

# *IOU News*

Spring 2007 ❁ Volume 23 – Number 1



Subadult Whooping Cranes 502\*, 503, 505, 506 and 507\* (in unknown order) cruised the skies over Winnebago County in May, 2006. Photo by Greg Hanson.

## Whooping Crane Reintroduction *The Iowa Connection*

In early May of 2006, five subadult Whooping Cranes arrived in Winnebago County, Iowa, after migrating from their winter grounds in Florida. The birds, all raised at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in 2005, were part of the Operation Migration project which seeks to establish a wild, self-sustaining population of Whooping Cranes whose breeding grounds are in the U.S. midwest, and whose winter grounds are in Florida. All five made the spring journey, from Florida to Iowa, unassisted.

These five birds all have similar designations. 502\* was the second bird hatched in the year 2005, and carries an asterisk because she is female. 503 was the third bird hatched in 2005, and has no asterisk, which indicates he is male. They were accompanied by 505, 506, and 507\*. In the fall of 2005, they had been led from the core reintroduction area in Wisconsin to Florida by an ultralight plane in an effort to teach

*Continued on page 3.*



## IOU News

is a quarterly publication of the Publications Committee of the **Iowa Ornithologists' Union**

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IOU News deadlines for submission of materials:

Issue	Coverage	Deadline
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Summer	June 1 - July 31	May 20
Fall	August 1 - Nov 30	July 20
Winter	Dec 1 - Feb 28	November 20

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*this newsletter was mailed to 461 members*

## Dates, Things To Do

**April 27 - May 6**  
IOU Tour to South Texas

**April 27-29**  
Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting,  
Bonebreak Center of History and Nature, Salem, MO

**May 12-14**  
International Migratory Bird Days, 2007.

**May 12, 13**  
Wings & Wetland Weekend-Iowa lakes country.  
See page 12.

**May 17-20**  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology 68th Annual  
Convention, UW-Richland, Richland Center.

**May 18-20**  
IOU Spring Meeting, Briar Cliff University, Sioux  
City. See pages 4-6.

**May 18-20**  
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union 108th Annual Meet-  
ing, Sandhills Convention Center, North Platte.

**June 01**  
End of Spring Reporting Season. Enter field report  
information online, or send to Matt Kenne, Spring  
season editor.

## Slate of Officers

The IOU Nominations Committee announces the following slate of candidates for consideration at the 2006 IOU Spring Meeting:

<i>President:</i>	John Rutenbeck
<i>Vice-president:</i>	Paul Roisen
<i>Board of Directors:</i>	Jim Fuller
<i>Board of Directors:</i>	Bill Scheible

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## Whooping Cranes

*Continued from page 1*

them where they should go when the weather turns cold. But no such lesson was taught for the return flight in the spring. They had to figure out the route and the destination on their own.

Currently, there are about 60 free-flying birds in the Eastern Migratory Population (EMP), all raised at Patuxent, transferred to Necedah, and taught to fly from the refuge to Florida. But once they return north in their second year, the cranes generally are left alone by Operation Migration biologists who interact with them only to replace broken transmitters, or treat the injured. Although 502\*, 503, 505, 506 and 507\* passed over the Necedah refuge on their return flight, they did not stay, wandering instead to northcentral Iowa. It is interesting that they found their way to the very heart of the former Iowa breeding range of this species. The last known nest in Winnebago County was in 1879, and the last known Iowa nest was only a few miles to the south, in Hancock County in 1894.

By mid-summer, all five birds were back in Wisconsin along with most of the EMP, many foraging in the vicinity of the core reintroduction area. One pair of adults, 211 and 217\*, even hatched and raised two chicks. But the urge to wander put 502\*, 503 and 507\* into the air again, and the three cranes headed straight west to familiar territory. In early September, they arrived back in Hancock County, in an area near Crystal Lake. They spent the next two lazy months foraging in wetlands of both Hancock and Winnebago counties, and were last seen at Thorpe Park in Winnebago County on Halloween. That night, Operation Migration trackers obtained a signal from the transmitter attached to 502\* indicating the group had flown to McLean County, Illinois. Over the next six days, they passed through Indiana, Kentucky and Georgia, arriving in Madison County, Florida, on November 6. This time, they navigated the 1200-mile route themselves.



Three subadult Whooping Cranes, 502\*, 503, and 507\*, spent the fall season wandering between Hancock and Winnebago counties. The photo was taken near Crystal Lake by Greg Hanson.



The Iowa trio of cranes was last seen October 31 at Thorpe Park in Winnebago County. Photo by Robert Schwartz.

These three cranes, 502\*, 503 and 507\* have been inseparable since their first flight alongside the ultralight guide in the fall of 2005. Together, they found their way back to Florida, and spent the recent winter on the western coast, surviving the storms that killed 17 juvenile birds at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge on February 2. Then, on March 20, 2007, this intrepid trio left Levy County, Florida to begin their spring migration. By March 27, they had made it to Jackson County, Indiana, and on April 1 a signal from 502\* indicated the group may have slipped east into Michigan.

You can report actual or suspected sightings of any banded cranes to OM at [info@operationmigration.org](mailto:info@operationmigration.org).

On May 19, 2007, Joan Garland, Acting Director of Education at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, will give the keynote presentation to the IOU membership at the Spring Meeting in Sioux City (see pages 4-6). Join us at Briar Cliff University and learn more about this amazing, exciting reintroduction project.



Photo by Greg Hanson.

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# 2007 IOU Spring Meeting

Briar Cliff University in Sioux City

May 18 - 20, 2007

## *Enjoy Spring Birding in Siouxland*

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Meeting will be held May 18-20 at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City. The IOU invites members, friends and others interested in birds and birding to take part in exploring the wonderful habitats found where Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota meet. Set in the lush Missouri River Valley, the area is steeped in a colorful Lewis and Clark Expedition heritage.



