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# Eastern Iowa Birdwatch



## The Iowa City Bird Club Newsletter

September 2024 • Volume 44 Number 2

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### Schedule

**Field Trips** are free and open to the public. Trips may be changed or cancelled due to inclement weather or other circumstances. Please check our website calendar for updates: <https://iowacitybirdclub.org/events/>. Updates will also be emailed to club members and posted on our Facebook page. **Meetings** are held on Zoom and/or in-person. A Zoom link will be posted on our website calendar for each meeting. For more information or questions email [iowacitybirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:iowacitybirdclub@gmail.com).

**September 19, Thursday, 7 p.m. Meeting – In-Person and Zoom** at the Environmental Education Center, 2401 Scott Boulevard, Iowa City. Jim Durbin, birder and photographer, member and officer of Cedar Rapids Audubon Society, will present “20+ Years Documenting Insects in Iowa.” Jim created the Insects of Iowa website in 2007 which became [www.insectsofiowa.org](http://www.insectsofiowa.org).

**September 22, Sunday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Hawk Watch** at Stainbrook Preserve, located along Mehaffey Bridge Road just north of Sugar Bottom Recreation Area. Join us on the hill to watch for migrating raptors including Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Bring a lawn chair, and a spotting scope if you have one. Directions: park on the north shoulder pull-off just east of Mehaffey Bridge. Look for the Stainbrook Preserve sign in ditch opposite parking and marked with balloons. Follow the short path up the hill. For a map, visit here and scroll down to Hawk Watch: <https://iowacitybirdclub.org/miscellaneous-maps/>.

**October 6, Sunday, Wings and Wild Things Festival** at F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford. Celebrate Iowa’s natural world with this new hands-on festival showcasing the wild and wonderful flora and fauna of our region, as well as outdoor recreation activities in our area. Grab food from local food trucks and enjoy a day spent exploring Johnson County’s Kent Park. Volunteers with ICBC will be helping out with guided bird walks, a hawk watch and interactive stations. Check out the activities here: [Wings & Wild Things Festival](#).

**October 17, Thursday, 7 p.m. Meeting – In-Person and Zoom** at the Iowa City Environmental Education Center. Club member Linda Rudolph will present “Amazing Birds of East Africa.” Linda has enjoyed traveling all her life, and visited Africa for the third time in spring of 2024. She will cover the birds and mammals seen on this trip.

**October 19, Saturday, 8 a.m. Cedar River Crossing**, 5473 Sutliff Rd. NE, Solon. Target species include migrating sparrows, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Jamie McCoy will lead a birding tour of this Johnson County Conservation property comprised of open riparian woodland, sand prairie, and a wetland complex. Meet Jamie in the parking lot near the restrooms. Expect extensive walking on mowed grass paths which may be wet or muddy. For safety, wear orange as this area does have public hunting in season. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Ending time is around noon.

**November 15 or 16, Field Trip for Waterfowl** with leader Diana Pesek. Date and location to be announced later based on recent sightings. Check our website calendar in early November for details.

**November 21, Thursday, 7 p.m. Meeting – In-Person & Zoom** at the Iowa City Environmental Education Center. Iowa City Bird Club member Maria Story will present “Wildlife Travels in the Canadian Arctic.” Maria will talk about her experience exploring Nunavut and Baffin Island, and camping on ice floes to see Narwhals, Bowhead Whales, Polar Bears, and birds.

**December 15, Iowa City Christmas Bird Count.** More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

## In Memoriam: Linda Stearns Fisher

Linda died June 26, 2024, at 81 years old. I want to tell you about her. She loved birds, and loved exploring the countryside and seeing the changing seasons. Linda was a part of our foursome for Christmas Bird Counts, Spring Counts, Cy-Hawk competitions, and numerous other outings. Linda’s house was the only one of ours in the Christmas Count circle, so we would always end the day counting birds at her feeders on three sides of her house in Coralville.

Linda started joining Iowa City Bird Club activities in 1999 and was a dedicated member, coming to meetings until she could no longer drive. She worked as an Editor for the University of Iowa Press. She was very proud of having edited Tom Kent and James Dinsmore’s *Birds of Iowa*, the well-known “Yellow Book.”

Linda was a happy person who expressed and showed joy in life. Her full obituary is on the Gay-Ciha Funeral Homes website.

– Karen Disbrow, Mary Noble, and Ramona McGurk

## In Memoriam: Barbara Boyle

[Note: memorial services for Barbara Boyle will be held at Bickett-Rate Memorial Preserve (225th Street, rural Tipton, Iowa) on September 14, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.]

It’s with deep sadness that I note the passing of good friend and bird lover Barbara Boyle.

Barbara suffered an apparent heart attack, was taken to UIHC on life support, and died Aug. 8.

In addition to being a delightful person, Barbara was a talented artist, musician, and avid naturalist. I first met Barbara over forty years ago, when we worked together at Blooming Prairie Warehouse (the cooperative that supplied natural food co-ops throughout Iowa and Nebraska). In the early 90s, I joined her and other friends in forming the Johnson County Songbird Project to address concerns about declining bird populations. Out of the Songbird Project, Barbara spearheaded the Althea R. Sherman Project which was responsible for relocating and restoring the historic Sherman Chimney Swifts’ tower, microfilming Althea Sherman’s voluminous bird journals, and having the University of Iowa Press republish Sherman’s posthumously-published book, *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard*.

