



I.O.U. NEWS

Fall 1990 Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Volume 6 Number 3

The IOU Fall Meeting Hilda Sickels, Des Moines

Sixty five members of the IOU congregated at Western Iowa Community College in Council Bluffs for the fall meeting which was held August 24-26. The weekend began with the Friday evening social gathering for refreshments and information about the weekend including the birding trips and presentations.

After Saturday morning breakfast, birding trips went in all directions, north to DeSoto Wildlife Refuge; south to River-ton, Forney's Lake and Waubonsie State Park, and west to Willow Slough, IPL Ponds and Fontanelle Forest in Nebraska. In the early morning the trips were quite comfortable but as the morning wore on, it became hot and humid. It was quite a relief to return to the La Deforest Building on campus for a light lunch of "make your own sandwich," fruits and vegetables.

The afternoon meetings covered the following:

- * Shorebirds and their identification.
- * Birding S.W. Iowa and S.E. Nebraska (panel).
- * Records committee of the IOU (panel).

The afternoon ended with a business meeting that lasted until 4:15 P.M.

The evening activities started with a delicious dinner of chicken Kiev, baked potato, vegetable and dessert. The evening speaker was Craig Fannes of the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, who spoke very authoritatively about "The Future of the Platte River." His presentation spoke of the devastation man has wreaked on our fragile earth as an example what has been done to the Platte River. He encouraged everyone of us to be heard by writing to our elected officials. Craig also showed us slides from his trip to Cuba in search of the Cuban Crane. It looked like quite an adventure.

Sunday morning, bright and early saw everyone having rolls and coffee to start the day. The birding trips were repeated except the one to DeSoto. By noon, everyone was ready for another hot weather lunch of make your own sandwich, vegetables, lemonade and ice tea at Lake Manawa State Park.

By now you are wondering, what about the birds? Did they see any? We certainly did! Pete Petersen led the compilation, a total of 137 species seen including a number of immature Yellow-crown and Black-crown Night Herons, Snowy Egret, Double-crested Cormorants, Pelicans, Bairds Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Kingbird, and Blue Grosbeaks.

The meeting ended with surprise door prizes that were provided by Barb Wilson. As all things must come to an end, so did this weekend. Thanks to Barb Wilson and Bob Cecil for all their efforts in making this meeting a success.

Attendance:

Algona: Matt Keene.
Ames: Jim Dinsmore.
Boone: Bruce Ehresman.
Booneville: Eloise & Eugene
Armstrong.
Cedar Fall: Ed & Jean Leonard.
Centerville: Dot Cornett, Ray
Cummins, Tom Johnson, Mary
Montgomery.
Colo: Hank Zaletel.
Davenport: Pete Petersen.
Decorah: Dennis Carter.
Des Moines: Bob & John Cecil, Jan
Eppard, John Fleckenstein,
Hilda Sickels.
Elma: Mary Jo Hartogh.
Estherville: Harold White.
Fairfield: Diane Porter.
Glenwood: Doug Rose.
Harlan: Jeannine Ouren.
Ida Grove: Don Poggensee.
Indianola: Jim Sinclair.
Iowa City: Carl Bendorf, Karen
Disbrow, Jim Fuller, Bud Gode,
Rick Hollis, Jim Schieb, Carol
Thompson.
Liscomb: Beth & Mark Proescholdt.
Mason City: Curt Nelson, Marty
Pauley, Jan & Jim Walters.
Norwalk: Ann Johnson, Sue
Spieker.
Osceola: Beth Brown.
Paullina: Ernest & Beth Wilson.
Princeton: Ann Barker.
Runnells: Fred Brink.
Shelby: Betty & Jeanine Stuer.
Shenandoah: Jean Braley, Barb
Cunningham, Marie Tiemann,
Mary Beth Vaughn, Betty
Walters.
Sioux City: Bob Livermore, Virginia
& Wayne Livermore.
Walnut: Marietta Peterson.
Waterloo: Francis Moore.
Bellevue, Neb.: Tanya Bray.

Norfolk, Neb.: Geraldine & Jerry
Goodell.

Omaha, Neb.: B.J. Rose.

Winside, Neb.: Isolde & Roger
Cutshall.



