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A CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS, CODED WITH STATUS SYMBOLS

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All species of birds that have been reported from Iowa by informed and reliable observers during the past fifty years have been included here, as well as all earlier ones for which specimens are available, plus a few others which seem unmistakable. An asterisk (*) preceding the status-code points out those 39 species for which we have not found a record of an extant preserved specimen secured in Iowa. In some state lists such species are not accepted, but we feel no harm is done by including them if their status is made clear. Undoubtedly some records of specimens have been overlooked, and we would appreciate having these called to our attention, as well as any other additions, corrections, or suggestions. Subspecies distinctions have been ignored.

Most of the material has been compiled from four sources: the American Ornithologists' Union **Check-List of North American Birds**, 5th edition, 1957, the official authority for both the common and the scientific names; R. M. Anderson, 1907, **The Birds of Iowa**; P. A. DuMont, 1933, **A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa**; and the 130 issues to date of **Iowa Bird Life**, edited by F. J. Pierce for most of its existence. A full bibliography would include over a thousand items.

The "official" common name is in a few cases supplemented by another well-known name in parentheses, including all those used by R. T. Peterson in his **Field Guide to the (Eastern) Birds**, 1947 edition. The scientific names are given for those specialists who might be interested in them and may easily be ignored. [These double names, i.e., binomials, consist of a genus name (first) and a species name (second), followed by the name of the specialist who coined the specific name. This person's name has been put into parentheses if it has later been deemed advisable to put the species into another genus. For most of these men an abbreviation has been used as follows: A.—Audubon, B.—Bonaparte, B. & B.—Baird and Baird, Be.—Bechstein, Bod.—Boddaert, F.—Forster, G.—Gmelin, L.—Linnaeus, Lat.—Latham, Law.—Lawrence, M.—Muller, N.—Nuttall, P.—Pontoppidan, S.—Swainson, T.—Townsend, V.— Vieillot, and W.—Wilson. These seventeen men were responsible for naming 311 of the 361 species in the list.]

The 361 species are numbered consecutively on the left, which numbers may be useful in handling data concerning birds within the state. Another set of numbers is given after the names of the orders and families, which are consecutive numbers we have given to these units as listed in A. Wetmore, **A Revised Classification for the Birds of the World**, 1951. These latter numbers are useful in filing systematic material on any basis up to a global one. The largest families, with the numbers of species recorded in each from the state, are: Finches 44, Warblers 40, Ducks 36, Sandpipers 28, Hawks 16, Gulls and Terns 13, Flycatchers 12, Blackbirds 12, Herons 10, Woodpeckers 10, Thrushes 10, Owls 9, Rails 7, Wrens 7, Vireos 7, Plovers 6, and Swallows 6. These 17 families include 273 species, leaving only 88 species in the remaining 41 families. There are 18 orders.

Explanation of Abbreviations

One-letter symbols (capital letters) have been chosen to designate abundance and status. Three of these are arbitrary (G,X,Z), but the other 15 are the

initial letters of the words they stand for, and thus should be easy to learn. Six of them (G,X,Z,D,N, and O) have not been used before in bird lists, to our knowledge, but, we think, should prove useful.

Terms of abundance: A—Abundant, C—Common, U—Uncommon, R—Rare, E—Extirpated in Iowa, or even Extinct. Unfortunately, these terms are arbitrary and relative, but, for the better known species, it doesn't matter. In general, Rare is applied to any species with less than about (abbreviation: c. for "circa") 40 reports. For the very rarest species, a number is given following R, which is an estimate of the number of published records of the species in Iowa, e.g., R5. Sometimes, for clarity, this number is enclosed in parentheses. The absence of a number means that there are probably more than 25 records. The larger the number, the more likely it is to be incomplete. Where there are only 1-3 records of a given species, the dates of the records are given, preceded by a colon, and followed by a comma. Thus R2:1928,1935, means that Lewis' Woodpecker has been reported only in those two years. A "c" is put before the date if it is approximate, and a question mark is used if the date is unknown. A date in parentheses following E represents the last year of observation.

A few samples might illustrate the use of these terms of abundance, picking a few species from each of several families:

Abundant	Uncommon
Blue Goose	Common Loon
Mallard	Black Duck
Red-tailed Hawk	Gray Partridge
Ring-necked Pheasant	Common Gallinule
Pectoral Sandpiper	White-rumped Sandpiper
Downy Woodpecker	Pileated Woodpecker
Robin	Veery
Tennessee Warbler	Mourning Warbler
White-throated Sparrow	Lark Sparrow
Common	Rare
Green Heron	Snowy Egret
Wood Duck	Oldsquaw
Bobwhite	Goshawk
Sora	Yellow Rail
Least Sandpiper	Stilt Sandpiper
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Red-shafted Flicker
Swainson's Thrush	Townsend's Solitaire
Nashville Warbler	Prairie Warbler
Vesper Sparrow	Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Obviously these will vary considerably from one part of the state to another, and from one habitat to another, but the attempt, rather subjectively, has been made to strike an average.

The number of species in each of the categories will also give an indication of the way in which the symbols are used. In the following table are listed the numbers of Abundant, Common, Uncommon, Rare, Very Rare (i.e., R with the number of records given), and Extirpated birds in the state:

	A	C	U	R	VR	E	Total
Non-Perching Birds	18	47	45	23	49	10	192
Perching Birds	33	50	38	19	27	2	169
Totals	51	97	83	42	76	12	361
Finch Family	6	14	10	7	5	2	44

Terms of time: P—Permanent Resident, i.e., some individuals (not necessarily the same ones) might be found at almost any time of the year; S—Summer Resident, presumably nesting, such species usually being found in much greater numbers during the migrations than in the summer proper; W—Winter Resident, similarly usually more common during migration; M—Migrant, usually both spring and fall; F—Fall; G—Spring (for "Green"); N—Nesting, which is implied in "S" (Summer Resident), but is sometimes specifically stated (1) when there are very few breeding records (dates may be given), (2) when the bird is seen in the summer much more often than the number of nests found would suggest, or (3) when nesting no longer occurs; D—Dispersing, usually northward, after the nesting season, i.e., late summer and early fall; V—Visitor, i.e., likely to travel around more than a regular resident, and thus usually not staying through the whole season; Z—Irregular, unpredictable, not every year, i.e., variation from one year to another, while V refers to variation within a single year; O—once occurring, in the past, formerly but probably not now. (Note: R means Rare, **never** Resident. Resident is implied in the symbols P, S, and W, except where these are modified by V. Thus WV means Winter Visitant).

Terms of geography: n and s—the north and south halves, very roughly, of the State of Iowa; e and w—the east and west halves. Note that "s,e" means the south half and the east half, i.e., $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state, while "se" means the southeast quarter only. I—introduced from Eurasia (5 species); X—out of normal range, a straggler, accidental (for "eXtension of usual range). Note that the four geographical terms (n,s,e,w) and "c" (for circa, about, approximately) are the only ones in lower case letters.

Summary of Abbreviations, in Alphabetical Order

A—Abundant	I—Introduced	U—Uncommon
C—Common	M—Migrant	V—Visitor
c—approximately	N—Nesting	W—Winter Resident
D—Dispersal, after nesting	n—north	w—west
E—Extirpated	O—Once, formerly	X—eXtension of normal range
e—east	P—Permanent Resident	Z—Irregular
F—Fall	R—Rare	*—no substantiating specimen
G—Spring, "Green"-time	S—Summer Resident	
	s—south	

CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS

Order GAVIIFORMES. Loons. 12.

Family Gaviidae. Loons. 12.1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
1. Loon, Common	<i>Gavia immer</i> (Brünnich)	UM,ONn
2. Loon, Arctic (Pacific)	<i>Gavia arctica</i> (L.)	R6XWV
3. Loon, Red-throated	<i>Gavia stellata</i> (P.)	R8XM

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES. Grebes. 13

Family Podicipedidae. Grebes. 13.1

4. Grebe, Red-necked (Hoelboell)	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i> (Bod.)	R(11)ZMWV
5. Grebe, Horned	<i>Podiceps auritus</i> (L.)	UM,ON
6. Grebe, Eared	<i>Podiceps caspicus</i> (Hablizl)	UMwRe,ON
7. Grebe, Western	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i> (Law.)	*R14XM
8. Grebe, Pied-billed	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> (L.)	CS

40. Teal, Blue-winged	<i>Anas discors</i> L.	AM,CS
41. Teal, Cinnamon	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i> V.	R(20)XM
42. Widgeon, European	<i>Mareca penelope</i> (L.)	R2:1933,1961,XM
43. Widgeon, American (Baldpate)	<i>Mareca americana</i> (G.)	CM,RSn
44. Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i> (L.)	CM,RSn
45. Duck, Wood Sea (Diving) Ducks	<i>Aix sponsa</i> (L.)	CMS
46. Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i> (Eyton)	CZS _{sw}
47. Duck, Ring-necked	<i>Aythya collaris</i> (Donovan)	CM,RS _{sw} ,R _{We}
48. Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i> (W.)	UM,RS _{sw} ,R _{We}
49. Scaup, Greater	<i>Aythya marila</i> (L.)	R7XM
50. Scaup, Lesser	<i>Aythya affinis</i> (Eyton)	AM,ON,U _{We}
51. Goldeneye, Common (Amer.)	<i>Bucephala clangula</i> (L.)	UMW,C _{We}
52. Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i> (L.)	UM,ON,R _{We}
53. Oldsquaw	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> (L.)	R26ZWV,R _{Me}
54. Duck, Harlequin	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> (L.)	R6XF
55. Eider, Common	<i>Somateria mollissima</i> (L.)	R1:1901,WV
56. Eider, King	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i> (L.)	R4WV
57. Scoter, White-winged	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i> (B.)	R23FMWV
58. Scoter, Surf	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> (L.)	R14X
59. Scoter, Common (Amer.)	<i>Oidemia nigra</i> (L.)	R(10)X
60. Duck, Ruddy	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> (G.)	UM,RS _{sw} ,R _{We}
61. Merganser, Hooded	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> (L.)	UM,RS,R _{We}
62. Merganser, Common (Amer.)	<i>Mergus merganser</i> L.	CM,ON,C _{We} R _w
63. Merganser, Red-breasted	<i>Mergus serrator</i> L.	UM,R _{We}

Order FALCONIFORMES. Hawks and allies. 18.

