

BIRDING IN STORY COUNTY  
Contributed by Barney Cook

Birds are beginning to stir again. Cardinals are singing from every woodland. Joan Jefferson reports a Junco singing its spring mating song at her window on February 27. Now is an excellent time to start learning birds by watching the early spring migrants. Several flocks of Cedar Waxwings have been seen in Ames eating the remaining fruit. High bush cranberry will attract these most feminine of birds to your home almost every late winter. They will come in large flocks for a day or two, strip the fruit and soon disappear to forage for food elsewhere. Jeff Ruprecht saw a flock of two hundred on the ISU campus near Bessey Hall while Edna Hempstead and Mary Cowan saw several flocks of about fifty birds in crabapple trees near Ennis Grove Park. Phil Cox also saw Cedar Waxwings in his junipers near the Izaak Walton League Park.

This month's coup was the Bald Eagle seen soaring above the Des Moines River on March 1. Sven Gafvert was walking along the Des Moines and Fort Dodge Railway north of Boone when he sighted the eagle. This track is scheduled to be abandoned and he was scouting it for the Sierra Club. He tells me that the countryside is beautiful and perhaps some of our members would be interested in exploring this stretch of track for possible purchase by the state as a bicycle trail. He also saw a large, light-colored owl along Squaw Creek north of the ISU golf course. This bird probably was a Snowy Owl, but his glimpse was too short for a definite confirmation. Lotus Miller has had a Rufous-sided Towhee visiting her yard for the last few days. Janice Coy has heard a Bobwhite from her home.

Jeff Ruprecht saw Snow Buntings on February 7 while I saw several near Slater on February 9 among a flock of Horned Larks. Jean Hempstead also saw Snow Buntings so many remained in the area at least into early February. A Kestrel was sighted near Old Botany Hall on February 14, while another was seen along the Interstate south of Ames on February 21.

More commonly sighted birds include: Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Meadowlark (sp.), Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

AMES. IA  
MAR 4  
PW  
1975  
50010

FIRST KENTUCKY  
SETTLEMENT  
FORT HARROD  
1771 1974



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are beginning to stir again. Cardinals are singing from every  
and. Joan Johnson reports that they are starting nesting soon  
or window on February 27. They are starting to start leaving  
birds by watching the early. Flocks of Cedar  
Nuthatches have been seen in Area 2 near the High Bush  
ornaments will attract these most. To your home almost  
every late winter. They will come in large flocks for a day or two,  
strip the fruit and soon disappear to forage for food elsewhere. Jeff  
Ruprecht saw a flock of two hundred on the ISU campus near Beatty Hall  
while Edna Heststead and Mary Cowan saw several flocks of about fifty birds  
in crapple trees near Edna's Grove Park. Phil Cox also saw Cedar Waxwings  
in his Juniper near the Isaac Walton League Park.

Wilmer, Lotus Miller  
218 Parkridge Circle  
Ames, Ia. 50010

This month's coup was the Pink Eagle seen soaring above the Des Moines  
River on March 1. Swan Galt was walking along the Des Moines and Fort  
Dodge Railway north of Boone when he sighted the eagle. This track is  
scheduled to be abandoned and he was scouting it for the Sierra Club. He  
tells us that the countryside is beautiful and perhaps some of our members  
would be interested in exploring this stretch of track for possible purchase  
by the state as a bicycle trail. He also saw a large, light-colored owl  
along Spaw Creek north of the ISU golf course. This bird probably was a  
Screech Owl, but his glimpse was too short for a definite confirmation.  
Loren Miller has had a Red-winged Blackbird visiting her yard for the last  
few days. Janice Cox has heard a Bobwhite from her home.

Jeff Ruprecht saw Snow Buntings on February 7 while I saw several near  
Slater on February 9 among a flock of Horned Larks. Joan Heststead also  
saw Snow Buntings so many remained in the area at least into early February.  
A Redstart was sighted near Old Botany Hall on February 14, while another  
was seen along the Interstate south of Ames on February 21.

More commonly sighted birds include: King-necked Pheasant, Gordon Flicker,  
Red-bellied Woodpecker, Mary Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay,  
Gordon Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted  
Nuthatch, Meadowlark (sp.), Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow.