge of a cornfield, a garter snake provided an interesting diversion for our damp psyches. Most importantly, my son Ben got a good look at it—he really likes snakes. Soon we made our way through a narrow band of trees into another field. This one was shrubby with weeds of varying heights and some small trees. We decided to split up to cover more ground. Despite our high expectations we could add no birds here and at the far end the vegetation grew too thick to go any further. Using the GPS on my phone it was clear that we were now very close to the river and our only option was to return the way we came.

One of our most interesting finds came on the walk back. We came upon a deer skeleton that was likely of a fawn. That was interesting enough, but looking down through the ribs we spied a crawfish that appeared to have made the bones his home. I guess I didn't realize that crawfish spent time away from the water. We had a few more interesting birds on the way

back too: A screaming Red-tail, an accipiter, calling Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Sora, and a Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

Participants: Ben Caster, Chris Caster (co-leader), Tony Franken, Bruce Gardner (co-leader), Ken Hunt, Ben Rowold.

Species (35): Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk (pair), Sora, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker (pair), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker (pair), Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher (pair), Eastern Kingbird (pair), Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, House Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow (fledgling), Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting (pair), Red-winged Blackbird (attending young), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird (pair), Baltimore Oriole (fledgling), American Goldfinch (pair), Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

– Chris Caster

**IOWA CITY BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Please send this form with your annual membership dues to Bruce Gardner, 3055 Wapsi Ave. NE, Iowa City, IA, 52240. Annual dues are \$15 per household or \$10 for students. Make checks payable to "Eastern Iowa Birdwatch". Members receive a 10% discount on bird seed at Birds Eye View, 410 First Ave. in Coralville's Riverview Square.

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## Iowa City Bird Club

**For general bird club information, or to lead or suggest a field trip,** contact our president and field trip coordinator, Karen Disbrow at (319) 339-1017 or [k\\_disbrow@yahoo.com](mailto:k_disbrow@yahoo.com).

**Annual membership dues** are \$15 per household or \$10 for students, payable by January 1st for the coming year. Check your mailing label for the year you have paid through. Make checks payable to Eastern Iowa Birdwatch and mail to Bruce Gardner, 3055 Wapsi Ave. NE, Iowa City, IA 52240. You may contact Bruce at (319) 643-2575 or [woodsidefarms@juno.com](mailto:woodsidefarms@juno.com).

**Our club web site** is located at [www.icbirds.org](http://www.icbirds.org) and is maintained by Jim Scheib. You may contact Jim at (319) 337-5206 or [jim@tenlongview.net](mailto:jim@tenlongview.net).

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### ***Eastern Iowa Birdwatch***

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