Like Ms. Sherman, Barbara was deeply concerned about birds and the many threats they face. Barbara maintained both properties where she lived as bird sanctuaries, planting native plants that would attract and feed them. She was a zealous Purple Martin landlord (landlady?) with an active colony for many years, in addition to having nest boxes for other songbirds, and a regular pair of Turkey vultures. I believe that this year, she may have finally been successful in getting a pair of Black-capped Chickadees to nest, one of her favorites.

It’s comforting to know that she saw this year’s young martins departing for their journey south. Somewhere, over the rainbow... Rest in peace, Barbara.

– Jim Walters

## 2024 Johnson County Spring Migration Count

### Chris Caster

The Johnson County Spring Migration Count was held on May 11, 2024. It was a nice but breezy day to be out birding. The morning began with a cool 46° but the high reached 75° by mid-afternoon. Winds gusted for most of the day from 20 to 30 mph, but there was no rain. We managed a species total of 160, which was the same number we arrived at last year and is a bit over our average. We had 10 species of waterfowl, also the same as last year. But this year shorebirds were more plentiful and we found 16 species. And twenty-five warbler species was a decent number.

As always there were some great birds. A Long-billed Dowitcher was with a variety of shorebirds at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, as was a Clay-colored Sparrow. Six Black-necked Stilts were at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area. An American Pipit was at Cedar River Crossing. A Louisiana Waterthrush and an Acadian Flycatcher were at Squire Point. Three different groups combined to report Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Canada Warbler from Hickory Hill Park. An astounding six White-eyed Vireos were found. A Marsh Wren was at the Saddlebrook Wetland Trail. There were three Veeries found. A Pine Siskin was at the Hollis residence. And a Bay-breasted Warbler and two Cape May Warblers were found.

There weren't any notable misses, but a number of birds might have been found. We did not have a Black Tern, bittern or Great Egret. Neither Northern Harrier nor Peregrine Falcon was seen. Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbird, and Sedge Wren did not make the list. We struck out with Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Cerulean Warblers. And no Summer Tanagers or Blue Grosbeaks were to be found.

Thanks to Chris Edwards for updating the count sheet and leading the noontime proceedings. Thanks to Deb Rolfes for creating a Spring Count checklist board.

Participants (28): Elizabeth Aubrey, Kyle Belcher, Becky Benson, Tom Bootsmiller, Jayden Bowen, Mark Brown, Brandon Caswell, Gerald Denning, Karen Disbrow, Mark and Sandy Eads, Chris Edwards, Julie Englander, Rick Hollis, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Ramona McGurk, Abner Miller, Mary Noble, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Daryl Ropp, Linda Rudolph, Jean and Jim Wiese.

### SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	277	Common Nighthawk	6	Spotted Sandpiper	21
Wood Duck	44	Chimney Swift	2	Solitary Sandpiper	10
Blue-winged Teal	58	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11	Lesser Yellowlegs	125
Northern Shoveler	38	Sora	2	Greater Yellowlegs	17
Gadwall	3	American Coot	6	Wilson's Phalarope	5
Mallard	93	Sandhill Crane	14	Ring-billed Gull	46
Northern Pintail	1	Black-necked Stilt	6	Caspian Tern	6
Ring-necked Duck	1	Killdeer	44	Double-crested Cormorant	234
Lesser Scaup	12	Semipalmated Plover	8	American White Pelican	2000
Hooded Merganser	1	Dunlin	22	Great Blue Heron	10
Northern Bobwhite	4	Least Sandpiper	89	Green Heron	2
Wild Turkey	11	White-rumped Sandpiper	13	Turkey Vulture	128
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	Pectoral Sandpiper	13	Osprey	6
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Semipalmated Sandpiper	6	Cooper's Hawk	2
Rock Pigeon	13	Short-billed Dowitcher	7	Bald Eagle	19
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	Long-billed Dowitcher	1	Broad-winged Hawk	4
Mourning Dove	60	American Woodcock	3	Red-tailed Hawk	27

Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Orchard Oriole	29
Great Horned Owl	2	Cedar Waxwing	7	Baltimore Oriole	149
Barred Owl	7	White-breasted Nuthatch	39	Red-winged Blackbird	433
Belted Kingfisher	3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23	Brown-headed Cowbird	137
Red-headed Woodpecker	43	Carolina Wren	2	Common Grackle	77
Red-bellied Woodpecker	37	House Wren	152	Ovenbird	12
Downy Woodpecker	36	Marsh Wren	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Hairy Woodpecker	11	Gray Catbird	164	Northern Waterthrush	12
Northern Flicker	6	Brown Thrasher	8	Golden-winged Warbler	19
Pileated Woodpecker	5	European Starling	95	Blue-winged Warbler	3
American Kestrel	2	Eastern Bluebird	58	Black and white Warbler	11
Great Crested Flycatcher	46	Veery	3	Tennessee Warbler	99
Eastern Kingbird	67	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	15	Swainson's Thrush	14	Nashville Warbler	22
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Wood Thrush	4	Common Yellowthroat	119
Acadian Flycatcher	2	American Robin	202	American Redstart	161
Willow Flycatcher	3	House Sparrow	213	Cape May Warbler	2
Least Flycatcher	22	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	18	Northern Parula	14
Eastern Phoebe	14	American Pipit	1	Magnolia Warbler	17
White-eyed Vireo	6	House Finch	26	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Bell's Vireo	15	Pine Siskin	1	Blackburnian Warbler	11
Yellow-throated Vireo	34	American Goldfinch	169	Yellow Warbler	72
Blue-headed Vireo	9	Grasshopper Sparrow	5	Chestnut-sided Warbler	24
Philadelphia Vireo	1	Lark Sparrow	6	Blackpoll Warbler	18
Warbling Vireo	67	Chipping Sparrow	46	Palm Warbler	29
Red-eyed Vireo	39	Clay-colored Sparrow	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	32
Blue Jay	83	Field Sparrow	20	Yellow-throated Warbler	3
American Crow	43	White-crowned Sparrow	12	Black-throated Green Warbler	6
Black-capped Chickadee	79	White-throated Sparrow	8	Canada Warbler	1
Tufted Titmouse	33	Vesper Sparrow	4	Wilson's Warbler	6
Horned Lark	4	Savannah Sparrow	17	Scarlet Tanager	24
Bank Swallow	4	Song Sparrow	48	Northern Cardinal	164
Tree Swallow	65	Swamp Sparrow	4	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	64
N. Rough-winged Swallow	6	Eastern Towhee	18	Indigo Bunting	88
Purple Martin	36	Bobolink	11	Dickcissel	25
Barn Swallow	39	Eastern Meadowlark	26		
Cliff Swallow	120	Western Meadowlark	11		

