

I.O.U. NEWS

Spring 1991 Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Volume 7 Number 1

Breeding Bird Atlas Notes by Carol Thompson, Iowa City

The Breeding Bird Atlas committee met this January and reviewed progress and made some decisions on how to proceed. It was an optimistic meeting; as one committee member put it "I think we're actually going to be able to finish this." At present we are compiling and reviewing all of the data and the hope is that this will be complete by May. HOWEVER, there are a few of you out there that still have not turned your cards in. We need them now!

In other news, we are looking for artwork for the publication. We have decided to include black-and-white line drawings of each of the nesting species. We are actively soliciting artists who might be interested in working on some of the drawings. This is your chance to get some recognition for your work. As you can imagine, we do not have a very large fund for this although we are currently seeking more funding. We will be able to pay for some drawings; we would hope that we might get some of the artwork as a donation. If you are interested, please send a copy of a sketch or two, how much you would charge for your work, and what species you would be interested in working on.

We need coverage of all of our breeding birds, especially some of the less common species. The sketches should be small, no more than 5x5 inches and should be relatively simple; no elaborate backgrounds. Send submissions to Laura Jackson, DNR, Wildlife Research Station, Boone, Iowa 50036. If you wish further information, call or write Laura at 515/432-2823.

One further item, we obviously need money to pay for the publication. We hope to raise enough money to not only cover the expenses involved in production, but also to offset some of the publishing costs thereby making the final product more affordable. Many of the state atlas books have cost between \$40-50; we would like to lower that cost. Any donation to the project is tax-deductible; perhaps you could ask your employer for a donation or a matching donation. Donations should be marked as for the Breeding Bird Atlas Project payable to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and sent to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.



State & County Bird Lists by Pete Petersen, Davenport

Members are encouraged to submit their state and county bird lists for the 1990 calendar year. Submission can be for one or all of the counties. The threshold for the state total is 200 species and 150 for counties. This is a life long total and covers all species of wild birds positively recorded within the county or state. It is hoped that everyone will be able to submit a total of over 150 species for their home county. One does not need to be a resident of Iowa, just an IOU member. Records through 1990 are due by April 25 and should be sent to Pete Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803.



Big Day Count 1991

The IOU Big Day Count's primary objectives are to have fun and to promote friendly competition. They also help to raise funds for the IOU endowment fund and special projects.

The counts are divided into categories of statewide and county counts. Traveling plaques will be presented at the fall IOU meeting for highest species count for the state and county.

A minimum contribution of \$10.00 per team is required. The Big Day rules remain the same as last year. The counts can be taken any time up to May 17. Those wishing to participate need to request an entry form from Ray Cummins at 609 S. Main St., Centerville, IA 52544.

Report of the Nominating Committee

A nominating committee consisting of Beth Proescholdt (chair), Francis Moore, and Bob Myers was appointed in late summer 1990. This committee has nominated the following slate of officers for consideration at the spring 1991 meeting:

President: Ann Barker
Vice President: Bob Cecil
Board of Directors (3 positions)
Diane Porter
Mark Proescholdt
Harold White

Research on Iowa Birds

With the settlement of Iowa in the 1800s, perhaps no natural habitat has been so altered as have its wetlands. More than 95% of the wetlands that originally were found in Iowa have been drained or filled in. Recently, several agencies have tried to reverse this trend by restoring Iowa wetlands. Usually this is done by breaking the drainage tile so the wetland basin will refill with rainwater and melted snow. Recently, several graduate students at Iowa State have been studying restored wetlands to try to see how these are being used by various wildlife.

One of these students is Lisa Hemesath who is currently completing a masters degree in Animal Ecology at Iowa State. Lisa is a native of Cedar Rapids and completed a B.S. in biology at the University of Iowa in 1988. While at Iowa, she became interested in ecological problems and started graduate work at Iowa State.

