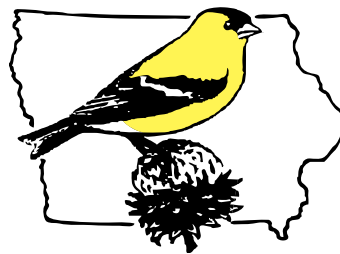


# IOU News

Spring 2016  Volume 32 - Number 1



## 2016 IOU Spring Meeting

Ames, IA, May 13th - 15th, 2015

By Dennis Thompson

IOU's 2016 Spring Meeting will be held in Ames, 5/13 - 5/15, at the Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Conference Center. Big Bluestem Audubon Society will serve as our hosts. This should be a prime time for migrants and Ames is close to many great birding locations. Hotspots such as Ledges SP, Brookside Park, Chichaqua, Harrier Marsh, Saylorville, Colo Bogs, and Hendrickson Marsh offer a wide range of habitats and the potential for a great variety of birds. Mary Gustafson from Texas will be our keynote speaker and will talk about bird conservation initiatives in Mexico.



Photos by Doug Harr



### Keynote Speaker - Mary Gustafson

#### Bird Conservation Initiatives in Mexico

Mary Gustafson currently works as a birding guide and biologist in south Texas. Mary was the first Coordinator for the Rio Grande Joint Venture, which she recently left after ten years. Previous careers included working in the Bird Banding Laboratory coordinating bird marking across the country and editing biological data, research toxicologist, and bird counter. Mary has been watching birds since she was about 6 years old, largely due to her grandfather's influence. She got serious about actively seeking birds at 14 when Robert Segedi of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History got her interested in the more scientific side of birding.

A competitive birder, Mary has seen over 780 species of birds in the ABA area. She was part of a team that won the World Series of Birding "a long time ago" and organized the team that won the "Big Sit!" of the Great Texas Birding Classic in 2009 and 2011. Mary is a former member of the Maryland/DC Records Committee and Texas Bird Records Committee, and is starting her first term as a member of

the ABA Checklist Committee. An avid pelagic organizer, participant, and leader, she's usually to be found on a boat whenever possible.

Mary volunteers as an eBird editor for a few dozen counties in south Texas, works as one of the eBird state portal editors for Texas, runs the Lower Rio Grande Valley Rare Bird Alert ([rgvbirds.blogspot.com](http://rgvbirds.blogspot.com)), and is the former field trip co-Chair for the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (RGVBF).

# 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.

## IOU Journal:

*Iowa Bird Life*  
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## Slate of Officers:

Treasurer – Mary Beth Hunt  
Secretary – Rex Rundquist  
Returning board member – Candace Havelly  
Returning Board member – Tyler Harms  
New Board member – Eric Ollie

*This newsletter was mailed to 53 members.*

## Schedule of Events

### FRIDAY, May 13, 2016

Story County Conservation Center - McFarland Park

5:00 - 8:00 pm Registration and social

### SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016

7:00 am - 12:00 pm Field trips - various locations

Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Conference Center

1:00 - 2:00 pm Bird-window collisions in an urban landscape  
Kelly McKay

2:00 - 3:00 pm Bird monitoring and citizen science  
Steve Dinsmore/Tyler Harms/  
Kevin Murphy

