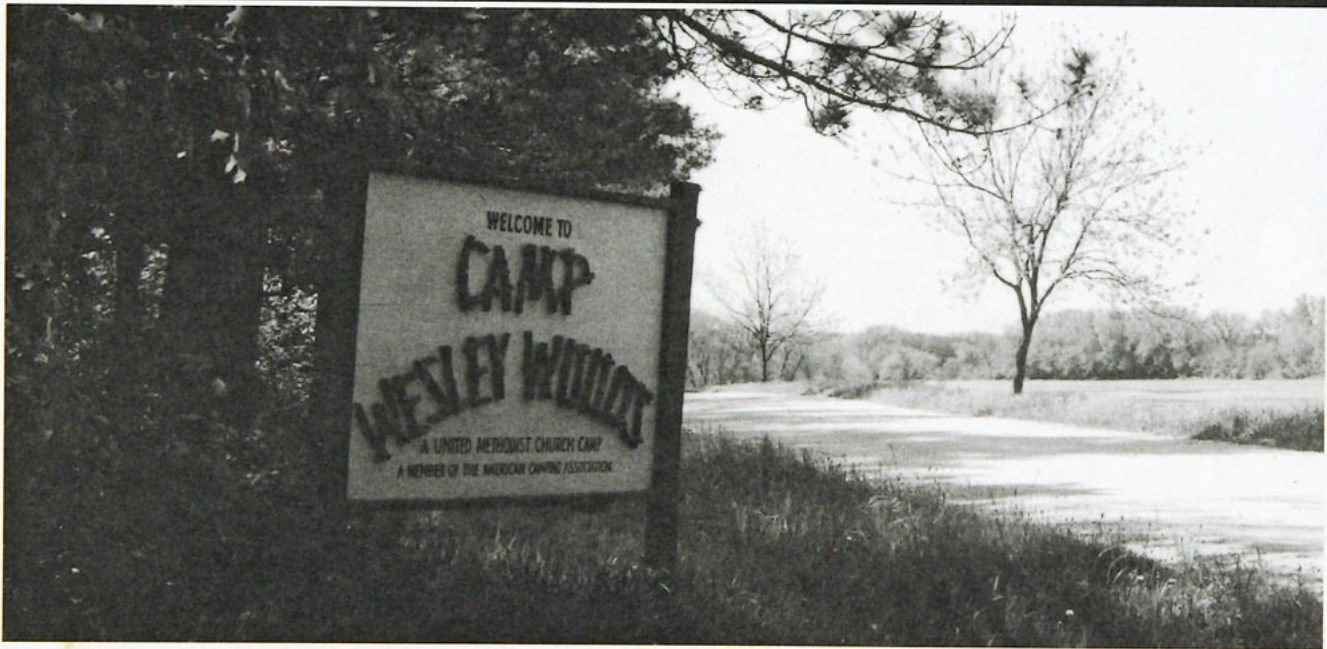




IOU News

Summer 2005 ❁ Volume 21 – Number 2



Camp Wesley Woods is south of Indianola and adjacent to Lake Ahquabi in Warren County. Photo by P Hertzell.

Recap: IOU 2005 Spring Meeting in Warren County

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union held its Spring Meeting at Camp Wesley Woods near Indianola May 13-15, 2005.

Richard Tetrault completed his term as IOU President by chairing a Saturday meeting of the Board of Directors, and Sharon Stilwell was elected to fill the office. Members recognized Tetrault for leading the Union through a productive two years in which membership remained stable, budget challenges were confronted, a standing Projects Committee was created, and IOU-sponsored trips were initiated. The IOU is fortunate to have among its members leaders such as Richard Tetrault.

Also elected were Vice-president John Rutenbeck, and Board members Ric Zarwell, Jim Fuller and Mike Dooley.

Two awards recognizing IOU members were presented at the Business Meeting on Saturday. Tom Kent was recognized for his twenty-five years of service on the IOU Records Committee (1980-2004), including his instrumental role in creating the committee and its bylaws and promoting a cul-

ture of high standards for Iowa's ornithological records.

Also recognized was Beth Proescholdt who received the first annual award for Outstanding Contribution to Field Ornithology, presented by the Records Committee. Beth was honored for her many dedicated hours and hundreds of records generated during the 2005 season at the Grammer Grove Hawk Watch along the Iowa River in Marshall County. Mark Proescholdt accepted the award on behalf of Beth.

