

1111 Fessenden St., NW.  
Washington 16, D. C.

April 26, 1954

Mr. Woodward H. Brown, Chairman  
Committee on Bird Distribution  
4815 Ingersoll Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Mr. Brown:

I very much appreciated the opportunity of reviewing the Iowa Distributional Check-List issued as a supplement to the March 1954 issue of Iowa Bird Life. It seems to me that considerable progress has been made in determining the status for species in the various parts of the State.

We have been doing this sort of thing for a number of the national wildlife refuges. It is interesting to see how nearly we have agreed on terms designating status. It is not clear to me why there should be a symbol for both winter visitor and winter resident. The use of the term casual is more nearly one of abundance. In our use we have considered it synonymous with rare. Perhaps one of the next problems will be developing degrees of abundance of each species in each part of the State.

I have been concerned over the continued use of subspecific names in this kind of a list. I have been working very closely with members of the A.O.U. Committee on Nomenclature concerning species names which will be used in the Fifth A.O.U. Check-List. Species names will be included for the first time in this check-list. This practice is already well established in reporting procedures for Audubon Field Notes and the Christmas Bird Counts. Both Peterson and Pettingill used many of these new species names in their Field Guides.

Consequently I have prepared a list containing 275 species names representing birds which may be found with some degree of regularity in the State. An additional 65 species of rare or accidental occurrence in the State are appended at the end of the list. I have had about 150 copies of this list duplicated. A copy is being sent to you and to each of the members of your committee, together with a copy of this letter. It is suggested that it be studied prior to the Des Moines meeting in the hope that it may be adopted as an aid in the simplification of recording the status of Iowa birds.

Sincerely yours,

Philip A. DeMont

Enclosures



## CHECK-LIST OF IOWA BIRDS

The following list, containing 275 species, represents birds which may be found with some degree of regularity within the State of Iowa. This list, using species names only, generally is in accordance with the Fifth A.O.U. Check-List to be issued soon. When new names are sufficiently different, the former name is added in parentheses.

An additional 65 species of rare or accidental occurrence within the State are appended at the end of the list.

Common Loon	Ruddy Duck
Red-necked Grebe (Holboell's)	Hooded Merganser
Horned Grebe	Common Merganser (American)
Eared Grebe	Red-breasted Merganser
Western Grebe	Turkey Vulture
Pied-billed Grebe	Goshawk
White Pelican	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Double-crested Cormorant	Cooper's Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Red-tailed Hawk
Common Egret (American)	Harlan's Hawk
Little Blue Heron	Red-shouldered Hawk
Green Heron	Broad-winged Hawk
Black-crowned Night Heron	Swainson's Hawk
American Bittern	Rough-legged Hawk
Least Bittern	Ferruginous Hawk
Whistling Swan	Golden Eagle
Canada Goose (3 subspecies)	Bald Eagle
White-fronted Goose	Marsh Hawk
Snow Goose	Osprey
Blue Goose	Prairie Falcon
Mallard	Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk)
Black Duck	Pigeon Hawk
Gadwall	Sparrow Hawk
Pintail	Ruffed Grouse
Green-winged Teal	Prairie Chicken
Blue-winged Teal	Partridge (European)
Cinnamon Teal	Bobwhite
American Widgeon (Baldpate)	Ring-necked Pheasant
Shoveler	Sandhill Crane
Wood Duck	King Rail
Redhead	Virginia Rail
Ring-necked Duck	Sora
Canvasback	Yellow Rail
Lesser Scaup	Common Gallinule (Florida)
Common Goldeneye (American)	American Coot
Bufflehead	Ringed Plover (Semipalmated)
White-winged Scoter	Piping Plover
Surf Scoter	Killdeer



American Golden Plover  
Black-bellied Plover  
Ruddy Turnstone  
American Woodcock  
Common Snipe (Wilson's)  
Upland Plover  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Willet  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Baird's Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper)  
Dowitcher  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Marbled Godwit  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Sanderling  
American Avocet  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Northern Phalarope  
Herring Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Franklin's Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Forster's Tern  
Common Tern  
Least Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Barn Owl  
Screech Owl  
Horned Owl  
Snowy Owl  
Burrowing Owl  
Barred Owl  
Long-eared Owl  
Short-eared Owl  
Saw-whet Owl  
Whip-poor-will  
Common Nighthawk (Eastern)  
Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Yellow-shafted Flicker (Northern)  
Red-shafted Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Eastern Kingbird  
Western Kingbird (Arkansas)  
Great-crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Traill's Flycatcher (Alder)  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Wood Pewee  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Horned Lark  
Tree Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Purple Martin  
Blue Jay  
Magpie  
Common Crow (Eastern)  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
House Wren  
Winter Wren  
Bewick's Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Marsh Wren (Prairie)  
Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh)  
Mockingbird  
Catbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Robin  
Wood Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
Swainson's Thrush (Olive-backed)  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Veery (Willow Thrush)