The Loess Hills of western Iowa. Photo by Brian Wilsey.

Briar Cliff University's safe, secure campus is neatly tucked in the picturesque Loess Hills in the northwest part of town. BCU is a community committed to higher education within a liberal arts and Catholic perspective. The hilltop campus in-

cludes three academic buildings, four residence halls, a chapel, library, Newman Flanagan Center (athletic facilities), McCoy-Arnold Center, and the Stark Student Center.

The campus is located at the edge of urban development, but just minutes from downtown Sioux City (tri-state metro population: 125,000). Interstate Highway 29 and Sioux Gateway Airport connect Sioux City with other metropolitan areas.

Bob and Phyllis Nickolson, Jerry Von Ehwegen, Paul Roisen and others are working hard to make this meeting an extraordinary one. Field trips will be conducted on both Saturday and Sunday to the various wetlands, prairies and woodlands of the Siouxland area. Area birders will serve as guides for the field trips.

- John Rutenbeck

**Directions:** Briar Cliff University is reached by taking exit 149 off of Interstate 29 in Sioux City and heading north on Hamilton Boulevard. Follow Hamilton Boulevard north for about 2 miles to Stone Park Boulevard (just past McDonalds Restaurant) and turn left on Stone Park Boulevard. Go 2 blocks to Clifton Ave. and turn left on Clifton and follow it to Rebecca Street. Turn left on Rebecca and follow it to the BCU entrance by the ball fields. Go up the hill and then straight to the parking lot. Stark Student Center is on the west end of the campus near the parking lot.



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## Keynote Speaker:

### *Joan Garland*

#### *International Crane Foundation*

Joan Garland is the Acting Director of Education at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. She has worked at the International Crane Foundation for seven years and is Co-leader of the Outreach Team for the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, the group of non-profit and government agencies reintroducing a migratory flock of whooping cranes into eastern North America. For the past four years, Joan has accompanied the migration down to Florida. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, she received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The elegant whooping crane is on the verge of an extraordinary comeback after nearly becoming extinct due to human activities. In 1941, the last migratory flock was reduced to only 15 birds. An ambitious reintroduction project is currently underway to restore a migratory flock of whooping cranes to eastern North America. Discover how the cranes are raised and taught their new migration route. Now in its seventh year, the project is being undertaken by the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, a team of non-profit and governmental agencies, whose founding members include the International Crane Foundation (ICF). ICF works worldwide to conserve cranes



Joan Garland is the Acting Director of Education at the ICF.

and the wetland and grassland ecosystems on which they depend. ICF is dedicated to providing experience, knowledge, and inspiration to involve people in resolving the threats to these beautiful birds.

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#### FRIDAY, MAY 18:

6-9 p.m. Registration  
Social time with snacks  
Field trip sign-up

#### SATURDAY, MAY 19:

6:00-7:00 a.m. Breakfast  
7:00 a.m. Field trips depart  
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:15-5:00 p.m. Meetings and programs  
6:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday evening banquet  
7:30-8:30 p.m. Speaker: Joan Garland, International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI

#### SUNDAY, MAY 20:

6-7 a.m. Breakfast  
7 a.m. Field trips depart  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
Final compilation

#### Likely Saturday and Sunday Morning Field Trips:

- \* Stone State Park
- \* New Lake, Snyder's Bend, Brown's Lake Oxbows
- \* Broken Kettle Grasslands
- \* Owego Wetlands



#### Registration and Meals:

Please register online if you have web access even if you plan to pay by check. This simplifies bookkeeping for the conference. Otherwise, use the form on the next page.

**Lodging:** The organizers are recommending a motel for IOU members and friends to stay in, since on-campus dorms will probably not be available in late May. The Quality Inn is located right at Exit 149 off of I-29 and is approximately three miles from campus. Bob and Phyllis have negotiated a price of \$59 per night that will be available by indicating that you are with the IOU.

**Area Motels:**

*Quality Inn*, I-29 exit 149, then one block north to Tri-view Ave. and turn left, Sioux City, 1401 Zenith Dr.; 712-277-3211 or 866-242-7989. **A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights for \$59 for IOU members.**

*Holiday Inn Downtown*, I-29 exit 147B, Sioux City, 701 Gordon Drive; 712-277-9400. 4 miles to Briar Cliff.

*Best Western City Centre*, I-29 exit 147B, Sioux City, 130 Nebraska St.; 712-277-1550. 4 miles to Briar Cliff.

*Super 8*, I-29 exit 143, 2530 Singing Hills Blvd., Sioux City; 712-255-8888. 9 miles to Briar Cliff.

*AmericInn*, I-29 exit 143, 4230 S. Lewis Blvd., Sioux City; 712-255-1800. 9 miles to Briar Cliff.

*Motel 6*, I-29 exit 141, 6166 Harbor DR., Sgt. Bluff; 712-277-3131. 11 miles to Briar Cliff.

*EconoLodge*, I-29 exit 141, Sgt. Bluff; 712-943-5079. 11 miles to Briar Cliff.

**Camping:**

*Stone State Park*, 5001 Talbot Rd., Sioux City; 712-255-4698, email: [stone@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:stone@dnr.state.ia.us) (no shower facilities due to construction), 2 new camping cabins just built, \$9 non-electric, \$14 electric, \$35 cabin. 4 miles to Briar Cliff.

*Scenic Park On The River*, South Sioux City Nebraska, I-29 exit 147B; 402-494-7531, \$15 tent, \$17 water-electric, \$20 water-electric-sewer, \$22 pull throughs. 4 miles to Briar Cliff.