A superb series of talks featuring speakers Pat Schlarbaum, Jim Dinsmore, and Jim Sinclair, culminated at the evening banquet with Brian Peer's program on the evolution of brood parasitism. Peer, an ornithologist at Simpson College in Indianola, made an appeal for rethinking the evil reputation assigned to the Brown-headed Cowbird.

The weekend began with a Friday night social gathering at the Sinclair residence in Indianola. All present were well-

Continued on page 4.



IOU News

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this newsletter was mailed to 473 members

Dates, Things To Do

August 01

End of summer field report season. Enter reports online at <http://www.iowabirds.org> or send to Jim Dinsmore. See page 7.

August 06

Butterfly Garden Celebration, 1-4pm at the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center. Tip toe through this one-acre habitat built just for butterflies and learn how you can provide a home for these graceful creatures in your yard.

September 09

Iowa Audubon Pelican Gala - fundraising banquet, beginning at 6:30pm at Jester Park Lodge on Saylorville Lake. \$75 per person or \$125 per couple. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks will be served. Speaker - Paul Baicich.

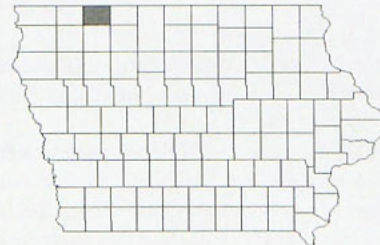


September 11

Pelican Festival, at Jester Park on Saylorville Lake. 10-4pm; see the largest migration of American White Pelicans in the United States. Park Rangers, naturalists and volunteers will be on hand with spotting scopes. Educational programs will be held throughout the day. Partners with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Audubon Iowa, Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Team.

September 23-25

IOU Fall Meeting, at the Lakeside Laboratory at Spirit Lake. See details in the fall newsletter, or register online at <http://www.iowabirds.org>.



From the President

What a great weekend we had at Wesley Woods. Thanks to Jim Sinclair and his wife Carol for hosting the Friday night event and both Jim and Ann Johnson for all their work on planning and organizing the fieldtrips. The cold and wind were a challenge, but the birds were wonderful. Thirty warblers are worth getting chilly any time. Now we are on to planning for the fall meeting at Spirit Lake, September 23-25 and the spring meeting in the Mason City area, May 19-21.

One of my biggest challenges this year will be finding a replacement for Dave Edwards. Dave has asked to be replaced as I.O.U. Registrar by some time in October so he will be able to assist in training. Dave has given his time generously for more than 5 years. He has our membership records well organized and has tried to streamline all procedures. Dave has been the one who sends out dues notices and letters of acknowledgement to those who make a donation. He also mails out over 400 issues of IBL four times a year.

Hank and Linda Zaletel, who have handled our merchandise sales and meetings and fulfilling internet orders for several years, have asked to have someone else take over. They mentioned something about getting their basement back.

Dave, Hank and Linda, please accept my thanks for all your work and dedication. I am sure others will want to take time to thank you personally.

Next on my agenda is finding a replacement for John Rutenbeck on the membership committee. John has chaired that committee for the last year and now has accepted the position of Vice President of the I.O.U. John and the other committee members have been busy this year. They manned a table at the Pelican Festival at



IOU Board Meeting, Spring 2005. From left, Tammy Hertzelt, Linda Zaletel, John Rutenbeck, Richard Tetrault.



Sharon Stilwell. Photo by Don Poggensee.

Saylorville Reservoir last August answering visitors questions about birds and telling about I.O.U., sent membership brochures to Christmas count leaders to give to participants who are not members and are now starting a program to give a copy of "Birds in Iowa" to new members when they attend their first meeting. John also wrote a letter used to greet new members. The letter lets them know what to expect as a member of I.O.U.

As many of you know our past president, Dick Tetrault, was very enthusiastic about group travel. He appointed an *ad hoc* committee to explore and expedite getting liability insurance and planning group trips. Thanks to all who worked on this project during the last two years, especially Ric Zarwell (and I suspect Betty helped too). That committee was dissolved at the end of Dick's term. I also believe traveling with I.O.U. friends can be a great experience so I will be appointing a travel committee. At the January Board meeting, the Board asked to have working guidelines for this committee developed. The guidelines are ready for Board comment and should be ready for use by the committee soon.

