

Eastern Iowa Birdwatch

The Iowa City Bird Club Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 2

Fall 1997

Calendar

Field trips, unless otherwise noted, leave from Terrill Mill Park, located across N. Dubuque Street from the Mayflower. **Meetings** are generally held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Lucas Elementary School, 830 Southlawn Drive, near Towncrest in eastern Iowa City.

September 7, Sunday, 7:00 a.m. Hickory Hill Park for early fall migrants. James Huntington, 338-1837.

September 19 - 21, Friday - Sunday, Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting. The Iowa City Bird Club is hosting this fall's meeting at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca near Shueyville. See pages 6 - 7 for complete information.

September 28, Sunday, 7:00 a.m., Peterson Property in Muscatine County. Visit this interesting location which the The Nature Conservancy is considering for purchase. Rick Hollis, 338-4834.

October 4, Saturday, 7:30 a.m. Coralville Reservoir or Cone Marsh depending on conditions for shorebirds and waterfowl. Bud Gode, 351-5245.

October 16, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Meeting. Ann Johnson will present "From the Highlands to the Hudson", about her experiences in the World Series of Birding.

October 18, Saturday, 7:30 a.m., Frytown Conservation Area southwest of Iowa City. Ed Allgood, 338-8090. Meet at the Jacks / Eagles parking lot (formerly Wardway Plaza) on S. Riverside Drive in Iowa City.

November 3, Monday, 7:00 p.m. Special Joint Meeting with the Johnson County Songbird Project and Cedar Rapids Audubon. Lisa Hemesath of the Iowa DNR will discuss the Partners in Flight program. Refreshments will be provided. Meet in the Iowa Room on the third floor of Iowa Hall on the Kirkwood campus in Cedar Rapids. From Interstate 380 south of Cedar Rapids, take exit 13 and drive east. At the three-way stop, turn left onto Kirkwood Blvd. and drive north. Turn right into the south entrance to the Kirkwood campus. Continue to a large parking lot on the left. Iowa Hall is the large building northeast of the parking lot.

November 9, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area near Palo for migrant ducks, grebes and loons. Chris Caster, 339-8343.

Other Dates of Note

Cedar Rapids Audubon Field Trips:

- September 13, 7:30 a.m., Behrends Ponds.
- October 4, 8:00 a.m., local areas.
- October 18, 7:00 a.m., Red Rock or Saylorville.
- November 1, 8:00 a.m., local areas.
- November 15, 7:30 a.m., upper Mississippi.
- December 6, 8:00 a.m., local areas.

For more information, call Dale Fye at (319) 364-1638.

Field Trip and Meeting Reports

March 20, Meeting. Chris Rogers gave a thought-provoking talk on "Coyotes, Medium-sized Predators and Song Sparrow Nest Success". We also discussed the upcoming Fall IOU meeting, which we are hosting on September 19-21. It was decided to accept George Schrimper's invitation to hold the Friday reception at Bird Hall. The museum will pay for refreshments. The following individuals volunteered to help plan and find things: Nancy Carl, Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller, Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, Bernie Knight, Sally Moore, Jim Scheib, and Carol Thompson.

People (18): Nancy Carl, Chris Caster, Margriette Delle, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Jim Fuller, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Tom Kent, Ramona McGurk, Sally Moore, Mary Noble, Rosemarie Petzold, Chris Rogers, Jean Sanders, Jim Sandrock, Jim Scheib, Sharon Scheib.

Work meetings were held on March 22 for the Breeding Bird Atlas, packing the books that the IOU donated to schools, and on April 3 for the Feeder Survey. Our president does not have a

list of all who came, but their help was greatly appreciated on both projects.