Family **Cathartidae**. Vultures. 18.1

64. Vulture, Turkey	<i>Cathartes aurea</i> (L.)	US
65. Vulture, Black	<i>Coragyps atratus</i> (Be.)	R3XF

Family **Accipitridae**. Hawks. 18.4

66. Kite, Swallow-tailed	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i> (L.)	R25X,OCS
67. Kite, Mississippi	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i> (W.)	E(1890),OR5X
68. Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (L.)	RZWV
69. Hawk, Sharp-shinned	<i>Accipiter striatus</i> V.	CM,US,RW
70. Hawk, Cooper's	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> (B.)	CM,UP
71. Hawk, Red-tailed	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> (G.)	AP
72. Hawk, Harlan's	<i>Buteo harlani</i> (A.)	RMWV
73. Hawk, Red-shouldered	<i>Buteo lineatus</i> (G.)	CP
74. Hawk, Broad-winged	<i>Buteo platypterus</i> (V.)	CM,RWV,ON
75. Hawk, Swainson's	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> B.	UMS
76. Hawk, Rough-legged	<i>Buteo lagopus</i> (P.)	CW _n Us
77. Hawk, Ferruginous	<i>Buteo regalis</i> (Gray)	R25ZM
78. Hawk, Harris'	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i> (Temminck)	*R1:1904,X
79. Eagle, Golden	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (L.)	RX _{MW}
80. Eagle, Bald	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (L.)	CMWV _e R _w ,ON (1892)
81. Hawk, Marsh	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (L.)	CM,UP

Family **Pandionidae**. Ospreys. 18.5

82. Osprey (Fish Hawk)	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (L.)	UM
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Family **Falconidae. Falcons.** 18.6

83. Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i> L.	*R1:1949,WV
84. Falcon, Prairie	<i>Falco mexicanus</i> Schlegel	RXMWV
85. Falcon, Peregrine (Duck Hawk)	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> Tunstall	RM,Sne
86. Hawk, Pigeon	<i>Falco columbarius</i> L.	UM
87. Hawk, Sparrow	<i>Falco sparverius</i> L.	CS,UW

Order GALLIFORMES. Upland Game Birds. 19

Family **Tetraonidae. Grouse.** 19.4

88. Grouse, Ruffed	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i> (L.)	UPne
89. Prairie Chicken, Greater	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i> (L.)	E,OP
90. Grouse, Sharp-tailed	<i>Pedioecetes phasianellus</i> (L.)	E(1934),ORWV

Family **Phasianidae. Quails, Pheasants.** 19.5

91. Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i> (L.)	CP, Rn
92. Pheasant, Ring-necked	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i> L.	IAP
93. Partridge, Gray (Hungarian)	<i>Perdix perdix</i> (L.)	IUPn

Family **Meleagrididae. Turkeys.** 19.7

94. Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> L.	OE(1910),IPne
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Order GRUIFORMES. Cranes, Rails. 20.

Family **Gruidae. Cranes.** 20.4

95. Crane, Whooping	<i>Grus americana</i> (L.)	E(1911),OUS
96. Crane, Sandhill	<i>Grus canadensis</i> (L.)	RZM, OUS

Family **Rallidae. Rails.** 20.7

97. Rail, King	<i>Rallus elegans</i> A.	UMS
98. Rail, Virginia	<i>Rallus limicola</i> V.	CS
99. Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i> (L.)	CS
100. Rail, Yellow	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> (G.)	RMS
101. Rail, Black	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> (G.)	*R12ZM
102. Gallinule, Common (Florida)	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (L.)	UM,RS
103. Coot, American	<i>Fulica americana</i> G.	AM,US

Order CHARADRIIFORMES. Shorebirds. 22.

Family **Charadriidae. Plovers.** 22.3

104. Plover, Semipalmated	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> B.	UM
105. Plover, Piping	<i>Charadrius melodus</i> Ord.	RMSw
106. Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i> L.	CS,RW
107. Plover, American Golden	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i> (M.)	UM
108. Plover, Black-bellied	<i>Squatarola squatarola</i> (L.)	UM
109. Turnstone, Ruddy	<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (L.)	RM

Family **Scolopacidae. Sandpipers.** 22.4

110. Woodcock, American	<i>Philohela minor</i> (G.)	UMSeRw
111. Snipe, Common (Wilson's)	<i>Capella gallinago</i> (L.)	CM,RP
112. Curlew, Long-billed	<i>Numenius americanus</i> Be.	E(1932),OCSn
113. Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew)	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> (L.)	R5ZM
114. Curlew, Eskimo	<i>Numenius borealis</i> (F.)	E(1893).OR8M

115. Upland Plover	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i> (Be.)	US
116. Sandpiper, Spotted	<i>Actitis macularia</i> (L.)	CS
117. Sandpiper, Solitary	<i>Tringa solitaria</i> W.	CM
118. Willet	<i>Cataprophorus semipalmatus</i> (G.)	RM,ON
119. Yellowlegs, Greater	<i>Totanus melanoleucus</i> (G.)	CM
120. Yellowlegs, Lesser	<i>Totanus flavipes</i> (G.)	CM,RSV
121. Knot	<i>Calidris canutis</i> L.	R1:1937,XF
122. Sandpiper, Purple	<i>Erolia maritima</i> (Brünnich)	*R2:1946,?,XM
123. Sandpiper, Pectoral	<i>Erolia melanotos</i> (V.)	AM
124. Sandpiper, White-rumped	<i>Erolia fuscicollis</i> (V.)	UM
125. Sandpiper, Baird's	<i>Erolia bairdii</i> (Coues)	UM
126. Sandpiper, Least	<i>Erolia minutilla</i> (V.)	CM
127. Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper)	<i>Erolia alpina</i> (L.)	UM
128. Dowitcher, Short-billed	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i> (G.)	UM,Rw
129. Dowitcher, Long-billed	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> (Say)	UM,Re
130. Sandpiper, Stilt	<i>Micropalama himantopus</i> (B.)	RM
131. Sandpiper, Semipalmated	<i>Ereunetes pusillus</i> (L.)	CM
132. Sandpiper, Western	<i>Ereunetes mauri</i> Cabanis	RZM
133. Sandpiper, Buff-breasted	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i> (V.)	R(10)M
134. Godwit, Marbled	<i>Limosa fedoa</i> (L.)	RZM,ON
135. Godwit, Hudsonian	<i>Limosa haemastica</i> (L.)	UM
136. Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (L.)	R1:1940,XG
137. Sanderling	<i>Crothecia alba</i> (Pallas)	RZM
Family Recurvirostridae. Avocets, Stilts. 22.5		
138. Avocet, American	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i> G.	RZM,ON
139. Stilt, Black-necked	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> (M.)	*R(10)XM
Family Phalaropodidae. Phalaropes. 22.7		
140. Phalarope, Red	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> (L.)	*R1:1940,MG
141. Phalarope, Wilson's	<i>Steganopus tricolor</i> V.	UM,OSn
142. Phalarope, Northern	<i>Lobipes lobatus</i> (L.)	R(11)M
Family Stercorariidae. Jaegers. 22.13		
143. Jaeger, Parasitic	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> (L.)	R2:1896,1905,X
144. Jaeger, Long-tailed	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> V.	R4:1907,1954-59,X
Family Laridae. Gulls, Terns. 22.14		
145. Gull, Glaucous	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i> Gunnerus	R3XWV
146. Gull, Herring	<i>Larus argentatus</i> P.	CM,CWVeRw
147. Gull, Ring-billed	<i>Larus delawarensis</i> Ord	CM,UWve
148. Gull, Laughing	<i>Larus atricilla</i> L.	*R1:1941,XG
149. Gull, Franklin's	<i>Larus pipixcan</i> Wagler	AMnwCwRe, RSnw
150. Gull, Bonaparte's	<i>Larus philadelphia</i> (Ord)	CMnUe
151. Kittiwake, Black-legged (Atlantic)	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i> (L.)	R1:1931,XF
152. Gull, Sabine's	<i>Xema sabini</i> (Sabine)	R3:1891,94,?,XF
153. Tern, Forster's	<i>Sterna forsteri</i> N.	CM,RNnw
154. Tern, Common	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> L.	CM,Uw
155. Tern, Least	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> Pallas	USsw,RSVe
156. Tern, Caspian	<i>Hydropogon caspia</i> (Pallas)	UMe,RZw
157. Tern, Black	<i>Chlidonias niger</i> (L.)	CM,CSnw

Family **Alcidae. Auks, Murres.** 22.16

158. Murre, Thick-billed
(Brunnich's) *Uria lomvia* (L.) R2:1896,1897,X

Order COLUMBIFORMES. Doves. 23.

Family **Columbidae. Pigeons, Doves.** 23.3

159. Dove, Rock (Domestic Pigeon) *Columbia livia* G. AP,but R wild
160. Dove, Mourning *Zenaidura macroura* (L.) ASR,UW
161. Pigeon, Passenger *Ectopistes migratorius* (L.) E(1903),OAM,CS

Order PSITTACIFORMES. Parrots. 24.

Family **Psittacidae. Parrots.** 24.2

162. Parakeet, Carolina
(Louisiana) *Conuropsis carolinensis* (L.) E(1872)

Order CUCULIFORMES. 25.

Family **Cuculidae. Cuckoos.** 25.2

163. Cuckoo, Yellow-billed *Coccyzus americanus* (L.) CS
164. Cuckoo, Black-billed *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*
(W.) CS
165. Ani, Groove-billed *Crotophaga sulcirostris* S. R1:c1940,X

Order STRIGIFORMES. Owls. 26.

Family **Tytonidae. Barn Owls.** 26.1

166. Owl, Barn *Tyto alba* (Scopoli) RP

Family **Strigidae. Owls.** 26.2

167. Owl, Screech *Otus asio* (L.) CP
168. Owl, Great Horned *Bubo virginianus* (G.) CP
169. Owl, Snowy *Nyctea scandiaca* (L.) RZ WV
170. Owl, Burrowing *Speotyto cunicularia* (Molina) RZSnw
171. Owl, Barred *Strix varia* Barton CP
172. Owl, Great Gray *Strix nebulosa* F. *R7WV
173. Owl, Long-eared *Asio otus* (L.) UW,RP
174. Owl, Short-eared *Asio flammeus* (P.) UW,RS
175. Owl, Saw-whet *Aegolius acadicus* (G.) RZW,UMe

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES. Goatsuckers. 27.