I would like to ask each of you to consider involvement on one of the I.O.U. committees or to volunteer to help at a meeting. It is a great way to get better acquainted with your fellow birders and enrich your membership experience.

-Sharon Stilwell

Spring Meeting at Indianola

(Continued from page 1)

behaved, but it is not known if all made it to breakfast the following morning.

Field trips scattered birders among the many excellent sites in Warren County. An incredible 30 species of warblers were found during the weekend, and 14 species of shorebirds were found in spite of the fact the best spot, the Runnells Overlook, was flooded out. Other notable species were Least Bittern, Ruffed Grouse, King Rail, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Mockingbird, Henslow's Sparrow. Sunday's compilation of 179 species is likely to be a record total. A quick search showed it to be one more than the 178 tallied exactly ten years ago during the 1995 Spring Meeting at Ida Grove.



A Board Meeting was held Saturday afternoon. From left, Jay Gilliam, Carolyn Fischer, Ric Zarwell, Bob Cecil. Photo by P. Hertzelt.

List of Attendees

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Danny	Akers	Garnavillo	IA
Melanie	Akers	Garnavillo	IA
Pam	Akers	Garnavillo	IA
Pam	Allen	West Des Moines	IA
Reid	Allen	West Des Moines	IA
Ed	Allgood	Iowa City	IA
Jean	Allgood	Iowa City	IA
Eloise	Armstrong	Van Meter	IA
Eugene	Armstrong	Van Meter	IA
Nora	Becker	Cedar Rapids	IA
John	Bissell	Grimes	IA
Aaron	Brees	Des Moines	IA
Beth	Brown	Osceola	IA
Jerry	Brown	Evansdale	IA
Mark	Brown	Iowa City	IA
Matsalyn	Brown	Iowa City	IA
Suzanne	Brown	Evansdale	IA
Don	Brown	Des Moines	IA
Barry	Buschelman	North Liberty	IA
Ed	Carbrey	Ames	IA
Elizabeth	Carbrey	Ames	IA
Christopher	Caster	Coralville	IA
Bob	Cecil	Des Moines	IA
Jane	Clark	Clive	IA
Ray	Cummins	Centerville	IA
Jim	Dinsmore	Ames	IA

Stephen	Dinsmore	Starkville	MS
Linda	Donelson	Iowa City	IA
Carolyn	Fischer	Mason City	IA
Donna	Flanagan	Ames	IA
Jim	Fuller	Iowa City	IA
Karole	Fuller	Iowa City	IA
John	Garton	Ft. Dodge	IA
Judy	Garton	Fort Dodge	IA
Jay	Gilliam	Norwalk	IA
Rita	Goranson	Mason City	IA
Doug	Harr	Ogden	IA
Rolly	Hart	Fremont	NE
Paul	Hertzelt	Mason City	IA
Tammy	Hertzelt	Mason City	IA
Daryl	Howell	Indianola	IA
Doug	Hunt	Oskaloosa	IA
Mary Beth	Hunt	Oskaloosa	IA
Lois	Inskeep	Underwood	IA
Ann	Johnson	Norwalk	IA
Tom	Johnson	Mystic	IA
Mike	Johnston	Waterloo	IA
Sandy	Johnston	Waterloo	IA
Dorothy	Kelley	Des Moines	IA
Mike	Kelley	Des Moines	IA
Tom	Kent	Iowa Cy	IA
Cathy	Konrad	Bettendorf	IA
Jim	Konrad	Bettendorf	IA
Dick	Kraemer	Waterloo	IA
Lorinda	Langner	Underwood	IA
Nancy	Lynch	Solon	IA
Richard	Lynch	Solon	IA
Barbara	Miller	Des Moines	IA
Francis	Moore	Waterloo	IA
Marcia	Nagle	Iowa City	IA
Bob	Nicholson	Sioux City	IA
Phyllis	Nicholson	Sioux City	IA
Bill	Overland	Indianola	IA
Jane	Overland	Indianola	IA
Shane	Patterson	Ames	IA



A Records Committee Panel Discussion was led by Jim Sinclair. From left, Aaron Brees, Ann Johnson, Tom Kent. Photo by P. Hertzelt.

