For the Birds

Spotters for Audubon International’s 2001 North American Birdwatching Open counted 349 species of birds on the 72 golf courses that participated in the day-long event last spring. The event raises awareness of bird conservation on golf courses.

Eagle eye
A good birder knows it takes a keen eye and a little luck to spot the rarest of our avian friends. Even eagles appear as rarely in golf course skies as they do on your scorecards. Here’s a list of federally threatened and endangered species, and the number of courses where they were observed:

1. Loggerhead shrike .................. 23
2. Sandhill crane .................. 9
3. Bald eagle .................. 8
4. Least turn .................. 8
5. Brown pelican .................. 4
6. Grasshopper sparrow .................. 2
7. Clapper rail .................. 1

Watch the Birdie!
26 most sighted species on golf courses
Rank/Species/Number of courses
1. Mourning dove .................. 72
2. Northern cardinal .................. 63
3. Red-winged blackbird .................. 60
4. Blue jay .................. 59
5. American crow .................. 58
6. Common grackle .................. 57
7. European Starling .................. 56
8. Mallard .................. 51
9. American robin .................. 50
10. Killdeer .................. 48
11. Downy woodpecker .................. 47
12. Great blue heron .................. 46
13. Northern flicker .................. 46
14. Canada goose .................. 45
15. Red bailed woodpecker .................. 44
16. American goldfinch .................. 43
17. Northern mockingbird .................. 43
18. House sparrow .................. 43
20. Red tailed hawk .................. 39
21. Eastern bluebird .................. 39
22. Barn swallow .................. 39
23. Eastern kingbird .................. 39
24. Purple martin .................. 36
25. Turkey vulture .................. 36
26. Tree swallow .................. 36

Species by the Numbers
Total number of species identified (all courses) .................. 349
Number of courses identifying 50 or more species .................. 29
Number of courses identifying 40-49 species .................. 15
Number of courses identifying 30-39 species .................. 14
Number of courses identifying less than 30 species .................. 14
Greatest number of species identified (at one course) .................. 95
Average number of species identified per course .................. 43
Median .................. 42
Number of federally threatened/endangered species identified .................. 7

Dual Dedications
Superintendent Larry Powell (below right) always wanted the course his father, William Powell (below left), created in 1946 to be recognized for its historical importance. In a September dedication ceremony, Ohio rewarded the family's dedication to the cause by designating Clearview GC as an Ohio historical site.

William Powell designed, built and owned Clearview golf course after he returned to the United States after World War II. At the time, he discovered the all-white golf courses in East Canton refused to let him play because he was black.

Adams bridge
In McHenry, Ill., McHenry CC dedicated the bridge (upper right) on its signature No. 8 hole to Gary Adams, who changed the game of golf by successfully marketing the use of metal woods as an alternative to traditional woods.

Taylor-Made Golf Co., where Adams worked, approached the course's owner to build a bridge across the creek on the hole in memory of Adams, who died in January 2000. Adams' father was the former head golf professional at McHenry, and Adams learned to play the game at the club.