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## Spring Meeting Registration Form (print and mail)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

		<b>No. of Persons</b>				<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Registration</b>	\$12.00	x	_____	=		_____
<b>Meals</b>						
Sat Breakfast	\$ 5.95	x	_____	=		_____
Sat Lunch	\$ 7.00	x	_____	=		_____
Sat Banquet	\$14.95	x	_____	=		_____
Sun Breakfast	\$ 5.95	x	_____	=		_____
Sun Lunch	\$ 5.50	x	_____	=		_____
Meatless option?			_____			
			<b>Total Enclosed</b>			_____

Please make checks payable to *John Rutenbeck*.  
 Mail to John at 2912 Lawn Avenue, Burlington, IA 52601-1542.

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## IOU Annual Photo Contest

Each spring, the IOU sponsors an Iowa Birds Photo Contest. Photos are displayed at the Spring IOU Meeting in May. This event has produced remarkable photographs of Iowa birds in the past (see past Iowa Bird Life summer issues).

Contest rules are as follows:

**Participants:**

Any IOU member excluding those members on the Judging Committee may submit photos.

**Subjects:**

Still photos of wild, unrestrained birds taken in Iowa of species on the Official State List (including a new species if accepted by the Records Committee) will be accepted. Photos may be recent or old, digital or film, and color or black-and-white.

**Submission:**

Each contestant may submit up to three photos with a submission fee of \$5 for each photo. Entries must be mailed to the Judging Committee within the date range indicated on the entry form. Use the entry form on the following page, or on the website Iowa Birds & Birding <<http://www.iowabirds.org>>. Submitters should indicate yes or no to the following: (1) donate winnings to IOU Publications Enhancement Fund (for publication of winning photos), (2) allow publication of photo(s) in Iowa Bird Life or IOU News or display on the Iowa Birds & Birding website (Photos will be watermarked to prevent copying.), and (3) donate the photo(s) to the IOU for use by the IOU for display.

**Form:**

Each photo must be on 8 x 10 or 8.5 x 11 inch paper or mounted on 8 x 10 or 8.5 x 11 inch matte board or foam core. Only one photo per board allowed. On the back of the photo the following information is required: (1) name of species (common name), (2) date of photo (e.g., 6 February 2003), (3) location including county, (4) make of camera, (5) digital or film, (6) make and power of lens or telescope and (7) photographer. Other information should not be included. Neatness and quality of mounting will be a factor in judging.

**Judging:**

The photos will be judged by a three-member committee. The time will be determined by the Judging Committee. The judges may divide the photos into categories (e.g., digital—vs. film or passerines—vs. non-passerines). The judges will base their selections on quality of the photograph, view of the bird, difficulty of obtaining the photo (rarity of species, secretiveness) and quality of the mounting and labeling. The judges shall decide on the details of the judging process and their decisions shall be final.

**Winners:**

The number of prizes will be based on the number of entries. Forty percent of the entries will receive a prize—1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention as appropriate, overall or within categories. The entry fee money will be distributed to the winners approximately as follows: 1st 40%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 15%, and honorable mention 5%. The judges will determine the final allocation to best fit these approximations. All photos will be on display Friday evening and Saturday of the spring meeting. Photographers not wishing to donate photos may pick up photos after the banquet on Saturday night or make other arrangements with the chair of the Judging Committee.

Complete the Photo Entry Form, print and mail per instructions on the form.



2006 photo contest winners. Left to right: Sedge Wren, by Mark Brown; Henslow's Sparrow, by Mark Brown; American Goldfinch, by Dick Stilwell.

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# Iowa Birds Photo Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo 1

Species (common name): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of photo: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital/film: \_\_\_\_\_

Make of camera: \_\_\_\_\_ Make and power of lens/telescope: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (include County): \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo 2

Species (common name): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of photo: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital/film: \_\_\_\_\_

Make of camera: \_\_\_\_\_ Make and power of lens/telescope: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (include County): \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo 3

Species (common name): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of photo: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital/film: \_\_\_\_\_

Make of camera: \_\_\_\_\_ Make and power of lens/telescope: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (include County): \_\_\_\_\_

### Please indicate your choices:

I wish to donate any winnings to the IOU Publications Enhancement Fund for publications of winning photos.  **yes**  **no**

I agree to allow my photo(s) to be published in an IOU publication medium.  **yes**  **no**

I wish to donate my photo(s) to the IOU for use in displays.  **yes**  **no**

Mail this entry form along with a \$5.00 entry fee for each photo submitted to:

Iowa Birds Photo Contest Committee  
c/o Sharon Stilwell  
218 S. 33rd Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50265-6415

Mail for receipt no later than May 11, 2007. Make checks payable to the IOU Treasurer.



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## Projects Committee Ready for Inaugural Run

It has been awhile coming, but on October 1<sup>st</sup> a Projects Grant Application was made available for download through the IOU website.

The IOU Projects Committee is a relatively new construct. It has its origin in the IOU Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee was an *ad hoc* committee that historically had served a variety of purposes. More recently, when the Board of Directors decided that it had some money to spend on projects to promote the IOU, it resurrected the Conservation Committee to direct that effort. When Jay Gilliam took over as committee chair in 2004, he suggested that the name be changed to the Projects Committee, to more accurately reflect its purpose. He also urged that it be made a standing committee: "Status as a standing committee creates permanence and continuity of committee duties as new presidents are elected...The security of a standing committee will allow the IOU to examine, evaluate, and monitor long-term projects that may span a number of years. Also, the standing committee would operate under bylaws, that would assure clear definitions of roles and responsibilities." IOU News 20(4) p.3.

