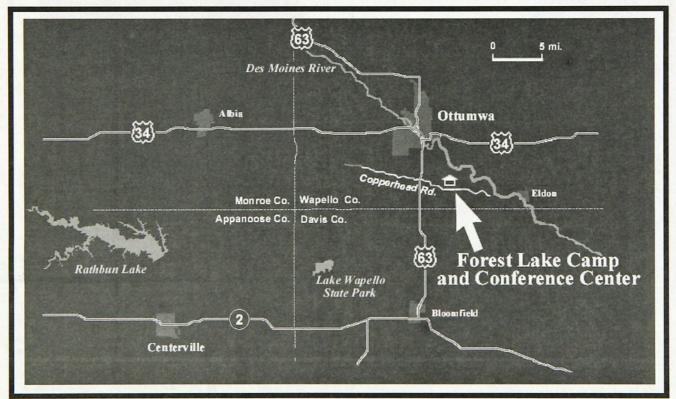
Iowa Ornithologists' Union

IOU News

Spring 2002

Volume 18 - Number 1





IOU 2002 SPRING MEETING April 26, 27, 28

Join us for the IOU Spring Meeting, scheduled for the last weekend in April at the Forest Lake Camp and Conference Center. Forest Lake Camp, about 7 miles southeast of Ottumwa, in southern Wapello County, sits on about 650 acres of woodlands.

Nearby to Forest Lake are many natural areas including Pioneer Ridge Conservation Area, Fox Hills Wildlife Area, and Lake Rathbun. Field trips will include these areas and also the Ottumwa la-

goons, the Grey Fox area, and visits to a local banding station.

Saturday afternoon programs will feature Loren Padelford presenting *Butterflies of Iowa and Nebraska*, and Ric Zarwell presenting *How IOU Members Can Participate in the IBA Program*. Following the spring meeting and dinner in the Conference Center, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong will present the evening program *Deseret–Utah's Finest*.

For more information, see page 4.

IOU News is a quarterly publication of The Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Founded 1923

Officers:

President- Tom Johnson, 125 N 13th St., Centerville, IA 52544 VicePresident- Hank Zaletel

Secretary- Jane Clark

Treasurer- Rita Goranson

Board- Judy Garton, Sharon Stilwell, Linda Zaletel, Dick Tetrault, James Scheib,

Registrar-David Edwards

Journal: Iowa Bird Life, quarterly;

Editor- Kayleen Niyo, kay@KayNiyo.com

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meekeckk@rconnect.com

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Spring Bird Count- Ann Barker Christmas Bird Count- Aaron Brees

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Send thanks to: Ron Andrews, Darleen Ayers, Ann Barker, Dick Bierman, Bob Cecil, Mike Dooley, Dave Edwards, Ann Johnson, Tom Johnson, Karl Jungbluth, Kenn Kaufman, Matt Kenne, Kay Niyo, Mary Lou Petersen, Lee Schoenewe, Phil Walsh, Jim Williams, Linda & Hank Zaletel, Ric Zarwell.



Kay Niyo, Editor, Iowa Bird Life

Kay Niyo, editor of Iowa Bird Life, is a native of South Dakota. Her education covers several fields of study, starting with a B.S. in zoology in 1970 at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. She moved to Ames in 1969 and in 1984 received a M.S. in General Graduate Studies with an emphasis on plant pathology. She completed a Ph.D. at Iowa State University in immunobiology and medical mycology in 1987. She worked at the National Animal Disease Center in Ames for several years and then at the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) in Ames from 1988 through 2000. During most of that time she served as managing scientific editor for the council managing all task force scientists and scientific report production until her early retirement in January 2001. She moved to Evergreen, Colorado and is busy with her scientific communications consulting business as well as birding, traveling, snowshoeing, hiking, camping, fly fishing, and many other outdoor activities.

Kay was active with numerous groups in Ames including the Quality of Life Committee of the Ames City Council, Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS), and the Hallett's Quarry park effort. She was on the BBAS board of directors and served as president. She was recently elected to the board of The Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society.

Deadlines for Submission of Materials

<u>Issue</u>	Coverage	Deadline
Spring	March 1 - May 31	February 15
Summer	June 1 - July 31	May 15
Fall	August 1 - Nov 30	July 15
Winter	Dec 1 - Feb 28	November 15

Phil Walsh Steps Down as President

Dear IOU members and friends,

I am sorry to report that I have resigned from the position of IOU president.

The past several months have been particularly stressful and troubling for me. I reached a point where I recognized that I didn't have the resources to cope with the personal problems I was dealing with while maintaining my commitments to outside activities. This caused me to make a series of decisions regarding how I spend my time and energies. Perhaps the hardest and most personally regrettable of those decisions was to step down as IOU president.

I was pleased and honored to have been asked to serve as president of the IOU. I considered it a way to fulfill the obligations I feel toward the IOU because of the many benefits I have received from my membership in it. I am sorry to find myself unable to fulfill those obligations.

I hope to see you all somewhere in the field sometime soon--

Phil Walsh Des Moines

Tom Johnson Accepts Presidency

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President, and thank Phil for his leadership for the last year. I have been a member for 26 years, so maybe it is my turn. The first year we went to the spring convention was in Davenport, and Gladys Black pointed out a Scarlet Tanager to me, my wife Becky and then 5 yr-old son Breck—it was our first. The memories and friendships have built since then, and and many more birds. When we moved to California for four years, the only subscription I had was Iowa Bird Life. I did have my mother cut out Gladys's Sunday articles from the Register and send them to me.

Our organization will stay strong with our publications, meetings, website, and listserve. Please inform me or your board members of suggestions to improve our organization.

Tom Johnson (641) 647-2666 tjbjjohn@iowasocean.com

Slate of Candidates for 2002-2003

From the Nominations Committee– The slate of candidates for 2002-2003, to be voted upon during the IOU spring meeting:

Secretary: Treasurer: Board of Directors: Sue Spieker Rita Goranson Judy Garton John Rutenbeck

Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP)

At recent IOU meetings, discussions have arisen regarding the Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) program. Some members have asked what is REAP.

REAP was created through the Department of Natural Resources in 1989 to protect and enhance the many aspects of Iowa's historic and natural resources. Many county, city and state lands have been preserved with the help of REAP dollars. REAP funding comes from the general fund, interest on REAP accounts and revenues from REAP license plates. A REAP license plate indicates support for this program. The plates depict our state bird and wildflower, the American Goldfinch and wild rose.