Katy	Patterson	Ames	IA
Brian	Peer	Indianola	IA
Diana	Pesek	Cedar Rapids	IA
Marietta	Petersen	Walnut	IA
Mark	Proescholdt	Liscomb	IA
Paul	Roisen	Sioux City	IA
John	Rutenbeck	Burlington	IA



Jay Gilliam led a group in search of King Rails at a wetland near Cumming. Photo by P. Hertzell.

Tom	Schilke	Waterloo	IA	Arlene	Sweet	West Des Moines	IA
Leo	Schlunz	Chariton	IA	Diane	Sweet	Des Moines	IA
Ross	Silcock	Tabor	IA	Richard	Tetault	Coralville	IA
Jim	Sinclair	Indianola	IA	Gerry	Tetrault	Coralville	IA
Nancy	Slife	Iowa Falls	IA	Dennis	Thompson	Johnston	IA
Carolyn	Sonderman	Omaha	NE	Richard	Trieff	Indianola	IA
Sue	Spieker	Norwalk	IA	Kelly	Weichers	Roland	IA
Mike	Stephens	Centerville	IA	Doyle	Woods	Indianola	IA
Vicky	Stephens	Centerville	IA	Hank	Zaletel	Nevada	IA
Dick	Stilwell	West Des Moines	IA	Linda	Zaletel	Nevada	IA
Sharon	Stilwell	West Des Moines	IA	Betty	Zarwell	Lansing	IA
Tom	Stone	Waterloo	IA	Ric	Zarwell	Lansing	IA

179 Species were found during the weekend, possibly a record for IOU Meetings.

Canada Goose	American Coot	Acadian Flycatcher	Swainson's Thrush	Wilson's Warbler
Trumpeter Swan	Killdeer	Willow Flycatcher	Wood Thrush	Canada Warbler
Wood Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Least Flycatcher	American Robin	Scarlet Tanager
Gadwall	Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Phoebe	Gray Catbird	Eastern Towhee
Mallard	Solitary Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird	Chipping Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper	Western Kingbird	Brown Thrasher	Clay-colored Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Upland Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	European Starling	Field Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Least Sandpiper	White-eyed Vireo	Cedar Waxwing	Vesper Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Pectoral Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Blue-winged Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Stilt Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	Golden-winged Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Short-billed Dowitcher	Blue-headed Vireo	Tennessee Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Ruffed Grouse	Long-billed Dowitcher	Warbling Vireo	Orange-crowned Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Wilson's Snipe	Philadelphia Vireo	Nashville Warbler	Song Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	American Woodcock	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Parula	Lincoln's Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Wilson's Phalarope	Blue Jay	Yellow Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Franklin's Gull	American Crow	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Harris's Sparrow
American Bittern	Forster's Tern	Horned Lark	Magnolia Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Least Bittern	Black Tern	Purple Martin	Cape May Warbler	Northern Cardinal
Great Blue Heron	Rock Pigeon	Tree Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Great Egret	Mourning Dove	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Black-throated Green Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Cattle Egret	Eurasian-collared Dove	Bank Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler	Dickcissel
Green Heron	Black-billed Cuckoo	Cliff Swallow	Yellow-throated Warbler	Bobolink
Black-crowned Night Heron	Barred Owl	Barn Swallow	Palm Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Common Nighthawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Bay-breasted Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Osprey	Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Blackpoll Warbler	Western Meadowlark
Bald Eagle	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cerulean Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Black-and-white Warbler	Common Grackle
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	American Redstart	Great-tailed Grackle
Cooper's Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Wren	Prothonotary Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Broad-winged Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Sedge Wren	Ovenbird	Orchard Oriole
Swainson's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Marsh Wren	Northern Waterthrush	Baltimore Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Louisiana Waterthrush	House Finch
American Kestrel	Pileated Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Kentucky Warbler	Pine Siskin
Virginia Rail	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Mourning Warbler	American Goldfinch
Sora	Eastern Wood-pewee	Veery	Common Yellowthroat	House Sparrow
King Rail <i>pending review</i>	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Gray-checked Thrush	Hooded Warbler	

Notes on IOU Trip to Colorado

Ric Zarwell

Fifteen adventurous IOU members, and one very good Colorado birder/guide named Doug Faulkner, completed a sweep through many of the interesting bird habitats in this scenery-rich state. Except for a couple of brief periods the weather we encountered was wonderful.