Through Jay's leadership the required amendment to the IOU constitution was approved in May 2005 to make Projects a standing committee.

Thanks to the transfer of some monies from inactive accounts, the Projects Committee currently has a budget of just over six thousand dollars to spend at its discretion. How the Projects Committee will be funded in the future has yet to be determined and it will be important for the IOU Board of Directors to work that out in 2007.

Tom Johnson replaced Jay as committee chair in June. Other committee members currently include: Doug Harr, vice-chair, Chris Caster, secretary, and Marlene Ehresman, voting member. Each year the four-member committee will exchange positions on June 1<sup>st</sup>, with the chair stepping down and the recruitment of a new voting member.

The committee members worked hard during 2006 to develop a set of bylaws and procedures and are excited to begin the evaluation of grant proposals. Other state organizations have funded some truly interesting projects and we hope to have some equally interesting proposals to choose from, fitting the mission of the IOU.

Please help the committee spread the word by directing local groups to the IOU website. All the necessary information may be found there.

- Chris Caster; Projects Secretary

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## Goranson Appointed to Records Committee



Rita Goranson, Mason City, was appointed to the IOU Records Committee by the Board of Directors, after nomination and endorsement by the committee. Rita replaces Lee Schoenewe whose six-year term expired at the end of 2006. She joins current members Aaron Brees, Steve Dinsmore, Paul Hertzell, Ann Johnson, Matt Kenne and Mike Overton.

## Iowa DNR Staff Rescue Stranded Pelican

An American White Pelican that was stranded this winter below Saylorville dam, was rescued and turned over to the Iowa State University Wildlife Care Clinic. Three Wildlife Diversity Program staff members took it upon themselves to go out on thin, rotten ice to rescue the bird. No mishaps occurred, and we were fortunate enough to capture the bird. We are glad that we are able to help when we can, and we hope that those of you who care about pelicans and other nongame wildlife will remember the Wildlife Diversity Program at tax time by contributing to the Chickadee Checkoff on the Iowa Income Tax Form. Thanks!

- Bruce Ehresman



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### Be the next editor of *IOU News*

Unscramble the word below, and win an opportunity to be appointed the next editor of *IOU News*:

**OWIA**

Or get it mostly right, and earn a key spot on the staff.

## 2006 Fall Meeting Wrap-up

John Rutenbeck

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union held its Fall Meeting at the Hotel Manning in Keosauqua September 8-10, 2006. The forecasted rain held off during the field trips allowing for lots of interesting birds to be seen by those in attendance.

Saturday field trips produced 118 species of birds, including Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Mockingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Clay-colored and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.



Keith Dyche, Rita Goranson, John Cecil and Paul Roisen search for birds on Saturday morning. Photo by Jay Gilliam.

On Sunday, a trip to Rathbun, led by Tom Johnson and Ray Cummins, was included into the plan, and by the end of the morning, another 37 species had been added to the weekend total of 155 species. Four tern species and Ruddy Turnstone were some highlights at Rathbun. Twenty-six species of warblers were seen along with six of the seven vireos (no Bell's) over the weekend.



What are these IOU members looking at? See the photo at far right. Photo by Kay Niyo.

Approximately 85 people attended the meeting. Vice-president John Rutenbeck welcomed six new members, Keith Dyche, Mark Dobbe, John Wenck, Sandy Wenck, Virginia McConville, and Bill Smith.



Vice-president John Rutenbeck welcomes new member Mark Dobbe during Saturday's meeting. Six new members were in attendance during Saturday's meeting. John gave a short bio for each member and presented them with a copy of *Birds In Iowa*, by Tom Kent and Jim Dinsmore.



Website manager Ann Johnson gave an overview of the many features she has built into the IOU website.



Stephen Dinsmore discussed the biology of the Mountain Plover.

Saturday afternoon programs included a talk by Ann Johnson detailing features of the IOU website, and Dr. Stephen Dinsmore who discussed his work with Mountain Plovers in Montana. The evening banquet speaker was Dr. Ross Silcock of Tabor, Iowa, who kindly stepped in after the scheduled speaker Jim Rising was unable to attend due to surgery. Silcock, a former IOU President and a native of New Zealand, gave a marvelous presentation in tight quarters, speaking about the birds of his native land as well as current conservation efforts there.



Former IOU President, Ross Silcock, gave the keynote presentation following the Saturday evening banquet. Silcock talked about the birds of his native New Zealand, and recent conservation efforts there. New Zealand has a particularly large number of endemic species.



Why, they're looking for Bewick's Wrens, of course. (See the photo at far left.) Photo by Kay Niyo.