Family **Caprimulgidae. Goatsuckers.** 27.5

176. Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* G. *R1:1933,Xse
177. Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferus* W. USs,ne
178. Poor-will (Nuttall's) *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* (A.) *R3Sw
179. Nighthawk, Common *Chordeiles minor* (F.) AS

Order APODIFORMES. Small-footed Birds. 28.

Family **Apodidae. Swifts.** 28.1

180. Swift, Chimney *Chaetura pelagica* (L.) AS

Family **Trochilidae. Hummingbirds.** 28.3

181. Hummingbird, Ruby-throated *Archilochus colubris* (L.) CS

Order CORACIIFORMES. Kingfishers. 31.

Family **Alcedinidae. Kingfishers.** 31.1

182. Kingfisher, Belted *Megaceryle alcyon* (L.) CS,UW

Order PICIFORMES. Woodpeckers. 31.

Family **Picidae. Woodpeckers.** 32.6

183. Flicker, Yellow-shafted	<i>Colaptes auratus</i> (L.)	AS,UW
184. Flicker, Red-shafted	<i>Colaptes cafer</i> (G.)	RZMWVw
185. Woodpecker, Pileated	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> (L.)	UPe
186. Woodpecker, Red-bellied	<i>Centurus carolinus</i> (L.)	CP
187. Woodpecker, Red-headed	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> (L.)	AS,CPe
188. Woodpecker, Lewis'	<i>Asyndesmus lewis</i> (Gray)	*R2:1928,1935,Xnw
189. Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> (L.)	CM,RS,RWs
190. Woodpecker, Hairy	<i>Dendrocopus villosus</i> (L.)	CP
191. Woodpecker, Downy	<i>Dendrocopus pubescens</i> (L.)	AP
192. Black-backed Three-toed	<i>Picoïdes arcticus</i> (S.)	*R2:1885,1924,WV

Order PASSERIFORMES. Perching-birds. 33.

Family **Tyrannidae. Flycatchers.** 33.9

193. Kingbird, Eastern	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> (L.)	AS
194. Kingbird, Western	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> Say	USw,RSVe
195. Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed	<i>Muscivora forficata</i> (G.)	*R3:1946-58,SV
196. Flycatcher, Great Crested	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i> (L.)	CS
197. Phoebe, Eastern	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i> (Lat.)	CS
198. Phoebe, Say's	<i>Sayornis saya</i> (B.)	*RSw
199. Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i> (B. & B.)	UM
200. Flycatcher, Acadian	<i>Empidonax virescens</i> (V.)	USs,e
201. Flycatcher, Traill's (Alder)	<i>Empidonax trailii</i> (A.)	AM,US
202. Flycatcher, Least	<i>Empidonax minimus</i> (B. & B.)	AM,RS
203. Wood Pewee, Eastern	<i>Contopus virens</i> (L.)	CS
204. Flycatcher, Olive-sided	<i>Nuttallornis borealis</i> (S.)	UM

Family **Alaudidae. Larks.** 33.17

205. Lark, Horned	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i> (L.)	AM,CS,UW
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Family **Hirundinidae. Swallows.** 33.19

206. Swallow, Tree	<i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i> (V.)	CM,US
207. Swallow, Bank	<i>Riparia riparia</i> (L.)	AS
208. Swallow, Rough-winged	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i> (V.)	CS
209. Swallow, Barn	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> L.	AS
210. Swallow, Cliff	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> (V.)	UMS
211. Martin, Purple	<i>Progne subis</i> (L.)	CS

Family **Corvidae. Jays, Crows, and allies.** 33.23

212. Jay, Blue	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> (L.)	AS,CW
213. Magpie, Black-billed (American)	<i>Pica pica</i> (L.)	UZMWVw;R2: 1938-9,N
214. Raven, Common (American)	<i>Corvus corax</i> L.	R9XFMWVn
215. Crow, Common	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> Brehm	AP
216. Nutcracker, Clark's	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i> (W.)	R3:1894,1910,?,XF

Family **Paridae. Titmice.** 33.26

217. Chickadee, Black-capped	<i>Parus atricapillus</i> L.	AP
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Family **Laniidae. Shrikes.** 33.49

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| 253. Shrike, Northern | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> L. | RZWV |
| 254. Shrike, Loggerhead | <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> L. | CS,RWs |

Family **Sturnidae. Starlings.** 33.54

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| 255. Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> L. | IAP |
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Family **Vireonidae. Vireos.** 33.60

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| 256. Vireo, White-eyed | <i>Vireo griseus</i> (Bod.) | RSs,e |
| 257. Vireo, Bell's | <i>Vireo bellii</i> A. | US,Rn |
| 258. Vireo, Yellow-throated | <i>Vireo flavifrons</i> V. | CS |
| 259. Vireo, Solitary (Blue-headed) | <i>Vireo solitarius</i> (W.) | CM |
| 260. Vireo, Red-eyed | <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> (L.) | AS |
| 261. Vireo, Philadelphia | <i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>
(Cassin) | RM |
| 262. Vireo, Warbling | <i>Vireo gilvus</i> (V.) | AS |

Family **Parulidae. Warblers.** 33.63

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| 263. Warbler, Black-and-white | <i>Mniotilta varia</i> (L.) | CM,ON |
| 264. Warbler, Prothonotary | <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> (Bod.) | CSseRw |
| 265. Warbler, Swainson's | <i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>
(A.) | *R1:XGe |
| 266. Warbler, Worm-eating | <i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i> (G.) | R(30)MSVs,ON |
| 267. Warbler, Golden-winged | <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> (L.) | RMe,ON |
| 268. Warbler, Blue-winged | <i>Vermivora pinus</i> (L.) | RSe,s |
| 269. Warbler, Tennessee | <i>Vermivora peregrina</i> (W.) | AM |
| 270. Warbler, Orange-crowned | <i>Vermivora celata</i> (Say) | CM |
| 271. Warbler, Nashville | <i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i> (W.) | CM |
| 272. Warbler, Parula | <i>Parula americana</i> (L.) | RSse*Nest |
| 273. Warbler, Yellow | <i>Dendroica petechia</i> (L.) | AS |
| 274. Warbler, Magnolia | <i>Dendroica magnolia</i> (W.) | CMeUw |
| 275. Warbler, Cape May | <i>Dendroica tigrina</i> (G.) | RM |
| 276. Warbler, Black-thrtd. Blue | <i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> (G.) | RMe |
| 277. Warbler, Myrtle | <i>Dendroica coronata</i> (L.) | AM |
| 278. Warbler, Audubon's | <i>Dendroica auduboni</i> (T.) | *R1:1934,XG |
| 279. Warbler, Black-thrtd. Gray | <i>Dendroica nigrescens</i> (T.) | *R1:1961,Xw |
| 280. Warbler, Townsend's | <i>Dendroica townsendi</i> (T.) | *R1:1950,XG |
| 281. Warbler, Black-thrtd. Green | <i>Dendroica virens</i> (G.) | UMeRw |
| 282. Warbler, Cerulean | <i>Dendroica cerulea</i> (W.) | RS |
| 283. Warbler, Blackburnian | <i>Dendroica fusca</i> (M.) | UMeRw |
| 284. Warbler, Yellow-thrtd. (Sycamore) | <i>Dendroica dominica</i> (L.) | *R15Sse |
| 285. Warbler, Chestnut-sided | <i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i> (L.) | CMeUw,ON |
| 286. Warbler, Bay-breasted | <i>Dendroica castanea</i> (W.) | UM |
| 287. Warbler, Blackpoll | <i>Dendroica striata</i> (F.) | CM |
| 288. Warbler, Pine | <i>Dendroica pinus</i> (W.) | UM |
| 289. Warbler, Prairie | <i>Dendroica discolor</i> (V.) | R8X(ON)s*Eggs |
| 290. Warbler, Palm | <i>Dendroica palmarum</i> (G.) | CMe |
| 291. Ovenbird | <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> (L.) | CS,Rnw |

292. Waterthrush, Northern (Grinnell's)	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> (G.)	CM
293. Waterthrush, Louisiana	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i> (V.)	UM,Se
294. Warbler, Kentucky	<i>Oporornis formosus</i> (W.)	USs,e
295. Warbler, Connecticut	<i>Oporornis agilis</i> (W.)	RMe,s
296. Warbler, Mourning	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i> (W.)	UM
297. Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> (L.)	AS
298. Chat, Yellow-breasted	<i>Icteria virens</i> (L.)	UZS
299. Warbler, Hooded	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i> (Bod.)	RM(OS)se*Nest
300. Warbler, Wilson's	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i> (W.)	CMeUw
301. Warbler, Canada	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i> (L.)	UMeRw
302. Redstart, American	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> (L.)	AM,CS

Family **Ploceidae. Weaver Finches.** 33.64

303. Sparrow, House (English)	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (L.)	IAP
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Family **Icteridae. Blackbirds and allies.** 33.65

304. Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> (L.)	CS,Us
305. Meadowlark, Eastern	<i>Sturnella magna</i> (L.)	ASeUsWrw, RWnUs
306. Meadowlark, Western	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i> A.	AS,RWnUs
307. Blackbird, Yellow-headed	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> (B.)	CS,Re
308. Blackbird, Red-winged	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> (L.)	AS,UWs
309. Oriole, Orchard	<i>Icterus spurius</i> (L.)	US
310. Oriole, Baltimore	<i>Icterus galbula</i> (L.)	AS
311. Blackbird, Rusty	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i> (M.)	CM,RWs
312. Blackbird, Brewer's	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i> (Wagler)	UMwRe
313. Grackle, Boat-tailed	<i>Cassidix mexicanus</i> (G.)	*R1:1961,XFse
314. Grackle, Common (Purp., Bronz.)	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> (L.)	AS,RW
315. Cowbird, Brown-headed	<i>Molothrus ater</i> (Bod.)	CS,RWe

