



I. O. U. NEWS

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Fall 1988

Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Volume 4 Number 3

LATILONG PROJECT

Fred Leshner, La Crosse, Wisconsin

How much do breeding ranges of Eastern and Western Meadowlarks overlap? What is the band of overlap? Do Tree Swallows arrive in spring earlier along a line of open water on the Mississippi River than inland at, for example Albert Lea, Minnesota or Lake Mendota at Madison, Wisconsin? Do White-fronted Geese migrate through the lowlands of central Wisconsin and western Minnesota but avoid the Mississippi River? Do wooded Mississippi bluffs and tributary bottomlands provide habitat for southern breeding species such as the Carolina Wren? Does the Mississippi River "trench" provide a path for extraordinary numbers of migrant raptors and passerines?

Information answering questions such as these may be gleaned from seasonal reports the spring, 1988 through winter, 1989-90 in time to be compiled for the spring 1990 Tri-State meeting of the IOU, MOU, and WSO at La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The 1990 Tri-State Latilong is roughly a degree of latitude and degree of longitude crossing at La Crosse. That is roughly between 43-44 degrees latitude and 91-92 degrees longitude. This latilong is confined to the three states.

Iowa cities and locations included in the La Crosse Latilong Project between 91 degrees and 92 degrees longitude, approximately, listed north to south:

Hesper, Decorah, Waukon, New Albin, Wexford, Yellow River Forest, Effigy Mounds Monument, St. Olaf, Garber, Guttenberg, Backbone Park, White Pine Hollow, Muskrat Slough, Cedar rapids, Iowa City, Lake McBride, Muscatine, Wildcat Den Park, Lake Odessa, Wapello, Columbus Junction, Mt. Pleasant, Burlington, Ft. Madison, Keokuk, Shimek Forest, New Boston.

Iowa cities and locations in the La Crosse Latilong Project between 43 degrees and 44 degrees latitude, approximately, listed west to east:

Akron, Hawarden, Beloit, Larchwood, Rock Rapids, Orange City, Iowa Great Lakes Region, Spencer, Laurens, Emmetsburg, Estherville, Union Slough, Pilot Knob Park, Humboldt, Lake Mills, Mason City, Clear Lake, Charles City, Hayden Prairie, Osage, Waverly, New Hampton, Hampton, Tripoli, Brush Creek Canyon, West Union, Dorchester, North Buena Vista, Garnavillo, Clayton, Pikes Peak Park, Turkey River Mounds.

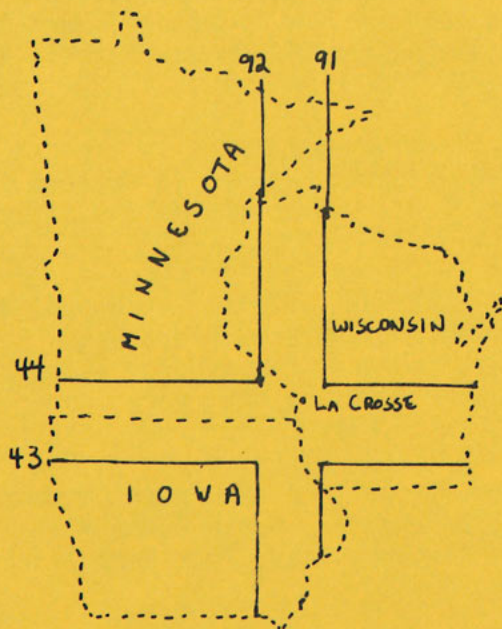
(Latilong cont.)

Birders may send their lists each season directly to Fred Lesher or highlight any data of the 30 species on their regular seasonal reports. Seasonal editors are then asked to xerox pertinent pages with data and forward them to Fred.

Questions? Fred Lesher, 509 Winona Street, La Crosse, WI 54603. (608)-783-1149.

Please indicate the arrival, peak/breeding, and departure of the following 30 species:

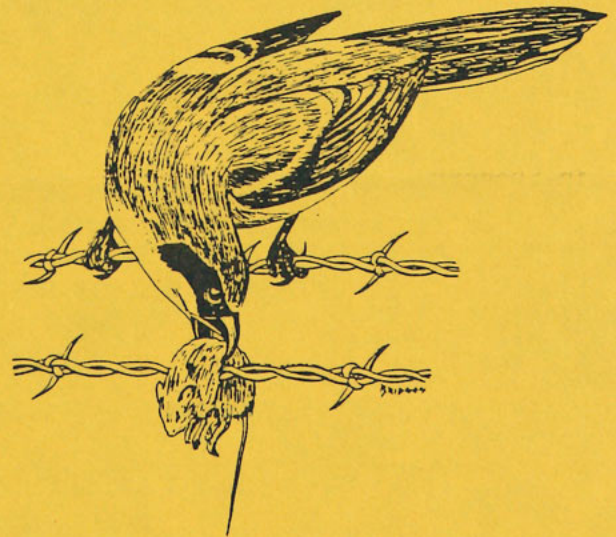
Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Tundra Swan, Canvasback, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gray Partridge, Piping Plover, Red Knot, Least Tern, Ring-billed Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, House Finch.