3:00 - 4:00 pm Birding Minnesota's Sax-Zim Bog  
Hank Zalatel

4:00 - 4:15 pm IOU survey results  
Paul Skrade & Tyler Harms

4:30 - 5:00 pm Business Meeting  
Francis Moore

6:00 - 7:00 pm Banquet

7:00 - 8:00 pm Bird Conservation Initiatives in Mexico  
Mary Gustafson

### SUNDAY, May 15, 2016

7:00 am - 12:00 pm Field trips - various locations

Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Conference Center

12:00 - 12:30 pm Compilation



Photo by Doug Harr

## Lodging Options

### Motels

#### Quality Inn & Suites

2601 E 13th St  
(515) 232-9260  
*Mention you're with IOU  
and get a discounted rate*

#### Microtel Inn & Suites

2216 SE 16th St.  
515) 233-4444

#### Baymont Inn & Suites

1605 S Dayton Pl  
(515) 232-0689

#### Econo Lodge

2600 SE 16th St  
(515) 233-6060

#### Super 8

1418 S Dayton Pl  
(515) 232-6510

#### AmericInn

2507 SE 16th St  
(515) 233-1005

#### Country Inn & Suites

2605 SE 16th St  
(515) 233-3935

#### Holiday Inn

2609 University Blvd  
(515) 268-8808

#### Holiday Inn Express

2600 E 13th St  
(515) 232-2300

### Camping

#### Chichaqua Bottoms

**Greenbelt**  
8700 NE 126 Ave. Maxwell

#### Hickory Grove Park

67464 250th St, Colo

#### Jester Park at Saylorville Lake

NW Jester Park Dr, Granger

#### Ledges State Park

1515 P Ave, Madrid

#### Whispering Oaks

**Campground**  
1011 Timberland Dr, Story City

## Field Trip Lineup

**Brookside Park, Reactor Woods, Ada Hayden Park** - Migrant passerines, especially warblers.

**Colo Bog, Hendrickson Marsh, and Chichaqua** - The first two areas are good shorebird spots. Chichaqua hosts prairie species along with Sandhill Cranes and Prothonotary Warblers.

**Errington Marsh and Chichaqua** - Prime wetland and grassland habitat.

**Ledges SP & Harrier Marsh** - Ledges is excellent for forest birds including: Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and Broad-winged Hawk. Harrier can have both Bitterns, Virginia Rail and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

**Moeckley Prairie & Saylorville** - Lots of different habitats.



*Photo by Sue Schulteis*

## 2016 IOU Spring Meeting – Ames, IA 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:

Copy, fill out, and mail – don't forget your check. Please include first and last names of all persons registering on this form.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

	No. of Persons	Total Cost
<b>Registration Fee:</b>	\$20.00 x _____	= \$ _____

**Sat. Lunch:** \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sat. Banquet:** \$18.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meatless Option? Please check here \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Birding in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**  
**A Canoe Camping Adventure in Northern Minnesota**

Join Wilderness Canoe Guide Rob Kesselring and Naturalist Sue Plankis on the 5th annual canoe trip where we focus on birding. We explore by canoe the waterways and portages of the BWCAW seeking breeding birds of this beautiful wilderness area. Birds we have listed in previous years: many warbler species including Blackthroated Blue Warbler and Northern Waterthrush; GreatHorned, Barred and Northern SawWhet Owls; Common Loon; Blackbacked Woodpecker; Winter Wren; Veery; Merlin and Bald Eagles.

- Campfire chats about birds, habitats, behaviors, identification and song
- Day trip outings for bird sightings and explorations of various habitats
- Learn by experience how to do a BWCA canoe trip
- Ultralight canoes, deluxe tents and wholesome meals



*photo courtesy of Amber Burnette*

**Dates:** Wednesday, May 25 - Saturday, May 28, 2016

**Fee:** \$595 - all inclusive - canoes and canoeing equipment, tents, meals, BWCA permits

**Contact:** Rob Kesselring: [rob@robkesselring.com](mailto:rob@robkesselring.com) (952) 432-8884  
Sue Plankis: [splankis@gmail.com](mailto:splankis@gmail.com) (952) 201-6062

\*\* This is an intermediate trip. Participants will be walking portages of rocky, undulating terrain, and be getting in and out of a canoe.

Rob has led 18 Arctic canoe expeditions, 64 BWCAW/Quetico trips, has paddled 100 rivers worldwide and is a USFS Licensed Wilderness Guide. Sue has been a Canadian Style and Freestyle Canoe instructor, is an avid birder, has a good ear for bird songs and assists in bird banding.

*For more information of trip offerings visit: [www.robkesselring.com](http://www.robkesselring.com)*



*Photo by Sue Schulteis*



*Photo by Doug Harr*