Lisa is studying the birds on several restored wetlands in north-central and northwestern Iowa. In particular, she has been trying to see how wetland size and the number of years since it was restored affect the species of birds that use the area. Most of Lisa's study areas are small wetlands located on private land near Clear Lake and near Estherville. In 1989 and 1990, she visited each wetland twice a week to search for nests and to keep track of nesting success. Later in the season, she studied that plants and the invertebrates in the water to see how those two factors affected the birds found on each wetland.

Lisa found a wide variety of marsh birds using the areas she studied. Although restored wetlands don't have the variety of the species that natural marshes have, the numbers increase as the vegetation on them gets better established. Although Red-winged and Yellow-headed blackbirds are the most typical species on restored wetlands, she also found Least Bittern, Sora, and Northern Shoveler. As with field studies, Lisa's work is dependent on the weather. The drought of 1989 meant that some of the marshes dried out that summer and had very low bird use. Still, her work provides valuable information to help us understand how wildlife will recolonize land that has been farmed for years.

Lisa plans to finish her master degree in spring 1991 and then hopes to find a job with a conservation agency where she can put her experience and education to work. Both the Iowa Non-game Wildlife Fund and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation have helped fund this research.



Request for Information

We are preparing a paper for *Iowa Bird Life* documenting the invasion of the House Finch into Iowa. We are especially interested in records of when the birds first reached an area of the state or when it first nested in a particular locale. We would appreciate receiving such information that has not been already published in *Iowa Bird Life*. Please send information to Bob Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines 50310 or Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50010.

People

Former IOU member **John Robinson** is the author of the recently published book "An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee." John attended several IOU meetings while he was enrolled at Iowa State University in the early 1980s and also wrote several papers that were published in *Iowa Bird Life*. At IOU meetings, he showed an amazing ability to identify birds in photo quizzes and in the field. John worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Illinois and Tennessee for several years and now is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Hayward, Wisconsin.

On October 4, 1990, **Herb Dorow** of Newton, long time IOU member and wildlife photographer, died of a heart attack. Gladys Black, in her weekly newspaper column, stated that "in the first 13 years of Red Rock Lake, Herb spent hours getting an early pictorial history of the area from the dam to Lake Avon of 8x10 black and white glossies also color slides, from the most common to the rarest accidental, land birds, waterbirds, shorebirds, gamebirds, song birds, hawks, owls, etc." Because of the quality of his work, his photos were widely published. Herb worked at Maytag for 22 years retiring in 1972. He was 81 at the time of his death.

New Members

Please take the opportunity to welcome the following new members who joined in late 1990 and through March, 1991:

Frederick Ball, Robert & Marilyn Bergstrom, Sr., James & Ruth Bock, Stanley Buman.
Robert Carnes, Paul & Ina Chandler, Charles Curl, Howard & Geneviene Curry, Mrs. Roger Cutshall.

Jeffrey Dankert, David Dankert, Dan Dorrance, Ann Dresselhaus, Mary DuPree, James Durbin.

David Easton, Sue Ervin.

Vern & Linda Faber, Myrtle Felkner, Joan & Robert Frantz.

B.C. Haugen, Holly Humpal.

Iowa State Historical Society, Marilyn Irely.

Maridel & Walt Jackson, Richard & Maureen Johnson.

Loyd Kern, Eric King.

University of Louisville.

MIU Library.

Patricia Matteson, Pearl McAdams, John McCormick, Bonnie McCrady, Adele McDowell.

Pauline Mooney, Mark Muller.

Oklahoma State University, Alexandra Ozolins.

Marjorie Pauley, Jim Pease, Barbara Peterson, Michelle, Evan & Lauren Piette.

Rebecca Reagan, John Rutenbeck.

Tim Schantz, Shirley Schirck, Martin Schmeiser, Dick Schmitz, Lee & Nancy Schoenewe.

Linda & Ron Schulz, Frieda Shannon, Sharon Steffens, Gayle & Beth Strickler, Sue Stroyls,
Deanne Summerfelt.

