

Winter Thaw

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Eagle's Point—** Enjoy watching the eagles dive for fish at the lock and Dam#11
- **Mines of Spain—** Explore the trails, Catfish Creek and the Julian Du-buque Monu-ment
- **Pikes Peak—** Walk along the trails to the beautiful waterfall and see a pano-ramic view of the Mississippi
- **Heritage Trail—**Ride your bike along the trail

As the snow melts here at Quiet Walker Lodge

Many people find this time of year dreary, but I find it beautiful. When the temperature warms up to above 32 degrees, the winter ice and snow begins to melt around the [B&B](#). This causes the creeks and rivers to flow and the grasses that were hibernating under the snow to show their color once again. I find it amazing that the grass under the snow is still green. I am not sure if it will turn brown or if it remains green throughout the Spring. In any case it is nice to see color once again.

There is an old wives tale that says a robin is a sign of spring because people believe robins go south for the winter and return in the early spring.. Although some robins do migrate to the south and return in the spring, not all of them do. Fruit-eating birds like robins, and also Eastern bluebirds and cedar waxwings, regularly over-winter in Iowa. When it is winter they hide in the forest for refuge and come out only to eat fermented berries or get some protein when the ground opens up.



[The Little Maquoketa near Quiet Walker Lodge](#)

If you want to know when spring is coming don't look for the robin, but look for the red winged blackbird. The first males will return to the river valley during February to find and establish breeding territory. The females arrive later. The red-winged blackbird is one of Iowa's most abundant birds.



Red winged Blackbird