New Treasurer

Wayne Livermore has resigned as treasurer of the IOU. The nominating committee then recommended Pam Allen for this position and the Board of Directors has approved her for the job. Her address is 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, Iowa, 50265.

Breeding Bird Atlas Update Carol Thompson



Iowa

The last year of fieldwork is finally over. Bruce Ehresman and I would like to thank everyone that participated in the data collection especially helping fill in some of the gaps this last year. We did make significant progress this year. We anticipate that about 490 blocks will have been completed with an additional 130 blocks having been work on. **PLEASE, PLEASE** send your cards in soon so that we can start the data entry and analysis. Send the cards to Bruce Ehresman, DNR, Wildlife Research Station, RR1, Boone, Iowa 50036.

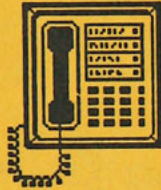


Coming Dates



- Oct. 14 Sun. Iowa City Bird Club trip to Cone Marsh for sparrows, ducks. Mary Noble: 319/338-6097.
- Oct. 16 Tues. Prairie Rapids Audubon (Waterloo) program on Sandhill Cranes and other Nebraska Birds. UNI Museum at 7:00 p.m. Francis Moore: 319/232-0217.
- Oct. 16 Tues. Des Moines Audubon program on the "Birds of Costa Rica" by Laura & Dewaine Jackson at Westminster Church Beaver & Franklin, Des Moines, 7:15 p.m. Jane Clark: 515/223-5047
- Oct. 18 Thurs. Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) program "A Trip Along the Upper Des Moines River" by Lance Kinseth at 7:30 p.m. at 181 Design Center, ISU. Andy Fix: 515/233-4956.
- Oct. 20 Sat. Prairie Rapids Audubon (Waterloo) field trip to Hickory Hills. Meet at Crossroads shopping center's Earl May at 7:00 a.m. Francis Moore: 319/232-0217.
- Nov. 3-4 Cedar Rapids Audubon field trip to Saylorville and Red Rock Reservoirs. Dale Fye: 319/363-1638.
- Nov. 7 Wed. Iowa City Bird Club program highlighting slides of members trips. Meet at 1st Nat'l Bank, 1117 Williams at 7 p.m. Bud Gode: 319/351-5245.
- Nov. 10 Sat. Loess Hills Audubon (Sioux City) field trip to DeSoto Wildlife Refuge. Leave at 11:30 a.m. from the west side of the Food-4-Less parking lot. Bob Moritz: 712/252-2898.
- Nov. 15 Thurs. Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) program on North American Waterfowl Management by Irv Klaas at 7:30 p.m., 181 ISU Design Center. Andy Fix: 515/233-4956.

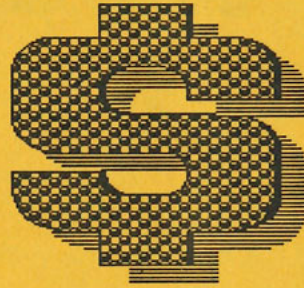
Bird Line Jim Fuller



The National Birding Hotline Cooperative (NBHC) is a group of birders who are sharing rare bird alerts from various parts of the country. The Iowa Birdline recently joined this group. Although all rare bird alerts are not subscribers at this time, the coverage is excellent, and includes San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, Phoenix, Tucson and southern Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the east coast from Maine to Virginia, Indiana, Detroit, and southwest Ohio. A few of the interesting sightings this past week included Spotted Redshank in Massachusetts, Curlew Sandpiper, Rufous Necked and Long Toed Stints in the Middle Atlantic states, and Brown and Blue-footed Boobies at the Salton Sea in California.

This means that I receive weekly reports and updates on my computer. If you are planning a vacation or birding trip to another part of the country, and would like to plan your birding activities ahead of time, I would be happy to forward information from that area to you. In addition, if you are employed at an educational or research institution that has computer access to Internet-Bitnet, you can subscribe to this service, and receive the reports directly at your office. You can also subscribe to the service if you install the proper modem on your personal computer, and then receive the information at home.

If you are interested in either receiving reports from certain localities, or are interested in subscribing to NBHC, please contact me at 6 Longview Knoll, RR6, Iowa City, 52240 or phone at 319/338-3561. You can also leave your name and phone number after the message on the Iowa Birdline 319/338-9881.