Our trip took place April 1-8, and we used 4 SUVs (due to the high elevations and the season) with 4 birders in each vehicle. Our group list included 138 species – 132 in Colorado and another 6 in Nebraska. Several participants observed over 20 life birds.

Nebraska. On our way west on April 1, scores of thousands of Sandhill Cranes were viewed along the Platte River in Nebraska. Local officials estimated the number of cranes present on this day, at this staging area, to be 310,000 !!! Our views of the crane concentration were from every angle and each was awe-inspiring.

Colorado. When planning the IOU-Sponsored Colorado Birding Trip, 6 primary target species were identified: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gunnison Sage Grouse, Greater Sage Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Boreal Owl and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. With the help of our excellent guide, good luck with the weather, and the sharp birding skills of IOU members, we were able to find and view all 6 target species.

Wednesday, April 6 will stand out in the minds of participants as the day we had excellent views of the two hardest to locate species – White-tailed Ptarmigan and Boreal Owl. Early on this day a number of members hiked off the highway at Loveland Pass (west of Denver, elevation 11,992 ft.) to search on foot for the elusive ptarmigan and to scope the peaks of the Rocky Mountains. After a considerable time spent searching for the bird and also basking in the incredible beauty of the area, it was suggested that we might play a tape. Within seconds a response came and the black beak and black eye of a single, nearly all-white, White-tailed Ptarmigan was spotted – and not too far from where the entire group stood.

One participant who had tried for 20 years to find a Boreal Owl found his

nemesis bird at the end of this day. And the conditions under which this elusive owl was observed were equally breathtaking. The Boreal Owl was found near Cameron Pass (west of Fort Collins, elevation 10,276 ft.) on a perfect night with warm temperatures, no wind, and ideal viewing conditions for every constellation and an uncountable number of stars through the crystal clear air. The owl was heard tooting immediately after we left our vehicles and we walked down the highway toward the sound. When our guide used a tape the bird responded and soon posed for several minutes as our lights focused on it. Good views were enjoyed for several minutes as congratulations were passed out among all who enjoyed this very special moment.

Other Colorado highlights (listed in order of occurrence) include: 4 male Lesser Prairie Chickens booming at their traditional lek near Camp, CO; exploring the beautiful Carrizo Creek – Cottonwood Canyon area near the border of Oklahoma and New Mexico; viewing 1 male Gunnison Sage Grouse east of Gunnison, CO briefly Monday evening and then seeing 2 males much better against fresh snow doing their booming on Tuesday morning; seeing Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Black Rosy-Finch, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (as well as the distinct Hepburn's race of this species) – all at one feeder near Gunnison; viewing 5 male Greater Sage Grouse in extended booming and posturing at their lek near Walden, in North central, CO; and finding several McCown's Longspur and a Long-tailed Duck in Northeast, CO as we headed home.

In addition to our 6 primary target species, we were on the look out for 66 secondary target species. These were species that met two criteria: they are many times more likely to be seen in Colorado than in Iowa; and it MIGHT be possible to see these species in CO in the first week of April. Trip participants enjoyed seeing 41 of these 66 species; and several were seen multiple times.



New Addition to Iowa Bird Conservation Area Program

Bruce Ehresman

DNR Wildlife Diversity Program

Just a few short weeks ago, about 100 people attended the dedication ceremony of the Chichaqua-Neal Smith Grasslands Bird Conservation Area. The event was hosted by the Polk County Conservation Board, and there was general excitement amongst participants for the potential that this area holds for grassland birds.

This area becomes Iowa's seventh BCA, and like all other BCAs, it contains its own special characteristics that contribute to its uniqueness. The two other major partners in this venture include the Polk County Conservation Board and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Each of these agencies own and manage large areas of public land situated at the north and south ends of this BCA, respectively. All told, there are more than 15,000 acres in permanent habitat protection within this ~76,500 acre BCA.

Another important aspect of this BCA is that over 31% of this entire BCA already exists in some type of grassland cover, already surpassing the Model BCA minimum requirement for 25% of this area to be in grassland landcover. This grassland habitat provides important nesting and foraging habitat for declining birds like Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, Henslow's Sparrows, Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks.