REAP Conservation Education Program (CEP) grant program recognizes that environmental education is one of the long-term integrated efforts that is needed to conserve and protect Iowa's natural resources. The duties of the CEP board is to "revise and produce conservation education materials and specify stipends to Iowa educators who participate in innovative conservation education program approved by the board." Grant applications may be submitted by institutions of higher learning, government agencies including local school districts, nonpublic schools, area education agencies, organizations, and individuals with an Iowa residence.

The IOU has submitted and received two grants to the REAP-CEP board. As an organization what better way to increase bird awareness and increased birdwatching by educating our youth.

Linda R. F. Zaletel Story County Conservation 56461 180th St. Ames, IA 50010

Regional Rare Bird Alerts

Iowa	(712) 364-2863
Missouri	(573) 445-9115
NW Illinois	(815) 965-3095
Wisconsin	(414) 352-3857
Minnesota	(763) 780-8890
So Dakota	(605) 773-6460

IOU 2002 SPRING MEETING

• When: April 26-28, 2002 • Host: Ottumwa Bird Club

• Where: Forest Lake Camp • Contact: Darleen Ayres

11733 Copperhead Rd Bloomfield, IA 52537 (641) 682-1697 djayr@prodigy.net

Schedule:

Friday 6pm Check-in, snacks, video

Saturday: 6am Breakfast

7am Field trips Noon Lunch 1:30 Programs:

· Butterflies of Iowa and Nebraska - Loren Padelford

• How IOU Members Can Participate in the IBA Program -Ric Zarwell

Spring MeetingBoard Meeting

6pm Dinner

Evening Program:

• Deseret-Utah's Finest - Eugene and Eloise Armstrong

Sunday 6am Breakfast

7am Field Trips
Noon Lunch

Compilation Farewell

Notes on Facilities:

Lodging is available at Forest Camp. There are dormitory-style cabins, a lodge, camper parking with hook-up, and tent camping facilities. It would be convenient for all to stay at Forest Camp, however, please note: **bedding must be provided by guests**. So bring sleeping bags, blankets and pillows! Camper parking is available with electric hook-up or without hook-up. Second night discounts are \$5.00 for lodge guests and \$3.00 for cabin guests.

There are also motels nearby- Heartland Inn (~\$58.00), Fairfield Inn (~\$61.00), and Super 8 (~\$58.00).

Canoes are available for rent.



Meals:	Cat David Car					
	Sat Lunch Sat Dinner Sun Breakfast	4.00 X 5.00 X 6.00 X 4.00 X 5.00 X	_ people _ people _ people	= = =	\$ \$ \$ \$	
Lodging*: Camper:	Cabin Saturday 1 Lodge Friday Lodge Saturday 2	30.00 double of 5.00 double or 10.00 no ho	or 20.00 s	\$) single single	\$ \$ \$ \$	Total
Camper: Canoe rental:	6.00 per day/pers Day 1 P	son rleen Ayres ennsylvania	Place			

The following publications will be available at silent auction at the upcoming Iowa Ornithologits Union Spring Meeting in Ottumwa, with all proceeds donated to the IOU.

- Common Hawks and Owls of Iowa (Youth Series No. 2, August 1950) (booklet)
- Second Supplementary Breeding Bird Census of Big Sand Mound Preserve, Louisa Co., Iowa. Peter C. Peterson, 1984. (booklet)
- Waterfowl in Iowa. Jack and Mary Musgrove, 1953 (third edition). (hardbound)
- Birds of Wisconsin. Gromme, 1978. Autographed fourth printing. (hardbound)
- Lane birding guides: Colorado, S.E. Arizona (2), Texas Coast. (soft cover)
- A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington. Wahl and Paulson, 1977 (spiral bound)
- Birding in the Bay Area. Clyde and Purmont, 1964 (booklet)
- Birding in Seattle and King County. Hunn, 1982. (soft cover)
- Birding Guide to the Denver-Boulder Region. Folzenlogen, 1986. (soft cover)
- Hawaii's Birds. Hawaii Audubon Society, 1981. (booklet)
- Annotated Check-List of the Birds of Hong Kong. Macfarlane and Macdonald, 1966. (soft cover)
- Birdfinding in Forty National Forests and Grasslands. ABA, 1994 (soft cover)

- Guide to Habitats of the Ozark Plateau. U.S.D.A. Technical Report NC-68. Evans and Kirkman, 1981. (soft cover)
- Birds of the Superior National Forest (2). U.S.D.A. Green and Niemi, 1980. (booklet)
- Cavity Nesting Birds of North American Forests. Ag. Handbook No. 511. Scott et. al., 1977. (Booklet)
- Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer. U.S.D.A. Farmer's Bulletin No. 630. 1923. (booklet).
- Tales of a Low-Rent Birder. Dunne, 1986. (Autographed soft cover)
- Small-headed Flycatcher. Dunne, 1998. (Autographed first edition soft cover)
- Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow (2 of 2 volumes). Nice, 1937. Dover reprint. (soft cover)
- The Warblers of North America. Griscom and Sprunt, 1957. Revised (Reilly) and Illustrated (Dick), 1979. (hardbound). And more!

If you have bird and birding books you would like to contribute to future IOU book sale fundraisers, please contact me. This is a wonderful opportunity to distribute unused books, find new ones, and support the growing financial needs of the IOU at the same time!

Bob Cecil 1315 41st Street Des Moines, IA 50311 wewarb@aol.com

What's Countable vs. What Counts

Kenn Kaufman

A few days ago, when I was too preoccupied to weigh in, there was a discussion on BirdChat about futuristic technology for "seeing" distant birds and the resulting questions about just what would be countable on life lists. How far can the light be refracted before your sighting becomes artificial? What about electronic enhancement of the view? What about image stabilization technology? It seems there could be an endless number of arguments about just exactly what you can count.

I'd like to make my own modest proposal for true futuristic birding. A brand new rule: You can't count it on your life list unless you've seen or heard it AND done something to aid the long-term survival of that species. Want to count that Swainson's Warbler? Maybe Houston Audubon will let you contribute to their sanctuary fund. Want to count that Snowy Owl? Write to your senator about protecting the Arctic Refuge. What about those hot birds you saw in Ecuador? Better hook up with the Jocotoco Foundation, or do something big for ABA's Birders Exchange. Or you can make a whole slew of your local birds countable by fighting for better protection of local hotspots, as Lydia Thompson has done in Georgia, or you can take a courageous public stand on controversial bird issues, like Barry Kent MacKay in Ontario or Tim Capone in upstate New York. There's future birding for you: Don't just count them, stand up and be counted.

