

IOU News

Spring 2009 ❁ Volume 25 – Number 1



Dunbar Slough, Hunter Tract. Photo by Jay Gilliam.

2009 IOU Spring Meeting *Swan Lake State Park*

Join us for some Carroll County Spring Birding.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Meeting, which will be held May 1-3, 2009, will be headquartered at Swan Lake State Park just a couple of miles southeast of Carroll, Iowa. Meals and meetings will be held in the fabulous Conservation Education Center at Swan Lake State Park. There is room for just about anything we want to do and it is equipped with a state-of-the art audiovisual system. The

meeting is scheduled for May 1-3, 2009. Hosting the meeting will be Matt Wetrich—Naturalist for Carroll County Conservation. Matt has been busy planning activities, field trips, meals, and possibly a song and dance routine in case things get a little slow.

Birding at Swan Lake State Park and surrounding area have produced well over 200 species. The past year alone has produced just about every regular waterfowl species including Long-tailed Duck along with two species of scoters. Rarities such as Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Piping Plover, and Red-necked Grebe made for an interesting 2008

Continued on page 4.



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:

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Spring	March 1 - May 31	February 20
Summer	June 1 - July 31	May 20
Fall	August 1 - Nov 30	July 20
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<http://www.iowabirds.org/>

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this newsletter was mailed to 464 members

Tidbits



IBL editor Kay Niyo found her 600th North American bird in April, in Florida. Congrats to Kay.



IOU Board member Jim Fuller's 320th Johnson County bird was a Cackling Goose.



IOU Board member Carolyn Fischer added her 190th bird to her Mason City yard list in February, a Hoary Redpoll.

Slate of Officers

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

<i>President:</i>	Stephen Dinsmore
<i>Vice-president:</i>	Aaron Brees
<i>Board of Directors:</i>	Paul Roisen
<i>Board of Directors:</i>	Bill Scheible

2008 Projects Committee Awards

This winter the IOU Projects Committee got more applications than it could fund, but thanks to the IOU leadership, \$3,750 was available to support some very worthwhile proposals. The 2007-2008 Projects Committee, consisting of Doug Harr, Chris Caster, Marlene Ehresman, and Mary Beth Hunt met last April to evaluate the proposals and the awards were announced at the Spring IOU Meeting in Oskaloosa.

Friends of the Sherman Swift Tower—\$1,000, towards a replica of the 1915 Chimney Swift Tower designed and built by Althea Sherman at National, IA in Clayton County. She used the Tower to study swifts for over twenty years. The replica will be erected on a site close to the original and will be open to the public. The group is committed to building an accurate tower replica, honoring the Shermans, and educating the public about swifts.

Remembering Gladys Black—\$1,000. Larry Stone and Jon Stravers are partnering to write and publish a biography of the late Gladys Black. She may have done more than anyone else to make Iowans aware of the wonder of birds. Larry and Jon were both strongly influenced by her and feel a responsibility for keeping the spirit and enthusiasm of Gladys alive in a book about her life and work. They are convinced that many Iowans will be fascinated with "Iowa's Bird Lady" and the impact she had on conservation in the state.

The Hitchcock Nature Center—\$750, towards the on-going raptor-banding project. The money will be used to maintain structures and provide training and compensation for banders. The Hitchcock Hawkwatch has proved well situated for the study of raptor migrants along our western border and is one of the few projects of its kind in the Midwest.

Carroll County Conservation—\$500, towards the development of a Backyard Bird Habitat Classroom alongside the Conservation Education Center at Swan Lake State Park. The purpose will be to educate the public on ways to create and enhance habitat for wildlife using water and native plants.

Wartburg Ornithology —\$500, for banding supplies for offering of a field research based course in ornithology. Dr. Jacqueline Nooker of the Wartburg Biology Dept. hopes the experience will evoke in students a life-long interest in Iowa birds and their habitats. The course filled its maximum enrollment of 14 for the May term.

