



Big Bluestem Flyer

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Newsletter

The mission of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society is to enjoy the observation and study of birds and natural ecosystems, contribute to their preservation and restoration, and engage in educational activities to benefit humanity, and to gain a broader understanding and deeper appreciation of the world we live in.

Volume 33 Number 3

January/February 1998

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) meetings are held monthly, September-May (except December) on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Room 2532 Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University. If you need directions, please call any of the BBAS officers or committee chairs. See you there!

Featured Speaker—January 15 meeting: *Ann Johnson,* *“Arizona’s Sky Islands: Land of the Trogon”*

There is a magic in southeast Arizona that is unmatched anywhere else in the United States. Here, the Rocky Mountains of the north meet the Sierra Madres of the south to bring together a variety of ecosystems. The Sky Islands—mountain ranges like the Chiricahuas, Huachucas, Santa Ritas, and Santa Catalinas—become a paradise for the natural history buff. The ultimate prize for the birder—the elegant Trogon.

Featured Speaker—February 19 meeting: *Jim Dinsmore,* *“Changes in Iowa Bird Populations Since 1980”*

The bird species and the populations of those species that are found in Iowa are constantly changing. This program will discuss some of these changes that have occurred since 1980, including new species that have arrived in Iowa, species that seem to have disappeared, new nesting species, and population changes of species that are found in the state.

If you would like to meet and dine with the speaker and the BBAS board before the monthly meeting, there are a limited number of reservations available. Please call Kevin Healy at 233-5914 to confirm space and location.

Coming Field Trips: January & February

Kevin Healy, Field Trip Chair

January

17-Winter Bird Walk at the State Forest Nursery. A Harlan’s Hawk (dark race of the Red-tailed Hawk) has been seen south of Ames. Join us as we look for this uncommon specimen. Meet at the State Forest Nursery off South Duff at 0800. Trip leader Jon Bahrenfus (515-432-3396).

February

21-Red Rock Dam. Celebrate Presidents’ weekend with a trip to look for bald eagles. A number

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Bird Term of the Month: Drumming—a loud, continuous pecking on hard surfaces used as a signal to announce territory and attract mates, usually the woodpeckers.

Notes From the Field

Kevin Healy, Field Trip Chair

Notes From the Field is a collaboration by the various field trip leaders since the last newsletter. Bird records are kept for each field trip and are brought to the BBAS general meetings, if you are interested in looking at the species, etc., that were observed on the trips. If you are interested in leading or helping lead any of the forthcoming trips, please contact me.

November 8, Kay Niyo, "Runnells Bird Trip." Fourteen birders accompanied leader Kay Niyo to the Red Rock Lake area on Saturday, November 8. Our first stop was the Runnells overlook where we saw waterfowl, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and an intriguing dark hawk, Harlan's (?) or a dark phase Rough Legged(?). A drive to the dam and looking at the river below the spillway was not very productive, although we did see Common Loons and Pied-bill Grebes on the lake south of the bridge. The unusual visitors (Ross' Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Thayer's Gull) reported in December had not yet arrived.



Newsletter Deadline: Friday, February 13, 1998 at 2 p.m.

2nd Annual Imperial Beach Bird Fest

For those of you who haven't planned your winter vacation yet or those who have planned to be in the California area during the end of January, plan to stop at the *2nd Annual Imperial Beach Bird Fest*. The Bird Fest is Friday through Sunday, January 30-February 1, 1998, at the Veteran's Park. It is sponsored by the Nature Festivals of San Diego County, a nonprofit corporation, with help from the San Diego Audubon Society. The base registration is \$15 for a registration packet, map of birding locations, and the keynote speaker on Saturday evening. More information can be obtained at fliteinc@king.cts.com or the brochure will be available at the January 18 BBAS meeting.