Paul Valde.

Harvey & Shirley Walton, Dorothy Wilcke, Woodbury Co. Conservation Board, Netia Worley.

Contributors

The following members have donated funds over that of basic membership for 1990 and through March, 1991. We salute:

Eugene & Eloise Armstrong, Ann & William Barker, Robert & Virginia Bell, Robert & Karen Bradley, Fred & Beverly Brink, Dwight & Margaret Brooke, Beth Brown, Delia & William Brown.

Robert Cecil, Dorothy Cornett.

Jim Dinsmore, Stephen Dunbar.

Gene Eash.

Marjorie Fee, Charles Fuller, James Fuller, Jane Fuller.

Chuck & Jeanne Gee, O.J. Gode, Jr., Edward Geer.

Richard Hanft, Carol Hasvold, Barbara & Eury Henderson.

Thomas Johnson.

Henry Kail, Richard Kelly, Harvey & Anna Kirchgatter, Richard Kraemer, Sr.

James Larson, Sharon Laub, Kenneth Lowder.

Kathryn Maschmann, Mary Montgomery, Joe Morrissey.

Curt Nelson, Michael & Carol Newlon, Mary Noble.

B. June Parks, Peter Petersen, Warren Piette, Randy Pinkston, Anne Marie Plunkett,

Blanche Prasad, Beth Proescholdt.

Sylvan Runkel.

Ed & Betty Savage, Ruth Schwartz, Jim Sinclair.

Carol Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Turner.

Mary Beth Vaughn.

Gladys Wanek, Russell & Joyce Widner, Harold White, Eva Wiedemeyer.

Coming Dates:

- April 13 Sat.** Prairie Rapids Audubon (Waterloo) field trip to Volga Recreation area. Meet at Logan Plaza at 6:30 am. Francis Moore: 319/232-0217.
- April 13 Sat.** Quad City Audubon field trip to Buddelier Woods, Milan for early migrant songbirds. Meet at 83rd Ave. & Knoxville Road, Milan at 8:00 am. LeRoy Sowl: 319/332-7681.
- April 16 Tues.** Des Moines Audubon program "Birding the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick" by Jim Sinclair and friends at 7:15 pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaver & Franklin. Jane Clark: 515/223-5047.
- April 19 Fri.** "Wild Turkeys in Agriculture in NE Iowa" by Steve Gabrey at 3:10 pm at E164 Lagomarcino, ISU. Jim Dinsmore: 515/294-7669.
- April 20 Sat.** Loess Hills Audubon (Sioux City) field trip to Maude Adams Preserve, west side of McCook Lake at 7 & 9 am at the preserve. Bob Moritz: 712/252-2898.
- April 26 Fri.** "Bird Response to Restored Wetlands" by Lisa Hemesath at 3:10 pm at E164 Lagomarcino, ISU. Jim Dinsmore: 515/294-7669.
- April 28 Sun.** Iowa City Bird Club field trip to Otter Creek Marsh for rails at 5:00 am at Terrill Mill Park across from Mayflower residence hall, Univ. of Ia. Jim Fuller: 319/338-3561.
- May 2 Thurs.** "Ecology of Wet Meadow Macroinvertebrates and Their Relationship with Sandhill Cranes" by Craig Davis at 3:10 pm at E164 Lagomarcino, ISU. Jim Dinsmore: 515/294-7669.
- May 4 Sat.** Prairie Rapids Audubon (Waterloo) field trip to MacBride Raptor Center, Iowa City at 5:30 am. Meet at Earl May, Crossroads. Francis Moore: 319/232-0217.
- May 12 Sun.** Iowa City Bird Club field trip to Louisa Co. Meet at Terrill Mill Park across from Mayflower residence hall, Univ. of Ia. at 6:30 am. Carol Thompson: 319/338-5361.
- May 16 Thurs.** Big Bluestem Audubon (Ames) program "Wildlife Along an Arctic River" by Dan Varland at 7:30 pm, ISU Design Center. Sherry Dragula: 515/292-4014.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Meeting
Riverview Park
Cedar Falls, Iowa
May 17-19, 1991

All events will take place at Riverview Park Bible Conference facilities. The camp is located approximately 4 blocks north of Iowa Highway 57 (1st st.) on North Division St. in Cedar Falls.