The Projects Committee is still accepting grant applications for 2009. Applications need to be received by March 1st. Please visit the IOU website for further information.

-Mary Beth Hunt, secretary-

Notes from IOU Library/Archive Committee

The Dickcissel was the quarterly publication of the Sioux City Bird Club. Volume one was first published in 1934 and the last, v. 35, was in 1977.

At the fall IOU meeting at Iowa Falls, Bob Nickolson of Sioux City, gave me a large collection of back issues to fill in the holes at the Iowa State University collection. With the exception of the years 1973 & 1974, v. 31-32, the University has a run from v. 1-35. There are a number of stray issues that are missing, but essentially, the University has a complete set.

There are five libraries in the United States that have holdings of the Dickcissel. The University of Michigan has a complete run.

Duplicate copies from the Nickolson collection that Iowa State already owned will be sent to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to help complete their collection.

Toni Wendelburg Donation.

This past summer, I received an e-mail from Dick

Stillwell of Des Moines concerning Toni Wendelburg, a founding member of both the IOU and the Des Moines Audubon in 1923.

Toni's daughter, Tonna Weir, who was in her 70s and a resident of Sherwood, Oregon, has a collection of lantern slides that had belonged to her mother.

She understood their value and did not want to dispose of them if someone here in Iowa would want them. I began a correspondence with her and arranged for them to be shipped to me. They arrive safely and will be taken to the IOU archive at the Special Collections Department at the Iowa State University Library.

The 42 lantern slides date from the late 1930s or early 40s and were part of a program developed by the National Audubon Society for public presentations. Each colored, glass slide was approximated 2x2" and contained a picture of a bird in a natural habitat. These slides were a predecessor of our 35 mm slide presentation

-Hank Zaletel

2009 IOU Spring Meeting

Swan Lake State Park

Continued from page 1

spring and early summer.

Field trip possibilities include Swan Lake, Whiterock Conservancy, Black Hawk State Park, Dunbar Slough, Snake Creek Marsh, portions of the Raccoon River as well as some other “secret” locations, to be revealed later.

Keynote Speaker:

Rick Wright

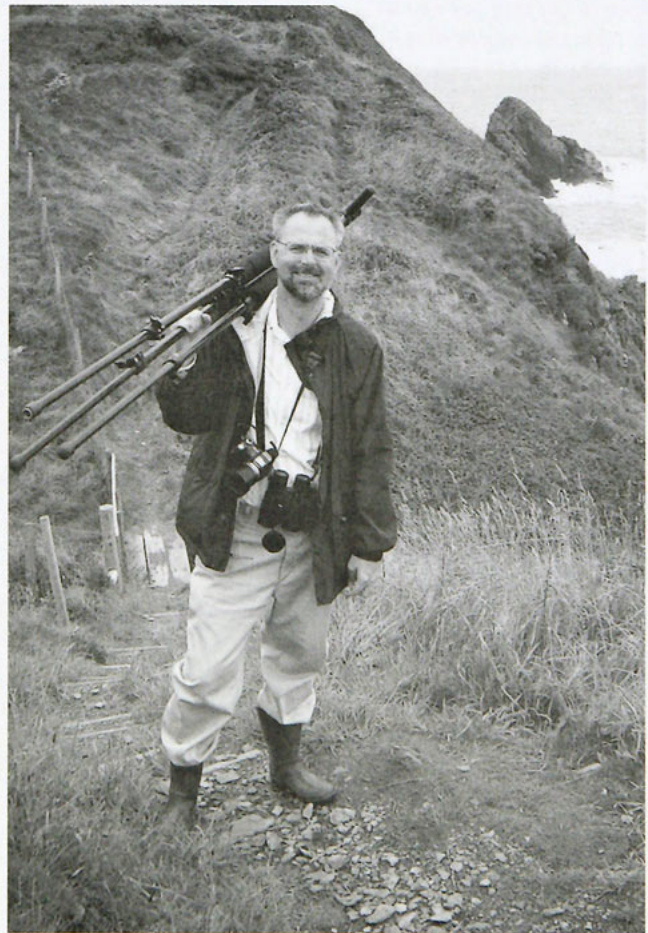
The IOU is pleased to have secured Rick Wright, Managing Director of “Wings,” as our Banquet speaker. Rick is a native of southeast Nebraska, has taught laboratory courses in ornithology with Paul Johnsgard and worked as a collections assistant at the Nebraska State Museum. In 1985, he was a founding member of the Nebraska Ornithologists’ Union Bird Records Committee.