## Bird Notes

In April President Biden signed into law the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act ([H.R.4389](#)). This reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), a program that funds migratory bird research and habitat restoration throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Direct funding from the NMBCA supports research and habitat restoration for vulnerable migratory birds throughout their full annual cycles. These species breed in the continental U.S. or Canada and spend the winter in Mexico,

Central America, the Caribbean, or South America. This past year the funding contributed to 717 projects in 43 countries, working on 400 migratory bird species.

This is the kind of bill that should not wallow around in DC. They are important. They do what they are supposed to at a relatively low price. I am pleased that this bill made it back.

– Rick Hollis

**Iowa City Bird Club Merchandise** is available online from Corporate Casuals! You can purchase shirts, hats, bags, and much more with our club's name and logo. Link on our website here <https://iowacitybirdclub.org/merchandise/>.

## 2024 Hickory Hill Park Warbler Walks

### Chris Edwards

It was another successful year for our Hickory Hill Park Warbler Walks, held from April 26–May 26, with good participation and (mostly) good weather. Rotating leaders were Mark Brown, Chris Edwards, Jim Kettelkamp, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Jason Paulios, and Elliott Stalter. The warbler migration itself was somewhat lackluster this year, being long and drawn-out and lacking any spectacular fallouts. No Cape May, Kentucky, or Pine Warblers were found this year, but a Cerulean Warbler on May 10 and a Hooded Warbler on May 15 were exciting finds, and Connecticut Warblers were found on four days.

SPECIES	04/29/24	04/30/24	05/01/24	05/02/24	05/03/24	05/06/24	05/07/24	05/08/24	05/09/24	05/10/24	05/13/24	05/14/24	05/15/24	05/16/24	05/17/24	05/20/24	05/21/24	05/22/24	05/23/24	DAYS
Ovenbird			X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		13
Worm-eating Warbler																				0
Louisiana Waterthrush																				0
Northern Waterthrush						X				X										2
Golden-winged Warbler			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X					9
Blue-winged Warbler			X						X		X									3
Black-and-white Warbler	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X	X			X		11
Prothonotary Warbler																				0
Tennessee Warbler					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		14
Orange-crowned Warbler		X	X		X				X	X										5
Nashville Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X						13
Connecticut Warbler														X		X	X	X		4
Mourning Warbler									X	X	X			X			X	X		6
Kentucky Warbler																				0
Common Yellowthroat			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	16
Hooded Warbler													X							1
American Redstart			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17
Cape May Warbler																				0
Cerulean Warbler										X										1
Northern Parula					X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X				9
Magnolia Warbler		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		10
Bay-breasted Warbler													X							1
Blackburnian Warbler					X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		12
Yellow Warbler			X						X					X				X		4
Chestnut-sided Warbler					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Blackpoll Warbler							X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
Palm Warbler			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X						9
Pine Warbler																				0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X					10
Yellow-throated Warbler																				0
Black-throated Green Warbler				X	X			X	X	X				X						6
Canada Warbler										X		X			X	X		X		5
Wilson's Warbler										X	X			X				X	X	5
TOTAL WARBLER SPECIES	3	4	11	7	14	11	12	13	19	19	9	9	10	17	12	11	10	13	5	26

## Field Trip and Meeting Reports

**April 13, Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area.** We started the day at Swan Lake, which had been reduced to a small, shallow puddle after prolonged drought conditions. We viewed a pair of Wood Ducks, perched atop a nest box close to what used to be the shore, who seemed to be wondering where all the water had gone. Fortunately, the pond in the woods just north of the lake still had water; there we observed pairs of Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, and Pied-billed Grebe. It was here the group also encountered a Winter Wren skulking within a small wood pile, emerging briefly at times before disappearing back into the brush.

At Greencastle Causeway a late Rough-legged Hawk soared right over the group, eventually landing on a snag and offering good views through our scopes. A lone Sandhill Crane also put in an appearance, and flocks of American White Pelicans occasionally passed overhead. We ended the day with a short hike along the Mallard/Gadwall Pond trail and a calling Northern Bobwhite. Our enthusiastic group of seasoned and beginning birders tallied 46 species on this beautiful spring morning.