1990 Tri-State Latilong

RESEARCH ON IOWA BIRDS

Dave DeGeus, a graduate student at Iowa State University, is finishing the second year of a study of Loggerhead Shrikes in Iowa with some very surprising results. The shrike has been the source of much concern in recent years. Many people have thought that their numbers have been declining over much of their range, due perhaps to habitat loss and pesticide contamination. Dave has been studying shrike habitat requirements and nesting success in Adair County in southwestern Iowa. He picked Adair County because he knew he could find some shrikes there. Little did he know what a good choice he had made. Last year he found about 50 pairs. This year he totalled more than 70 nests in half of the county. Obviously he picked a good area to study shrikes. Most of the nests he



has found have been along road ditches and fence rows. Dave has received financial support for this project from the Iowa Non-game Wildlife Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, and the Society of Sigma Xi. He is now in the midst of analyzing data and plans to finish his project by next spring. Dave grew up near Pella and attended Central College there. He plans to work for a natural resource agency when he finishes his masters degree.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



The IOU newsletter under your guidance has really blossomed. It is needed, and you have done a great job.

For your next issue, it might be nice to mention the change in the birdline number. The new number is 319-338-9881. I will update it on Monday, just as has been done in the past. If birders wish to report a malfunction of the birdline answering machine, or if they wish to find out more details about any sighting, my home phone number is 319-338-3561.

Jim Fuller, Iowa City



Several weeks ago we installed an extra telephone and recording equipment in our home for the purpose of using it for the Northwest Iowa Bird Hot Line. Our home is in Spencer.

This hot line is not funded by any one group of birders, or any organization. We started it strictly on our own as a personal venture. We will accept donations from interested individuals, but are not dependent on them.

We have publicized the number mainly through bird clubs, local newspapers, and personal contacts. The Des Moines Register has publicized it once.

We are happy with the response so far, but feel we could reach out farther if we had the telephone number in the hands of more persons. We are asking if you could publish it in one of your upcoming issues?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The number is 712-262-5957.

Eldon & Dixie Kanago, Spencer



BIRDING FOR THE BLIND

Birding is a great hobby for people who can't see, says a booklet recently published by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Birding: An Introduction to Ornithological Delights for the Blind explains how visually impaired persons can use their ears to become good birders. The booklet also lists sources of commercial bird song recordings and a selection of recorded and braille books available in regional libraries. The free booklet is available from the Reference Section, NLS/BPH, 1291 Taylor Street NW, Washington, DC 20542 or by calling 202-287-5100



FALL FIELD TRIP

To: Saylorville Reservoir
When: Saturday, November 19, 1988

Participants should meet at the parking lot west of the spillway below Saylorville dam at 7:30 a.m. The trip will last most of the day. Be prepared for cold weather!

Highlights of the trip should include large numbers of waterfowl and gulls on the reservoir. We should see Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Bald Eagle, Bonaparte's Gull, and Snow Bunting. Other possibilities include Red-necked and Western Grebes, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, scoters, and, of course, any of the rarer gulls. We will also attempt to locate Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls and Northern Shrike at nearby Big Creek State Park.

For more information, contact Steve Dinsmore at 515-292-1038.

SEEN AT THE SPRING MEETING AT MASON CITY

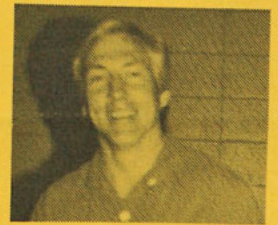


Dave and Jeanne Edwards from Ames



Dick and Paulie Mooney from Des Moines

Workshop presentors at the Spring, 1988 meeting: Pete Petersen (photo not available) spoke on bird anatomy.



Weir Nelson spoke on wildlife plantings and Lowell Washburn spoke on wildlife photography.



Jim Hanson spoke on waterfowl nesting and Guy Zenner on marsh restoration.

Dr. Neil Bernstein, the banquet speaker, spoke on his research in the Antarctic.