Family **Thraupidae. Tanagers.** 33.67

316. Tanager, Scarlet	<i>Piranga olivacea</i> (G.)	US
317. Tanager, Summer	<i>Piranga rubra</i> (L.)	USs

Family **Fringillidae. Sparrows, Finches.** 33.69

318. Cardinal	<i>Richmondia cardinalis</i> (L.)	AP
319. Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i> (L.)	CS,R1We
320. Grosbeak, Blue	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i> (L.)	USw,RXe
321. Bunting, Indigo	<i>Passerina cyanea</i> (L.)	CS
322. Bunting, Lazuli	<i>Passerina amoena</i> (Say)	*R8Xw
323. Bunting, Painted	<i>Passerina ciris</i> (L.)	*R1:1956,XGnw
324. Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i> (G.)	AS
325. Grosbeak, Evening	<i>Hesperiphona vespertina</i> (Cooper)	UZWV
326. Finch, Purple	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> (G.)	CM,UWV,R1:1907, N
327. Grosbeak, Pine	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i> (L.)	RZWVn
328. Rosy Finch, Gray-crowned	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i> (S.)	*R1:1883,X
329. Redpoll, Common	<i>Acanthis flammea</i> (L.)	UZWV
330. Siskin, Pine	<i>Spinus pinus</i> (W.)	UZWV,RSnw
331. Goldfinch, American	<i>Spinus tristis</i> (L.)	CS,UW

332. Crossbill, Red	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i> L.	UZWV
333. Crossbill, White-winged	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i> G.	RZWV
334. Towhee, Rufous-sided (Red-eyed)	<i>Pipilio erythrophthalmus</i> (L.)	CS,RW
335. Bunting, Lark	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i> Stejn.	*R(18)ZMnw
336. Sparrow, Savannah	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> (G.)	CM,USn
337. Sparrow, Grasshopper	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> (G.)	CS
338. Sparrow, Baird's	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i> (A.)	*R7M
339. Sparrow, Le Conte's	<i>Passerherbulus caudacutus</i> (Lat.)	UM
340. Sparrow, Henslow's	<i>Passerherbulus henslowii</i> (A.)	RMS
341. Sparrow, Sharp-tailed (Nelson's)	<i>Ammospiza caudacuta</i> (G.)	RM
342. Sparrow, Vesper	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i> (G.)	CS
343. Sparrow, Lark	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i> (Say)	US
344. Junco, Slate-colored	<i>Junco hyemalis</i> (L.)	AW
345. Junco, Oregon (Montana)	<i>Junco oreganus</i> (T.)	RWV
346. Sparrow, Tree	<i>Spizella arborea</i> (W.)	AW
347. Sparrow, Chipping	<i>Spizella passerina</i> (Be.)	CS
348. Sparrow, Clay-colored	<i>Spizella pallida</i> (S.)	UM,RS
349. Sparrow, Field	<i>Spizella pusilla</i> (W.)	CS
350. Sparrow, Harris'	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i> (N.)	CMwUeRW
351. Sparrow, White-crowned	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> (F.)	UM,RW
352. Sparrow, White-throated	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> (G.)	AM,RW
353. Sparrow, Fox	<i>Passerella iliaca</i> (Merrem)	CM,RW
354. Sparrow, Lincoln's	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i> (A.)	CM,RWV
355. Sparrow, Swamp	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i> (Lat.)	CM,RS,UW
356. Sparrow, Song	<i>Melospiza melodia</i> W.	AS,CW
357. Longspur, McCown's	<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i> (Law.)	E(1890),OR3M
358. Longspur, Lapland	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i> (L.)	UWV
359. Longspur, Smith's	<i>Calcarius pictus</i> (S.)	R6XM
360. Longspur, Chestnut- collared	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i> (T.)	*E(1932)OR(10) MWV
361. Bunting, Snow	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> (L.)	RZWV

CHARLES JOLLEY SPIKER: ORNITHOLOGIST,
TEACHER, CITIZEN

1895-1963

FRED J. PIERCE
WINTHROP, IOWA

Charles Jolley Spiker, of Branchport, New York, died April 20, 1963. He was born April 3, 1895, at Liberal, Missouri, the son of Reverend William D. and Martha Jolley Spiker. He was one of the three "Founders" of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the last one to depart. The two others were Walter M. Rosene, who died in 1941, and Dr. T. C. Stephens, whose death occurred in 1948.



CHAS. J. SPIKER
(Photograph about 1960)

On a camping trip by two bird students, Spiker and Rosene, in the Ledges State Park in the summer of 1922, the seeds of the present state organization were sown. These two men first met after they learned through some newspaper items that they shared a mutual interest in birds. The camping trip was arranged. The genial caretaker of the park, Carl Fritz Henning, himself a bird student of no small ability, joined the two men and described his affiliation with the Iowa Ornithological Association, which flourished in the 1890's and was the first and only state-wide bird society in Iowa up to that time.

Spiker entered Morningside College, Sioux City, that fall, with the intention of staying only one year to take the Ornithology course under Dr. T. C.

Stephens. He became so enamored of the place that he stayed for four years to take the A.B. degree in 1926. Subsequent conferences of the three men, Spiker, Rosene, and Stephens, resulted in the initial effort to organize a state bird society. Each man contacted all his bird student friends and asked them in turn to contact their friends, for the purpose of holding an organization meeting. The cooperative campaign culminated in the organization of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923. The present writer was one of those fortunates who was asked to write letters to his friends about the proposed society, and thus became a "Charter Member" when organization was effected. It is a matter of history that the Union was successful and had staying power. Much credit is due the three Founders whose foresight and hard work provided the framework for the fine society that was to guide the endeavors of Iowa bird students for the next forty years.

The subject of this sketch was known as "Charley" Spiker to all his friends. He disliked the name of Charles and always signed formal papers as Chas. J. Spiker. On printed letterheads with his name given as Charles, he would strike out Charles with his typewriter and put Chas. J. above the offending word. I knew Charley intimately for forty years, and shall thus refer to him here.

Charley was the son of a Congregational minister who moved his family to Iowa in 1898, where they remained. The Spiker family lived in Winthrop, Iowa, for the short pastorate of Reverend Spiker in this town. However, I did not know Charley at that time and we were not to become personally acquainted until December, 1923. After writing letters for a year and a half, he came to visit me.

Reverend Spiker was a botanist of note and made himself a well rounded naturalist by field trips in all his spare time and by laboratory work at home. He preached for a record of more than sixty years and passed away in 1954. Charley's inclinations toward natural history were implanted by his father and took root in early boyhood. His sister, Sina, said that among her earliest recollections was of tagging her brother all over their grandfather's farm in Harrison County, Ohio, looking for birds' nests; she thought he must have been about ten years old at the time. He had a fairly large collection of eggs, and his father taught him to be careful in taking the eggs, explaining the importance of not taking more than one egg, of not disrupting the nest, and so forth.

Charley was one of the keenest and most careful bird students I have ever known. Years of field observation brought fruition as a recognized ornithologist in later life. The days were not long enough for him to watch birds. He was methodical in everything he did and meticulous in his record-keeping. He kept a bird list every day of his life, beginning before he entered high school and continuing for more than fifty years. The daily lists were typed up into neat loose-leaf books. Later the daily figures were transferred into a monthly ledger, which in turn grew into a yearly tabulation. He thus had his yearly list at his finger tips, and he could tell where he was on any given day with the species seen and individual numbers of each.

He had thousands of lists recorded, and when he took up bird-banding (which he carried on actively for probably thirty or more years), these additional data went into ledgers for the purpose. Special trips to see birds were taken at every opportunity when there was an hour or two of free time. In college days when school let out for athletic events, Charley would take food and bed roll and start on a 50 to 100-mile hike, sleeping out under the stars and looking for birds in all the daylight hours. These trips were not with-

out excitement of various kinds. One night while sleeping in the woods, he was charged by an old sow with a litter of pigs. A hasty retreat saved his skin and his equipment.

Many of his notebooks were stored in Chasm Lodge, a cottage that was on his farm at Branchport. Vandals broke in and defiled the cottage in 1952. They burned pictures and many mementoes. He wrote me: "The worst was, however, that I had all my loose-leaf books of my daily bird lists for New York state, about six books of them, a thousand trips typed to a book, and they had burned those also. A twenty-five year accumulation of data just gone, and can't be replaced. I have been about half sick over it."

His compilations did not stop with birds. He liked poetry and typed thousands of poems into loose-leaf books. Obscure verses by some unknown writer would catch his eye while scanning a newspaper. If he liked them, they would go into his books, along with the work of professional writers. Epitaphs on old tombstones also attracted him. Searching for these in graveyards tied in with bird watching. This hobby went on for years and the notebook collection grew steadily. He kept a diary from January 1, 1918, until April 14, 1963, the day he went to the hospital in his final illness. The entries were brief but each night he set down where he was and what he had done that day. One night in 1926, while on a bicycle trip, he recorded that he was "In a haystack."

Friendly with everyone and possessing a jovial nature, he made friends wherever he went, and hundreds of these friendships were continued for years by way of letters. He once showed me the card-file of his letter-writing. He had a card for each correspondent, and a date recorded for each letter he had written. He was a prompt and copious writer, and I was amazed at the thousands of entries in that file. He was a wonderful conversationalist and a master story-teller, with a dozen stories to fit any occasion. Other notebooks contained the favorite stories and jokes he had collected.

Charley attended public schools in the several towns where his father was pastor. He often took farm jobs in summer vacation and would tell with enthusiasm of his getting up at dawn, going down to the pasture and woodland to get the herd of cows, and of his enjoyment in hearing the sunrise songs of birds. He worked as a relief switchboard operator in a small-town telephone office. He taught in rural schools in Hamilton County, Iowa, 1915-1920. During 1920-1921, he worked in an abstract office in New Hampton. He taught school in Chickasaw, Iowa, 1921-1922. He usually stayed with farm families while teaching in rural schools, an environment he much enjoyed, with its opportunities to be near birds all day and looking for them on the way to school and in the long spring evenings. After graduating from Morningside College, he was hired as Superintendent of the Ashton, Iowa, high school; he was there 1926-1928.

A favorite mode of transportation in his school days was by bicycle. When he left Morningside upon graduation, he began a bike trip a part of which was recorded under the title of "Feathered Victims of the Automobile," and published in the **Wilson Bulletin**, March, 1927, pp. 11-12. In the year 1926 he traveled 3,500 miles by bicycle in Iowa, and this article recorded the data for 28 species of birds and 277 individuals, all killed by autos on the public highways. A paragraph from the article will be appropriate here.