Participants: Nick Benson (co-leader), Dan and Gina Bartleson, Phyllis Black, Kathryn Deetz, Drew Dillman, Karen Disbrow, John Fieselmann, Dan Livorsi, Marianne Mason, Salem McClelland, Jason McCurdy (co-leader), Abner Miller, Mark Miller, Marcus Morrison, Deb Rolfes, Mark Rolfes, Darryl Ropp, Ben Rowold, Jane Shuttleworth, Jacob Starr, Nick Timmer (co-leader), Jean and Jim Wiese.

Birds (46 species): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed

Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, European Starling, American Robin, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

– *Jason McCurdy*

**April 18, Meeting.** Dick Sayles presented photos from his month-long trip to Australia in 2019. Dick saw over 300 species of birds. He presented so many magnificent and beautiful photographs of birds that if you missed the meeting, you should check out the video on the website! Dick also showed some of the Aboriginal art of the area and talked about some of the history, as well.

Following the presentation, Karen Disbrow reminded us of the upcoming IOU meeting in May. Reminders of upcoming bird trips were also mentioned. There were nine people attending at the Iowa City Environmental Education Center and eight computers logged in on Zoom.

– *Sandy Eads*

**April 20, Waterworks Prairie Park.** This spring morning felt more like winter, with strong winds and temps in the low 30s. Our group started strong, but about half turned back at some point along the way; mostly due to the cold, but a couple birders set off to chase the 80 Eared Grebes just reported at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area.

Despite the winds, we saw and heard good birds at Johnson County's #5 eBird hotspot. Remarkably, a Bald Eagle was being pursued by a Ring-billed Gull. We observed many American Goldfinches throughout the park, showing bright breeding plumage and twittering their rapid, high-pitched song. When bouncing

on the lawn, they blended with the dandelions! Our surprise sighting was two pairs of Greater Yellowlegs, seen and heard at close range in flight near the large pond. We used recordings to compare their sounds—three loud and ringing *deew deew deew* calls—to the softer, shorter whistled notes of Lesser Yellowlegs.

We walked to the other side of the pond for a good look at four Purple Martins staging at their nesting colony on the dock. Their melodious and varied sounds amazed us all. We explored a nearby deer path through the woods to the river and found wildflowers and our only warbler of the day, a Yellow-rumped Warbler. In total, 34 bird species were found by our group of 21 birders.

Participants: Jean Allgood, Gerry Denning, Sandy Eads, Julie Englander, Therese Guedon, Peter Hansen, Jonathan Lewallen, Marianne Mason, Salem McClelland, Abner Miller, Marcus Morrison, Martha Nussbaum, Linda Quinn (leader), Miji Delso Sanvectra, Alex Sarkis, Jane Shuttleworth, Jacob Starr, Nick Timmer, Jean and Jim Weise, Harriet Woodford.

Birds (34 species): Canada Goose, Mallard, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

– Linda Quinn

**April 21, Two Horse Farm.** This morning felt more like spring, with temps in the upper 30s warming quickly to the 50s. Winds were calm, but this location has dense trees all around the perimeter for a wind break anyway. This was our club's first trip to Two Horse Farm, and we were

hosted by Chelsea Cozad of Johnson County Conservation. The 83-acre property was acquired by the Conservation Board in 2022, but the prior landowner did extensive restoration of prairie areas.

Chelsea shared lots of interesting history about the property. We learned how the 7-acre circle in the center was donated to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. Colorful flags of the Iowa Tribe mark the perimeter. We walked a trail down and up a ravine with a stream, then took the perimeter trail of 3 miles of mowed grass edging the prairie fields. Birding highlights included great looks at an Eastern Bluebird pair and a close comparison of Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Songs of Field Sparrows were ever-present as these birds perched high and boldly around the prairie. Eastern Towhees were singing from several places and finally came close for great viewing, thanks to audio playback. We puzzled over several distant raptor sightings.

Back at the building area, we walked through the beautifully planted and fenced yard complete with a koi fish pond. Wildflower ID was aided by apps. Our surprise ending was a short presentation by Raptor Advocacy Rehabilitation Education (RARE). This volunteer organization uses the barn and corn crib on the property for their work. Sonja Hadenfeldt, RARE Coordinator, with her three Avian Ambassadors, Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, and Eastern Screech Owl, gave a fascinating program. In total, 23 bird species were found by our group of 24 participants.

Participants: Phyllis Black, Brian Bowler, Mary Broderick, Laura Brouwer, Kelli and Matt Cerruto, Chelsea Cozad (co-leader), Gerry Denning, James Drydale, Mici Dusdale, Sandy Eads, Alan Hawkins, Jonathan Lewallen, Cindy Paterson, Eli and Marco Perencevich, Linda Quinn (co-leader), Dee Ann Rexroat, Paula Rosest, Leo Rossetti, Blake Rupe, Theresa Seeberg, Susan Stammes, Nick Timmer.

Birds (23 species): Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-headed

Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Cardinal.

– Linda Quinn



**April 27, Hickory Hill Park.** It was warm for late April, with temperatures starting in the mid-60s at 8:00 a.m. and rising to the mid-70s by the time we finished at 11:00 a.m. In spite of the warm weather, we didn't see an unusual number of migrants. We did see four Palm Warblers and a single Orange-crowned Warbler. The Nashville Warbler showed up before 8 a.m. and was not seen by most of the group. The highlight of the morning was an early Swainson's Thrush found by Jane Shuttleworth. All together we had 32 species and we traversed a little more than four miles through the park.