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

Officers:

- President: Stan Cyran 292-4876 scyran@pol.net
- Vice-President: Kay Niyo 233-8803 kniyo@aol.com
- Secretary: Mary Doud 296-2178
- Treasurer: Paul Ovrom 292-8862 nc7ao@ars-grin.gov

Board Members:

- Carol Berrier 965-8242
- David Guy 232-8825
- Kevin Healy 233-5914 khealy@ames.net
- Karl Jungbluth 432-5057 Karl.A.Jungbluth@noaa.gov
- John Pohlman 232-6816

Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zalatel 382-5427 madowl@nevia.net
- Awards Chair: Stan Cyran
- Conservation Chair: Sherry Dragula 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Education Co-Chairs: Carol and Galin Berrier
- Field Trip Chair: Kevin Healy
- Fund Raising Co-Chairs: Kay Niyo and Stan Cyran
- Membership Chair: Mark Widriechner 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Program Chair: John Snyder 232-8824 JESnyder@ix.netcom.com
- Publicity Chair: Mary Doud 296-2178
- Publications and Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivvers 292-0691 shivvers@ameslab.gov
- Special Publications Chair: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396
- Service & Special Projects Co-Chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth

Web Site: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~shivvers/bluestem.html>

Bird Drop-ins

Below are some bird citations by BBAS members. If you have any special citations to report, please e-mail me at shivvers@ameslab.gov so we can include them in our next newsletter.

Hank Zalatel reported the Varied Thrush was visiting for about a week on Ross Road in Ames. [Dave Edwards saw a male Varied Thrush on the Story County Bird Count south of Highway 30.] An even bigger rarity is the Ross' Gull that was found December 13 at 8:20 a.m. below the Red Rock Dam. This is only the second state record and may be the 15 or 20th U.S. record. Very rare.

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In the beginning . . .

Since we will be celebrating our first thirty years, I think it is appropriate to recall the first year through the minutes of the meetings. The minutes begin . . .

A regular meeting of the Ames Audubon Society was held in 104 Kildee Hall Tuesday, July 30, at 8 p.m.

After an illustrated talk on pigeions [sic] and doves by Dr. Hollander of Iowa State University, the business meeting was called to order by President Ben Bereskin.

18 members were present.

No minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Discussion of a memographed [sic] section from the proposed Constitution and by-laws dealing with membership followed. Mrs. Sellars moved that the wording of "membership shall be active and honorary" be changed to read "shall be sustaining, regular, and honorary." Mrs. Robinson moved that sustaining and regular membership be called active. That motion did not carry. The wording of sustaining, regular, and honorary in Mrs. Sellars motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Hamilton moved that sustaining membership dues be set at \$12 or above. The motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Hamilton then moved that only sustaining membership be noted on membership cards. This was seconded and passed.

The wording of the phrase "all active members have the responsibility to be loyal to the best interests of this society", was discussed and the members voted to change the phrasing to read, "all members should endeavor to act in the best interests of this society."

Nominations for secretary were open, Mrs. Hawley was nominated and elected. It was decided that the secretary should attend and record the business at board of directors meetings.

President Bereskin read correspondence received from Representative Ford. Mr. Hamilton moved that the proposed letter to our Congressmen in Washington on the California Redwood Park be endorsed with the executive board member's signatures and forwarded to the Congressmen. This motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion of the possibility of securing a lecture program sponsored by the National Audubon Society followed. The cost of the lecture is \$150 and the membership would have to guarantee financing the program. Further investiga-

Board Happenings

Mary Doud, Secretary

The December 14th BBAS Board meeting was held at Kay Niyo's home. The Board reviewed the programs and field trips for the spring semester; a copy of the calendar will be inserted in the January/February newsletter. We discussed the resignation of Cecelia Burnett from the Story County Conservation Board, the Brookside bike trail, and Audubon trail. A pamphlet guide for the points of interest for the Audubon trail has been developed by Eagle Scout, John Bessman. A special project discussed will be the placing of posts and platforms for nesting osprey in conjunction with the electric company. The Natural Resource Conservation Service is interested in buying some *Audubon Adventures* materials. We discussed the postal rate permit and application. The Iowa Audubon Council will meet January 31 in Indianola. We have been asked to sponsor another meal for the Master Conservationist program scheduled for this summer. We will select members for the budget and officer nomination committees at our next Board meeting. A committee was developed to help with the BBAS newsletter mailing. The next Board meeting will be February 15, 1998.