Kenn Kaufman kennk@ix.netcom.com Tucson, AZ

The above note first appeared on the electronic listery BirdChat. It is used here by permission from the author.

Iowa Listing

Making a list of birds seen in Iowa is a personal thing, while sharing the list with others is a public thing. In order to assess the meaning of the public thing, we should wonder if the personal listing is done in the same way by everyone. The various Iowa lists appearing in this newsletter are assumed to be rosters of bird species seen wild, alive, and unrestrained in the state of Iowa within the conditions of the list category. But nobody really is checking.

The IOU has not adopted a protocol for members to follow in making personal lists of birds. Perhaps, if such a thing were suggested, it would receive a low priority on the agenda of topics seeking IOU attention. Nevertheless, the issues involved in deciding if a wild bird did occur in the state of Iowa, are important to discuss and clarify if the permanent record is to be coherent and reliable. For this reason, a brief set of parameters appears in the Records Committee Operating Procedures Manual, which guides the committee members in periodically reviewing individual cases of rare or out-of-season reports. The key sentence in this document advises the committee: "The criteria for acceptance of records shall be that the bird is present and identified within Iowa, and the identification is beyond reasonable doubt." In addition, committee members are to prefer to not accept records of likely escaped or released birds.

In the absence of any formal IOU listing rules pertaining to the making of personal lists of birds, this editor assumes listers engage in some process for counting Regular species that applies the same criteria described above for the Records Committee. That is, each birder acts with respect to the Regular species they have seen as the Records Committee acts with respect to Casual and Accidental species reported. Of course, Casual and Accidental species are listed with reservation, pending review of documentation by the Records Committee.

Then, with most listers already participating in the seasonal field report process, which filters and publishes sightings, Iowa listing may need little else in the way of "rules". Still, it is easy to imagine circumstances that would set two members to disagree over the countability of a sighting. For instance, how would you judge a bird sitting on a wire that is strung directly over and parallel with a state boundary? For a discussion that makes more precise the criterion of location, see Tom Kent's When Is A Bird In Iowa? (IBL 55:79-80). This article offers clear-cut ideas on how to decide if the location of a bird is sufficiently well-known to consider the bird as being in the state of Iowa.

Really, the scenarios are endless. What should be the official status of a bird that dies in flight over Missouri airspace, but lands upon Iowa soil? I have no idea. But I would be happy to publish letters to the IOU News discussing the utility or futility of a set of listing rules that might clarify this.

In the meantime, we encourage members to continue compiling and sharing their lists, and trust there is some value in our doing this, in spite of the fact that not all lists may be directly comparable. Indeed, some listers put standards upon their lists not used by others. For instance, in a 1995 *IOU News* article (11:1) Matt Kenne described the merits of counting only birds personally found by the lister. Today, his state list conforms to this standard, whereas mine, which has a total similar to Matt's, includes an extra 18 species initially found by others.

For another interesting twist on the idea of imposing extra criteria on the countability of birds, see the adjacent note by Kenn Kaufman. It is hard to know for sure what the future of birding/listing will be like. In days gone by, the only birds that counted were those held in the hand, which usually meant collected by a gun. Today's listing protocols are a direct result of compromising this practice of a sure identification with a procedure that allows the creatures to get away. Maybe tomorrow's birders will use some simple optical device that can sample DNA from a distance and then give a species reading: *You are currently looking at a female Prairie Warbler. Congratulations.* What would listing rules be like in that future?

Paul Hertzel, Mason City

List Totals Through 2001

Mary Lou Petersen

For 2001, twenty-nine people reported lifetime totals for Iowa and/or Iowa counties. Thank you to all who participated this year. We would like to include all totals, but have set a minimum of 200 species for life total and 125 for county totals. We also invite Iowans to include annual totals, yard list totals, and county Big Day totals. Totals for 2002 can be sent prior to January 31, 2003.

> Mary Lou Petersen 3448 Maple Glen Drive Bettendorf, IA 52722 maryp470@aol.com

IOWA LIFE LIST -Through 2001

370 Jim Fuller

361 Mark Proescholdt

357 Pam Allen, Reid Allen

354 Beth Proescholdt 353 Steve Dinsmore

346 Dennis Thompson

334 James Dinsmore

327 Curt Nelson

326 Mary Lou Petersen 323 Jan Walter

Raymond L. Cummins Chris Edwards

Pete Ernzen

321 Rita Goranson

320 Carolyn Fischer

319 Lee Schoenewe

313 Jane Fuller

308 Aaron Brees

294 Paul Hertzel

291 Matt Kenne

280 Ric Zarwell

277 Marion Brewer

269 Doug Harr

214 Gerald L. Von Ehwegen

YEAR 2001 ANNUAL LIST

262 Mark Proescholdt

260 Rita Goranson

251 Lee Schoenewe

Paul Hertzel

244 Chris Edwards

243 Raymond L. Cummins

242 Aaron Brees

241 Carolyn Fischer 232 Matt Kenne

Mike Stevens

224 Beth Proescholdt

217 Curt Nelson

208 Ric Zarwell

201 Jan Walter

161 Jay Gilliam

157 Gerald L. Von Ehwegen

IOWA COUNTY TOTALS

Allamakee

172 Mark Proescholdt

156 Chris Edwards

153 Steve Dinsmore

Yard: 138 Ric Zarwell

Big Day: 110 (12 May 2001) R Zarwell, F Lesher,

P Erickson, B Zarwell

Appanoose

279 Raymond L Cummins

178 Steve Dinsmore

155 Mark Proescholdt

145 Pam & Reid Allen

Benton

176 Mark Proescholdt

Black Hawk

221 Mary Lou Petersen

162 Mark Proescholdt

Boone

252 Steve Dinsmore

231 James Dinsmore

231 Mark Proescholdt

219 Beth Proescholdt

207 Pam & Reid Allen

Bremer

168 Mark Proescholdt

142 Raymond L Cummins

Buchanan

153 Mark Proescholdt

Buena Vista

142 Pete Ernzen

209 Mark Proescholdt

133 Steve Dinsmore

Cherokee

144 Pete Ernzen

Calhoun

160 Pete Ernzen

145 Steve Dinsmore

154 Steve Dinsmore

150 Pete Ernzen

Cass

131 Pam & Reid Allen

Cerro Gordo

291 Curt Nelson

288 Jan Walter

284 Carolyn Fischer

279 Rita Goranson

245 Paul Hertzel

188 Steve Dinsmore

161 Mark Proescholdt

131 Pam & Reid Allen

128 Matt Kenne

Cerro Gordo continued

Yard: 197 Curt Nelson (farm) 177 Carolyn Fischer

172 Rita Goranson

136 Jan Walter

46 Paul Hertzel

Big Day: 135 (14 May 2001) R Goranson, P Hertzel

111 (15 Sep 2001)