"Let me say at the outset that there is no better means to an ornithological end than a bicycle, provided one is willing to 'work his passage.' Of course, one must not be in a hurry, but the greater charm of a birding expedition by wheel is in being able to browse along by the wayside, stopping easily for a closer inspection of something that catches the eye, and pushing

the steed up a hill that defies both leg and lung power. But even the last has its compensations, for I have found few hills that did not have two sides, and the coast down the decline, with the breezes sweeping by one's ears, is an exhilaration not to be found in any other way."

The 3,500 bicycle miles were accounted for by various trips during the entire year, but the longest one began at Sioux City in June and carried him along the outside tier of counties on three sides of Iowa, and through the following cities: Missouri Valley, Sidney, Clarinda, Mt. Ayr, Leon, Keosauqua, Keokuk, Burlington, Muscatine, Davenport, Maquoketa, Dubuque, McGregor, Waukon, Cresco, finishing at his parents' home at New Hampton. August of that year was spent at Winthrop, where he visited in our home and also worked at a nearby farm; the round trip of 150 miles to and from New Hampton was by bicycle. In September he began teaching at Ashton, with the long trip west across Iowa from New Hampton made on his faithful bicycle. While rounding southeast Iowa on the June trip, he visited a former acquaintance who was an inmate of the state penitentiary. Charley always had his hair closely shorn at the beginning of summer. He laughed over the way he was closely questioned by prison officials before he was admitted, due to his appearance after the new hair cut.

He loved people, and he enjoyed being in a crowd and engaging in conversation. He liked to relate anecdotes from the lighter side of his life. During the Christmas season he played Santa Claus on numerous occasions. While teaching at Ashton, Santa would come to town by train, on a big, gala holiday just before Christmas. The build-up by newspaper was appropriately effluent, and hundreds of youngsters and their parents would be awaiting the arrival of the train. Charley, who physically was almost as rotund as old St. Nicholas himself, had been taken to a neighboring town by auto. He donned the Santa Claus raiment, boarded the train, and was as eager as the children for his arrival. Truly in his element, he enjoyed the occasion as much as any other person present.

The summers of 1927 and 1928 were spent in New York state as a Field Naturalist for the Roosevelt Wild Life Experiment Station, State College of Forestry, Syracuse. In 1928-1929 he was a graduate student in English Literature at Syracuse University, and in 1929-1932 he resumed work as a naturalist for the Roosevelt Station. In the summer of 1932, he returned to his graduate studies and received the M.A. degree from Syracuse University, after which he taught English classes at Michigan State College, Ypsilanti, Michigan (1932-1933). In 1933-1934 he went back to wildlife work in New York.

He wrote three lengthy reports based on his wildlife investigations in New York. They were published in the **Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin** series under these titles:

"A Biological Reconnaissance of the Peterboro Swamp and the Labrador Pond Areas," Vol. 6, No. 1, 1931, pp. 1-151.

"Some Late Winter and Early Spring Observations on the White-tailed Deer of the Adirondacks," Vol 6, No. 2, 1933, pp. 327-385.

"A Popular Account of the Bird Life of the Finger Lakes Section of New York, with Main Reference to the Summer Season," Vol. 6, No. 3, 1935, pp. 389-551.

His capabilities as field naturalist and writer are well brought out in these publications. He had a lucid, forceful, as well as entertaining style which combined detailed observation with scientific accuracy. Although these were his major contributions, he frequently published in bird magazines and newspapers. He wrote numerous articles on birds during his Iowa residence, including a list of the birds of Wapello County. These were in

the **Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science** and the bird journals, and all are listed in **An Annotated Bibliography of Iowa Ornithology**, by T. C. Stephens (1957, pp. 1-114).

In 1934, he received a special appointment from the U.S. Government, as a field investigator to work with the National Park Service, and this occupied him until sometime in 1935. His work often took him to CCC camps where the boys were doing construction work in the parks. He made trips to Bar Harbor, Maine; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Mammoth Cave, Kentucky; the Great Smoky Mountains; Shenandoah Park in Virginia, and other areas.

New York state attracted Charley from the time of his first visit, and he liked it more each time he returned. At length he decided to make it his permanent home. There came a chance to buy the 65-acre farm occupied by the ornithologist, Clarence F. Stone, a few miles from Branchport, and he left the government service in 1935 to do so. The place particularly pleased him, with its old-fashioned farm house and a beautiful view of Keuka Lake lying in the valley just below. A quarter-mile from the house was Chasm Lodge, a cottage built on the brink of a deep gorge of solid rock. Fitted up as snug living quarters, he had lived in the Lodge for two winters before he purchased the farm. The widowed Mrs. Stone was his housekeeper for many years on the old farm. Many nights during the summers he slept in Chasm Lodge and enjoyed the bird life in the woods at that point. The writer visited the place in 1940 and was much impressed by the rugged beauty of the chasm, with the cottage's railed-in porch jutting out at the edge of the precipice.

Charley was a true countryman. He had worked on many farms and had associated with farmers most of his life. He liked the country scene and the farmers' small talk about crops and their daily life. Their problems were his problems. He was glad of the chance to buy a farm, till the soil with own hands, and live on the land. The work was often hard and the returns comparatively small, but he liked hard physical labor and was immensely happy in doing the thing he had always wanted to do.

His sweetheart in the years of young manhood died suddenly before their planned marriage. It was a cruel blow that doubtless affected his entire life, and he never married.

Charley's love for music, particularly church music, was a predominant interest in his busy life. He played the piano but preferred the organ. He was organist for two churches in Branchport for more than 25 years, and was choir director at the Methodist Church for many years. He was also a lay-reader of ability and could take over the church services when the minister was absent. Each Sunday found him at his place at the organ in the two churches, which had services at different hours so that he could be present at both.

He was a past master and secretary of the Guyanoga Valley Grange, a member of the Yates County Grange, a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Pulteney of which he was a past noble grand, a member of the Pulteney election board, and a member of Keuka Park Conservation Club, all in New York. In past years he had joined many bird and nature societies. At the sixteenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., at Jamestown, N.Y., he was one of those mentioned in memorial for their outstanding interest in and contribution to the field of ornithology.

Besides operating his farm, maintaining a grape vineyard, raising chickens, etc., during the war years he worked on the night shift at the Mercury Aircraft Corporation, Hammondsport, New York, 15 miles distant. Later, when Mrs. Stone went to a nursing home, he did all his own cooking and

housekeeping. He worked for a time in a local hardware store, and then in a newspaper plant at Penn Yan; he became their reporter of regional news about the home folks. Often articles on bird migration and unusual bird visitors were included.

His health showed a decline as early as 1954, about the time of his father's death. High blood pressure began to affect his sight at that time. The condition became acute in the last year and forced him to give up his reading, his bird-banding, and many of his other beloved activities. Cerebral hemorrhage came three days before his death. He is survived by one sister, Dr. Sina K. Spiker, Editor of *Learned Journals and Monographs*, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

He was buried in the village cemetery at Branchport, on a high hill overlooking Keuka Lake, among the people and in the country he loved so well.

Charles J. Spiker had brightened the lives of hundreds of people with whom he had associated during a well-rounded, useful life. He saw his duty to God and mankind and fulfilled his role to the best of his ability. No man can do more than that, no man deserves more praise.

WALTER W. BENNETT

1893-1963

FRED J. PIERCE
WINTHROP, IOWA

Walter Waldo Bennett, a Charter Member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and President of the organization 1929-1930, died March 28, 1963. He was born July 4, 1893, at Manning, Iowa, the son of Fred and Clara Bennett, both of whom were descended from pioneer families in that area.

Walter was three years old when his family moved to Sioux City, where he attended both grade and high school. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1917 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. After college he entered military service; he was an instructor in roentgenology at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, in the Army Medical Corps.

The family moved to the Jackson, Minnesota, area about 1918, where Walter gained experience in banking for several years. He established a real estate and insurance business in Sioux City in 1922. He was married there and became the father of two daughters, Joyce and Marilyn (now Marilyn B. Clark), who now live in Los Angeles. This marriage ended in divorce.

Walter's serious bird studies extended over a long period of years. His observations were always scientifically accurate. Dr. T. C. Stephens, in his article, "The Makers of Ornithology in Northwestern Iowa," *Iowa Bird Life* Vol. XIV, 1944, pp. 18-37 devotes a paragraph to Walter Bennett's bird work in the Sioux City region and says that his most active period was from 1910 to about 1925.

He published occasional articles in *Bird Lore*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, *Bulletin of Iowa Ornith. Union*, and *Iowa Bird Life*. One of his longer articles was, "White Pelicans and Other Birds of Chase Lake, North Dakota," in *Wilson Bulletin*, June, 1926, pp. 65-79, with eight photographs. This article concerned a three-weeks trip that he made with his good friend, Walter Rosene, in June, 1924. Another formal publication was his *Birds of Sioux City, Iowa*, issued by the Sioux City Bird Club in 1931. It was a pocket-sized booklet of 18 pages in which 292 species and subspecies were listed with brief annotations.

I first met Walter on February 20, 1925, when I attended the third annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, at Ames. He gave a lecture entitled "Island Bird Life in North Dakota," illustrated by movies and hand-colored slides. This lecture was also given at the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Kansas City in December, 1925, and again at the American Ornithologists' Union meeting at Washington, D.C., in November, 1927. Philip DuMont also attended that meeting, and he reported (quoted in Iowa Ornith. Union mimeographed letter No. 22, 1928) that when Walter's "picture of the Avocet was thrown on the screen, the applause was the longest, loudest, and most spontaneous of the whole meeting."

We do not know when Walter began to photograph birds with a motion picture camera, but he was almost a pioneer in this, working with the standard, theater-size film, long before the days of fast, color film and powerful telephoto lens.