Participants: Becky Benson, Sally Bowen, Gerry Denning, Jonathan Lewallen, Mark Madsen (leader), Linda McHard, Marko Perencevich, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Jane Shuttleworth, Jacob Starr, Nick Timmer, Ronnye Wieland, Jim Wiese, Mizuki Wittmer, Harriet Woodford.

Birds (32 species): Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy

Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Barn Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

– Mark Madsen

**May 16, Meeting.** The May Meeting started with Karen Disbrow introducing herself as the speaker! She presented some great information on Sandhill Cranes. Who knew they existed 2½ million years ago? And can live up to 35 years! If you missed the meeting, be sure to check out the video for more information on these amazing birds.

Karen also mentioned the Iowa Ornithologist's Spring Meeting that recently occurred and announced that the fall meeting will be August 23-25 in Oskaloosa. That timing falls at the same time the Pelican Festival was originally planned, so it is moving to August 18. We were reminded there will be no ICBC meetings over the summer months, and they will resume in September.

Eleven people attended in person and nine computers were logged in.

– Sandy Eads

**May 17, Draco Hill Nature Farm.** We were invited by Suzan Erem to visit her property near West Branch, consisting of 75 acres of rolling prairie, timber, and orchards along the Cedar River. We met at the farm at 8:30 a.m. We birded the prairie area next to the river and then continued into the woods. We birded until about 10:30 a.m. when it became too warm and muggy. Visit the Draco Hill Facebook page to see the free events Suzan is hosting there during 2024.

Birds (33 species): Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood Pewee, Yellow-



throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, House Wren, European Starling, American Robin, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

Participants: Bob Beall, Phyllis Black, Sara Cavic, Drew Dillman, Karen Disbrow (leader), Andy Douglas, Suzan Erem (host), Philip Greazel, Chuck Mead, Kerri Mead, Sarah Nery, Connie Peterson, Thia Rolfes, Ben Rowold, Lori Verdick, Carol [?].

– *Karen Disbrow*

**May 25, Big Sand Mound Preserve.** Big Sand Mound Preserve is a 510-acre property near Muscatine, owned by MidAmerican and Bayer and occurring in both Muscatine and Louisa counties. The unique ecosystem, consisting of upland mixed hardwood forests, floodplains, sand barrens, and sand prairie, is so fragile that it's generally closed to the public except for one day every three years and for special tours available by request. The Iowa City Bird Club was able to secure one of these tours at the tail end of migration season this year, to enjoy the birds and other wildlife that could be encountered.

With my previous outings during the public field days from 2015, 2018, and 2023, some decent birds were detected, such as Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Mockingbird, and Western Meadowlark. Hopes were high that at least some of them would be present, although it's unclear how reliable any of them are since the property doesn't get birded with any frequency. The bird club members were greeted at the Rec building by Sarah Marston, the HSE Management Systems Lead for Bayer, and Don Becker, who does daily research work with some of the

specialty reptiles and other species on the preserve.

Right at the start some of the group could hear both species of meadowlarks singing, always a treat for any location in eastern Iowa. Once we entered the sandy habitat shortly after, our first Grasshopper Sparrow was heard and then seen. Since the Mississippi River is directly east of Big Sand Mound, there were occasional flights of water birds. Jim Wiese did a great job of keeping an eye on the skies for the group, helping us pick up Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, cormorants, and pelicans. Later during the walk, along the western boundary of the preserve, a Bell's Vireo sang incessantly, but true to form, allowed only fleeting glimpses. Right about that time, however, a pair of mockingbirds were detected and seen well by the entire group. Other avian highlights during the tour included multiple Red-headed Woodpeckers, Orchard Orioles, and a male Magnolia Warbler, the only migrant of the outing. Don also helped to relocate his earlier find of a Field Sparrow nest with three eggs that was tucked into a thick clump of grass on the ground!

The non-avian life was equally interesting. For those who have never visited this site before or any other sand prairie habitat in Iowa, it was a joy to see the abundance of native Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus. But it's the reptiles that are the true gems of Big Sand Mound. Don has been studying both Yellow Mud Turtles and Ornate Box Turtles. This may be the only location left in Iowa for the Mud Turtles and although we didn't see any of those, our group did run across four Box Turtles, one of which had not been previously documented! Another specialty reptile of the preserve is the Western Hognose, which like the Mud Turtle, only occurs at Big Sand Mound in the state of Iowa. We unfortunately struck out on the Hognose, but our group did encounter an Eastern Racer that was out in the open, and then a Western Ribbon Snake that was found in one the traps. Both snakes were quite docile and didn't seem to mind being held, so we got great looks of each. Six-lined Racerunners, one of five lizard species that are

found in Iowa, can be seen in sandy habitats across the state. Several were seen scurrying quickly during our walk and finally one paused long enough for us to actually see!

The outing wrapped up at around noon, and although we didn't see some of the specialty birds that have been present in previous years, we still ended up with a respectable 61 species. Much appreciation to Don Becker for joining us for the entire tour and giving us a glimpse of the interesting reptile research he's been doing at the preserve. Thanks to Adam Rudisill of Bayer for working with Linda Quinn to make this trip happen, and to Sarah Marston for filling in for Adam last minute to join us on our walk. Sarah assured us that the bird club is welcome to return for future outings, even annually if desired, so we may just have to make that happen. There are plenty of birds and reptiles at Big Sand Mound that are still left to be seen!