April 7, Woodcock Watch. Sixteen expectant woodcock watchers assembled at Hickory Hill Park on an evening when wind and cold prevailed, with predictions of record low overnight temperatures. One of the younger participants asked "When are we going to see the peacock?" However, the sound of conversation soon turned to teeth rattling, and then to silence as sixteen blocks of ice formed. The woodcock responded in kind by "peenting" twice early on, and then silence as it too froze. The only bird seen was an accipiter that passed the group in haste before the sun settled out of sight. Wait 'til next year.

People (16): Nancy Carl, Chris Caster, Chris Edwards, Dan Edwards, Mary Edwards, Jim Fuller (leader), James Huntington, Bernie Knight, Sally Moore, Naoko Mizumoto, Andy Neely, Jean Prior, Jennifer Schmidt.

April 17, Meeting. Margriette Delle brought the video game *Gone Birding* and Rick Hollis brought a set of *Bird Trivia Cards*. The entire company demonstrated the depth of their knowledge about things avian and the identification thereof.

People (11): Ed Allgood, Nancy Carl, Margriette Delle, Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller, Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Sally Moore, Jean Sanders, Carol Thompson.

April 20, Redbird Farm Wildlife Area. Eleven birders visited this area southwest of Iowa City on a foggy and cloudy morning.

People (11): Ed Allgood (leader), Karen Disbrow, Julie Englander, Linda Fisher, Bud Gode, Li-Hsien Lin, Chris Lu, Naoko Mizumoto, Mary Noble, Rosemarie Petzold,

Karen Sarfaty.

Birds (36 species): Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal, American Tree Swallow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

April 26, Palisades - Dow's Preserve. A large, enthusiastic group enjoyed a morning afield at this beautiful preserve along the Cedar River in Linn County. The avian highlights included a Great Blue Heron rookery and a very vocal Louisiana Waterthrush. Our leader, Karole Fuller, enlightened many of us with her knowledge of the abundant spring wildflowers, which included Bloodroot, Bellwort, Dutchman's Breeches, Squirrel Corn, Miterwort, Trout Lily, Spring Beauty, Wild Ginger, and Rue Anemone. Astonishingly, through no fault of our leader, the morning's field notes were carried off by an overzealous Turkey Vulture, or something to that effect.

May 3, Muskrat Slough. After rain the previous day and night, the sun emerged and brisk breezes accompanied seven adventurers north to Jones County where chorus frogs and a fine display of Marsh Marigolds greeted us. A splendid variety of birds kept the group occupied until the noon whistle sounded in nearby Morley. Yellow-headed Blackbirds, an Osprey passing over, Canada Geese swimming

with goslings, and Soras and Virginia Rails scrambling almost underfoot were among the highlights.

People (7): Ann and Jack Bagford, Nancy Carl, Ramona McGurk, Sally Moore, Mary Noble (leader), Pamela Spitzmueller.

Birds (55 species): Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, gull species, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, wren species, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Northern Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, meadowlark species, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

June 8, Hickory Hill Park. Besides wet feet from the morning dew, the day was perfect. The sun shone on everything, and the birds caught it. The highlight was a lovely view of two Bobolinks flying and singing in the prairie pasture.

People(9): Nancy Carl, Joan Enikson, Sonya Enikson, Kathleen Henderson, Shobla Kazinka, Sally Moore, Ramona McGurk (leader), John McLure, Mary Noble.

Birds (31 species): Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Dove, Chimney Swift, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

1997 Johnson County Spring Migration Count

Chris Caster

This event was held on Saturday, May 10 in conjunction with the sixth annual North America Migration Count. The cool spring seemed to have stalled the migration of many passerines, notably the flycatchers, warblers and vireos, but the weather was absolutely perfect on the 10th and many good birds were seen.

For those of you who weren't aware that there is a spring count you shouldn't feel too bad. It is a fairly recent event and so it doesn't have the rich tradition of the well-known Christmas Bird Count. But if you like your temperatures warmer and your birding livelier this is the count for you. The rules for the two counts are quite similar. Each group of birders records all varieties seen and estimates their numbers. Additionally each group estimates their time spent and distance traveled by car and on foot. The time spent in the field is up to you. Anything from 12 midnight to 12 midnight on the day of the count is legal. Feeder watchers are welcome as well.