His early moving picture called "Siyo" was described as "The only motion picture story of the complete life of the Prairie Chicken — interesting, unusual, dramatic." Three thousand feet long, it was filmed in the sand-hills region of Nebraska and featured a new angle in motion pictures of bird life. He introduced film cuts of sparring boxers in the ring, as a comparison with male Prairie Chickens sparring and fighting in their spring mating antics. He showed this film to a very appreciative audience at the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Salem, Massachusetts, October 23, 1930. It was also shown at the Cedar Rapids convention of Iowa Ornith. Union, on May 8, 1931. Walter's stage presence was perfect. He had poise, confidence, and a fine speaking voice. What he had to say always held the interest of his listeners.

With the advent of color movies and sound reproduction, Walter kept abreast of developments by investing in the latest equipment and devoting all the time he could to the new techniques. I dropped in on him one night a number of years ago just before he was ready to show a film story of "The Iowa Great Lakes Region" to a church group at Spirit Lake. It was a fine travelog film in color and of the type that I did not know he had made.

In 1930 Walter had begun three years as a public lecturer on bird life. He became interested in Government employment, apparently after spending one or more summers in naturalist work in Yosemite National Park in California (about 1932). He received an appointment (1934-1935) as a biological investigator in Wildlife Refuge selection for the U.S. Biological Survey (now Fish and Wildlife Service); 1936-1937 were spent as a refuge manager at Crescent Lake, Nebraska, for the same agency.

In 1938, he left Government employ to establish an insurance partnership with a Sioux City friend, O. B. Werner, in Los Angeles. He followed this occupation until the death of Mr. Werner, and a heart attack which he suffered at the same time, forced him to close the office. He devoted much of his time during those years to the development of a four-year course of study in Insurance now used in many colleges. He taught evening classes in Insurance for nine years at the University of California, in Los Angeles. He married again, and two sons were born of this marriage, Branson and Lawrence, who now live with their mother in Los Angeles. This marriage proved to be unhappy for him and ended in divorce.

In late years he was usually in California during the winter, but would return to Iowa nearly every spring to spend at least six months in his parents' former home at Arnolds Park. He worked diligently at his self-appointed task of securing color films of birds and their songs and calls on tape. These were later fitted together at his studio at Arnolds Park. On two visits to Winthrop he showed me his portable equipment, all of which he carried

in his car and representing an investment of more than \$5,000. His fine sound film in color, "The Life of the Killdeer," was shown at the Iowa Ornith. Union convention at Mount Vernon, May 16, 1953. About this time he was much interested in marketing commercial films for educational use. He had acted in an advisory capacity for Disney's film, "The Vanishing Prairie." He was putting some of his best pictures onto film with accompanying sound for use in public schools, when severe illness compelled him to retire from all activity. Much of this valuable material remains unused or unfinished at the present time.

It was a source of deep gratification to him when the Library of Congress requested a photograph and biographical sketch of him for inclusion in the Deane Collection of recognized ornithologists.

He held memberships in a number of organizations, among them the American Association of University Teachers of Insurance, the Insurance Agents' Association of Los Angeles, Cooper Ornithological Society, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and the Sioux City Bird Club during his years there. He attended many of the meetings of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union during his Iowa residence. The last one was at Ottumwa in 1961. The former Presidents had been asked to attend the banquet program of this meeting, as there was a special ceremony marking Fred Pierce's retirement after thirty years as Editor. Walter was quite frail, but he insisted that his wife drive them down from Arnolds Park as he wanted to be there. He was President in 1931, when **Iowa Bird Life's** first issue was published.

In 1959, following a critical illness resulting from cerebral hemorrhage, he returned with his wife, Evelyn, to remain permanently at Arnolds Park. Invalided because of recurring strokes, he lived quietly until he was hospitalized again in early March, 1963, and he died March 28 in Spencer Municipal Hospital. He was buried in the family plot in the cemetery at Manning, Iowa. His four children and his wife survive.

Three photographs of Walter Bennett have been published in **Iowa Bird Life**, as follows: Vol I, 1931, p. 38; Vol. III, 1933, p. 18; Vol XI, 1941, p. 65. The cuts could not be located so we are unable to use a picture with this sketch.

WEEKEND FOR THE GULLS

MARY LOU PETERSEN

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Bird watchers come in assorted shapes, sizes, and interests. Most bird watchers are considered only slightly sub-normal by the unfortunate, non-bird watching masses. Of all the types of birders the bird bander is by far the most unusual. Banding is not a normal hobby. It becomes an all-consuming passion. A truly addicted mass bander will risk life and limb to add a species to his year's banding record or his life's banding record. Each year he plots and plans so that he may band an even greater number of birds than he did in the previous year. Last year's record is a challenge that must be superseded in the present season. With this explanation of the bander's craving desire for more species and greater numbers, you will be better equipped to understand the motives for a gull banding weekend.

July 4th, 1963. Situated in the unpredictable waters of the mighty Lake Michigan, a few hundred feet from shore, are tiny points of land: Gravel Island, Spider Island and what we call the reef. These islands off the coast of Door County, Wisconsin are, for the most part, inhabited by gulls. Gravel Island was a home for Herring Gulls this season. Spider Island and the

reef were possessed by both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Our week-end was entirely for the gulls and we spent hours in the blazing sun grabbing squawking young gulls and clamping rings on them.

My first experience banding gulls was on Gravel Island. As we approached the island the adult Herring Gulls became more and more disturbed. Circling above us and screaming at our approach, but maintaining a healthy distance; they resented our arrival. As you land at the home of hundreds of gulls (at first you believe there are certainly thousands) the olfactory nerves send protest to the brain. Soon, however, they fatigue.

It doesn't take long to become adept at spotting the downy young huddled in the cracks of rocks, under grass, or on open ground. They must hide for infanticide is common among gulls. This is evidenced by the number of dead that are found. Unusual as it may seem, the young gulls nearly able to fly are far more docile than the cute, little chick-sized young. Often, you may approach a good-sized juvenile from the rear, reach under the bird and grab a leg (we always band the right), and clamp on a ring without a squawk. The little ones run, yelp and try to bite. As the little ones scream, the parents circle and scream above you.

Banding on Gravel Island was not at all difficult and by mid-morning we had 149 young gulls banded and we headed our dingy toward the reef. At the reef my gull banding desire suddenly dissipated. Here there were at least 400 pairs of gulls nesting. The majority of them were Ring-billed and as I soon discovered the Ring-billed Gulls are much more aggressive than the Herring Gulls.

As I looked at the screaming, stinking, milling hoard of gulls on the southern end of the reef, I panicked. I just could not stand that many adult gulls above me, diving, screaming and bombarding the ground below them. I remained on the northern end of the reef with the passive Herring Gulls, while my "go get 'em and band 'em" husband charged into the fray. He double-timed into the milling white mass waving his pliers in his right hand and wearing a stringer of 100 number five bands around his neck. He was protected from aerial attack by a large, wide-brimmed, disreputable cowboy hat. However, his shirt and pants showed signs of direct hits.

Left to my own devices, I searched out every young Herring Gull on the quiet northern end and gradually worked more and more southward toward the Ring-billed suburbs. I worked my way to the edge of the large group of gulls, concerning myself only with Herring Gulls. Coming upon three fairly good-sized young gulls, I prepared to get them banded. I was on my knees bending over these docile youngsters when a sudden shriek and rush of pounding feathers startled me. It was a mixed-up Ring-billed parent protesting my presence, apparently so near its nest. I continued banding and was swooped upon twice more. Each time the irate gull came closer. I crouched and watched as it circled, sighted and dived again. But this time, when it was nearly upon me, I leaped up waving my pliers and shouting. The bird veered sharply upward and then headed toward open water, to regain its shaken composure no doubt. Feeling a warm, nasty, self-satisfaction and having thus vented my frustrations, I charged into the Ring-billed group and grabbed young gulls for my husband to band.

By mid-afternoon we ran out of Ring-billed bands and we also ran out of Herring Gulls to band with the remaining size six bands. We decided to quit for the day and return to Rowley's Bay. As I said, mass banders risk life and limb for their hobby and this time was no exception. During our banding, the wind shifted and the water became treacherous and our day's adventures were far from over. But, that is another story.

THE PIGEON HAWK IN WESTERN IOWA

WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH

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The Pigeon Hawk is an uncommon migrant and possible resident in Iowa. It is an interesting little falcon not reported too often and yet it is of regular occurrence to those observers who have learned to separate it from the Sparrow Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. This observer has also noticed that many urban records of this falcon have been made with almost split second recording. By this I mean that often one is out doing yard work and if you are a sharp observer of birds your eyes will be casting this way and that, up and down as you dally with your chore and at about that time a chunky little falcon with heavier body, longer wings, and shorter tail than a Sparrow Hawk will fly over or between the trees and be gone. Many of my records of the Pigeon Hawk have been made in this fashion and they go back to 1926.

Of course Pigeon Hawks seen out in the open country often perch along roads and can be approached with an automobile within a reasonable distance. Sometimes in winter when one stays around a desirable area they can be approached quite closely. This was true here at Sioux City during the winter of 1929-1930. A large female Pigeon Hawk lived in the area around the Sioux City Stockyards Company from December 30 to January 15. While it probably would have no direct bearing on the presence of wintering Pigeon Hawks it is interesting to note in passing that during the winters of 1934, 1936, 1937 and 1951 both Pigeon Hawks and Prairie Falcons were seen at various times at the above mentioned location. Another record of wintering Pigeon Hawks was made at the United States Army Air Base at Kearney, Nebraska, on February 23 and 24, 1951. On these two days we were looking over some stored surplus material which was to be sold and we noticed that some of the leased hangars held hundreds of thousands of bushels of stored grains of various kinds. House Sparrows and Starlings were very abundant and about the first thing I noticed was the presence of several Pigeon Hawks, which were seen on both days.

While most Pigeon Hawks move to southern United States or a bit beyond during the winter, some do stay to winter from British Columbia to Massachusetts and many points in between. Among my thirty seven years of record keeping on the Pigeon Hawk I have fourteen December records, nine for January, six for February, and five for March. The fall arrival date is sometimes quite early, with the earliest being September 5, 1932 and 1945. The average fall arrival date is more nearly October 5th. I have recorded Pigeon Hawks nine times in October over the years and have three November records. It should be mentioned that October and November records did not seem to be followed by any winter records that year, but nearly every December record was followed by January and February records. It is hard to determine, but this observer is inclined to believe that mid-March records are made on birds which probably have wintered. In three years falcons were seen in January and then in March. April then is the month to expect migrating Pigeon Hawks and my first date was April 7, 1959 and 1960. Six other April arrival dates range from April 10 to April 28th.