R Goranson, C Nelson,

P Hertzel

Cherokee

252 Marion Brewer

277 Lee Schoenewe

183 Steve Dinsmore

Yard: 164 Lee Schoenewe

200 Mary Lou Petersen

136 Steve Dinsmore

Dallas

189 Steve Dinsmore

182 Pam & Reid Allen

165 Mark Proescholdt

163 Raymond L Cummins

Decatur

127 Steve Dinsmore

Des Moines

247 Jim Fuller

Dickinson

282 Lee Schoenewe

247 Doug Harr

201 Steve Dinsmore 154 Mark Proescholdt

153 Matt Kenne 127 Pete Ernzen

Dubuque

225 Pete Ernzen

Floyd

140 Jan Walter

Emmet

179 Lee Schoenewe

151 Steve Dinsmore

Franklin

172 Mark Proescholdt

245 Steve Dinsmore

200 Mark Proescholdt

193 Pam & Reid Allen

154 Raymond L Cummins

Big Day: 169 (May 1990)

B J Rose, D Rose, S Dinsmore, R Silcock

Greene

217 Steve Dinsmore

181 Mark Proescholdt

175 Pam & Reid Allen

Grundy

181 Mark Proescholdt

Guthrie

234 Steve Dinsmore

206 Raymond L Cummins

201 Mark Proescholdt

197 Pam & Reid Allen

Hamilton

226 Dennis Carter

207 Mark Proescholdt

206 Steve Dinsmore

153 Pam & Reid Allen

Hancock

163 Steve Dinsmore

162 Jan Walter

155 Mark Proescholdt

252 Mark Proescholdt

228 Beth Proescholdt

Harrison

161 Steve Dinsmore

251 Pete Ernzen

Iowa

204 Chris Edwards

155 Mark Proescholdt

Jasper

206 Mark Proescholdt

171 Beth Proescholdt

129 Pam & Reid Allen

Johnson

306 Jim Fuller

278 Chris Edwards

181 Mark Proescholdt

164 Pam & Reid Allen

148 Steve Dinsmore

Yard: 197 Jim Fuller

Jones

180 Chris Edwards

Kossuth

279 Matt Kenne

180 Steve Dinsmore

163 Mark Proescholdt

145 Pam & Reid Allen

127 Jan Walter

Yard: 162 Matt Kenne

208 Steve Dinsmore

201 Chris Edwards

166 Raymond L Cummins

154 Pam & Reid Allen

151 Mark Proescholdt

204 Chris Edwards

155 Mark Proescholdt

Louisa

188 Chris Edwards

Lucas

147 Steve Dinsmore

135 Raymond L Cummins

183 Doug Harr Yard: 79 Doug Harr

Madison

164 Pam & Reid Allen

Mahaska

151 Mark Proescholdt

Marion

256 Aaron Brees

227 Steve Dinsmore

218 Mark Proescholdt

198 Pam & Reid Allen

179 Raymond L Cummins

Marshall

267 Beth Proescholdt

267 Mark Proescholdt

204 Steve Dinsmore

136 Pam & Reid Allen

Yard: 144 Mark Proescholdt

141 Steve Dinsmore

133 Pam & Reid Allen

Monona

217 Pete Ernzen

176 Steve Dinsmore

226 Mary Lou Petersen

176 Lee Schoenewe

Palo Alto

234 Lee Schoenewe

150 Steve Dinsmore

145 Matt Kenne

Plymouth

138 Steve Dinsmore

Pocahontas

212 Raymond L Cummins

161 Pete Ernzen

125 Matt Kenne

Polk

309 Steve Dinsmore

294 Pam & Reid Allen 264 Mark Proescholdt

247 Beth Proescholdt

243 Aaron Brees

242 James Dinsmore

195 Dennis Thompson

Big Day: 142 (20 May 1994)

S Dinsmore, G Brown

Poweshiek

202 Mark Proescholdt

Pottawattamie

208 Steve Dinsmore

137 Pam & Reid Allen

Ringgold

126 Steve Dinsmore

237 Pete Ernzen

150 Mark Proescholdt

136 Pam & Reid Allen

Scott

283 Mary Lou Petersen

125 Steve Dinsmore

Story
279 Steve Dinsmore 255 James Dinsmore

243 Mark Proescholdt

224 Beth Proescholdt

191 Paul Hertzel

163 Pam & Reid Allen

234 Mark Proescholdt

188 Beth Proescholdt

138 Chris Edwards

Union

132 Steve Dinsmore

Van Buren

163 Raymond L Cummins

156 Mark Proescholdt

133 Chris Edwards

168 Mark Proescholdt

162 Pam & Reid Allen

162 Steve Dinsmore

135 Jay Gilliam Yard: 50 Jay Gilliam

Wayne

135 Raymond L Cummins

Webster

160 Mark Proescholdt

Winnebago

147 Steve Dinsmore 132 Jan Walter 130 Pam & Reid Allen

Winneshiek

240 Dennis Carter

227 Tex A. Sordahl Yard: 87 Tex A. Sordahl

Woodbury

198 Gerald L VonEhwegen 150 Mark Proescholdt

139 Steve Dinsmore

133 Pete Ernzen

125 Pam & Reid Allen Big Day: 140 (May 1990)

J Probst, B Livermore, D Stoge

Worth

213 Curt Nelson

190 Carolyn Fischer

181 Jan Walter

157 Rita Goranson

Wright

219 Steve Dinsmore 171 Mark Proescholdt

BIG DAY RECORDS -by Month

January 46

01 Jan 1995 Pam & Reid Allen

February 64

29 Feb 2000 Pam & Reid Allen,

Eugene & Eloise Armstrong

March 8

29 Mar 2000 Pam & Reid Allen

April 12

30 Apr 1993 unknown

May 204

13 May 1996

Pete Petersen, Brian Blevins,

Don Moeller

June 88

05 Jun 1993 Pam & Reid Allen

July 9

25 July 2001 Pam & Reid Allen

August 1

30 Aug 1998 Pam & Reid Allen

September 111 Cerro Gordo Co.