Unlike the Christmas Count which is held nationwide over a period of days, the migration count is held nationwide on only one day, rain or shine. Because of this the results may be used to illustrate the spring migration for the entire continent on one day. When these results are analyzed in conjunction with weather patterns it is hoped that much can be learned about bird migration. Although selecting one day for a nationwide count might be good for research, it may not be the best day to see a lot of birds depending on your region of the country. Fortunately we are not located too far north or south here in Johnson County and we

observed a nice variety of birds.

While the Christmas Count is restricted to an area of only 25 sq. miles, the spring count is county-wide, so there were areas of Johnson County covered that haven't been included in our local Christmas Count. Fortunately we had just enough birders participating that we were able to cover the majority of the better areas in the county. Some of the areas visited were Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Hanging Rock Woods, Lake Macbride, the Sand Road gravel pits, Hickory Hill Park, Frytown Conservation Area, Coralville Reservoir, Edgewater Park, Williams Prairie, and selected fields and wet areas between Iowa City and Lone Tree.

The total species count for Johnson County was 146. Notable birds of the day included a Western Kingbird on the south side of Hawkeye Wildlife Area and two American Avocets on the north side. These birds were seen by multiple parties. A Western Kingbird had only once before been reported in Johnson County. Also notable were the Prairie Warblers at Lake Macbride and the Pine Warblers outside of the McDonald's in Iowa City.

Participants in the Johnson County Spring Migration Count were Ed and Jean Allgood, Chris Caster, Chris Edwards, Jim Fuller, Jonathon and Amy Hanridge, Rick Hollis, Tom Kent, and Naoko Mizumoto.

John Cordell, Bud Gode, James Huntington and Carol Thompson participated in the Cedar County count this year. They had an extremely good find in a Black-throated Gray Warbler, as

well as a Sandhill Crane. They visited Cedar Valley Park and the Fuller property near Cedar Bluff.

Thanks to all those who helped with these counts. Hopefully we can include more of you next year.

Pied-billed Grebe

1

Eared Grebe

1

American White Pelican

400

Species Totals

Double-crested Cormorant	53	Lesser Yellowlegs	500	Eastern Phoebe	4
American Bittern	1	Solitary Sandpiper	15	Great Crested Flycatcher	4
Great Blue Heron	10	Willet	2	Western Kingbird	1
Great Egret	7	Spotted Sandpiper	11	Eastern Kingbird	16
Green Heron	3	Upland Sandpiper	1	Horned Lark	9
Canada Goose	36	Hudsonian Godwit	8	Purple Martin	4
Wood Duck	22	Semipalmated Sandpiper	15	Tree Swallow	40
Green-winged Teal	2	Least Sandpiper	250	N. Rough-winged Swallow	10
Mallard	47	Pectoral Sandpiper	45	Bank Swallow	2
Blue-winged Teal	200	Dunlin	4	Cliff Swallow	10
Northern Shoveler	25	Short-billed Dowitcher	2	Barn Swallow	65
Gadwall	14	Dowitcher species	50	Blue Jay	163
American Widgeon	2	Common Snipe	1	American Crow	66
Lesser Scaup	15	American Woodcock	1	Black-capped Chickadee	48
Red-breasted Merganser	3	Wilson's Phalarope	1	Tufted Titmouse	17
Ruddy Duck	13	Ring-billed Gull	30	White-breasted Nuthatch	11
Turkey Vulture	12	Forster's Tern	1	House Wren	48
Bald Eagle	1	Black Tern	1	Marsh Wren	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Rock Dove	16	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16
Red-tailed Hawk	7	Mourning Dove	85	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9
American Kestrel	5	Eastern Screech Owl	1	Eastern Bluebird	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	Great Horned Owl	5	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	16	Barred Owl	3	Swainson's Thrush	5
Wild Turkey	6	Whip-poor-will	1	Wood Thrush	1
Northern Bobwhite	5	Chimney Swift	17	American Robin	175
Virginia Rail	3	Belted Kingfisher	1	Gray Catbird	36
Sora	11	Red-headed Woodpecker	34	Brown Thrasher	30
American Coot	350	Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	American Pipit	1
American Avocet	2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Loggerhead Shrike	1
Black-bellied Plover	3	Downy Woodpecker	18	European Starling	200
American Golden Plover	12	Hairy Woodpecker	5	Solitary Vireo	6
Semipalmated Plover	13	Northern Flicker	11	Yellow-throated Vireo	2
Killdeer	25	Least Flycatcher	3	Warbling Vireo	6
Greater Yellowlegs	21	Empidonax species	4	Blue-winged Warbler	1

Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Nashville Warbler	10
Yellow Warbler	10
Yellow-rumped Warbler	85
Blackburnian Warbler	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	3
Pine Warbler	2
Prairie Warbler	2
Palm Warbler	59
Cerulean Warbler	1
Black-and-white Warbler	12
American Redstart	17
Ovenbird	10
Northern Waterthrush	13
Common Yellowthroat	19
Wilson's Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	120
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	20
Eastern Towhee	2
Chipping Sparrow	38
Clay-colored Sparrow	7
Field Sparrow	23
Vesper Sparrow	2
Lark Sparrow	4
Savannah Sparrow	6
Song Sparrow	61
Lincoln's Sparrow	15
Swamp Sparrow	10
White-throated Sparrow	50
White-crowned Sparrow	28
Harris' Sparrow	3
Bobolink	17
Red-winged Blackbird	550
Eastern Meadowlark	8
Western Meadowlark	7
Common Grackle	200
Brown-headed Cowbird	125
Orchard Oriole	2
Baltimore Oriole	15
House Finch	25
American Goldfinch	103
House Sparrow	350

Iowa Ornithologists' Union 1997 Fall Meeting
 Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
 Shueyville, Iowa
 Sponsored by the Iowa City Bird Club and the
 University of Iowa Museum of Natural History
September 19-21, 1997

Friday, Sept. 19 7:00 p.m. Evening gathering at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, Macbride Hall

After a chance to visit and enjoy refreshments (provided by the museum) inside the main entrance to the museum's Iowa Hall exhibit gallery, George Schrimper, director of the museum, will host a special visit to Bird Hall. Repository to one of the largest public display collections of bird specimens in the country, Bird Hall is now undergoing an extensive renovation. The comprehensive redesign plan, including conceptual outline and perspective drawings will be available for viewing. Besides seeing both new and old exhibits, we'll view a selection of specimen storage drawers, electronic data file records, and have a chance to learn about the museum's long-standing role in Iowa ornithology. Even if you can't take part in the entire IOU fall meeting, we hope you'll join us for this special reception.

Saturday, Sept. 20 6:00 a.m. Breakfast at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
 6:45 a.m. Field trips leave
 12:00 noon Lunch at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Concurrent afternoon activities:

12:45 - 1:15 p.m. Committee meetings, free time
 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Multimedia room with games, computer quizzes, videos
 1:15 - 1:45 p.m. *Kelly McKay*: Assessment of Human Impacts on Bald Eagle Reproductive Success along the Upper Mississippi River
 1:45 - 2:15 p.m. *Lisa Hemesath*: Partners in Flight Update
 2:15 - 2:45 p.m. *Jamie Edwards*: Wildlife Diversity Update
 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. *Bud Gode*: Odonates of Iowa
 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Business meeting
 6:30 p.m. Banquet featuring *Jeff Gordon*: Birds of the Cache River: Using Avian Ecology to Guide Restoration Efforts

Sunday, Sept. 21 6:00 a.m. Breakfast at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
 6:45 a.m. Field trips leave
 12:30 p.m. Lunch and compilation at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is an 83-acre camp on Coralville Lake. It has a variety of lodging choices. Check-in will start at 3:00 p.m.