If you would like to help on any committee, contact the chairperson, or if you have any concerns, issues, or information you would like brought before the Board, please give it to any Board member at least one week before the meeting so it will get on the agenda. Thanks.

tion was suggested before a decision was reached. Tuesday, August 13 was decided upon for a nature hike and picnic at North Brookside park. Two graduate students will guide the hike and discuss natural shrubs and trees.

Mrs. Miller has contacted Dr. Landers about guiding a field trip on the high school prairie the later part of August. A tentative field trip and slide presentation has been arranged.

President Bereskin appointed Mr. Robinson as head of the membership committee and Mr. Hamilton as conservation chairman.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Kenneth Hawley

1998 Winter Bird Feeder Survey

January 22-25, 1997 marks the dates of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and Iowa Department of Natural Resources annual Bird Feeder Survey. The survey is found on pages 5-6 of this newsletter. Please follow the directions on the form and help collect this valuable information. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The Results of the Ames Christmas Bird Count, the Saylorville Reservoir and Boone County Bird Counts

The Ames Count was held on Saturday, December 20, Saylorville Count was Sunday, December 21, 1997 and the Boone County Count was January 1, 1998. The organizers were Dave Edwards and Mike Meetz, Steve Dinsmore, and Mark Widrechner, respectively. The results were as follows:

	Ames	Saylorville	Boone		Ames	Saylorville	Boone
American White Pelican		2		American Crow	7900	555	1082
Great Blue Heron	2			Black-capped Chickadee	427	457	752
Trumpeter Swan		1		Tufted Titmouse	6	12	33
Canada Goose	51	267	87	Red-breasted Nuthatch	37	4	23
Green-winged Teal		2		White-breasted Nuthatch	123	152	237
American Black Duck		21		Brown Creeper	17		6
Mallard	8	6825		Winter Wren		1	
Northern Pintail		4		Golden-crowned Kinglet		1	
Northern Shoveler		10		Eastern Bluebird			16
Gadwall		49		Hermit Thrush	2		
American Wigeon		6		American Robin	11	17	1
Redhead		3		Varied Thrush	1		
Ring-necked Duck		1		Brown Thrasher	1	1	
Greater Scaup		2		European Starling	1259	4212	1962
Lesser Scaup		17		Cedar Waxwing	22	1416	136
Common Goldeneye		31		Northern Shrike	1	4	1
Common Merganser		619		Loggerhead Shrike	1		
Bald Eagle	1	49	30	shrike spp.			1
Golden Eagle			1	Northern Cardinal	190	609	195
Northern Harrier	1			Eastern Towhee		1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	1	American Tree Sparrow	160	757	91
Cooper's Hawk		4	1	Fox Sparrow	2	1	
accipiter sp.		1	2	Song Sparrow	13	68	17
Red-tailed Hawk	57	47	76	Lincoln's Sparrow		1	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	1	Swamp Sparrow	1	9	2
American Kestrel	13	18	20	White-throated Sparrow	5	9	
Merlin (Richardson's)		2		White-crowned Sparrow		2	
Ring-necked Pheasant	215	99	82	Harris' Sparrow	55	5	1
Wild Turkey		35	28	Dark-eyed Junco	522	1184	377
Killdeer			2	Red-winged Blackbird		57	2
Common Snipe		1		Western meadowlark	2		1
Ring-billed Gull		1973		blackbird spp.			1
Herring Gull		283		Brown-headed Cowbird		1	
Thayer's Gull		1		Purple Finch	18	9	52
Glaucous Gull		1		House Finch	86	34	43
Rock Dove	463	257	270	White-winged Crossbill	20		
Mourning Dove	64	67	38	Red Crossbill		3	
Eastern Screech-Owl		5	1	Common Redpoll		145	
Great Horned Owl	6	8	7	Pine Siskin	48	13	
Barred Owl	4	4	3	American Goldfinch	128	1444	192
Long-eared Owl		3		House Sparrow	1077	630	1022
Short-eared Owl		2		Black-crowned Night Heron		1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl			1	Marsh Wren		1	
owl sp.			2	Le Conte's Sparrow		1	
Belted Kingfisher	6	4	10	Yellow rumped Warbler	7		1
Red-headed Woodpecker		11	22				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	59	94	137				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1				
Downy Woodpecker	122	200	191				
Hairy Woodpecker	20	36	51				
Northern Flicker	5	95	13				
Horned Lark	75	2					
Northern Flicker		95					
Blue Jay	171	228	126				