DuMont, *Birds of Iowa*, (1933) gives two records of the nesting of the Pigeon Hawk in Iowa from Linn and Poweshiek Counties. The question is are Pigeons Hawks seen in May and June nesting birds or just wandering un-mated falcons? This writer has seen Pigeon Hawks on May 9, 1952, and May 11, 1956, in the general Sioux City area. While watching the antics of

Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts on the late afternoon of June 14, 1963, a Pigeon Hawk flew directly overhead at about thirty feet and disappeared to the east.

If the Pigeon Hawk still nests in Iowa it will have to be diligently searched for. Someone among the large membership of the Iowa Ornithologists Union who is a bit younger in years, but strong on sharp field work and very alert, could come up with nesting Pigeon Hawks. We need dedicated fieldmen like Philip A. DuMont, Oscar P. Allert, W. F. Kubichek, the late T. C. Stephens and the late Charles J. Spiker to again work Iowa from river to river and border to border. Only by such fierce love of ornithology can we fill the many gaps in the knowledge of our present day bird life in Iowa.

FIELD REPORTS

(Formerly GENERAL NOTES REPORTS)

May was warm the first half, then turned unseasonably cold for two weeks, after which two weeks of warmer weather ensued. The last part of June was about average. July was slightly cooler than normal. Precipitation was normal in May, but June was the driest in 30 years in Des Moines. July was slightly wetter than usual. The severe windstorm on 28 June caused much damage to nests around Pleasantville, and perhaps elsewhere, but the weather otherwise appeared favorable for nesting.

As usual, some species are reported as being up in numbers, and others down, the decreases being in the majority this time. Mrs. Gladys Black at Pleasantville has kept nesting records for most of her township and reports the rate of predation to have been very high. Of 62 nesting species she feels 16 are down and only five up in numbers, although some comparisons are based upon only one nesting pair the past three years.

Loons, Herons. A Common Loon in winter plumage was seen on Lake Hendricks, near Riceville, on 29 July. (DK). A heronry at New Boston, Ill. below Muscatine, contained at least 50 Great Blue Heron nests and 100 plus nests of the Common Egret. This count by L. Bevins and M. Yeast with P. Petersen, Jr. is about normal. There have been almost no Great Blue Herons at Des Moines, and neither these nor Green Herons were seen as often as usual at Decorah. (DP). Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets on the Mississippi increased this year. (DP). A heronry north of Sabula which had 15 pairs of Green Herons last year produced few herons and no nests when checked with T. Ingram. (PP). Both young in a Green Heron's nest one block from Goldfield were banded. (DR). Two adult and an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron were seen near Des Moines on 29 June by Gladys Haskell and Elizabeth Peck, evidently a nesting record. They have remained through July.

Ducks. Broods of seven and ten young Wood Ducks were seen at Cardinal Marsh, (FL), there have been five or six broods with 40 or 50 young at Swan Lake, (FK), and several broods near Des Moines. In mid-June there were two Lesser Scaups with Blue-winged Teal and Mallards. No recent nestings of the Lesser Scaup in Iowa are known. (JK).

Hawks. Red-tailed Hawks are about the same, (EB), population down, (DP), and relatively scarce in Polk Co. Red-shouldered Hawks, common a few years ago around Des Moines, have been almost unknown. Swainson's Hawks are reported by Russell Hays and Jim Keenan. Marsh Hawks are

the same, (EB); down, (DK); with none seen around Des Moines. Opinions differ regarding Sparrow Hawks; seem to be up, (EB); down, (DK); non-existent, (GB); and scarce, (PP). Very few were reported in Polk Co. until well into July.

Partridges, Pheasants. Both are having their second successive fine nesting season with lots of young seen. (EB). Pheasants are up. (DP).

Rails, Shorebirds. Mrs. John Barlow saw two King Rails and 10 young south of Waterloo. (RH). One adult was seen by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley on 14 July at Fisher's Lake. Killdeers are more numerous (DP), but down due to more land being intensively cultivated, (EB). One Woodcock was found at Decorah. (DP). Upland Plovers are fairly widely reported; found in six different locations, (DG); a pair early in July but not later, (EB); two pairs near Ogden, (JK); a family, (GB); near New Hampton and also Mt. Auburn, (RH), and in two locations just north of Des Moines.

Terns, Doves, Cuckoos. Black Terns nested at Goose Lake in large numbers, (Dick K). Doves had a very successful nesting season, (DR). Mrs. Black was sure there was an egg of the Black-billed Cuckoo in a Red-winged Blackbird nest which was later wrecked by a storm. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were abundant with two or three to the mile, (DG). There have been more than usual in Des Moines with Black-billed almost equally numerous up to the early part of June, but the latter are still up over previous years. Jim Keenan reports Yellow-billed Cuckoos calling around midnight on 18 July along with Whip-poor-wills.

Owls, Hummingbirds. Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls nested in Davenport, (PP), and both are reported as having nested at Decorah. (DP). There are no reports of either in Polk Co. Hummingbirds have been extremely scarce in Des Moines.

Woodpeckers. Yellow-shafted Flickers had more successful nestings than usual. (DR). While no nests of the Pileated were found at Decorah there have been more birds than in other years. There are also many Red-bellied Woodpeckers nesting. (DP). Most reports on the Red-headed Woodpecker are favorable; more than in years, (FK); at least holding their own, (DG); nesting near Bellevue with no Starling interference, (MJ), very numerous with one or two per mile near Oskaloosa, (KDL); seen every trip, (RH); abundant in Polk Co. the past two years. Contrary are; much below earlier years, (PD); and, came later than usual and numbers down (DP). Downy Woodpeckers down somewhat (EB); plentiful, but Hairy somewhat fewer, (KDL); and Hairy and Downy definitely down (DP).

Flycatchers. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen by a number of observers near Hamburg on 29 May. (EG). Western Kingbirds were seen twice in June near Lamoni for the third time in eight years, but no nest was found. (DG). There have been lots near the Missouri River, (EG); and they are definitely up with many family groups of four or five. (EB). Great Crested Flycatchers are greatly up, (EG), and numerous in Polk Co. Eastern Phoebe's nestings were not too successful, (GB), but have been in usual numbers around Des Moines, and Say's Phoebe had a good increase with no high water to interfere with young as they left nests. (EB). A Least Flycatcher, apparently a resident, was seen on 18 July. (EB).

Horned Larks, Swallows. Horned Larks are thought to be down for the same reason as Killdeers. (EB). They are also considered to be down around both Goldfield and Cedar Falls. (DR). There was an increase in the number of Bank Swallows, (DR); but the colony at Hamburg which last year numbered 1,500 was reduced by half. The decrease is ascribed to predation by bull snakes and black snakes which when killed were found to contain nest-

lings and eggs. (EG). Rough-winged Swallows disappeared by mid-June, bull snakes being held responsible. (GB). There was a tremendous crop of Barn Swallows. (GB). About 75 Cliff Swallows nested near Boone. (DK.)

Crows, Chickadees, Wrens. The Common Crow population is up with more large flocks. (DP). There are more nests of the Black-capped Chickadee than usual. (DP). House Wrens are fewer than normal, but both Long-billed and Short-billed Marsh Wrens seem to be up. (DR).

Mimics, Thrushes. Mockingbirds were present in small numbers, (DG); and two at Pleasantville seemingly did not nest. (GB). Robins had a very successful year at Goldfield, (DR); and there were more nests than in any other year. (DP). Eastern Bluebirds are on the increase with many pairs where there were none before, and many juveniles seen. (DK). There were more in boxes recently put up and also in natural nests. (DP). There were at least as many as last year in Polk Co., although the rate of occupancy of boxes appeared small.

Gnatcatchers, Waxwings, Shrikes. A nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found near McCausland in Clinton Co., by Blevins and Yeast. (PP). There were good numbers of Cedar Waxwings around Cedar Falls (DR), but Don Peterson saw so few he wondered what happened to them. Of 10 Loggerhead Shrike nests, six raised at least one brood, and 19 were banded. A nest near Lake Wapello was reported to contain seven feathered young. (GB).

Vireos. A White-eyed Vireo was netted 10 July. (MJ). Bell's Vireos were probably nesting in the city at Davenport, (PP); they were at the Impounding Reservoir near Des Moines in good numbers, and also in various other suitable habitats. They were thought to be down at Hamburg, due to pasturing former nesting grounds, (EG); but one was seen and heard near Coralville. (LS). Yellow-throated Vireos were relatively scarce at Des Moines. Red-eyed were disturbingly low in numbers at Goldfield, (DR); and also fewer in Des Moines; but the population was up, (DP). Warbling Vireos are down, probably due to cowbird interference. (EB).

Warblers. Several warblers were reported as being present rather late without evidence of nesting. A Kentucky stayed at Bellevue until late July, (MJ); and another was in Ashworth Park in Des Moines into June. A territorial male Parula was singing regularly on 23 June, three miles from Mt. Pleasant. (PP). A Chestnut-sided male sang until 1 July. (DK). Yellow Warblers are definitely down, (DP), and scarce in Des Moines. Yellowthroats had a very good nesting season around Goldfield, (DR), and there were more than in previous years. (GB). Yellow-breasted Chats failed to return to Pleasantville, (GB); but were probable nesters in several locations in Des Moines. American Redstarts were very scarce around Des Moines.

Blackbirds. Bobolinks were at Lamoni as late as 16 June, (DG); quite a few were seen in late May and early June but few in July, (DP); there were good numbers of breeding pairs but none seen after 5 July, (DR); more were seen in Polk Co. than in recent years with 25 males and a female seen on a fence in 14 July by Mrs. Peasley. One Yellow-headed Blackbird on 16 July appeared to be a straggler. (DG). Yellow-headed Blackbirds had colonized Cardinal Marsh in 1962, but due to low water they failed to nest in the area this year, and only one adult was seen. (FL). Red-winged Blackbirds were down, (PD); but successful with low cowbird parasitism. (DR). An Orchard Oriole, considered as "casual" in northwest Iowa was seen regularly near Maurice (RM). Two males, one with a female, were seen but no nest found. (FK). An active nest was found at the Des Moines Reservoir, and one at Ogden had three young. (JK). Baltimore Orioles were up all over, (PP); and numerous at Des Moines; but down, (DP). Cowbird parasitism in May and early June was the lowest seen. (DR).