Options	Prices	# Nights	Total Price
Tent camping (with showers)	\$5/night		
RV (with showers)	\$7/night		
Retreat Center bunk rooms (10 per room)	\$10/person/night		
Retreat Center rooms with private baths 3-4 people per room	\$13/person/night		
2 people per room	\$16/person/night		

Rooms come with pillows, blankets, and sheets. Towels not included.

All options may not be available depending on the number of reservation requests.

If you have made sharing arrangements, please indicate roommates' names below:

		Price
Registration	\$6.00	
Meals:		
Saturday breakfast	\$5.00	
Saturday lunch	\$6.00	
Saturday banquet	\$8.50	
Sunday breakfast	\$5.00	
Sunday lunch	\$6.00	
Total (including lodging)		

Questions? Call Rick Hollis, (319) 338-4834 or rhollis@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Make checks payable to Iowa City Bird Club and send to:

Bernie Knight
425 Lee Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52246

Potential field trip locations include Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Hickory Hill Park, Coralville Reservoir, Macbride State Park, Amana, Palisades-Kepler State Park, and Cone Marsh.

Directions to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca:

From the Swisher/Shueyville exit of I-380, go east on F-12 (120th St.) one mile into Shueyville. Turn right (south) on Curtis Bridge Rd. and follow the signs to the camp, which is along Sandy Beach Rd. 3.2 miles from Shueyville.

From the President's Desk

Hi Gang,

We need to thank all of the club members who have or will be helping to make the fall IOU meeting a success. Carl Bendorf, Nancy Carl, Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller, Bud Gode, Bernie Knight, Sally Moore, Jim Scheib, Carol Thompson and yours truly worked on this from our end. Ann Johnson (IOU Vice President) did most of the work with the speakers. At recent IOU meetings, the sponsoring group has offered a scholarship to the meeting. This is aimed at young birders from the community and will enable them to attend the meeting. At present, through consulting teachers, I have one name and I will invite that person, unless someone suggests other young people. Please call me by Wednesday, September 10.

I am excited about our November meeting. We are having a joint meeting with Cedar Rapids Audubon and the Johnson County Songbird Project. Lisa Hemesath from the DNR will be coming down to talk to us about Partners in Flight.

Iowa birders lost a great friend when Pete Peterson of Davenport died this summer. Pete was known to many of us. He was the former editor of Iowa Bird Life and the spring count coordinator. His bookstore and its presence at IOU meetings helped many of us with purchase decisions. In some years past, he was a regular fixture on the Iowa City Christmas Counts. Pete was always ready to answer a question or lead a field trip (even if he did drive a bit fast). He will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Mary Lou and his many friends.

It seems recently I've written about many

threats to Hickory Hill Park. As I see it there are at least four threats to the park as a place of relatively unspoiled nature and to our enjoyment of the park:

- First: the increasing degradation and amplification of the trails due to bicycles. It is very difficult to keep bikes out so this is something that I only see increasing.

- Second: the conversion of parts of greater HHP to cemetery. The extent of this is absolutely unknown, as the first consultant hired by the city has not delivered a plan and has been fired.

- Third: the conscious expansion of trails by the city. One plan, offered by a consultant that had not even been in the park, called for connecting the north and south parking lots with a handicapped-accessible trail. I am all for the ADA and hope that people with disabilities can experience many of the things that I do. There are limits. Some are dictated by topography. Some originate with the unlikelihood that HHP's trails will see no bikes. Someone would be hurt the first time a wheelchair is met by a mountain bike roaring around a corner. More recently I heard Terry Trueblood say that no changes will be made that are not consistent with the existing official and unofficial trail system. Mr. Trueblood went on to say that most new trails would go into the north addition – land north of the old fence line above the north hill and east of the impounding dam.