Common Bluebird (Eastern)	American Redstart
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Sparrow (English)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Bobolink
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Meadowlark (Eastern)
Water Pipit (American)	Western Meadowlark
Greater Waxwing (Bohemian)	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Cedar Waxwing	Redwing
Great Shrike (Northern)	Orchard Oriole
Loggerhead Shrike (Migrant)	Baltimore Oriole
Starling	Rusty Blackbird
White-eyed Vireo	Brewer's Blackbird
Bell's Vireo	Purple Grackle (Bronzed)
Yellow-throated Vireo	Common Cowbird (Eastern)
Solitary Vireo (Blue-headed)	Scarlet Tanager
Red-eyed Vireo	Summer Tanager
Philadelphia Vireo	Cardinal
Warbling Vireo	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-and-White Warbler	Blue Grosbeak
Prothonotary Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Worm-eating Warbler	Dickcissel
Golden-winged Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Blue-winged Warbler	Purple Finch
Tennessee Warbler	Common Redpoll
Orange-crowned Warbler	Pine Siskin
Nashville Warbler	American Goldfinch
Parula Warbler	Red Crossbill
Yellow Warbler	Eastern Towhee (Red-eyed)
Magnolia Warbler	Lark Bunting
Cape May Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Myrtle Warbler	Leconte's Sparrow
Black-throated Green Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Cerulean Warbler	Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Nelson's)
Blackburnian Warbler	Vesper Sparrow
Yellow-throated Warbler (Sycamore)	Lark Sparrow
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
Bay-breasted Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Blackpoll Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Pine Warbler	Clay-colored Sparrow
Palm Warbler	Field Sparrow
Ovenbird	Harris's Sparrow
Small-billed Waterthrush (Grinnell's)	White-crowned Sparrow
Louisiana Waterthrush	White-throated Sparrow
Kentucky Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Connecticut Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Mourning Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Yellow-throat	Song Sparrow
Chat	Lapland Longspur
Pileolated Warbler (Wilson's)	Snow Bunting
Canada Warbler	



These 65 species are of rare or accidental occurrence, in most instances having been recorded only two or three times. The range of those indicated with an \* includes Iowa. They are expected to occur occasionally. Those indicated with a # are considered extinct.

Arctic Loon (Pacific)	Parasitic Jaeger
Red-throated Loon *	Long-tailed Jaeger
Brown Pelican	Glaucous Gull
Anhinga (Water-Turkey)	Black-legged Kittiwake
Frigate-bird (Man-o'-war-bird)	Sabine's Gull
Snowy Egret *	Thick-billed Murre (Brunnich's)
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *	Passenger Pigeon #
Wood Ibis	Carolina Parakeet #
White-faced Ibis (W.F. Glossy) *	Groove-billed Ani
Trumpeter Swan	Great Gray Owl
European Widgeon	Poor-will
Greater Scaup *	Lewis's Woodpecker
Old-squaw *	Black-backed Woodpecker (Arctic Three-
Harlequin Duck	Say's Phoebe toed)
Common Eider (American)	Common Raven (American)
King Eider	Clark's Nutcracker
Black Scoter (American)	Carolina Chickadee
Black Vulture	Rock Wren
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mountain Bluebird
Mississippi Kite	Sprague's Pipit
Harris's Hawk	Townsend's Warbler
Gyr Falcon	Prairie Warbler *
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Hooded Warbler
Turkey *	Lazuli Bunting
Whooping Crane	Pine Grosbeak
Black Rail *	Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
Long-billed Curlew	White-winged Crossbill *
Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew)	Spotted Towhee (Arctic) *
Eskimo Curlew #	Oregon Junco (Montana) *
Knot *	McCowan's Longspur
Western Sandpiper *	Smith's Longspur
Ruff	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Black-necked Stilt	

Prepared by Philip A. DuMont  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
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