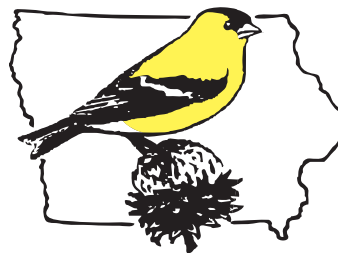


IOU News

Spring 2014



Volume 30 - Number 1



2014 IOU Spring Meeting Bellevue, NE, May 16 - 18 2014

Photos in this article by Babs Padelford

By Dennis Thompson

We will meet May 16-18, 2014 in Bellevue, Nebraska at the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center. This meeting will be held in association with the Nebraska Ornithologists Union and is timed to hit the peak of the spring warbler migration. Fontenelle Forest is one of the largest private nature centers in the nation, encompassing nearly 2,000 acres of forest, prairie and wetlands along the Missouri River.

In addition to field trips throughout the forest, we will have trips to other birding spots in the area on both sides of the river. With both societies meeting together, we expect a great turnout.

Keynote Speaker

Dan Svingen

Birding America's Grasslands

The northern and central great plains of North America provide opportunities for wonderful birding. This presentation will review the ornithological history of this region, as well as highlight species such as: Ferruginous Hawk, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Marbled Godwit, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Sprague's Pipit, and Baird's Sparrow.

Recommendations will be provided on where to go birding

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IOU News

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

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IOU News issues:

- (1) Spring: Published approximately mid-March, depending on date of annual spring meeting.
- (2) Summer: Published late June or early July.
- (3) Fall: Published late August or early September, depending on date of fall meeting.
- (4) Winter: Published late November.

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Secretary	Board Members
Stuart Sparkman	Tyler Harms
Treasurer	Karen Vista Sparkman
Mary Beth Hunt	Candace Havely

This newsletter was mailed to 48 members.

(Continued from page 1)

in this region, including National Wildlife Refuges and National Grasslands. Dan will also touch on grassland ecology and management.

Dan Svingen is a Grassland Biologist for the U.S. Forest Service and is currently the District Ranger for the Ft. Pierre district. He is a regional editor for North American Birds. He is also the author of *Birding North Dakota* and *Birders Guide to Idaho*.

Schedule

FRIDAY, May 16

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

- 5:00 - 8:30 PM Registration
Field trip sign up
Snacks
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM The Spring Wood Warbler Migration
Ty Smedes

SATURDAY, May 17

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

- 6:00 AM Breakfast Buffet
7:00 AM Field Trips Leave
Pick up your box lunch
12:30 PM IOU Board Meeting
1:30 PM Common Things are Common, or Are They?
Consider the Uncommon Redtail
Jerry Toll
2:30 PM What is eBird? Why eBird? What can eBird Do For You? How to Make Your eBirding Easier
Rick Hollis
4:00 PM IOU Membership Meeting
NOU Membership Meeting
6:00 PM Banquet
7:00 PM Keynote Address
Dan Svingen
Birding America's Grasslands

SUNDAY, May 18

Fontenelle Nature Center

- 6:00 AM Breakfast
7:00 AM Field Trips Leave
12:00 Noon Compilation
Fontenelle Forest Visitor Center
1:00 PM Have a safe trip home!

Lodging Options

Blocks of rooms at a reduced price (\$78 vs. \$90) are being held at the following hotel until two weeks prior to the meeting.

Mention you're with either IOU or NOU to receive the reduced rate.

Best Western White House Inn

3015 North Fort Crook Rd.
402-293-1600

Other Bellevue lodging options

Super 7 Inn

303 Fort Crook Rd.
877-851-6763

Holiday Inn Express

10804 S 15th St
402-502-4500

Rodeway Inn

1110 South Fort Crook Rd.
402-291-0804

Hampton Inn

3404 Samson Way
402-292-1607

Microtel Inn & Suites

3008 Samson Way
800-337-0050

Camping

Lake Manawa State Park

Haworth Park - You can reserve a space by going to www.Bellevue.net. Scroll down to "quick links" and there you will find reservation instructions.