- Fourth: new roads. The city's plans call for two roads in the area. An extension of First Avenue would perhaps touch the eastern-most corner of the park. Presently the park extends east from the impounding dam to touch First Avenue, north of the Hy-Vee on Rochester. The extension would extend roughly due north, ending at the East-West Arterial. Initial work on

this will take place within a year. The other road is this East-West Arterial. Present plans show this road entering North Dodge/Highway 1 at the present intersection of Highway 1 and N Dubuque Road (this is northeast of the *Press-Citizen* building). As presently planned, neither of these roads would take land from HHP. Both of these roads will become busy roads. Semis will use the East-West Arterial. Certainly there will be a degradation in the auditory experience of the park. The sound quality of my neighborhood has greatly diminished since Scott Blvd. changed from a dirt road to an “arterial”, even though I am a good 1_ blocks distant from Scott Blvd. It is much harder to hear distant birds with semis changing gears. Please keep your eyes and ears open on these issues. Although I have doubts as to whether our voices will be listened to, let the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission (not that the Council listens to them), and the Planning and Zoning Commission know what you think of these plans.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service’s breeding duck counts probably offer some good news and bad news. Overall, the population is up 31% from the average counts from 1955 to 1996. The percentages below are percent changes from 1996 to 1997.

<u>Good News</u>	<u>Increases</u>
American Wigeon	Up 37%
Northern Pintail	Up 30%
Gadwall	Up 31%
Mallard	Up 25%
Northern Shoveler	Up 19%
Redhead	Up 10%
 <u>Bad News</u>	 <u>Decreases</u>
Canvasback	Down 19%

Bad News Increases
 Snow Geese explosion continues.

No News No Changes
 Green-winged Teal
 Blue-winged Teal
 Scaup

The US Fish & Wildlife Service conducted another survey of interest, this one covering wildlife-associated activities. As one expects most of the survey relates to hunting and fishing. It has been conducted nine times since 1955 and is funded by excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear. Presumably, some of the moneys from the Wildlife Tax Initiative could be used for this as well. The data below represents the percent change from 1991 to 1996, with the dollars corrected for inflation.

1996 Expenditures (in 1000s) & percent change

Sportsmen ¹	72,566,590	+54%
Wildlife Watchers ²	27,032,561	+27%

- 1 Hunters and fisherman
- 2 This includes backyard birding, whale-watching trips, wildlife photography, etc.

Equipment expenditures account for 43% of the Wildlife Watchers expenditures. The cost of wildlife watching trips only increased 10%, which surprises me given the increased number of people taking trips especially to bird and the increases in tour groups for birders or general nature.

Hopefully numbers like this will continue to impress policy makers. There are many non-consumptive users of the outdoors. We use the outdoors. We use the outdoors in many communities around the U.S. and the world.

Many of us would like to help pay taxes to support our interests.

Margriette Delle will be having hip surgery during the second week of September. We all wish her well.

Good birding,
Rick

Book Reviews

All the Birds of North America. Jack L. Griggs, designer, with various artists and consultants. Harper Perennial. 400 pp. \$19.95. This is a new field guide produced by the American Bird Conservancy, which promises “a revolutionary system based on feeding behaviors and field-recognizable features”. Like the recent Stokes field guides, it has several nice features, but as an identification tool it falls short of the standards set by the Peterson and National Geographic guides.

Birds are divided into waterbirds and landbirds and then into smaller groups such as aerialists, swimmers, wading birds, shorebirds, etc. Passerines are grouped according to their bill shape: flycatching, curved, straight, or conical. This grouping may be easier for beginners, but is somewhat cumbersome for those familiar with taxonomic order. Pages have color-coded edges which correspond to an index of the bird groupings found on the inside front and back covers. This makes it relatively easy to flip through the pages to find a specific group of birds.