15 Sep 2001

Rita Goranson, Curt Nelson,

Paul Hertzel

October 74

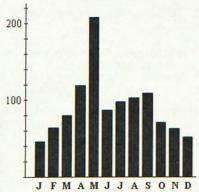
08 Oct 1999 Pam & Reid Allen

November 65

07 Nov 1993 Pam & Reid Allen

December 55

05 Dec 1998 Pam & Reid Allen





P. Hertzel 2001

Spring Field Reports With A Mission

Matt Kenne

Twenty-five percent of Iowa's counties aren't lucky enough to have IOU members resident in them. Another twenty-five percent have only one IOU family living and watching birds within their borders. One result of this is nearly half of Iowa's counties had no bird sightings reported for them in the Fall 2001 Iowa Bird Life Field Reports.* Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to help find the lost birds in these unfortunate counties...

It isn't possible to have uniform field reporting across the state with its varying habitats and population, but we can increase coverage by "adopting" another county in 2002. Get out your Sportsman's or DeLorme Atlas, pick a nearby lonesome, underbirded county, and start searching natural areas that you've never visited, or haven't visited in a coon's age. Have lunch in a diner in a small town, and then go check the cemetery for birds and look for a sewage lagoon. Mark down all your new county birds so you can report the totals at the end of the year, update the county checklist on the Iowabirds website, post a message on the IaBirds listsery singing the praises of the fabulous new hotspots you discovered and the great birds you found there, and then send a report of the noteworthy sightings to me at the end of the Spring Season, May 31, for inclusion in Iowa Bird Life. If you make a couple of visits in

each of the seasons, and then send the results to each season's Field Reports Editor, it will help color the picture we have of bird life in Iowa. Personally, I'm tackling Hancock County this year.

If you have any questions or concerns about the field reporting process, just contact one of the Iowa Bird Life editors or post a note on the IaBirds Listserv.

Matthew Kenne Spring Field Reports Editor 709 N. Phillips Algona, IA 50511 meekeckk@rconnect.com

* Iowa counties not represented in the 2001 fall season field reports:

Audubon Howard Benton Humboldt Bremer Ida Buchanan Iowa Buena Vista Jasper Keokuk Butler Calhoun Linn Cherokee Lyon Chickasaw Mitchell Clarke Monona Clinton Montgomery Crawford Osceola Davis Page Ringgold Delaware Des Moines Scott Dubuque Sioux Fayette Taylor Grundy Wapello Hamilton Washington Hancock Wright Harrison

IOWA SPRING BIRD COUNT

IS YOUR COUNTYCOUNTED?

Ann Barker

The 10th annual Iowa Spring Bird Count will be held on Saturday May 11, 2002. It is held on the same day, and according to the same rules, as the North American Migration Count, so that totals may be submitted to both counts.

Each county is a count territory, and in the interest of expanding our knowledge of spring migration in the state, we would like to have participation from as many of Iowa's 99 counties as possible. Counties that participated in the 2001 Spring Count were as follows: Allamakee, Appanoose, Benton, Boone, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Clinton, Dallas, Des Moines, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Linn, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Scott, Story, Washington, Woodbury, and Worth. If your county is not listed, we need you!

A county compiler organizes the count within the county, assigns territories to be covered, and compiles the results, which are then submitted to the state compiler, and published in Iowa Bird Life. Compilers may do the count themselves, without any help, or may organize parties to cover assigned territories. One person can act as a compiler for more than one county. Even if only one individual counts birds for part of a day, results can be submitted and will contribute to the data base. A count may be done as a county Big Day, or as a competition for a fundraiser for your local birding club. Use your imagination!

Can you help? There can be only one compiler for each county. If you are unsure whether your county already has a compiler, or if you can act as the compiler for a county or counties of your choice not listed above, please contact me at the address below and the official forms will be sent to you.

Ann Barker 3204 Crestline Drive Davenport, Iowa 52803 (563) 355-6271 E-mail: Annbarker4@aol.com

Iowa Statewide Birdathon!TM Calling All Birders

Karl Jungbluth

Audubon Iowa is going statewide with its Birdathon in 2002. Funds raised will support the fledgling Important Bird Areas (IBA) program in Iowa. For those of us who enjoy birding, there is a natural desire to help birds and their habitats. Birdathon is a fun, and extremely effective way to do just that. And, it's a great opportunity for IOU members to join Audubon members in a beneficial collaboration.

The concept is simple: participants count birds and collect pledge donations from sponsors. All proceeds go to the IBAs, and birds benefit (not to mention our birding opportunities as well). Anyone can conduct a Birdathon on any day in the month of May.

Many of us will already be counting birds in May. Birdathon can easily be combined with any count to provide a double benefit for our time in the field. Add just a few pledges to the Iowa Spring Bird Count on May 11th, or to a personal "Big Day", and *voila*, you've got a Birdathon! Add a lot of pledges, and we've got something BIG!

Birdathon can be an individual activity, or for more fun, team up with friends for camaraderie or some friendly competition. Who can see the most species, or raise the most funds, or recruit the most sponsors? The sky is the limit. In addition, I'm also currently working to gather some prizes to reward Birdathon participants. Items might include field guides, a free night at a Bed & Breakfast, even binoculars.

Seriously, lets look at what a team effort in Birdathon can do for the Important Bird Areas program (check the Winter 2001 IOU Newsletter or http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html for more information on IBAs). Let's say there are 500 birders interested, and each of them raises only \$50. That's

\$25,000 and the IBA program is off and running. At \$100 apiece, we've got \$50,000 and IBAs are funded through 2003! There is no easier, or more fun way to fund bird conservation in Iowa. We just need you to say YES!

Audubon chapter members in Iowa have raised hundreds, even thousands of dollars in a single Birdathon. It can be done. Tom Reavely, new Audubon Iowa Board President, calls Birdathon "My favorite day of the year!" Imagine additional quotes like "I'm new to birding. I saw 65 species and raised over \$100." Or, "I turned my Big Day into a Birdathon this year. 134 species and \$250 isn't too shabby!"