Possible Field Trips

Fontenelle Forest	Louisville SRA
Boyer Chute	DeSoto Bend NWR
LaPlatte Bottoms	Lake Manawa

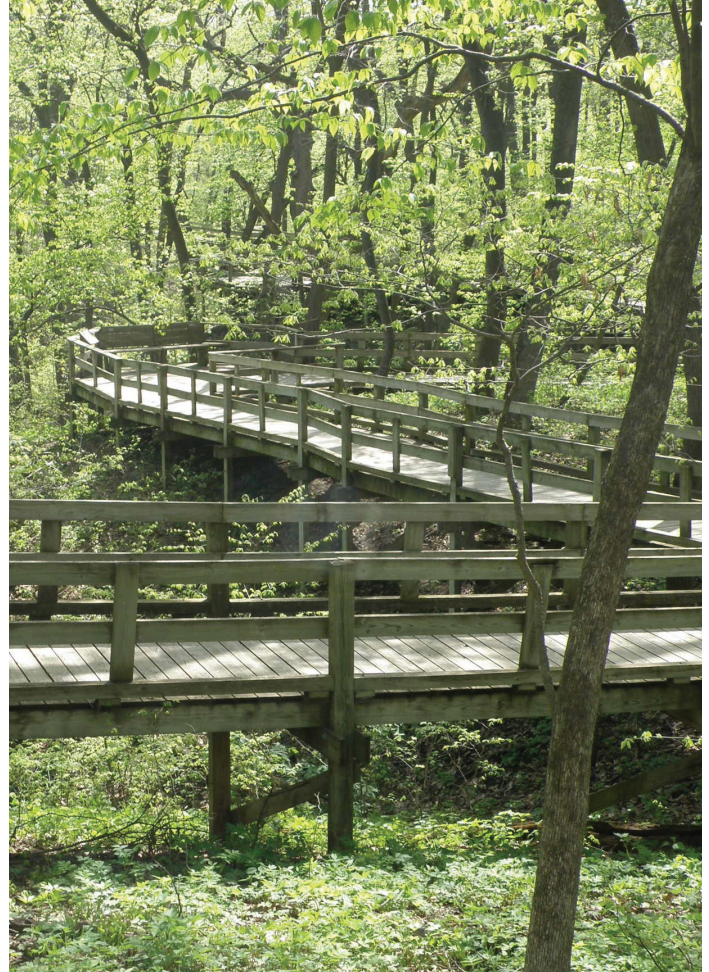
Directions

Location

1111 Bellevue Blvd. North
Bellevue, NE

From I-80

take 75 (Kennedy Freeway) south to Chandler Road.
Turn left onto Chandler.
Turn right at Bellevue Blvd. (stop sign).
Continue 1/2 mile to the nature center (on left).



3RD ANNUAL BOUNDARY WATERS CLASS BIRD ECOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN FOREST a canoe camping birding adventure LED BY SUSAN PLANKIS AND ROB KESSELRING

Curriculum approved by the University of St. Thomas
Travel by ultralight canoe, Camp in deluxe tents. Wholesome meals
Many boreal species
Amazing, fun, birding adventures
No experience needed

2 Sections
May 23-26, 2014
May 28-31, 2014
\$499 ALL-INCLUSIVE

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e-mail: rob@robkesselring.com splankis@gmail.com
phone: 952.432.8884 or Sue at 952.201.6062

HELD IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS
Rob is a USFS Licensed Wilderness Guide



2014 IOU Spring Meeting – Bellevue, NE

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

On-line registration:

If possible, please register through the IOU website at: <http://www.iowabirds.org/>

Make checks payable to: **Iowa Ornithologists' Union**

Mail to: Dennis Thompson
7503 Wildflower Ct
Johnston, IA 50131

Mail-in registration:

2014 IOU Spring Meeting Registration Form

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

Name(s): _____

(Please include first and last names of all persons registering on this form)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

		No. of Persons		Total Cost
Registration Fee	\$15.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Meals				
Friday Dinner	\$12.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Sat. Breakfast:	\$11.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Sat. Sack Lunch:	\$9.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Banquet:	\$17.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Sun. Breakfast:	\$9.00	x _____	= \$	_____
			\$ _____	Total

Tom Kent Receives Ludlow Griscom Award from American Birding Association

By Carl Bendorf

Tom Kent, has been recognized by the American Birding Association as a 2014 recipient of the ABA Ludlow Griscom Award for Outstanding Contributions in Regional Ornithology.