Tanagers, Finches, Sparrows. A pair of Scarlet Tanagers was netted. (MJ). A singing Summer Tanager was heard 18 June at Wyth Park, Cedar Falls, (DR); one was seen at Palisades State Park, (LS); and two pairs nested in Des Moines. One was seen feeding a second brood on 26 July. Second nestings are unusual. Blue Grosbeaks seem to be up, (EB); and one was seen near Orange City, (RM). Indigo Buntings were thought to be down, (DP); but plentiful in Des Moines. Dickcissels were numerous, (JK); and in Polk Co. Goldfinches were up, (DK, JK). Rufous-sided Towhees were unusually few in Des Moines. There were more Grasshopper Sparrows than usual, (EB). A Henslow's Sparrow found by Bob Vane in Williams Prairie was also seen by Fred Kent. No nest could be found. Singing Henslow's Sparrows were found in two fields east of Decorah, and two were netted. Birds were seen and heard from 20 June to 25 July, and there appeared to have been at least two pairs of adults in one field and two singing adults in the other. (FL). Vesper Sparrows were common (JK); and numerous in Polk Co. along with Lark Sparrows. The Song Sparrow, a common nester in much of the state, but rare in the extreme west and northwest, was found obviously nesting (EB).

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Eldon Bryant, Akron; Paul Doerder, Boone; Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Myrle Jones, Bellevue; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Dick Knight, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; K. D. Layton, Oskaloosa; Fred Leshner, Decorah; Roy Muelenburg, Maurice; Peter Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Don Peterson, Decorah; Dean Roosa, Goldfield; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50312.

The Prairie Chicken in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. The recent death of Mr. R. P. Ink in his ninety-first year recalled a comment of his several years ago. He said that as a school boy in Mt. Vernon Prairie Chickens were sometimes killed by flying into the telegraph wires near the local North Western Railroad station. Mrs. Ink also told me that as a young boy he helped pack Prairie Chickens in barrels for shipment to Chicago. She estimated this may have taken place in the early 1880s.

One further local reference, little known in ornithological literature, might be mentioned. Dr. William Fletcher King began his long term as President of Cornell College in August 1862. He states in his **Reminiscences** (p. 200):

"The newness of the country was manifested that first year by the flocks of Prairie Chickens that devastated the cornfield in the early winter. They were trapped by the thousand and shipped from that station by the car-load to Chicago. Those that had escaped showed their joy in the fair spring days by organizing an orchestra to show their courage. The strain was hardly to be called music, but a far off, mellow, rolling sound, a sort of drum-beat rising and falling and circling over the plains, 'so near and yet so far.' In the evening it soothed to slumber, and in early morning it seemed like a breath from nature calling us from slumber to service. This orchestra continued down through the years, with gradually decreasing participants, till it entirely vanished about two decades since. The passing of the last Prairie Chicken, with its low, mournful strain, is more sad than that of the lone Indian."

J. HAROLD ENNIS, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon.

Cardinal Adopts Robin—Early in May of this year Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beer of 2828 Grand Avenue in Des Moines were delighted to see that a pair of Robins were building their nest in the slender Wahoo tree just outside their bedroom window. From this vantage point they were able to check the pro-

gress of the family. By May 24 three large baby Robins were filling the nest to capacity. During this day the Beers were amazed to see a male Cardinal making frequent trips to the nest with food for the nestlings. The parent Robins were also in attendance.

When Mary Ellen Warters and I learned of this strange performance we went to the Beer home on the afternoon of May 26, armed with binoculars and a 20 power scope. The nest was plainly visible from the garden walk where we watched at a distance of about thirty-five feet. Our presence did not seem to deter the Cardinal and in the hour that we watched he made several trips with food. Furthermore he fought off the adult Robins aggressively when they attempted to feed their offspring. One of the young grew more and more venturesome, climbing out on the limb, and finally fluttering down to the ground. The parent Robins were distressed and attempted to go to him but the Cardinal drove them off. He then maneuvered the little fellow to the back corner of the house, and chirping encouragingly, hopped up the garden steps with the baby Robin hopping close behind. While we watched with baited breath, the Cardinal and his strange protege disappeared into the thick shrubbery of the next yard. We watched a bit longer but did not see the Robins return to their nest. Mrs. Beer reported later that the other two young left the nest that evening and not one of the three was seen again!—MRS. DWIGHT BROOKE, 126 51st Street, Des Moines.

(Editor's Note: On the same date as Mrs. Brooke's observation, my wife and I observed almost exactly the same behavior in Cedar Falls. The male Cardinal attempted to feed the young Robin and would not allow the parent Robins near their offspring. The young Robin was banded.)

Summer Feeding—During late May of 1963 we had a very hard freeze in this general area and one result was the almost total loss of the small fruit crop. Strawberries and mulberries were almost all ruined and there was only a token crop of honeysuckle berries. I discovered that the birds would scrounge for almost any kind of fruit when I happened to toss out a few apple peelings. Daily thereafter I would cut the peelings and cores in bite size pieces and put them out with overripe white grapes and watch the activity. The Robins were the real hungry ones and would clean up everything. Blue Jays and Brown Thrashers also would partake of the fruit. About July 21 the apples on the Duchess apple tree were ripe enough for the jays and thrashers, but the Robins continued to eat my offerings near the suet post and never failed to clean up to the last grape. WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, 3119 2nd Street, Sioux City.

About Those Odd Bird Calls—It is said that birds and animals are as much individuals as human beings, so would it be surprising if they occasionally uttered a song or call entirely unlike most of their kind? Many years ago when the late Charles J. Spiker, a charter member of the Iowa Ornithologists Union, used to be the writer's house guest on occasional bird forays and collecting trips, many long arguments ensued over some of these strange bird calls. On occasion I have heard Downy Woodpeckers call and was so startled that I thought it was a Hairy Woodpecker until I would track down the woodpecker. Another bird which a few times during my lifetime has caused confusion is the common Yellowthroat. The call of both the Yellowthroat and the Short-billed Marsh Wren is sharp "click" or "chit" and a few times I have heard this call from a dry hillside and the bird would be flushed and would be a Yellowthroat. My first thought on hearing the click would be a wren, but investigation always produced a Yellowthroat. Professor Spiker might have had sharper ears and would never concede that either of the above calls could ever be produced by the second bird.

Nearly forty years ago I spent a frustrating half hour in the Floyd Cemetery at Sioux City trying to locate a "mewing" call that seemed to have a

ventriloquist twist. It was in May and bird songs were numerous and every so often I heard this strange, soft call. I worked the area for a long time and was on the point of giving up, when I noticed a male Robin perched on a tombstone. Suddenly the mewling call was given and by watching very closely I could see the Robin's bill open and give the call. I have never since heard a Robin give the same call.

Several years ago I was on a field trip in Dakota County, Nebraska, and I had stopped along a back road to listen to the Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows. As I sat listening I heard another rather harsh insect-like song and had hopes of maybe finding something rare. As the song continued I got out of the car and saw that the only bird even close was a meadowlark. Resting 24 power binoculars on the cartop I could see that this meadowlark was opening its mouth in song, but where was the meadowlark lay. The bird was sitting on a small mound of hay and didn't mind my approach and I was soon close enough to associate the meadowlark with the song. The song was a rather harsh insect-like gurgle and was repeated over and over. This writer has since concluded that this particular meadowlark must have suffered a throat injury and the song I heard was the only one it could utter and it was doing its best, but in the process had sure fooled one ardent bird student.

To me birds sometimes seem to give certain calls only on special occasions, as when they might first arrive in the spring or when they might have become separated from other family members or for other reasons. I have found this to be true in the case of the Dickcissel. My previous early spring arrival date for the Dickcissel was made on May 3, 1948, when I heard a small bird give a few repeats of a very harsh "zrurrrr." Upon looking at the bird in the top of a bare elm tree, I saw at once it was a full plumaged Dickcissel. It gave a few more harsh calls and flew off. Again on April 26, 1963, I heard this harsh call and on looking up saw the earliest arriving Dickcissel in my forty years of birdwatching. Sometimes a lone Dickcissel will appear near the bird baths and give this harsh call. On July 19, 1963, an adult Dickcissel flew into the tree above the bird bath and gave this harsh cry and then flew off. This peculiar call of the Dickcissel is so harsh that I at once associate it with the harsh cry of the Forester's Tern and while it is not as loud, the qualities seem much the same.

The problem is not to be deterred in your observations and if you do hear a strange call or song coming from a common bird follow it through and you just might have seen or heard something that the authorities who write books about birds have never witnessed or ever will witness. Although our bird populations are dipping to new lows every year, there is still a lot unknown about their activities and it is up to every observer to record everything. Your meagre observations of today could well be much sought after material fifty years from now for some researcher who is trying to piece together the story of another extinct species. WILLIAM YOUNG-WORTH, 3119 2nd Street, Sioux City.

Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts at Ames. One bright and early June morning I walked out to my front yard with my binoculars, as was my daily custom, to scan the surrounding trees and usually deserted school yard for birds. I can usually identify ten species of birds with little trouble.

But today my interest was centered on something else. There were three martins on the ground at the school yard. I had read that martins do not spend much time on the ground, so I focused my glasses on them. There were two females and one male on a small patch of earth mixed with straw. The two females would pick up some straw and fly over my house to the martin house in our back yard and deposit it in their nests.

The male would escort them to their nests and then follow them back and perch on a stick to keep an eye on them. They kept this up for fifteen minutes until the guarding male grew weary of watching them and chased them back to their nests. This is just another of nature's little stories waiting for the person who has the interest to look them out.

Although the city of Ames is not blessed with large areas of water or extensive forests like other parts of our state, there is one small interesting habitat for birds. It is a large elementary school chimney used every year for nesting Chimney Swifts. There are usually ten to fifteen nesting pairs of swifts at the chimney. The swifts arrive in late April or early May and leave late in September. Luckily the school is across the street from our house, so I often spend many pleasurable hours sitting on my doorstep watching the "little wings of daring" playing in the air. DICK KNIGHT, 332 Westwood Drive, Ames.

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