For interested landowners and land managers, guidelines for how to manage birds in various habitats are available upon request from Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program. The BCA designation opens possibilities for some landowners (who live within the BCA) to get special habitat planning assistance from DNR's Private Lands Program staff.

Future plans are aimed at developing a birding trail guide, which will include a BCA bird list and a map featuring some of the BCA's best birding areas. One of the long-term goals for the Chichaqua-Neal Smith Grasslands BCA is to restore prairie-chickens to their landscape; a worthy goal indeed!

Summer Field Reports - Jim Dinsmore

Field reports for the summer 2005 season are due by 3 August. The season covers the months of June and July and emphasis is placed on nesting species, especially those of conservation concern such as those identified by the IBA program. However, late spring and early fall migrants as well as the occasional rarity are always of interest. A quick review of last summer's report in the fall issue of Iowa Bird Life will give you a good idea of species that typically are of interest. By far the best way to report your sightings is to enter your data on the IOU website at:

<http://www.iowabirds.org>

Scroll down to the "Enter Field Reports" line, click on it, and you are set to start. If you haven't sent in field reports before, you will need to enter your IOU profile and then you will be set to go. By entering your data on the website, you eliminate the need for the seasonal editor to have to enter the data himself and also run the risk that he may make errors in entering your data.

If you don't have access to the internet, then hard copies of your material can be sent to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 or emailed to him at: oldcoot.iastate.edu

Either way, I look forward to hearing from you, whether you are a newcomer to the report or a seasoned veteran.

Right : Grasshopper Sparrow in Kossuth County. P Hertzell.



Iowa Peregrines Aim for Record Year

Pat Schlarbaum

DNR Natural Resource Technician

In 2005, Peregrine Falcon nesting in Iowa is soaring to new heights. We know of nine peregrine pairs this year.

At the US Bank building in Cedar Rapids, 7-year-old female S/5 nested with 78/E. At Davenport, 8/E and P/D produced one young in the nest box provided by Mid-American Energy. It appears there is a new territory at Burlington, Des Moines Co., beneath Miss. R. Bridge. At American Republic Insurance building, Des Moines, female 8/*T is here for her 2nd nesting attempt, paired with 15-yr-old male 93T. At Louisa Generating Plant, MidAmerican Energy reports an unidentified pair produced 4 young. At Bettendorf, an unidentified pair are nesting under I-80 bridge. At Chillicothe near Ottumwa, Alliant Energy personnel have at least one young in a nest box attached to their smokestack. In NE Iowa, a pair is nesting at Lansing on a smokestack of Alliant Energy plant. And we await the outcome of a wild nesting pair at natural cliffsite in near Waukon Jct.

Authors Donate Proceeds to IOU

Perhaps you have seen the colorful new book on Iowa's Birds, by Johnson, Bangma and Kennedy. Published in spring of this year, *Iowa Birds* is a practical little guide that includes details of 145 of Iowa's most notable birds.

Each species account includes a narrative, illustrations, seasonal status, voice details, and range map. A brief introduction discusses many of Iowa's top birding sites. The graphics in this book are first rate— thumb through a copy and see for yourself.

The lead author of this book is none other than the IOU's own Ann Johnson. In exchange for using the IOU bird checklist at the end of the book, Johnson donated 25 copies to the IOU. All have been sold at \$15 each for a total donation of \$375.00.



In Memoriam.

Bud Gode passed away Sunday, May 1, 2005. Bud was not only a skilled birder, he was half of the team of Cruden and Gode who spent years surveying the dragonflies and damselflies of Iowa. Their published paper, which covered every county in Iowa over a number of years, still makes Iowa one of the best covered states in the country.

Bud retired to Green Valley, Arizona and was the president of the *Friends of Madera Canyon*, spending many hours monitoring trogon nests.

Bud's ashes will be scattered at the bridge in Madera Canyon where he spent so much time in the last few years. All of us who make our pilgrimages to SE Arizona can now stop to remember him there.

In lieu of flowers, his wife Mary has requested that memorials be directed to:

Friends of Madera Canyon
P.O. Box 1203
Green Valley, AZ 85622

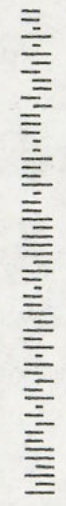
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I o w a O r n i t h o l o g i s t s ' U n i o n

IOU News

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