

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

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825 7th Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

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715 West
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STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

IOWA BIRD LINE
319-622-3353

EDITOR

PETER C. PETERSEN
235 McClellan Blvd.
Davenport, Iowa 52803

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409 Orange
Tabor, Iowa 51653

Raymond Cummins
609 S. Main
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Phyllis Harris
Union, Iowa 50258

Bob Myers
RR 2, Box 153
Perry, Iowa 50220

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Field Reports Contributors

Having now completed three years of doing the summer Field Reports section for Iowa Bird Life, it is time that I said thank you to those who make the report possible, the contributors, so—"Thank you". The number of contributors has grown to a high of 44 this year, and I appreciate the material I receive from each of you. The more good material I have, the better I can try to assess what is going on with Iowa birds. You are doing lots of little things that make my job easier--listing birds in taxonomic sequence, providing date, location, and number with each of your records, and doing a good job of providing me with significant sightings while eliminating those that have less value. You also have done a good job of providing documentations for the unusual birds and the documentations themselves are better (the key as always is to describe what you saw of the bird). Probably the one place where you could help a bit would be to provide a few key details on birds that are seen on unusual dates but that probably don't require a full documentation. An example would be two reports I had this year of Marbled Godwits in early July, a very early date. Both indicated they had flushed the birds and seen the cinnamon wing linings and the lack of a rump patch, enough detail to convince me. Similar brief details on other early or late shorebirds, warblers, etc would be helpful.

Since some of you realize that I will be gone part of next year, I had best fill in more details. I plan to be on sabbatical leave for spring semester 1987. I will be at the Manomet Bird Observatory in Massachusetts doing some writing and field work on shorebirds. I plan to leave in January and return in July. I do plan to do the summer Field Reports section when I return so I will look forward to your contributions then. I hope to see many of you at the fall meeting. Thanks again for your contributions and good birding.

Sincerely,