## 2006 Fall Meeting List of Attendees

Danny	Akers	Ames, IA
Ed	Allgood	Iowa City, IA
Jean	Allgood	Iowa City, IA
Darleen	Ayres	Ottumwa, IA
John	Bissell	Grimes, IA
Aaron	Brees	Des Moines, IA
Jerry	Brown	Evansdale, IA
Suzanne	Brown	Evansdale, IA
Barry	Buschelmann	North Liberty, IA
Christopher	Caster	Coralville, IA
Bob	Cecil	Des Moines, IA
John	Cecil	Des Moines, IA
Stephen	Dinsmore	Ames, IA
Karen	Disbrow	Iowa City, IA
Mark	Dobbe	Ames, IA
Linda	Donelson	Iowa City, IA
Anne	Downing	Edina, MO
Sherry	Dragula	Ames, IA
Jim	Durbin	Marion, IA
Keith	Dyche	Shenandoah, IA
Barbara	Edson	Ames, IA
Clyde	Edson	Ames, IA
Joan	Eness	Clear Lake, IA
Vergil	Eness	Clear Lake, IA
Gary	Erbes	Ames, IA
Carolyn	Fischer	Mason City, IA
Chuck	Fuller	Burlington, IA
Jim	Fuller	Iowa City, IA
Karole	Fuller	Iowa City, IA
Judy	Garton	Fort Dodge, IA
Jay	Gilliam	Norwalk, IA
Rita	Goranson	Mason City, IA
Paul	Hertzel	Mason City, IA
Tammy	Hertzel	Mason City, IA
Doug	Hunt	Oskaloosa, IA
Mary Beth	Hunt	Oskaloosa, IA
Ann	Johnson	Norwalk, IA
Thomas	Johnson	Mystic, IA
Mike	Johnston	Waterloo, IA
Sandy	Johnston	Waterloo, IA
Cathy	Konrad	Bettendorf, IA
Jean	Leonatti	Columbia, MO
Ken	Lowder	Iowa City, IA
Virginia	McConville	Centerville, IA
Ramona	McGurk	Iowa City, IA
Marita	McGurk-Eicher	Iowa City, IA



Darlene Ayres prepares to sell some books.

Leonard	Miller	Indianola, IA
Francis	Moore	Waterloo, IA
Carol	Nash	Milo, IA
Bob	Nickolson	Sioux City, IA
Phyllis	Nickolson	Sioux City, IA
Kay	Niyo	Evergreen, CO
Carolyn	Ohlendorf	Muscatine, IA
Vernon	Ohlendorf	Muscatine, IA
Katy	Patterson	Ames, IA
Shane	Patterson	Ames, IA
Diana	Pesek	Cedar Rapids, IA
Mark	Proescholdt	Liscomb, IA
Tommie	Rogers	Mound City, MO
Paul	Roisen	Sioux City, IA
John	Rutenbeck	Burlington, IA

William	Scheible	Cedar Rapids, IA
Thomas	Schilke	Waterloo, IA
Ross	Silcock	Tabor, IA
Bill	Smith	Sioux City, IA
Martha	Stebelton	Story City, IA
Mike	Stephens	Centerville, IA
Vicky	Stephens	Centerville, IA
Carolyn	Stephenson	Cedar Falls, IA
Walter	Stephenson	Cedar Falls, IA
Dick	Stilwell	West Des Moines, IA
Sharon	Stilwell	West Des Moines, IA
Tim	Humpal	Waukee, IA
Edge	Wade	Columbia, MO
Jerry	Wade	Columbia, MO
Rose	Weigel	Charles City, IA
John	Wenck	Des Moines, IA
Sandy	Wenck	Des Moines, IA
Mark	Widrechner	Ames, IA
Charlie	Winterwood	Dubuque, IA
Doyle	Woods	Indianola, IA
Madeline	Wymore	Ottumwa, IA
Diane	Porter	Fairfield, IA
Pete	Wickham	Cedar Rapids, IA



Bill Scheible, Kay Niyo, Sharon Stilwell and John Bissell discuss their plans.

### Birds Seen at the Fall IOU Meeting Keosauqua, Iowa September 8-10, 2006

Field trips to: Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Lacey South Grasslands, Shimek Forest Croton Unit, and Lake Rathbun area.

Canada goose	Northern harrier
Wood duck	Sharp-shinned hawk
Mallard	Cooper's hawk
Blue-winged teal	Red-shouldered hawk
Northern shoveler	Red-tailed hawk
Northern pintail	American kestrel
Green-winged teal	Merlin
Ring-necked pheasant	Peregrine falcon
Wild turkey	Sora
Northern bobwhite	Killdeer
Pied-billed grebe	Greater yellowlegs
Double-crested cormorant	Solitary sandpiper
Great blue heron	Spotted sandpiper
Great egret	Ruddy turnstone
Green heron	Semipalmated sandpiper
Black-crowned night heron	Least sandpiper
Turkey vulture	Baird's sandpiper
Osprey	Pectoral sandpiper
Bald eagle	Wilson's snipe

Bonaparte's gull	White-eyed vireo
Ring-billed gull	Yellow-throated vireo
Caspian tern	Blue-headed vireo
Common tern	Warbling vireo
Forster's tern	Philadelphia vireo
Black tern	Red-eyed vireo
Rock pigeon	Blue jay
Eurasian collared-dove	American crow
Mourning dove	Purple martin
Black-billed cuckoo	Tree swallow
Yellow-billed cuckoo	Northern rough-winged swallow
Eastern screech owl	Bank swallow
Great horned owl	Cliff swallow
Barred owl	Barn swallow
Common nighthawk	Black-capped chickadee
Whip-poor-will	Tufted titmouse
Chimney swift	White-breasted nuthatch
Ruby-throated hummingbird	Carolina wren
Belted kingfisher	House wren
Redheaded woodpecker	Marsh wren
Red-bellied woodpecker	Ruby-crowned kinglet
Downy woodpecker	Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Hairy woodpecker	Eastern bluebird
Northern flicker	Gray-cheeked thrush
Pileated woodpecker	Swainson's thrush
Olive-sided flycatcher	Wood thrush
Eastern wood pewee	American robin
Acadian flycatcher	Gray catbird
Least flycatcher	Northern mockingbird
Eastern phoebe	Brown thrasher
Great crested flycatcher	European starling
Eastern kingbird	Cedar waxwing
Loggerhead shrike	