Ames Results—Dave Edwards

About 30 volunteers observed 51 species—13,489 birds. The number of species was close to average.

Saylorville Reservoir Results—Steve Dinsmore

Thirty-three participants tallied 80 species. Total individual birds was 23,211. The day was cloudy with a NE 5-15 mph wind. The water was mostly frozen.

Boone County Results—Mark Widrechner

There were 49 species identified on 1 January 1998 by 47 field observers. There was a total of 7,440 birds. This count does not include the bird feeder watchers. The day was partly sunny and very windy.

BIRDFEEDER SURVEY—JANUARY 22-25, 1998

Please fill out carefully. Feel free to copy the form for friends and patrons. Thank you and enjoy yourselves!

1. Name _____
- 2A. Address _____
- 2B. County _____ 2C. City _____ 2D. Zip _____
3. The feeder survey period this year runs from Thursday, January 22 to Sunday, January 25. Count birds on two consecutive days only. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.
Check one: Thursday (1/22) and Friday (1/23),
Friday (1/23) and Saturday (1/24), or
Saturday (1/24) and Sunday (1/25).
4. Is your feeder in town (including suburbs) or in the country? Circle T or C.
5. Check the ONE description which best describes the area within a 2-block circle around your feeder:
 suburban, houses with shrubs and small trees but few trees wider than 20 inches.
 suburban bordered by (circle 1) timber, grass, field or row crop.
 town, neighborhood has many mature shade and street trees
 downtown with mostly buildings, sidewalks, roads, parking lots, high rises
 pasture
 row crop (corn, beans, etc.)
 timber
 farmstead with mature trees and shrubs around house.
6. Type and number of feeders: Thistle, sunflower (only), fruit, safflower, peanuts, mixed seed, peanut butter, suet, cracked sunflower, corn, millet (only), unfrozen water, other _____
7. On what date did you start feeding during 1997-1998? (About)
8. Comments or additional description of your feeder or yard:

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES DURING TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Sparrow (American) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Dove (Common pigeon) | <input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Harris' Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco (All races) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flicker (All races) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grackle (Common) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crow (American) | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch | <input type="checkbox"/> Goldfinch (American) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper | <input type="checkbox"/> House (English) Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robin (American) | <input type="checkbox"/> House Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing | <input type="checkbox"/> (other) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Starling (European) | <input type="checkbox"/> (other) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal (Northern) | <input type="checkbox"/> (other) |

___ TOTAL DIFFERENT SPECIES SEEN

___ I would like to receive the free *Wildlife Diversity News*. (NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY).

___ I would like information about the Iowa Ornithologists' Union which is a statewide bird organization. If you see a rare or unusual bird, please report it to the Iowa birdline 319-338-9881.

