

host large numbers. Furthermore, the data on habitat associations will help inform the management of this species and its habitat by yielding recommendations applicable to intensively farmed landscapes and compatible with agriculture in the region. The Illinois Wildlife Action Plan includes a critical need within the Farmland Campaign to “emphasize the multiple resource benefits of conservation in agricultural landscapes.” This study will help underpin this goal by identifying land management practices that can be implemented in the context of intensive row-crop agriculture, to benefit migrant shorebird populations like the American Golden-Plover.



*American Golden-Plover photo by Steve Spitzer taken at Montrose, Cook County in July 2007.*

Both Megan and Benjamin will prepare a summary article for *Meadowlark* when their respective projects are completed. We look forward to reading the results.

Seven grant requests were received this year from applicants at six different Illinois colleges and universities. All were worthwhile and the selection of the two finally chosen was difficult. Thanks to Steve Bailey and Jeff Walk for their work analyzing the requests and for their recommendations.

Funds for the grants are raised from IOS activities such as the Gull Frolic, IOS field trips, Big Day pledges and the silent auction at our annual meeting. Your IOS Board would like to raise additional sums to fund more of the requests. To this end, the Board has set up an IOS Grant Fund Donation Program to accept contributions during the year to add to the funding provided by other activities.

Contributions should be mailed to IOS, Grant Program,  
P. O. Box 931, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

If you wish to provide endowment funds to endow an individual grant, contact Michael Hogg, IOS President at (847) 564-7763 or e-mail to mhkiwi@aol.com.

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## IN MEMORIAM

# Birders, friends, teachers

## Ben Gelman, Jerry Kumery, James E. Landing

### **BEN GELMAN** (1920-2007)

I have often wondered what my life would be like without birds, without their bright colors, their wonderful ability to fly, their early-morning songs, their comforting presence at our backyard feeders. It has always seemed to me that an important way to protect the birds is to interest as many people as possible in their welfare and in conserving their habitat.

— Ben Gelman

Ben Gelman, a writer, editor, columnist and photographer for the Southern Illinoisan from 1956 until 1982, died July 21, 2007 in Carbondale at the age of 86. Born in New York, Ben brought the world of birds to the general public with his well-known column, Byline BG. The columns were printed in a book called *Bird Watching with Ben*, published by Quick Publishing. In 1982, he began working as editor of the weekly university paper, SIU Courier where he retired in 1995.

Ben was a wonderful person and a great photo-journalist; kind, friendly and non-judgmental. Ben did more to introduce the general public in southern Illinois to birds and birding than anyone. This he did through his weekly column Byline BG that appeared in the Southern Illinoisan. Ben would write on what was hap-

pening at his backyard feeder as well as what took place at the yearly Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count, which he compiled for many years. He also wrote on other nature-related topics and on the history of southern Illinois for many publications. Ben was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in the 1960s for a story he wrote about the financial scandal surrounding the construction of Stone House on the Southern Illinois University campus.

He began his birding career as a child in New York. He had a circle of birding friends, which included Roger Tory Peterson. Ben would go birding all day then report back to his brother, Murray Gell-mann (old family spelling), of all the great birds he'd seen.

— Rhonda Rothrock, Pomona