A native of southeast Nebraska, Rick Wright is a widely published writer and popular tour leader in Europe and the Americas. After a dozen years holding university appointments in German, medieval studies, and art history, Rick moved to Arizona, where he founded Aimophila Adventures (birdaz.com), a company providing guiding and tour services in North America, Mexico, and western Europe. In 2008 he became Managing Director of WINGS (wingsbirds.com), the Tucson-based ornithotourism company offering tours to more than 50 countries on seven continents. Rick and his wife, Alison Beringer, live in Tucson and in Hamilton, New York.

Currently Rick resides in southeast Arizona where he is a professional guide. He is a frequent lecturer at birding festivals and conventions. Rick enjoys all kinds of birding, from the frantic pace of the World Series to quiet puddle watching. Rick has birded parts of Iowa but never the Swan Lake area and is enthused by the birding opportunities that will be available to him while here in Iowa.

More than half a century ago, James Fisher proclaimed the Painted Redstart the most beautiful of all the American warblers. He wasn’t far off—but that colorful sprite of Arizona’s oak woodlands is just one of a dazzling variety of parulids that inhabit southwestern North America on both sides of the border, from the drab Lucy’s of the desert lowlands to the gemlike Crescent-chested high in the Sierra Madre of Sonora. In

May 01-03, 2009



Rick Wright.

the range of habitats they inhabit, the variety of seasonal patterns they exhibit, and the diversity of nest sites they exploit, the wood warblers of the Southwest offer some surprises to those of us used to the “classic” species of the East. Rick’s talk will take us into the world of these wonderful woodland warblers.

Schedule

FRIDAY, May 1st

Carroll County Conservation Education Center

5:00-9:00 P.M.

- Registration
- Social time with snacks
- Field trip sign-up

SATURDAY, May 2nd

Carroll County Conservation Education Center

6:00 A.M.

Breakfast

7:00 A.M.

Field trips depart (Lunch in the field*)

1:00 P.M.

Field trips return to Carroll County Cons. Ed. Center

1:15-2:00 P.M.

Records Committee Presentation

1:15-2:00 P.M.

Birding Basics—Presentation for newer birders.

2:15-4:00 P.M.

IOU General Business Meeting
Update on the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project.

4:00-4:10 P.M.

Introduction of new IOU members

4:15-5:15 P.M.

IOU Board Meeting

6:30-7:30 P.M.

Saturday Evening Banquet

7:30-8:30 P.M.

Speaker: **Rick Wright**. *The Most Beautiful of the Whole Beautiful Lot: Wood Warblers of the American Southwest.*

SUNDAY, May 3rd

Carroll County Conservation Education Center

6:00 A.M.

Breakfast

7:00 A.M.

Field trips depart

12:00 P.M.

Field trips return
Lunch
Final compilation

* Lunch will be in the field **Saturday** allowing field trip groups to stay out somewhat longer than usual. We plan to be back for the afternoon program which will begin around 1:15P.M.



Swan Lake Campground.

Lodging:

Motels in Carroll Iowa. Contact Motel directly. Mention IOU rate.

Super 8 North

\$56.28-\$65.53 tax included 712-792-4753

(Manager - Annette)

Super 8 East

\$69.70-\$77.76 tax included 712-792-6666

(Manager - Joni)

Camping. Check out the facilities at Swan Lake State Park. 22811 Swan Lake Dr.