COMING DATES

- Sept. 20 Tues. Big Bluestem Audubon, Ames at 181 Jury Room, Design Center, ISU at 7:30 p.m. Gladys Black will speak on Birding the Red Rock.
- Sept. 24 Sat. Big Bluestem Audubon field trip to Saylorville Reservoir to watch pelicans and hawks. Leader: Steve Dinsmore, 515-292-1038
- Sept. 24 Sat. Quad City Audubon field trip to Mississippi Palisades Park in Illinois. Meet at Luciani's, Rapids City, Ill. at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Pete Petersen, 319-355-7051



The Upper Des Moines Group of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club welcomes

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting

Dayton Oaks Camp - Route 1 - Dayton, Iowa - (515)547-2417
September 16-18, 1988

Friday, Sept 16	7:00-9:00 PM	Registration, Owl Walks and Fellowship Time
Saturday, Sept 17	6:00- 6:30 AM	Breakfast
	6:30-10:00	Field Trips
	10:00-12:00	Registration
	11:00-11:45	Workshop I
	12:00- 1:00 PM	Lunch
	1:00- 1:45	Workshop II
	2:00- 2:45	Workshop III
	3:00	Business Meeting
	6:00	Banquet
Sunday, Sept 18	6:00- 6:30 AM	Breakfast
	6:30-12:00	Field Trips
	12:00- 1:00 PM	Lunch and compilation

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registration fee, \$2 per person \$ _____

Meal & Lodging Special (5 meals, 2 nights cabin lodging) \$25.00 per person _____

or

Meals: Saturday: Breakfast (2.75), Lunch (3.25), Banquet (4.25) _____

Sunday: Breakfast (2.75), Lunch (3.25) _____

Lodging: Friday (6.00), Saturday (6.00) _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Note: There are 10 "motel rooms" to sleep 24 people in "comfort" - available on a first-come/first-serve basis, cabins for anyone else, and 4 RV locations (5.00 per night with electricity and \$3.50 without).

Bring your own towels and bedding!

Deadline for meal and lodging reservations is Thursday, September 8th. Mail reservations (and make checks payable) to: Mina Landes, 732 12th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. For information, call: (515)573-3482 or (515)573-5018 or (515)576-3862.

Some Fort Dodge Area Motels:

Best Western Starlite Village Motel
Junction of Highways 7 and 169
573-7177

Fort Dodge Super 8 Motel
3040 5th Avenue South (East on Highway 20)
576-8000

Holiday Inn
Just south of the junction of Highways 20 and 169
955-3621

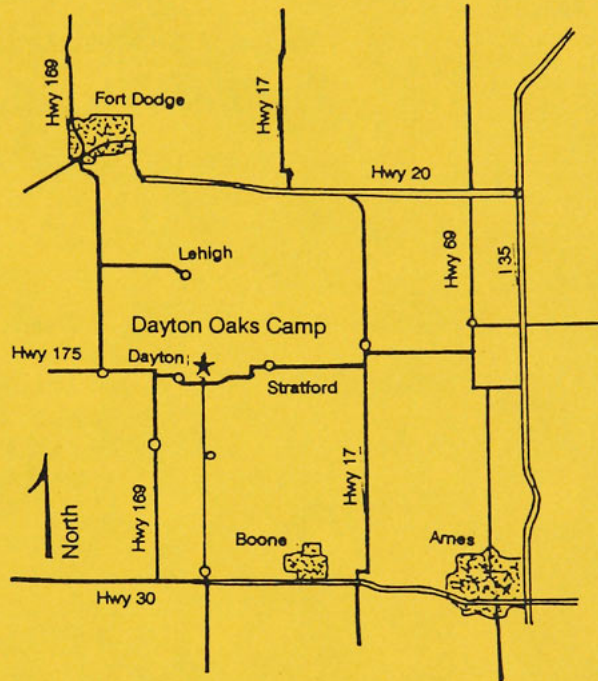
Quality Inn
Junction of Highways 20 and 169
955-8501

Towers Motel
Just west of the junction of Highways 20 and 169
955-8575

Camping Areas Nearby:

Dolliver Memorial State Park
Northwest of Lehigh
41 campsites, Showers & Flush Toilets, Electrical hookups
359-2539

Brushy Creek State Recreation Area
East of Lehigh
100 campsites, Electrical hookups
359-2501



Iowa Ornithologists' Union



Hank & Linda Zaletel
715 West
Colo, Iowa 50056

Iowa Birdline
319-338-9881

Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards St
Iowa City, IA 52240