Participants: Don Becker, Mark Brown (leader), Barry Buschelman, Gerry Denning, Sarah Kadlec, Sarah Marston, Marcus Morrison, Dee Ann Rexroat, Ben Rowold, Nick Timmer, Jean and Jim Wiese.

Reptiles (5 species): Ornate Box Turtle, Common Map Turtle, Six Lined Racerunner, Eastern Racer, Western Ribbon Snake.

Birds (61 species): Canada Goose, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ring-billed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Tree Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern

Mockingbird, European Starling, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, House Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel.

– Mark Brown



### June 9, Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area.

Eleven birders enjoyed a perfect June morning for our hike to Mallard and Gadwall Ponds at Hawkeye Wildlife Area. The temperature was reasonable and the wind was calm. Several people had lifers which is always fun. We had very good looks at Blue Grosbeak and Bell's Vireo. We saw both the male and female Blue Grosbeak as they foraged. The Bell's Vireo perched up in a bare branch and sang its heart out. We heard Sandhill Cranes and Northern Bobwhite quite well and only had brief moments of hearing a Yellow-breasted Chat. The stream was too high for us to walk through, so we did not make it all the way to the ponds. Altogether we had 48 species. Thanks to Linda Quinn for keeping the eBird list.

Participants: Elizabeth Aubrey, Sandy Eads, Julie Englander, Mark Madsen, Constance Peterson, Linda Quinn, Dee Ann Rexroat, Ben Rowold, Jean and Jim Wiese.

Birds (48 species): Northern Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Sandhill Crane, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel.

– Linda Rudolph

**June 22, Indiangrass Hills.** It turned out to be a wonderful day to visit Indiangrass Hills for this pop-up field trip. The group arrived and began birding at 8:30 a.m. under somewhat cloudy skies. We had a few new birders in the group so most every bird we saw was a lifer for them. There were several birds singing in the pine trees behind the parking area including Eastern Bluebird, Orchard Oriole, and Yellow Warbler.

We crossed over I Ave to the mowed grass trails and immediately picked up Dickcissel and Bobolinks. Not long after we heard multiple Henslow's Sparrows and eventually got great, close views of them perched on the prairie plants. A little further on we picked up a Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, and Indigo Bunting. By this time the skies had cleared and it was bright, sunny, and warm. We continued on the trails until about 10:00, getting all of our target species except for Sedge Wren.

We returned to the cars and headed south on I Ave. to search for the Northern Mockingbird and Loggerhead Shrike. We had success with

both. The Northern Mockingbird perched at the top of a shorter tree in the farmyard on the west side of the road where everyone got great looks. A little further down the road we saw three Loggerhead Shrikes in the usual spot. Although we weren't as close to the shrikes as we were to the mockingbird, we had nice views of the shrikes perching, flying and even landing briefly on the road. When it got to be about 11:00 we decided that the morning had been a success and it was time to head for home.

Participants: Elizabeth Aubrey, Barry Buschelman, Drew Dillman, Linda Kirsch, Karli Kirsch, Mark Madsen (leader), Abner Miller, Cheryl Miller, Mark Miller, Linda Quinn, Jim Wiese.

Birds (43 species): Ring-necked Pheasant, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, House Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel.

– Mark Madsen

**June 30, Potluck Picnic at Lake Macbride.** The weather was judged to be darn near perfect! Our gathering spot was a rented shelter in an idyllic setting overlooking the north arm of Lake Macbride. Eight club members gathered and had a good time playing a Q & A birding game. Questions elicited pretty interesting stories including "What was your spark bird?" and "What was your most memorable ICBC field trip?" These bird-specific questions required a group effort: "Name eight sparrow species that

*breed in Iowa.” and “How many bird species breed in Iowa, as documented by the Breeding Bird Atlas?” A fine evening meal followed with many tasty dishes contributed by all.*

Participants: Beck and Tim Benson, Karen Disbrow, Therese Guedon, Lois Hughes, Merle Ihne, Linda Quinn, Linda Rudolph.

Birds joining our picnic area included: Red-headed Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, American Crow, House Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Cardinal.

– Linda Quinn

**July 21, Iowa City Butterfly Count.** Seven of us participated in the 26th annual Iowa City Butterfly Count. The count is part of the North American Butterfly Association’s 4th of July Butterfly Count program. For more information about the North American Butterfly Association and its monitoring programs, visit [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org). In addition to the Iowa City count, I also conduct two other annual counts, at Shimek State Forest and Yellow River State Forest/Effigy Mounds National Monument.

The count had been planned for Saturday, June 20, but overcast conditions necessitated a postponement until Sunday. Butterflies are most active on warm, sunny days. The weather Sunday still wasn’t ideal, but was decent and better than predicted: temperatures of 70-80° F, variable light winds, partly cloudy in the morning and early afternoon, but becoming overcast by mid- to late afternoon with a few sprinkles.

Our group had a good day – we tallied 33 species and 1035 individual butterflies in 10.5 party-hours. The 26-year count average is 33 species and 1168 individuals. The latter number is skewed upwards by the years in which we’ve found very large numbers of sulphurs in alfalfa fields, so I wouldn’t characterize this as a down year. We visited F.W. Kent Park, Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Macbride Nature Recreation Area, Lake Macbride State Park,

Turkey Creek Preserve, and Atherton Wetlands. Our main party of five people started at Kent Park and then moved on to other areas, with some of us continuing until late afternoon. Jim Boles conducted his regular Iowa Butterfly Survey Network survey route at Kent Park so his results could be included in our count. Mark Brown was out of town most of the day, but was able to visit Atherton Wetlands for us in the early evening.