Cabin—ONLY 1 first come first serve (sleeps 6)

http://www.carrollcountyconservation.com/areas/Swan_Lake_camp.htm



Swan Lake riding/walking trail.

Directions:

Carroll County Conservation Education Center - 22811 Swan Lake Dr. From Jct of US-30 & US-71, S 2 mi on US-71 to park rd, E 2 mi (E).

REGISTRATION Information

On-line registration should be done at the following link:

http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/current_meeting.asp

Make all checks out to **Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU)**

Snail Mail to: Paul Roisen
4420 3rd Ave.
Sioux City, IA 51106-2902

Mail-in registration:

Spring 2009 IOU Meeting REGISTRATION FORM

Copy, fill out, and mail—don't forget your check.

Name(s) _____
(FIRST and LAST names of all persons registering on this form)

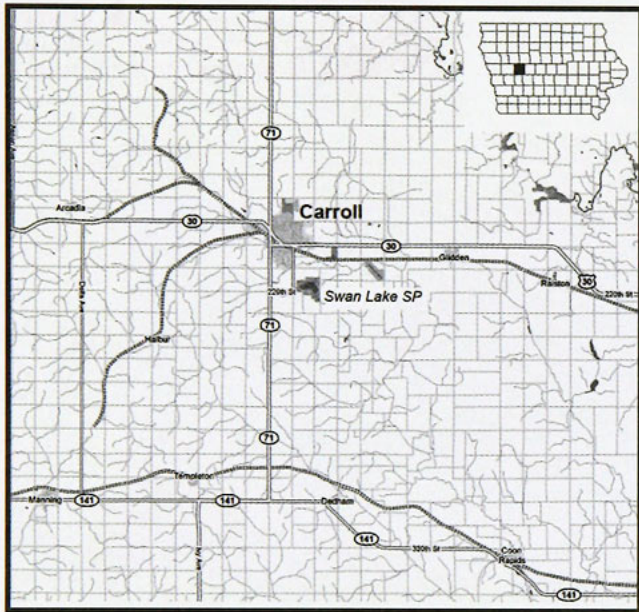
Address _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee:		No. of Persons	=	Total Cost
\$12.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Meals				
Sat. Breakfast:				
\$ 6.50	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. Box lunch:				
\$ 6.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. Banquet:				
\$11.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. Breakfast:				
\$ 6.50	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. Lunch:				
\$ 6.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____

Meatless Option? Please check here _____.

Total Enclosed \$ _____



Swan Lake State Park is just south of the city of Carroll.

Likely Saturday and Sunday Morning Field Trips:

- * Swan Lake State Park
- * Whiterock Conservancy
- * Black Hawk State Park
- * Dunbar Slough
- * Snake Creek Marsh
- * Raccoon River



Dunbar Slough, west pond. Photo by Jay Gilliam.



Free Memberships to be Given Away

As part of the membership drive this year we are giving **ONE membership** to each club in the state to give to someone who has **never belonged** to the IOU. **IF** your club has not been contacted (some e-mails bounced) just let Karen Disbrow know.

As an example: The Iowa City Bird Club will be having a drawing at our April meeting. We will have people put their names in the drawing so only those interested will be a recipient. We are teaching a beginners birding course so those people will have the opportunity to receive the membership also.

Just let Ann Johnson know each recipient of this membership from each club. They can be signed up on the website right away. We want to recognize anyone who is a recipient during the May meeting in Carroll, IA, if possible.

Any questions, e-mail k_disbrow@yahoo.com or call 319-430-0315 cell.

-Karen Disbrow
IOU Membership Chair



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Jay Gilliam

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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

CONTENTS

2009 IOU Spring Meeting1, 4-7
Tidbits2
Slate of Officers2
Projects Committee Awards.3
Notes From the Library3