1998 WINTER BIRDFEEDER SURVEY

SPONSORED BY THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NONGAME
PROGRAM

On two consecutive days during January 22-25, 1998 observe your feeder and, using this form, describe your feeder and record the birds that visited you. In the space provided, list the highest number of each species that you saw together at any one time. For example, if you saw 10 juncos at 9:00, 11 at 12:00, and 7 at 4:00, the number you should record is 11. If males and females can be distinguished (cardinals, downy woodpecker, etc.) record the combined total. For example, if you saw 3 male cardinals at the 11:00 then 1 male and 2 females at 2:00, record 5 cardinals—the combined total. Count only on the two consecutive days and record only the birds that you see at your feeder, under your feeder, or in the trees around your feeder. DO NOT count birds which just flew past your house and did not use your feeder area. We want information only about birds influenced by your feeders. If you cannot get an exact count, record your best estimate. An honest estimate is far more useful than 'umpteen' or 'too many to count'.

Mail the completed form to me by February 12, 1998:

R. J. Hollis
3351 Lower West Branch Road
Iowa City, IA 52245

If you would like a personal reply, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and be patient; it may take 12 months before I can get back to you. Look for results in *Wildlife Diversity News* and the *I.O.U. Newsletter*.

Conservation Corner

Sherry Dragula, Conservation Chair

Mourning Doves

When the Iowa legislature convenes in January, it is likely that a bill to allow hunting of mourning doves in Iowa will be introduced. Mourning doves have been protected from hunting in Iowa since at least 1918, when the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was enacted by Congress. In 1977, Gladys Black and other opponents including prominent Audubon members successfully defeated an effort by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to establish a season. The DNR along with the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America is working to get a dove hunting season established. At its August 1997 meeting, the Big Bluestem Audubon Society Board passed a resolution opposing the hunting of mourning doves in Iowa. This issue will be decided by the Iowa legislature and it is important to make your feelings known to your state Representative and Senator. To find out who your representative and senator are and obtain their address, call your County Courthouse.

Teaming with Wildlife

Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) is a proposal for federal legislation that will put a small user fee in the form of an excise tax on outdoor-related products such as field guides, binoculars, birdfeed, and camping equipment. The purpose of the user fee is to provide stable and adequate funding for wildlife diversity programs in all 50 states. The money generated will be returned to the states earmarked specifically for the above mentioned purposes. The goal of this legislation is to expand and improve existing wildlife programs and establish new ones protecting all wildlife species, especially nongame, and their habitats. Many organizations (including ours) in Iowa and across the nation have signed on as supporters of TWW. However, Iowa's Congressmen have not heard enough from their constituents on this landmark initiative. If you support TWW please send a note to that effect to your Congressman. In Story and Marshall counties contact Rep. Leonard Boswell. In Boone, Hamilton, Hardin and Greene counties contact Rep. Tom Latham. In Polk and Dallas counties contact Rep. Greg Ganske. They can all be reached at: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Did you know?

Now is the time to start thinking about planting trees, shrubs, and flowers to attract wildlife. As you look through your spring garden catalogs, select trees such as red oak, black walnut, hickory, hackberry, and crabapple. Delicious wildlife shrubs include dogwoods, sumacs, elderberries, cotoneasters, honeysuckles, serviceberries, viburnums, and American cranberry bush. Succulent nectars and seeds for birds, butterflies, and moths include American bittersweet, virginia creeper, trumpet vine, grape, raspberry, sunflowers, black-eyed susans, asters, salvias, zinnias, and marigolds. A backyard diversity generally attracts more wildlife species, and is often more attractive in appearance. And, don't forget the water fountain.

Bird Chat

Dear B.C.:

Unfortunately, my dad was killed last fall by a hit and run car accident and my mom can't imitate male bird calls very well. Recently, I've been out on a limb testing my voice, but have encountered other hostile males who say I don't have my timing right, e.g., I've been singing *feeeebbee, feeeebbee*. Any advice?