Donations Needed

If you find the Iowa Birdline useful, please consider a tax-deductible donation to help defray the cost of the phoneline. Your check can be made out to the IOU, and earmarked for the Birdline. Then mail it to the IOU treasurer, Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, Iowa, 50265.

Tales of Old Birds Jim Dinsmore



A recent article in the *Journal of Field Ornithology* lists longevity records for a number of bird species. Among them are two birds that were banded in Iowa. A Red-tailed Hawk banded by Dan Berger near Earlville on 2 December 1963 was recovered on 27 December 1983 east of Manchester. Since the bird was in at least its second year of life when it was banded, it was at least 21 years 6 months old when recovered. The other bird with Iowa ties was a Bay-breasted Warbler banded by Charles Ayres at Pioneer Ridge Park, Ottumwa on 13 September 1982. This bird was recovered at Boca del Toro, Panama on 4 November 1984 and was at least 3 years 5 months old when recovered. Since very few of the birds that are banded are ever seen again, recoveries like these are very rare but they show the potential value of banding birds.



1990 Big Day Ray Cummins

The 1990 Iowa Big Day saw record numbers of teams (14), species (232), and money contributed (\$581). The category winners were: B.J.'s Boys (Doug & Roger Rose) \$138.00 contributed. County count: Big Deal Team Woodbury County (Bob Livermore, Jerry Probst, and Dave Stoge) 140 species, a record. State count: East Davenport All-Stars (Pete Petersen, Brian Blevins, and Don Moeller) 173 species, a record.



Fall Field Trip

The third annual IOU field trip to Saylorville Reservoir will be held on Saturday, November 3, 1990. Participants should meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot on the west side of the spillway below Saylorville dam. We will spend most of the day birding around the lake, although you may leave at any time. Some of the birds we will be looking for include Western Grebe, scoters, Oldsquaw, Long-eared, Short-eared, and Northern Saw-whet owls, Northern Shrike, and whatever else might show up at this time of year. For more information, contact Steve Dinsmore at 515/292-3152 or Hank Zaletel at 515/377-2889.

Christmas Bird Count Dates

The Christmas Bird Count dates for this year are Saturday, December 15, 1990 through Wednesday, January 2, 1991. **PLEASE** send the dates of your count to Hank Zaletel, Colo, Iowa, 50056 by November 10 so that they may be included in the next issue of the newsletter.



Bald Eagle Roosts John Fleckenstein

The DNR Bureau of Preserves and Ecological Services keeps records of rare species and natural communities in Iowa. We use these records to study distribution and abundance of rare species and to protect significant locations from development. Until recently, we have only recorded breeding locations for rare birds. We are starting to record other significant locations.

We are looking for locations of Bald Eagle winter roosts. We have been able to protect several sites from development, but do not have good records for most other sites. We have some information on Mississippi River roosts but few locations on interior rivers. If you are aware of an eagle roost location, we would like to hear about it. Any site which is used consistently by a group of birds may be significant.

If you know of a site, please send me information on location and use. A legal description and map are most useful, but mileage from the nearest town, intersection, or bridge will help locate the site. Other useful information includes period of use, average and extreme numbers of birds, and ice conditions during use.

You can reach me by mail or phone: John Fleckenstein, DNR, Wallace Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Nov. 16-18 Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) field trip to DeSoto or Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuges. To be arranged. Steve Dinsmore: 515/292-3152.

Nov. 18. Iowa City Bird Club trip to the Mississippi River from Princeton to Credit Island for gulls, ducks, geese, Pileated Woodpecker. Jim Scheib: 319/337-5206.

Nov. 20 Des Moines Audubon program "Birding the High Arctic" Tues. by Dennis & Cecille Thompson at Westminster Church, Beaver & Franklin, Des Moines, 7:15 p.m. Jane Clark: 515/223-5047.

Jan. 15 Des Moines Audubon program "Birds of the Pacific" by Tues. Tim Schantz, Marion Co. Conservation Board, Westminster Church, Beaver & Franklin, 7:15 p.m. Jane Clark: 515/223-5047.



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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IOWA BIRDLINE



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BLK. RT.