To provide more detailed information, a website has been set up at http://homepages.opencominc.com/bluebird/birdathon.html. The page contains information on Important Bird Areas, the Iowa Statewide Birdathon, a pledge form, Audubon Birdathon links (info on "How to Sign Up Sponsors" and more), plus tips on combining Birdathon with the Iowa Spring Bird Count.

Please act upon this opportunity to enjoy a day birding, and provide critical funding for IBAs in Iowa. As birders, we carry the responsibility to "keep common birds common" and to enlarge or enhance the habitats critical to endangered or declining species. If I can be of any help, don't hesitate to call Karl Jungbluth, (515) 432-5057 or email weatherbird@opencominc.com. If you cannot conduct a Birdathon, please generously sponsor another Birdathoner, or directly send a donation to the Audubon Iowa address under "What To Do".

Start planning your Birdathon to-day!

Birdathon! TM is a trademark of the National Audubon Society

Iowa 2002 Birdathon Website:

http://homepages.opencominc.com/bluebird/birdathon.html



P. Hertzel 2001

Spring Update: Iowa's Important Bird Area (IBA) Program Fledges

Ric Zarwell

As birders know so well, spring is a time of excitement and pleasing outdoor birding action. Spring 2002 will be that, plus something extra. Spring 2002 will also see a valuable statewide bird conservation initiative taking flight in Iowa. The new IBA Program will benefit future generations of the various bird species that each of us enjoy and appreciate so much, plus it will provide direct, tangible benefits to all present and future generations of birders.

In the next several months, IOU members, Audubon members and others will have a new, fun-to-use method to inventory, identify, and select the "the best of the best" remaining bird habitats all across Iowa through the IBA Program. I hope that many readers of this article will become directly involved by visiting their favorite birding areas and jotting down information on a user-friendly site nomination form that will be distributed at the Spring IOU Conference in Ottumwa, and simultaneously through Audubon Chapters and many additional outlets.

Selected sites will become known as Iowa's Important Bird Areas (IBAs). In later phases of the program, the IBAs will receive priority for protection, monitoring, restoration and management. But those steps come later. The stepping off point is the critical site nomination phase. This is a brief IBA progress report and a road map to action.

The Iowa IBA Technical Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jim Dinsmore, met on February 16. All or nearly all members of this 16-member committee are IOU members. Several decisions were made to ensure that the site nomination process runs as smoothly and easily as possible. In order to prevent receiving dozens and dozens of duplicate site nominations for each of a relatively small number of very well known and heavily used birding sites, members of the technical committee pre-identified 30 high-potential sites. Committee members plus a few other birders will nominate these sites. So that everyone will understand which 30 sites have already become parts of the process, these sites will be identified on www.iowabird.org and through various newsletters and news releases.

Members of the Technical Committee and I sincerely hope that IOU members, Audubon members and many others will make nominations for each of the many dozens of other special habitats that are found across Iowa. Again, site selection criteria established by the Technical Committee and site nomination forms will be delivered for the first time at the Spring IOU Conference, April 26-28, and simultaneously to Audubon Chapters and other venues.

March will be a very busy month. On the 10th I will meet with the Board of Directors of IOU to discuss details of the IBA Program and seek an official endorsement of this vital bird conservation project from your organization. Endorsements will also be sought from a number of other organizations, agencies, businesses and other stakeholders, as our large partnership builds. March 17-24 I will be attending an Audubon IBA Coordinators Training Con-

ference and the Partners In Flight Third International Conference. It is my hope that I can bring home from these sessions easy to use IBA site nomination forms that will aid in entering data about Iowa's IBAs on the World Bird Database that will be accessible by traveling birders everywhere. On March 27, Audubon Iowa will unveil the IBA Program to invited leaders of public agencies and private organizations, and the media, at a "Kick Off Event" in Des Moines.

Birdathons are a big, happy, funfilled, birding event. Several birdathons are being organized in Iowa to assist the IBA Program. If you haven't participated recently, you ought to give it a try. See an article about Iowa Birdathons elsewhere in this issue of IOU News.

IBA Programs are designed for birders and others at the county and community level who value natural habitats. IBA Programs are built on partnerships and teamwork, and they are now quickly building momentum in 40 states. It is my sincere hope that IOU members will join with Audubon members to improve the future of bird populations and the most essential natural habitats that still exist. Many of us belong to and support both organizations. We need each other.

For more details about the IBA Program, please contact me directly.

Ric Zarwell, IBA Coordinator Audubon Iowa PO Box 299, Lansing, IA 52151 (563) 538-4991 zarxzar@salamander.com

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

In Mason City, we are fortunate to have a large group of people willing to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count. I can't imagine how we would do it if there were only two of us.

-Editor

Cherokee CBC

Dick Bierman

I have been the compiler of the Cherokee Christmas Bird Count for all but the first year. We started in 1976 I think. Back then we had 4 or 5 vehicles with a couple of people in each. Also, one person would walk the Little Sioux River for about 9 miles. Through the year we have lost our helper for various reasons. The two of us that are left split the circle in half. We are very familiar with the areas and know the better places to look for birds. Much of our circle is agricultural land, the rest consists of prairie hilltops and woodlands along the Little Sioux and Mill Creek valleys. After owling for a couple of hours, we hit the road. We drive fast and basically race from one area to the next trying to cover as much ground as possible. No time for walking unfortunately. Much of the agricultural land is passed up. It is really kind of a frantic day. This year we probably did not get to 40% of our circle! All in all, it is still a fun day usually with a few surprises.

Shrike Attack

Lee Schoenewe

Most people who have a predator attracted to their bird feeding setups in the winter get to see a Sharp-shinned Hawk or maybe a Cooper's Hawk hunting seed-eating passerines. Twice in the last ten years, I have had a different experience and witnessed a Northern Shrike looking to take one of the smaller birds feeding in my backyard.

This year I noticed the flurry of activity as the shrike descended on my main feeder, grabbed a female House Finch and rode it to the ground underneath. A quick bite to the back of the neck with that powerful bill and the struggle was over.

Shrikes are predatory songbirds and therefore lack the powerful feet and

talons used by other birds of prey to make a kill and then eviscerate the victim. They must carry out an attack primarily with their stout and deadly hooked bill, and then impale the carcass on a thorn or spike in order to tear it apart and devour it.

The other Northern Shrike visited my yard in 1993, the first year I had Red-breasted Nuthatches coming regularly to a peanut feeder. As I looked out, a flash went past the window. Almost as soon as I realized it was a shrike, I also realized it was chasing a nuthatch.

Back and forth, and round and round the two birds went. The shrike was closing and the nuthatch couldn't shake its pursuer. All of a sudden, the nuthatch dove through a hole the size of a golf ball in the window on the side of our detached garage and disappeared. The shrike pulled up and perched on an electric wire over the yard, looking around and trying to figure out what had happened.

The shrike went hungry that day, the nuthatch lived to eat more of my peanuts, and to this day I still have a hole in one pane of glass in the window on the side of my garage. I don't plan ever to fix it.

How I Started Birding

Mike Dooley

When I came to Iowa from Michigan I had never had any special interest in birds and could identify only those basics one finds on calendars and coffee cups. One afternoon in my Iowa City apartment I was dawdling over my reading, looked up and saw a Red-winged Blackbird, which I did know, in the tree right outside my window. It sounded its familiar, croaky song, and for some unknown reason this was like a spiritual revelation to me: for I had always known the bird, and I had always known the song, but until that moment I had never put the two together. I felt a peculiar, unexpected delight in making this connection.

I had a pair of binoculars and following my Red-winged Blackbird epiphany I decided to focus them on another set of birds feeding on the lawn below my window, Common Grackles. I was fascinated watching how they fed, something I had never paid any mind (I did at least know they were "grackles"). One bird caught a small caterpillar of some kind, got it halfway swallowed whole, could not seem to finish the job and continued to search for other things, the caterpillar still poking out of its maw, which I might add here I found a little disgusting (I now realize it was probably gathering food for its young). I saw another grackle actually flip over a fallen roof shingle with its bill while foraging. I felt like I was discovering a new world.

Something had stirred in me and I wanted to see if there were other birds, wholly unknown to me, that I could go out and find. I'd browsed through field guides at odd points in my life, as probably many non-birders have, and did at least know there were a lot of species out there besides cardinal, robin, and blue jay. I borrowed what I now know as the classic, Peterson, from the public library. Meanwhile I had noticed in scoping from my living room window another lawn bird which was a stranger to me and riveting, for it had a vivid yellow breast with a black, angled band across it. Now with the book in hand, the next time I saw this new bird I went downstairs and got as close to it as I could, crouching behind a tree, and thumbed randomly through the field guide trying to find it. I finally stumbled onto "meadowlark" but of course was immediately confronted with my first I.D. complex: Eastern or Western? I eventually realized this bird, feeding on the lawn, was giving out a sound matching Peterson's "buzzy dzrrt": an Eastern Meadowlark. Looking back I believe it was providential that I even thought to consider the call of the bird. This was May 23, 1997, my first true identification experience, and the date I mark as the beginning of my birding. I was completely tickled that I had successfully put a name to an unknown bird, which of course I had heard of but for which I had no mental image what-

That peculiar set of synapses in whatever lobe of the brain houses the birder impulse had been permanently switched on, something I could not have predicted about myself in a million years. It's now been over 280 species for me in Iowa, and birding feels fresh everytime I first shut the car door and strap on the binoculars.

Trumpeter Swan Mortality

Ron Andrews

Trumpeter Swan Restoration Coordinator Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Probably one of the frustrating aspects of trumpeter swan restoration in Iowa and perhaps elsewhere, is the roller coaster ride we are on as we attempt to restore these magnificent birds to the skies and wetlands in the state. We were told by those more experienced than us, when restoring trumpeter swans, "expect the unexpected and that trumpeter swans are predictably unpredictable." Poaching, utility wire collisions, aspergillosis, and lead poisoning from lead pellets and sinkers, are major mortality factors facing trumpeter swans in Iowa and elsewhere. The only thing we can do about poaching is to catch the culprits involved and fine them \$1500 and court costs for their illegal activity. It would be almost impossible to alter anything to reduce utility wire collisions except in very unusual situations where we might be able to place baffles or balls that would help waterfowl to see the wires at greater distances. We can reduce aspergillosis by informing the public about the risk of feeding moldy corn or bread. Bread is not good for trumpeter swans, regardless. Also, we will continue to encourage permanent alternatives to lead shot and sinkers.

Mortality from utility wire collisions is the second highest cause of death in trumpeter swans. The real question for me is how much mortality to utility wire collisions occurs-it is unknown. Trumpeter swan F75 that nested at Union Slough NWR in 2001 met its demise in late February (2002) to a utility wire collision. Very frustrating to say the least. This swan and several others spent 5 winters on a rock quarry at Atlantic, Iowa. This area is surrounded by utility wires, and fortunately no known mortality had occurred until the swan returned to its nesting area this late winter. The famous Mallard Marsh 5F1 wintered in southern Arkansas in 2001 and in 2002 it wintered near Cumming, Iowa. This swan family missed many utility wires flying on these long journeys for several years only to perhaps collide with a utility wire with its young in late February (2002) within 5 miles of its nesting

grounds. We have since determined that it was carrying shot from perhaps an earlier shooting. It is possible, too, that the shot is what it died from rather than the utility wire located right where we found the dead birds. We are still investigating this incident.

Why do trumpeter swans collide with utility wires or guy wires from the many towers that are "polluting" the Iowa horizons? My theory is as follows: According to people who study aerodynamics, trumpeter swans actually defy the laws of aerodynamics and should not be able to fly based on their weight and wing span. Yes, they do often fly at low attitudes thus making them vulnerable to the many wires that are only a few feet off the ground. If weather such as fog or snow reduces their visibility, the swans cannot negotiate their way out of close calls with wires like smaller birds can. Gusty weather may also be a problem because of their 7- to 8-foot wing span. A sudden gust of wind, which was occurring on both of the days these swans were killed, can suddenly throw them uncontrollably into a wire. Smaller birds can negotiate and maneuver quicker than larger birds and many not be as vulnerable to collisions.

To the birders out there, yes, it would be in the best interest of trumpeters if they did not winter near quarries, but often these are the last places to freeze over. I'm convinced that many current day trumpeters are only interested in migrating as far as open water dictates. Contrary to what the purist trumpeter swan restoration gurus want, I am of the opinion that the less trumpeters migrate, the better for their restoration because of potential mortality factors the birds encounter with longer migrations. In spite of the roller coaster ride that trumpeter swan restoration takes me on, I am still confident and optimistic that we will restore a viable population of trumpeter swans in Iowa. We will continue to "Trumpet the Cause for Wetlands" and restore these beautiful magnificent birds to the skies and wetlands of this state.