The illustrations are presented on the top half of each page, with the relatively brief text and range maps below. Rare species (such as Ruff, Gray Hawk, and Green Jay) are shown in a smaller scale and without plumage variations. The maps show the migration range and well as summer and winter ranges, a useful and interesting feature not found in other guides. The book’s compact format and vinyl covers make it well-suited for field use.

The highlight of this book is the artwork. Most of the birds are presented in detailed natural habitats. The various illustrators employ different artistic styles, some of which are more

effective than others, but many of the plates are stunningly beautiful. That may be reason enough for many birders to add this volume to their libraries. — *Chris Edwards*

Messages From an Owl. Max R Terman. 1996. Princeton University Press. 217 pp. including bibliography and index. Available at the Iowa City Public Library. Excepting the photographs, many of which were out of focus, probably being made from a video camera tape, this is an enjoyable book. The author, a biology professor, comes into possession of a young Great Horned Owl. After nursing it back to health, the owl is eventually released and the author follows the owl for several years. The difficulties of following a bird for a lengthy period with a radio transmitter, playing catch with hot dogs, and interactions with resident Great Horned Owls are just some of the stories about the author and Stripey. This is a book from which I do not know if I learned anything — I just had fun. — *Rick Hollis*

Diary of a Left-handed Birdwatcher. George Nathan. Available at the Iowa City Public Library. I felt sure I was going to love this book: the blurb on the jacket was written by one of my favorite authors, I am left-handed, and I consider myself a “birdwatcher” as opposed to a “birder”. The author spoke early on about trying to understand the “epiphany” that we feel when we see new things in the avian world. I abandoned the book after reading about half of it. — *Rick Hollis*

Partners in Flight – Compañeros en Vuelo

Partners in Flight (PIF) was formed in response to growing concerns about declines in the populations of many bird species, and in order to emphasize the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives.

The central premise of Partners in Flight has been that the resources of public and private organizations in Latin and North America must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to achieve success in conserving bird populations in this hemisphere.

Partners in Flight is a multinational cooperative effort involving partnerships among government agencies (federal, state and local), philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry and the academic community.

Partners in Flight's goal is to focus resources on:

monitoring,
research,
management, and
education.

Working groups occur at a variety of levels, including
international
regional, and
state.

The Basic Principles of Partners in Flight

- conservation of birds and their habitats while they are still common, thereby avoiding the risks and costs associated with endangered species;
- to focus on conservation of habitats, which harbor multiple species of birds and other biological diversity, rather than on single species; conservation based on sound science;
- comprehensive conservation actions that address critical needs on breeding grounds, nonbreeding areas, and the migratory routes that connect the two;
- conservation that stresses both maintenance of natural conditions and compatible economic management of natural resources;
- to build groundbreaking partnerships within which federal and state agencies, private conservation groups, academia, and industry can work together for bird and habitat conservation; and
- to promote an informed, proactive constituency of people who are concerned about bird

conservation and will take action to protect them and their habitats.

Bird Notes

BIRD DROPS EEL, BLACKS OUT 500 JAPANESE HOMES. A bird fished a choice eel out of Tokyo Bay, dropped it on a power line and caused a freak power outage in 500 homes in Yokosuka, Japan, according to power company officials. Inspectors found the two-foot long eel charred on a 6,600-volt power line when they were investigating a mysterious

blackout. Officials said a Japanese Kite, a large bird common in coastal areas, probably fished the “anago” eel from a nearby fishing port and dropped it on the power line. The slithery anago, normally grilled for a popular sushi dish, short-circuited the local grid and triggered a shutdown of the local transformer. —

CNN

Iowa City Bird Club

Eastern Iowa Birdwatch is published three times per year. Members are encouraged to send articles, reviews, notes, and comments to the editor: Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317, telephone 626-6362, e-mail CREdwards@aol.com.

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