As stated on the ABA website, this award is “given to individuals who have dramatically advanced the state of ornithological knowledge for a particular region. This may be through their long-time contributions in monitoring avian status and distribution, facilitating the publication of state bird books, breeding bird atlases and significant papers on the regional natural history of birds. This may also be through the force of their personality, teaching and inspiration.”

Past recipients of this award include Roger Tory Peterson, Chandler Robbins, Kenn Kaufman, and Iowa’s own Jim Dinsmore (in 2006.) For more information on this award and the entire list of prior recipients, see <http://goo.gl/BPydCX>

Some highlights from Tom’s letter of nomination to the ABA (submitted by Carl Bendorf) include:

- During a family trip to Colorado in 1942, Tom (age 8) went birding with family friends, A.M. Bailey and R.J. Niedrach (who later co-authored *Birds of Colorado*); the resulting photo of young Tom with a White-tailed Ptarmigan chick later appeared in the July 1946 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*.
- In 1948 (age 14), Tom began keeping weekly bird lists (with father, renowned photographer F.W. Kent); 25 years of these records were published in 1975 by Tom and Fred as *Birding in Eastern Iowa*.
- In 1951 (age 17), Tom publishes a study of nesting Least Bitterns, the first of more than 100 articles and notes (plus countless photos) published in *Iowa Bird Life*, journal of the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union (IOU.)
- In 1979, appointed editor of the field reports section of *Iowa Bird Life*; authored/co-authored more than 30 seasonal reports over the next two decades
- 26 years of service on the Iowa Records Committee including 17 years as committee chair
- Active member of the IOU for 63 years (life member)
- Co-author of *Iowa Birds* which was the first comprehensive annotated list of Iowa birds in fifty years; published by Iowa State University Press, 1984
- Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* 1986-1989
- Co-author of *Birds in Iowa* (with Jim Dinsmore), updated comprehensive annotated list of Iowa birds, published by the authors, 1996
- Author of *Annotated References to Iowa Birds Prior to 1900*, published by the author, 2012

For many decades, Tom has been a prominent role model and leader by example of the discovery and documentation of birds in Iowa. He has birded every corner of the state and is well-known as a very careful field birder. His rigorous methods and dogged determination have inspired multiple generations of Iowa birders to find and share information about Iowa birds. Whether in the field, at a bird club meeting, or by phone/email, Tom has always been willing to share his knowledge and provide encouragement to the many birders he encountered and mentored over the years.

In addition to his many publications, Tom has given numerous presentations at IOU meetings and various bird club events over the years. His slide shows were always models of clarity and quality. Beyond these informal teaching roles, Tom also served on the IOU Library/Historical Committee from 1986 to 1996 and has been the History Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* from 2002 through the present.

For the Birds: A Success Story

By Bill Scheible

Conservation-minded birders joined together shortly after the first of the year and donated \$0.10 (one dime) to the IOU Projects Committee for each species tallied on her or his 2013 Iowa year list. As of this writing, this effort has raised \$420.00, an amount sufficient to fund one deserving proposal to “...encourage the identification, study and protection of birds”. (IOU’s mission statement).

Projects Committee has \$4,420 to distribute this year, with about \$15,000 having been requested by various applicants.

Such a shortfall has become the norm, as grant money for non-profits has become ever more difficult to obtain from other sources. Every little bit helps!

So, to all those birders who participated in this first (of many?) Bird-list-athon, many thanks. Here’s to good fun and good birding in 2014.

Iowa Ornithologist's Union

Final Grant Report - 2014

1) Title of Project

Ringgold County Conservation Avian Education

2) Project Description

The Ringgold County Conservation Board works hard to provide environmental education programming to the communities of Ringgold County with only 1 full-time employee. The Conservation Board works with a limited staff and budget and with funding from the Iowa Ornithologist's Union, the Conservation Board has been able to continue to provide an excellent environmental program with increasing wildlife displays for the public to view.

The Conservation Board is working towards a natural resource center for Ringgold County. Ringgold County is a gateway to Iowa. There are many great things that the nature center would be able to promote and help add to the community. This would be a local resource for families to visit, creating a low-cost family outing and increasing learning opportunities, with ever changing environmental education programs and displays, as well as attracting visitors, creating tourism for the local businesses in the communities.