C. A. Dee Dee Dee

Dear C. A. Dee Dee Dee,

You have made the other males hostile towards you because the *feeeebbee, feeeebbee* in a loud voice is given during territorial skirmishes. You have 8 sounds common to your species for communication. The *chickadeedeede* call is given usually in late summer and winter when you are in flocks and thus keeps the flock together. A high, short, single sound, *tseet*, is given when you eat. Using this sound, you may find another understanding male who will teach you the correct sounds and their meanings. Good luck!

B.C.



Clip and Join

Do you have a friend who has a burning desire to learn about birds and the natural world, and wants to meet other like-minded individuals? Or, are you looking for that unique and special gift? Don't wait any longer, just clip the membership application form below and send it in.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

New member of the National Audubon Society (receive the *Audubon* magazine, the *Big Bluestem Flyer*, membership card, and participate in all Big Bluestem Audubon Society activities)—\$20. Please make your check payable to National Audubon Society and include "Chapter Code H-57" on the check.

OR

Subscribe to the *Big Bluestem Flyer* for one year and participate in some Big Bluestem Audubon Society activities—\$5.50. Restrictions are that you will not be a National Audubon Society member or have voting privileges, and you cannot be an officer or committee chair. Please make your check payable to Big Bluestem Audubon Society.

Send your check and this coupon to Mark Widrechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail _____ Phone _____

NOTE: Please do not use this form for renewals to the National Audubon Society.

Continued page 1—Coming Field Trips

of interesting gulls have been sighted at Red Rock this winter (see *Bird Citings* in this issue) so review your field guides and keep your eyes peeled. Meet at the ISU Design Center parking lot at 0730. Trip leader is Kevin Healy (515-233-5914).

Continued page 2—Bird Drop-ins

Steve Dinsmore found an adult Snowy Owl (probably a female) on county road D56 2-3 mi west of Jewell in southern Hamilton County on 25 December 1997. The bird was perching on utility poles and moved west about a mile during the hour-long observation. He watched the bird from 4-5 p.m. A flock of 40+ White-winged Crossbills were in the hemlocks in the Nevada cemetery on 26 December.

Bill Norris reported that on Tuesday, 16 December, he saw the Kittiwake, the Ross' Gull, and Thayer's Gull below the dam at Red Rock—the birds were on the bars in the river.

Kay Niyo and Steve Dinsmore went to Red Rock at noon until dusk on Tuesday, 30 December. They estimated there

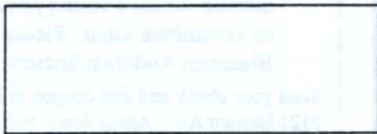
were about 12,000 gulls. Of most interest were a Glaucous, Franklin's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, 2 Thayer's, many Herring, and many many Ring-billed gulls. They alternated both above and below the dam. The lake was about 25% ice covered. But when the wind came up, it was bitter cold! There were many Common Mergansers, a Red-breasted Merganser, some Lesser Scaup, a few Common Goldeneye, Mallards, Canada Geese, and Bald Eagles.

Kevin Healy reports on Monday, 22 December, at 1600, Denise Friedrick and Bill Norris saw a male Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the small deciduous trees at the front of the Iowa State Sports Center parking lot. Bill even saw it raise its red crown.

Hank Zaletel reports one Common Merganser at Hallet's Quarry on Monday, 15 December. It was just five days from being a record late date.

Kevin Healy and Kay Niyo reported a gull the size of a ring-billed gull on Sunday, 14 December, 1300, clear, sunny, calm, 35-40 F at Red Rock Dam. Seen in profile, first noted dark post auricular spot, but after long observation saw that nape was grey and prey on nape condensed into dark area at anterior border of nape, giving appearance of dark spot in post-auricular area. Bill was bright yellow, unmarked. Mantle, wings grey with black wing eips. Breast white. Bird flew off (away from him) while he watched through a spotting scope; feet and legs were black. It was the Black-legged Kittiwake.

If you have an "X" after your name on your mailing label, this will be your last issue of the Flyer unless you renew.



Rebecca A. Shivers, Editor
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