EXCERPTS

Species occurrence changed from Extirpated to Regular (1): Trumpeter Swan.

Thomas H. Kent, 1996 Official Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1996 Edition, **Iowa Bird Life** 66:76-85

The Peregrine Falcon restoration program added two new release sites, and Trumpeter Swans had their first successful nests.

James J. Dinsmore, 1996 Field Reports-- Summer 1996 **Iowa Bird Life** 66:129-136

Trumpeter Swan: Semi-wild pairs produced broods of 6 near Ames, and 5 near Webster City (Bruce Ehresman), indicating some success for the reintroduction program.

James J. Dinsmore, 1997 Field Reports-- Summer 1997 **Iowa Bird Life** 67:120-128

Trumpeter Swan: A pair that produced 3 young on a pond near Epworth in Dubuque Co. seemed to be wild (Bruce Ehresman). If true, that would be a first for the reintroduction program.

James J. Dinsmore, 1998 Field Reports-- Summer 1998 **Iowa Bird Life** 68:123-131

Iowa's swan restoration began in 1995 with the release of eight immature swans at the Kettleson Waterfowl Production Area in Dickinson County. In 2001, nine nesting attempts by wild, free-flying swans were documented. Six of those nests, the Mallard Marsh nest among them, successfully produced a total of 19 young.

Lowell Washburn Victory Dance at Mallard Marsh, Iowa Conservationist Jan/Feb 2002



THINGS TO DO

March 23

Field trip to Hallet's Quarry, Little Wall Lake and Anderson Lake with the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. Contact: Hank Zaletel (515) 382-5427.

March 30

Field trip to Otter Creek Marsh with the Iowa City Bird Club. Contact: Karen Disbrow 339-1017

April 6

Field trip to Cardinal Marsh with the Upper Iowa Audubon. Contact: Dennis Carter (563) 382-3754

Field trip to Harrier Marsh, Bjorkboda Marsh, Bob Pyle/ Tieg's Marsh with Big Bluestem Audubon Society. Contact: Carol Williams (515) 232-2516

Field trip to Cone Marsh with the Quad City Audubon Society. Contact: Mary Lou Petersen (563) 332-2042

April 26-28

IOU Spring Meeting, Forest Lake Camp and Conference Center, south of Ottumwa, Wapello County. Field trips to Pioneer Ridge Conservation Area, Lake Rathbun and other places. Programs by Loren Padelford, Ric Zarwell, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong. Business and board meeting. For details see page 4.

May 11

10th Annual Iowa Spring Bird Count. Same day as North American Migration Count. See details on page 10.

June 1

Spring field reports due. Send to Matt Kenne, spring season editor. See page 9.

IN THE REGION

March 15-17

32nd Annual Rivers & Wildlife Celebration, Kearney, NE. Field Trips, programs. Featured speakers include Kenn Kaufman. Sponsored by Rowe Sanctuary and Audubon Nebraska. Contact: (402) 797-2301.

May 17-19

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union 2002 Spring Meeting. Registration at Willetta Lueshen Bird Library in the Elkhorn Valley Museum, Norfolk, NE. Presentations at Northeast Community College. Field trips Saturday and Sunday mornings. Contact: Janis Paseka (402) 727-9229, or at paseka@tvsononline.net.

May 30-June 2

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Annual Convention, Ripon College campus, with pre-convention field trips at Wisconsin Rapids. Paper session theme: Bird Conservation. Special night field trips replace banquet. Contact: Bettie Harriman bettie@mail.vbe.com.

June 10-16

American Birding Association (ABA) Annual Convention, Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, Duluth MN. Workshops feature Pete Dunne, Paul Lehman, Dick Walton, Tom Schultz, Laura Erickson. Field trips to Sax-Zim bog, north shore of Lake Superior, Aitken County, Crex Meadows, WI, and other places. For information- (800) 850-2473

Third Edition of The Birds of Story County

Steve Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel have recently published the third edition of the Birds of Story County. Funded by the Big Bluestem Audubon of Ames, it is an annotated list of the 305 species of birds recorded in Story County through December of 2000. It includes information about seasonal abundance, breeding and historical status, early and late dates, and a summary of some of the popular birding spots in the county. The book sells for \$3.00. It is available in Story County book and birdfeeding stores. It is available by mail by sending a check for \$4.50 (book plus postage) to Big Bluestem Audubon, in care of Hank Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201-1126.

Hank Zaletel Nevada



How many of us will be mentioned 20 years from now when another group of birders begin exchanging stories about the people and events that brought them to birds? So many of us had a mentor or at least a person who was portal. We should return the favor. It is more important now than ever.

Jim Williams Editor, Minnesota Birding

Thank you for enclosing this form with your check made payable to Iowa Ornithologists'Union.	\$	[] \$20 Regular + family (\$20 + amounts below)
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Members Intending to Move - A Special Plea

Please try to get your address changes to us, including e-mail and telephone, as soon as you know the new information. Because we use Address Service to tell us of misguided mail, it costs us a good deal for each such item if mail must be redirected. Send or e-mail requests to David C. Edwards, IOU Registrar.

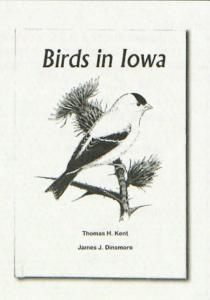
Birds In Iowa Now for Five Dollars, or Less

Birds in Iowa, by Thomas H. Kent and James J. Dinsmore is now available for \$5.00 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. Also available for \$3.00 is a 7-page update of early and late dates current through 2000 and a list of Accidental species recorded from 1996 to 2000.

The book is also available free to libraries and nature centers with tax exempt status. A request of this type must be accompanied by a note giving the name and address of the institution, name and address of the person requesting the book, signature of that person, \$3.50 for shipping and handling, and \$3.00 for the update of early and late dates (if desired). An e-mail address for the requestor would also by helpful.

Send requests to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, Iowa 52246. Books are also available directly from Jim Dinsmore or Tom Kent.

We regret that purchase orders or requests for invoices can not be accepted.



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