Funding from the Iowa Ornithologist's Union has provided for several bird mounts including: a Snowy Owl, a Barred Owl, 2 juvenile Great Horned Owls and a Kingfisher. These mounts will be used for bird and habitat displays in the nature center, as well as for regular programming with the public and community groups.

3) Project Goals

- To Create Displays and Mounts for Environmental Education
- To Create a Nature Center for Environmental Education
- To Educate Iowans on all Wildlife and Natural Resources

The Ringgold County Conservation Board's goal is to create displays and programming to enhance public knowledge of the environment and our avian resources. Through displays and programs such as owl night hikes, identification classes, bird counts and mounts, the public will be exposed to the extraordinary avian world. Ringgold County Conservation has incredible bird habitat and numerous bird watching areas. Ponds, wetlands, prairie and wooded areas contribute to the diversity of bird species in Ringgold County Conservation areas.

Funding from the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was used to mount several bird species that were collected using an IDNR salvage permit. These educational items will improve the quality of programming in Ringgold County and provide the public with a place to view and learn about the natural world.

4) Project Impact

Through the Iowa Ornithologist's Union, the Ringgold County Conservation Board has been able to provide a more in-depth look at the avian world to the public. The environmental education program continues to grow and funding for the nature center increases each day. The Iowa Ornithologist's Union provided the 1st donation towards the Ringgold County Nature Center. Since their initial funding, the Conservation Board has been able to secure more donations and grants for this project.

The use of the bird mounts has been an incredible addition to our public programming. Being able to view these birds up close is an experience they will not soon forget. With or without the nature center, these mounts have made a vast impact on avian education and programming in Ringgold County.

Iowa Ornithologist's Union

Final Grant Report - 2014

1) Title of Project

Pammel Park Bird Blind Project

2) Project Description

The bird blind is located at Pammel Park, located four miles southwest of Winterset. The blind is positioned near the present Nature Center providing easy access from trails as well as the nearby campgrounds.

Existing Habitat Description

The bird blind location is primarily influenced by upland hardwood timber with an adjacent grassland habitat of approximately 15 acres containing both cool and warm season grasses. The bird blind is located in the transition zone of grasslands and upland timber. These zones provide habitat for a diversity of bird species, and provide an excellent spot for bird viewing. A wider zone of habitat influence includes the riparian ecosystem associated with Middle River which is located within ¼ mile of the blind location.

Construction of the blind began in August of 2013 and was completed on September 5, 2013. Building materials were purchased locally and the labor was conducted by employees of the Madison County Conservation Board. The blind was officially opened on September 21, 2013.

3) Project Goals

- Attract more people into the park where community members and bird enthusiasts can get outdoors and foster lifelong hobbies.
 - o School groups
 - o Scouts
 - o Seniors
 - o General park users
 - o Educational camps
- Provide bird watching experiences where students can practice observation, inquiry-based investigations and data collection in concealment.

- Benefiting Iowa birds through more awareness of human observers.
- Attracting birders to the area and perhaps allow us to sponsor birding events such as annual bird counts, scavenger hunts, or a featured bird of the month in the local newspaper.
- Our goals are being addressed as we are observing;
- Individual using the blind for amateur birding
- Being used by school field trips
- Being used by clubs and organizations
- Was a host site for the Great Backyard Bird Count

The grant money received from IOU allowed us to reach our fundraising goal and purchase discounted building materials through a local provider.

4) Project Impact

The structure is the first of its kind in our area and is being used regularly. The feeding stations have attracted large numbers and varieties of bird species.

As a conservation board, we are increasing our own awareness about the unique bird species residing in and migrating through this area and are continue to look for ways to reach out to birders. Our Director participated in an adjacent Christmas Bird Count this past December in order to learn more about that program and is in the process of applying for a birding circle in our area for future Christmas Bird Counts. We plan to participate in other organized counts on an annual basis including the Great Backyard Bird Count.

The blind has helped establish contact and networking opportunities such as;

- Program by Doug Harr with the Iowa Audubon Society
- Makoke Trail users
- Invitation to participate in Urban Bald Eagle Days in Des Moines on February 22nd

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

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

IOU News

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