Our most exciting finds were two fresh White M Hairstreaks at Kent Park. This species is a very rare, seldom seen resident of the state – I’ve only seen them a few times, and this is my first record in Johnson County. The upper side of this species is a bright iridescent blue, which is only seen in flight since they always perch with their wings close. These two individuals were very cooperative, allowing us to view and photograph them at our leisure while they nectared on mountain mint.

Species that were seen in significantly above-average numbers this year included Little Yellow, Dainty Sulphur, Eastern Tailed-Blue, American Snout, and Least Skipper. Two Checkered Whites were a nice find that we don’t see every year.

Species that were seen in significantly below-average numbers this year included Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Summer Azure, Pearl Crescent, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch, and Silver-spotted Skipper. But aside from Common Wood-Nymph and Monarch, the other species were more numerous earlier in the summer. Prominent misses were Meadow Fritillary and Common Sootywing. We also missed both rare wetland species, Dion Skipper and Black Dash, this year.

Participants: Jim Boles, Mark Brown, Chris Edwards (leader), Elizabeth Hill, Mark Madsen, Frank Olsen, Constance Peterson.

Butterflies (33 species): Black Swallowtail 12, Giant Swallowtail 1, E. Tiger Swallowtail 3, Checkered White 2, Cabbage White 139, Clouded Sulphur 178, Orange Sulphur 125, Little

Yellow 215, Dainty Sulphur 48, Bronze Copper 4, White M Hairstreak 2, Gray Hairstreak 1, E. Tailed-Blue 95, Summer Azure 33, American Snout 7, Great Spangled Fritillary 21, Pearl Crescent 7, Question Mark 5, E. Comma 7, Gray Comma 2, Red Admiral 31, Common Buckeye 16, Red-spotted Purple 3, Viceroy 12, Hackberry Emperor 1, Common Wood-Nymph 4, Monarch 5, Silver-spotted Skipper 3, Least Skipper 40, Fiery Skipper 3, Peck's Skipper 3, Tawny-edged Skipper 5, Sachem 1.

– Chris Edwards

**July 25, Chimney Swift Big Sit.** Twelve of us met at Menards to carpool to Evan Gingerich's farm near Kalona. At the farm we met Evan and Abner Miller. Evan has built two chimney towers for nesting Chimney Swifts. Only one pair of swifts will nest in a chimney, so these individual chimneys are vital to support this declining species. Evan's first tower has been used each year since it was built in 2012. The second one was used this year for the first time. A third pair of first-time Chimney Swift parents used the second chimney late in the season.

Historically Chimney Swifts nested in tree cavities and caves before adapting to chimneys after European settlement. They start nesting in late April to early May. They do not reuse the previous year's nest. This means a homeowner can host a nesting pair then have the chimney cleaned prior to the winter season. Swifts lay 2-6 eggs, but a first-time female may lay only two eggs, which was the case with the late-season nesting this year. Both parents feed and care for the eggs and young. While at the farm, we observed the Chimney Swifts entering the towers with food for the young.

We then carpooled to Pleasantview Home in Kalona to observe Chimney Swifts entering a chimney for communal roosting. This chimney is no longer used by the facility, but was kept on the building specifically for the Chimney Swifts to use. We set up chairs and were joined by locals, with our group totaling 40 adults and children! We planned to observe the chimney from 7:30 p.m. until all swifts had entered for the

night. Sunset was at 8:03 p.m., and just prior four individual birds entered the chimney spaced several minutes apart. Many other swifts continued to fly over the area catching insects. At 9 p.m. as darkness fell the swifts started to enter the chimney in droves, and by 9:15 they were all inside. It was an awesome sight to see. The final tally was 160 to 170 individuals.

Many thanks to Evan Gingerich for hosting this event.

– Karen Disbrow



**August 11, Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area.** Again, we met at the Sand Point Access lot near Swan Lake for our annual shorebird trip. The lake, however, appears to be no more. We hope this is temporary or can be remedied, but at present it has no water and is choked over with a variety of weedy growth. The Sand Point area is not as conducive to birding as in the past. Siltation continues to move the shoreline further away and the access road is now lined with tall corn on both sides. So the primary attraction here was an extremely forlorn kitten crying continuously at the edge of the parking lot. Fortunately, Julie Englander is a very kind and caring person and took it upon herself to rescue this orphaned creature. Ben provided a small box and she donned gloves to get the kitten to the animal shelter. This world could use more people like Julie. Thanks, Julie.

Water in the main pool at HWA had been dropping in recent days, exposing mudflats appropriate for migrant shorebirds. We stopped first at the end of James Avenue. There we heard

a Baltimore Oriole, which Elizabeth located for us in the top of a cottonwood. The path down to the water had been nicely mowed for us so we didn't have to get out our machetes. There were some shorebirds there, primarily Pectoral Sandpipers. There were also a few Semipalmated Sandpipers and some Semipalmated Plovers. Neil spotted a Franklin's Gull and some very distant Double-crested Cormorants, which inspired Gerry to imagine the interesting photographs he might capture of those cormorants superimposed on the reflections in the water made by all the American White Pelicans behind. This led to some comments from others regarding legalizing cannabis. I noted that the group had begun to digress markedly, and I sought to recapture its focus. A change in venue was in order. By this time Julie had rejoined the group. So, we headed back up the hill and carpooled over to the Amana Road parking lot below the DNR sheds.