This is an excellent facility for our annual spring meeting. Everything we need is on the grounds (even good birding areas).

In addition to the hotel and motel accommodations listed here, there are also sleeping quarters (dormitory style) on the park grounds. Overflow can stay in nearby cabins. The dormitory rooms are comfortable and sleep 44 people. Once these are full or if you would rather stay in one of the cabins, they will be assigned as needed. The cabins are used weekly for retreats so an early reservation is required (return your reservation by May 1) or we may not be able to use them. Coffee, juice, cookies and donuts will be available at the start of all the field trips.

Preliminary Schedule of Events

Friday, May 17	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Social gathering at Pioneer Hall, Riverview Park.
Saturday, May 18	5:00-6:00 a.m.	Field trip departure times will vary depending on the distance from Riverview Park to various areas in and near Cedar Falls/Waterloo. All field trips will leave from the dining hall.
	11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Lunch at Missionary Hall (buffet style)
	12:30-2:15 p.m.	Workshops on shorebirds (J. Dinsmore), Lyme Disease (Dr. Nixon Wilson), local birding areas (F. Moore)
	2:15-3:15 p.m.	Paper on accipiter research (Dave Conrads)
	3:30 p.m.	Business Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Banquet (Dr. Jill Trainer)
Sunday, May 19	5:00-6:00 a.m.	Field Trips (probably same as Saturday morning)
	12 noon	Lunch and compilation (buffet style)

Field trips will be going to several locations including: George Wyth State Park, Black Hawk County Park, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Waterloo Green Belt locations, Sweet Marsh (Bremer County) Dugeon Park (Benton County).

Spring convention sponsored by the members of the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society

Completed registrations should be mailed and checks made payable to:
Francis L. Moore, P.O. Box 682, Waterloo, IA 50704. We need a fairly accurate
 count of meals and a very accurate count on number of sleeping accommodations
 at Riverview Park. **I must have reservations for rooms/cabins by May 1st so
 get your reservations back quickly.** If I receive room reservations after this day,
 I may not be able to guarantee a bed for you. If a special diet is needed, please
 make a note of such below. If you have any questions or comments, please feel
 free to call me at 319/232-0217 (home) or 319/232-6621 (work).

Econo Lodge \$25.95-32.95
 4117 University Ave.
 Cedar Falls, IA 50613
 319/277-69431
 1-800-446-6900

Exel Inn \$25.95-32.95
 3350 University Ave.
 Waterloo, IA 50701
 319/235-2165
 1-800-356-8013

There is also an RV camping area on the grounds. Sign up on the registration form.

 Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

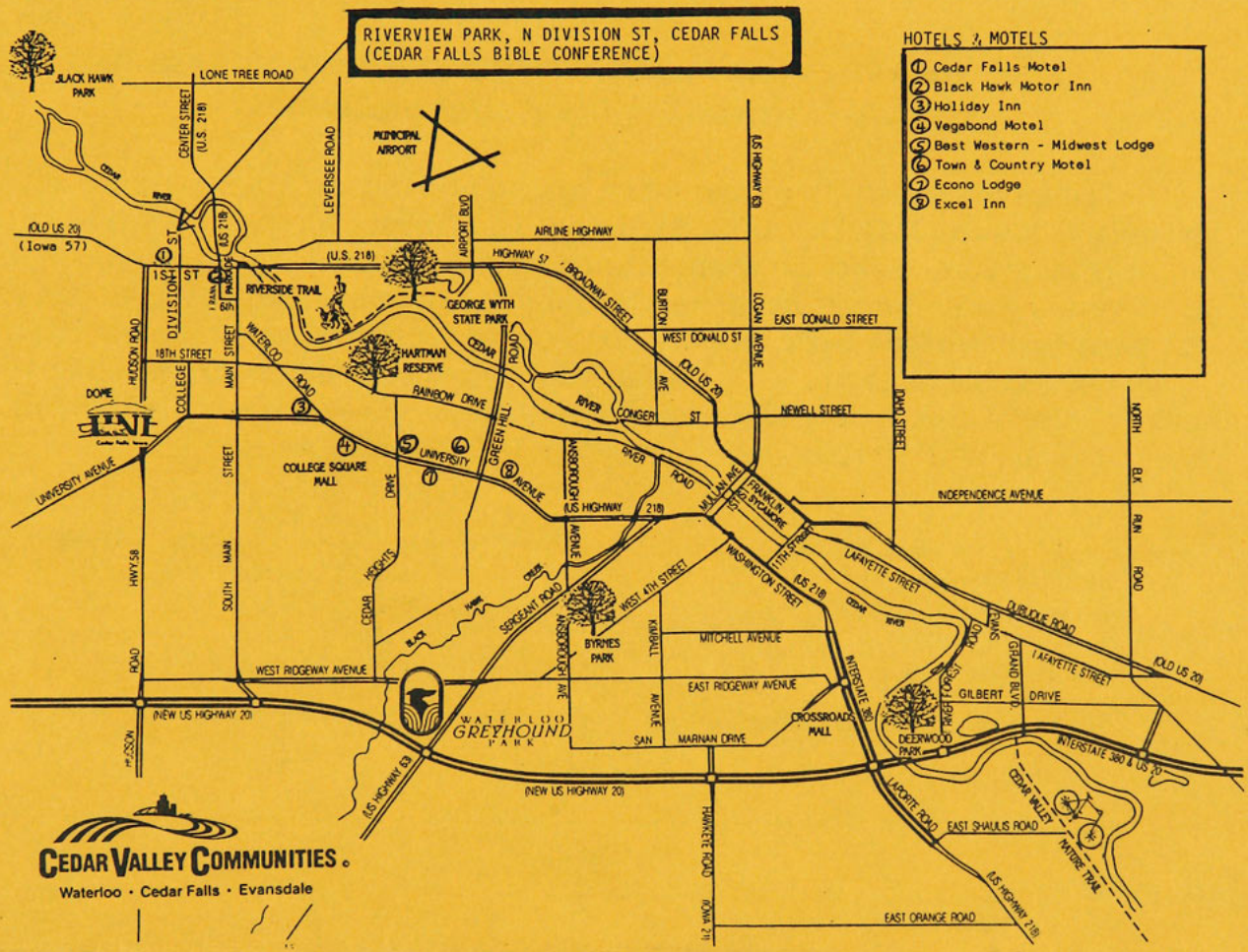
FEES:

No.	_____ Registration @ \$5.00 ea =	\$ _____
	_____ Sat. Lunch @ \$4.50 ea =	\$ _____
	_____ Sat. Banquet @ \$6.00 ea =	\$ _____
	_____ Sun. Lunch @ \$4.50 ea =	\$ _____

ACCOMODATIONS:

No.	_____ Fri night dorm @ \$10.00 ea =	\$ _____
	_____ Sat. night dorm @ \$10.00 ea =	\$ _____
	_____ Fri. night cabin @ \$10.00 per adult, \$ 5.00 per child (3-12), \$15.00 per night min	\$ _____
	_____ Sat. night cabin, as above	\$ _____
	_____ Fri. night RV camping @ \$10.00	\$ _____
	_____ Sat. night RV camp., as above	\$ _____

Total \$



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

HANK & LINDA ZALETEL
715 WEST
COLO, IOWA 50056



Thomas H Kent
211 Richards St
Iowa City IA 52246

IOWA BIRDLINE
 **319-338-9881**