Golden-winged warbler	Tennessee warbler
Orange-crowned warbler	Nashville warbler
Northern parula	Yellow warbler
Chestnut-sided warbler	Magnolia warbler
Cape May warbler	Black-throated blue warbler
Black-throated green warbler	Blackburnian warbler
Yellow-throated warbler	Bay-breasted warbler
Blackpoll warbler	Black-and-white warbler
American redstart	Ovenbird
Northern waterthrush	Connecticut warbler
Mourning warbler	Common yellowthroat
Wilson's warbler	Canada warbler
Yellow-breasted chat	Summer tanager
Scarlet tanager	Eastern towhee
Chipping sparrow	Clay-colored sparrow
Field sparrow	Grasshopper sparrow

Henslow's sparrow	Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow
Song sparrow	Northern cardinal
Indigo bunting	Rose-breasted grosbeak
Dickcissel	Bobolink
Red-winged blackbird	Eastern meadowlark
Western meadowlark	Yellow-headed blackbird
Common grackle	Brown-headed cowbird
Orchard oriole	Baltimore oriole
House finch	American goldfinch
House sparrow	



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## 2007 Wings and Wetlands Weekend

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings and Wetlands Festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13, 2007. Welcome the coming of spring, celebrate National Wetland Month, and explore the unique prairie pothole region of Northwest Iowa.

This festival is coordinated over a six county region in Northwest Iowa (Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, O'Brien and Palo Alto) and offers a wide selection of programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. Events held throughout the region include bird hikes, kayaking and canoeing adventures, Trumpeter Swan releases, live reptiles and youth programs. There is also food and music at some locations.

Join us for one or more of the programs being offered throughout the weekend. Experience first-hand our beautiful lakes, marshes, and upland habitat. Bird hikes will offer people the opportunity to see waterfowl, shorebirds, and of course, warblers during peak migration time!

Sponsors of the festival include Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, O'Brien, and Palo Alto County Conservation Boards, Palo Alto Soil and Water Conservation District, Prairie Lakes Audubon Society, and Palo Alto Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever Chapters.

For more information, call Charlene Elyea, at Prairie Heritage Center (712) 295-7200, or the Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center (712) 837-4866.



Lost Island Nature Center.

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## 2006 Listing Totals

Iowa bird species list totals as of December 31, 2006 may be submitted to the *IOU News* by using the form at the right, or may be sent by email. Totals will be published in the Summer issue, 2007. Current Iowa records by state, county and month can be found in the 2006 Spring issue of *IOU News* (Volume 22, number 1).

For many birders, keeping list totals is both informative and fun, and generating these totals helps motivate birders to stay active, and perhaps to explore new areas. Last year, while working on my Worth County list, I came across three county conservation areas previously unknown to me. One, which I discovered in late summer, had some habitat that looked promising for Connecticut Warblers, a species I missed altogether in 2006. So I am anxious to revisit it during May.

The **Iowa Lifetime Total List** is the list with the largest participation. Last year, 37 people contributed their state total for inclusion in this list. This particular list has been defined slightly differently by different birders, so for example, some birders only list birds they have found, personally. For others, the collection of personally found birds is a subset of their state life list. Last year we began a separate **Personally Found** list category, after several birders expressed an interest in distinguishing between these ideas. This list is intended to track birds found by the lister without prior knowledge of recent birds or recurring birds of the listed species at that site.

Three years ago, the *IOU News* introduced two awards for Iowa birders who enjoy listing their sightings. These awards are intended to acknowledge Iowa's most active birders, and to promote birding in Iowa.

**Top Annual List.** This award acknowledges the IOU member with the top annual list for the previous year. To be eligible, the participant must submit the species list, and any sightings of casual or accidental species must be accepted

by the IOU Records Committee. For the 2005 year, this award went to *Jay Gilliam* who observed an amazing 307 species in Iowa during the year.



Jay Gilliam: Iowa's Top Birder in 2005.

**Top Percent of Life List.** This award is intended for the IOU member with the highest percent of his/her life list seen in the calendar year. To be eligible, this member's life list must have been previously published. In 2005, *Danny Akers* and *Jay Gilliam* shared this recognition, each with 94% of the birds on their life lists occurring also on their 2005 year list.

Other popular list categories are **County Total Ticks**, yard list totals, and individual county list totals.

Another favorite listing activity is the **Big Day**. A Big Day is a group affair in which participants attempt to record in a single day, in a particular geographic region, as many species as they can find. We ask that participants follow ABA Big Day rules and adhere to the ABA Birding Code of Ethics. For new record totals in a category, please submit the species list and consider writing a short narrative about the adventure for publication in this newsletter.

# 2006 IOU Bird Listing Report Form

Please return this form within a week or so in order for your totals to be included in the next compilation.

Of course, **all categories are optional**. Contributed totals should be accurate as of December 31, 2006.

Return to: *IOU News*, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401; or email totals to: *phertzel@rconnect.com*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail or postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

I will do a County Big Year in \_\_\_\_\_ County during 2007.

Iowa State Life List Total: \_\_\_\_\_ Personally Found by Me in Iowa : \_\_\_\_\_

Iowa 2006 Annual List Total: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Total species seen in Iowa during 2006 ) Yardlist Total: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Regional or statewide Big Day*:</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Names of Participants</u>
<i>Examples:</i>	<i>Hancock County</i>	<i>5/09/2005</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzel</i>
	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>12/01/2004</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Jim Fuller, Tom Kent</i>

\* for record totals, please submit the species list.