Our arrival was in time to listen to a singing Blue Grosbeak, which some of us were lucky enough to locate before it flew off. But we were there for shorebirds anyway and the mudflats were calling. The path down from the parking lot was quite steep, but a much easier walk could be made just a hundred yards to the west. So, we marched down the gravel to the small parking area with the "no parking" sign and headed in. Once we got nearer the shoreline there were some short willows to get through, but it wasn't difficult. It was certainly muddier here and none of us ventured past the short vegetation. There were more birds than had been at James Avenue and they were also much closer. Here again, most were Pectoral Sandpipers. Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers were their most obvious companions. After some time, it seemed that these had been joined by others. Now Least Sandpipers were seen. Then a few Baird's Sandpipers materialized. Then Lesser Yellowlegs and a couple of Spotted Sandpipers emerged from the mud. Most interesting to me were a pair of juvenile Stilt Sandpipers. Then even more interesting, Elizabeth located a pair of adult Stilt Sandpipers. And if it wasn't more interesting, certainly aging Stilt Sandpipers is far

less tedious than aging peeps. Which was nice. It was getting close to 11 o'clock and the pelicans had begun to take wing. We saw thousands in groups across the horizon, practicing their routines for the festival next weekend I suppose. And that was our send-off.

Participants: Elizabeth Aubrey, Neil Bernstein, Chris Caster (leader), Gerry Denning, Julie Englander, Donna Keeney, Linda Quinn, Julie Reuter, Ben Rowold, William Shutters.

Birds (37 species): Canada Goose, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, American Crow, Bank Swallow, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Gray Catbird, European Starling, American Robin, House Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

– *Chris Caster*

**August 18, Pelican Festival at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area.** The weather was great, with sunshine, temperatures in the 80s, and very little wind. And there were American White Pelicans! They stayed grouped together for most of the day, and their numbers varied from 500-1000. One group came close to the shore, and several groups in the air showed their fantastic disappearing act while turning in flight.

This year's speakers were Doug Harr (American White Pelicans), Neil Bernstein (Ospreys), Terry VanDeWalle (Turtles of Iowa), and Jennifer Kurth (Mussels of Iowa). There were 30-50 attendees for each talk.

Fifteen groups came with displays and information on their organizations and activities for kids. They included Iowa Audubon, Iowa

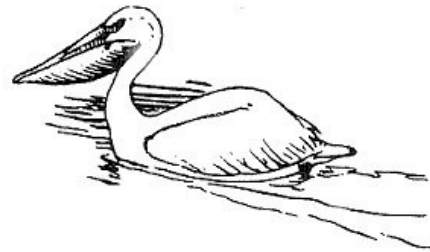
City Bird Club, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Prairie States Mushroom Club, Eastern Iowa Beekeepers Association, Iowa Master Naturalists, Iowa Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, Bur Oak Land Trust, Cedar County Conservation, Iowa County Conservation, Funny Face Designs by Lori (free face painting), U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Friends of Coralville Lake, and Terry VanDeWalle, author of *The Natural History of the Snakes and Lizards of Iowa*.

Many people came together to make this Pelican Festival happen including Dave Kutz and his staff at the Iowa DNR who mowed and moved equipment, picnic tables, and chairs. A special thank you to Lench & Cilek Ace Hardware for loaning canopies every year. Fourteen awesome volunteers from the Iowa City Bird Club helped set up, put out signs, staffed scopes and binoculars, brought water and ice, and even staffed a booth for another group who had no one available. We couldn't have done it without you! They included Neil Bernstein, Mary Bowler,

Brian Broderick, Barry Buschelman, Edith Dawson, Gerry Denning, Connie Peterson, Linda Quinn, Ben Rowold, Amy Shuttleworth, Jane Shuttleworth, and Nick Timmer.

Birds (21 species): Canada Goose, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, dowitcher sp., Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Bank Swallow, Tree Swallow, American Goldfinch, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

– Karen Disbrow



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Please send this form with your annual membership dues to Gerry Denning, 1146 Oakes Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245. Annual membership dues per household are \$15 for a print subscription or \$10 for a digital subscription. Make checks payable to "Eastern Iowa Birdwatch". Members receive a 10% discount on birdseed and suet at Ace Hardware at 600 N. Dodge Street, Iowa City, and Forever Green Garden Center at 125 Forevergreen Rd., Coralville.

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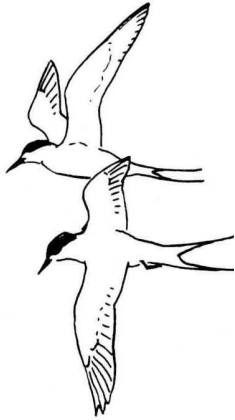
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## ***Eastern Iowa Birdwatch***

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## Iowa City Bird Club

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**Annual membership dues** per household are \$15 for a print subscription or \$10 for a digital subscription, payable by January 1 for the coming year. To check the status of your membership, check your mailing label or contact Treasurer Gerry Denning at [geralddenning50@gmail.com](mailto:geralddenning50@gmail.com). Make checks payable to Eastern Iowa Birdwatch and mail to Gerry Denning, 1146 Oakes Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245, or pay with PayPal on our website.

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**To lead or suggest a field trip**, contact Field Trip Coordinator Linda Quinn at 319-330-3328 or [quinnhenry@msn.com](mailto:quinnhenry@msn.com).

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