## COUNTY LIFE LIST TOTALS

_____ Adair County	_____ Davis County	_____ Johnson County	_____ Pocahontas County
_____ Adams County	_____ Decatur County	_____ Jones County	_____ Polk County
_____ Allamakee County	_____ Delaware County	_____ Keokuk County	_____ Pottawattamie County
_____ Appanoose County	_____ Des Moines County	_____ Kossuth County	_____ Poweshiek County
_____ Audubon County	_____ Dickinson County	_____ Lee County	_____ Ringgold County
_____ Benton County	_____ Dubuque County	_____ Linn County	_____ Sac County
_____ Blackhawk County	_____ Emmet County	_____ Louisa County	_____ Scott County
_____ Boone County	_____ Fayette County	_____ Lucas County	_____ Shelby County
_____ Bremer County	_____ Floyd County	_____ Lyon County	_____ Sioux County
_____ Buchanan County	_____ Franklin County	_____ Madison County	_____ Story County
_____ Buena Vista County	_____ Fremont County	_____ Mahaska County	_____ Tama County
_____ Butler County	_____ Greene County	_____ Marion County	_____ Taylor County
_____ Calhoun County	_____ Grundy County	_____ Marshall County	_____ Union County
_____ Carroll County	_____ Guthrie County	_____ Mills County	_____ Van Buren County
_____ Cass County	_____ Hamilton County	_____ Mitchell County	_____ Wapello County
_____ Cedar County	_____ Hancock County	_____ Monona County	_____ Warren County
_____ Cerro Gordo County	_____ Hardin County	_____ Monroe County	_____ Washington County
_____ Cherokee County	_____ Harrison County	_____ Montgomery County	_____ Wayne County
_____ Chickasaw County	_____ Henry County	_____ Muscatine County	_____ Webster County
_____ Clarke County	_____ Howard County	_____ O'Brien County	_____ Winnebago County
_____ Clay County	_____ Humboldt County	_____ Osceola County	_____ Winneshiek County
_____ Clayton County	_____ Ida County	_____ Page County	_____ Woodbury County
_____ Clinton County	_____ Iowa County	_____ Palo Alto County	_____ Worth County
_____ Crawford County	_____ Jackson County	_____ Plymouth County	_____ Wright County
_____ Dallas County	_____ Jasper County		
	_____ Jefferson County		

COUNTY TOTAL TICKS \_\_\_\_\_

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## Birding Southeast Arizona

Richard Lynch

Ann Johnson and Jim Bangma (Newton, NJ) led 12 IOU members on a 10-day tour of southeast Arizona, August 4-13, 2006. Outdoors on the 4th, it was 88°F and sunglasses weather when the group met mid-morning at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix. In two vans, the group began birding their way towards Green Valley.

In attendance were Jane Clark (Clive), John Donelson (Iowa City), Linda Donelson (Iowa City), Judy Garton (Fort Dodge), Janet Greer (Council Bluffs), Steve Kinder (Chillicothe, MO) Larry Lade (St. Joseph, MO), Nancy Lynch (Solon), Richard Lynch (Solon), Diana Pesek (Cedar Rapids), Linda Rudolph (Iowa City), and Kelly Weichers (Roland).



Photo by Richard Lynch.

The first bird of the trip was Cactus Wren. Stops at highway rest areas and the enormous Red Rock Feed Lot between Phoenix and Tucson launched the first of ten productive days of birding. The group visited the many scenic areas such as Madera Canyon, the Parajito Mountains, Patagonia State Park, Sierra Vista, the Huachuca Mountains, Portal, Paradise, the Chiricahuas, and Lake Cochise. Along the way, they found 185 species of birds, including looks at Zone-tailed Hawk, Gray Hawk, Gambel's, Scaled and Montezuma Quail, Elf Owl, Greater Roadrunner, Elegant Trogon, 13 species of hummingbird, Sulphur-bellied and Vermillion Flycatcher, Phainopepla, Verdin, Pyrrhuloxia, Crissal Thrasher, Hepatic Tanager, Botteri's Sparrow, and many others.

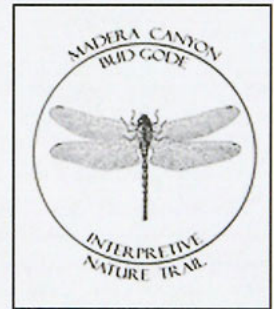
This IOU-sponsored trip was planned and executed well. The accommodations were very good. The camaraderie was outstanding. We covered a lot of ground in 10 days, birded in all the types of habitat found in Southeast Arizona, and experienced the 100°F+ temperatures of the open desert and the cool shade of the forests in the high country. While we did not get all of the target birds, we got most of them. As it began, so it ended: the final bird seen was **Cactus Wren**. All the participants added lifers to their lists, several added more than 50, and one person added 120.



## FRIENDS OF MADERA CANYON HONOR IOWAN BUD GODE

*Bud Gode Interpretive Nature Trail System Construction Underway in Madera Canyon*

The *Friends of Madera Canyon* is undertaking an innovative project to build an Interpretive Nature Trail in legendary Madera Canyon, situated in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson, AZ. The *Friends*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, assists the US Forest Service in operating the recreational site in the sky-island canyon that is popular among birders, hikers, campers, and those who want to enjoy a cool walk or picnic among the trees away from the pressures of daily life. The *Friends* also provides educational programs to area school children and adults. The new fully accessible Bud Gode Interpretive Nature Trail system will enhance everyone's educational experience and enjoyment of the canyon.



The Interpretive Nature Trail is named for former *Friends* vol-

unteer and Board president, Bud Gode, who not only enjoyed the canyon himself but also was an inspirational leader in youth education programs that explain the science behind the natural history of Madera Canyon and the sky-islands of southern Arizona. Gode, a retired civil engineer from Iowa, studied dragonflies, published several scientific papers, and promoted citizen science through volunteerism. He and his wife, Mary, moved to Green Valley in 1998. "He spent four or five days of every week in the canyon," said Mary Gode. He grew to love the canyon and championed the idea of "conservation through education." He passed away in 2005 and the *Friends* and the Gode family are coordinating efforts to build the new Nature Trail.

Here is a story about Bud. He took a trip with an ornithology class at Iowa Lakeside Lab, and in the words of the professor: We were canoeing the Bois Brule River in northern Wisconsin and about to go down our first rapids, Wildcat Rapids. So, I got out with the class, and pointed out how to navigate the rapids. I went down first with a student in the bow and a terrified Chinese student in the middle. No problems. The second canoe came down with no problem. Third canoe, no problem. I had asked Bud to come down last to mop up, so to speak. So we're sitting waiting, but no Bud. He was with a particularly attractive young lady who spent her spare time modeling for Victoria's Secret, but we didn't think that was the problem. Finally, here comes a canoe, backwards. Bud, now in the new bow, is paddling over his shoulder trying to dodge rocks, and the student has jumped around in her seat to assume stern duties. They got through without a problem. As Bud canoed up, he said, "Anyone can do it forwards."

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## Report of IOU Field Trip to Fremont County and Area

*Ross Silcock*

On May 27, 2006, three intrepid birders met near Nebraska City at 4.45am and departed for an area near Waubonsie State Park to hear and hopefully see Chuck-will's-widow. Unfortunately, none could be located, but Whip-poor-wills and Barred Owls were in evidence.

We drove up to the campground at Waubonsie, where we had good views of a singing male Summer Tanager, our first "Southwest Iowa Specialty" for the day. We met the other three participants at the campground, where they had already seen a Summer Tanager, and we all had a look at a singing Northern Parula.

At this point, we began to realize that this wasn't going to be a good day for birding weatherwise. Before long, the wind was blowing at 30+ miles per hour and the temp had reached into the 80s, and later, close to 100.

Nevertheless, we soldiered on. We decided to go to Manti Woods hoping for Mourning or Connecticut Warbler, but were unsuccessful. As well, migrant warblers had obviously departed some time prior to our arrival.

Next we drove west to Riverton Area in hopes of shorebirds and other water-related species. Unfortunately Riverton was very weedy, but we did see a few shorebirds, including Black-bellied Plover.

Chasing specialties, we drove further west to the Missouri River bottoms, looking for Blue Grosbeak and Western Kingbird. Both were found, but good looks were difficult due to the wind. We spent some time attempting, with mixed success, looks at Bell's Vireo. In an attempt to salvage a barely-middling performance, the Trip Leader forged on to the Mid-American Ponds near Council Bluffs, the haunts of Least Terns and Piping Plovers. We first drove to the north end of the ponds on the public road and were able to see several Least Terns, including one apparently incubating, but only a glimpse of Piping Plovers. We went around to the main entrance and after passing through security, went down to the shore at the parking lot and saw several Piping Plovers, as well as a few shorebirds, including Sanderling.



At this point the windblown and sweaty group disbanded, vowing never to return.

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## Report of IOU Field Trip to Crex Meadows, WI

*Jim Scheib*

### Crex Meadows, Wisconsin.

The IOU-sponsored a field trip April 29/30, 2006 to the Crex Meadows wetland complex in western Wisconsin. Participants were Bo and Sonnie Dunn, Richard and Nancy Lynch, Jim and Sharon Scheib.

We traveled separately to the Crex Meadows near Granstburg, Wisconsin, to see the mating display of Sharp-tailed Grouse along with other northern nesting species such as Trumpeter Swan, Common Loon, Bald Eagles, and a variety of egrets, ducks, grebes and migrants. All of the above were seen. A surprise find was a Peregrine Falcon.

We met Saturday at 5am at the coffee stop on the edge of town. The weather was wet most of the day. The Sharp-tailed Grouse have been very reliable the last few years and we found several at the Murphy Road lek.

On the afternoon of the first day we toured Jim's brother's reindeer farm near Milltown. Because of the rain on the first day, most of the group covered the same ground on the second morning, seeing essentially the same birds as the day before.

On the way home, Dick and Nancy Lynch toured the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI.

### 2007 East African Birding Tour with IOU Member Ty Smedes

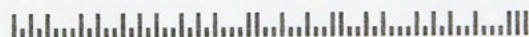
Having made three trips to Africa (with two trips to this region of East Africa), I will be leading a 14 day birding safari to Kenya, during July or August of 2007. When I am asked to name my single biggest surprise and thrill, while touring Africa, I always reply, "It's The Birds!" And believe me, the variety of bird species, and the ability to view them (often at nearly eye-level)...is fantastic! In order to ensure a top-quality birding opportunity, I've enlisted the services of a safari operator whose father started the old "East African Ornithological Tours" company, many decades ago. I have traveled with this company, and it is well managed, has great drivers who know their birds, and is top-notch, all the way around. Steve has planned an excellent itinerary, and we will expect to record 350-400 bird species while also enjoying spectacular viewing of the well-known African mammals, such as lion, elephant, cheetah, hippo, rhino, wildebeest, zebra, etc.. Group size will consist of no more than 5-7 birders, and each person will have a vehicle window-seat.

If you've dreamed of traveling to Africa, and want to see a tremendous variety of birds, along with the famed variety of large mammals (often within a few feet of the vehicle) in one of the great remaining great natural areas on the planet, you should consider this safari. For full details visit Ty's website at [http://www.smedesphoto.com/kenya\\_birding\\_tour.htm](http://www.smedesphoto.com/kenya_birding_tour.htm). This tour is not an IOU function.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union  
1201 High Avenue West  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577



[Address Service Requested ]



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624 LARCH LN  
IOWA CITY IA 52245-3435

I o w a   O r n i t h o l o g i s t s '   U n i o n

# *IOU News*

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