

IOU News

Summer 2007  Volume 23 – Number 2



Participants of a Saturday morning field trip congregate at a high point in the Loess Hills. Photo by P Hertzal, 2007.

2007 SPRING MEETING: BIRDING THE LOESS HILLS

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union 2007 Spring Meeting was held May 18-20 at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City. Approximately 96 birders from five states spent all or part of the weekend taking part in field trips, hearing presentations on birds and the Loess Hills, enjoying wonderful food and good companionship, and finding plenty of birds. In fact, a total of

187 species were seen over the weekend in and around Woodbury, Plymouth, Monona and Sioux Counties. Many thanks are owed the Loess Hills Audubon group for their planning and hard work in making the meeting a huge success.

Continued on page 4.



IOU News

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

Editor: Paul Hertzell
1432 East State Street
Mason City, IA 50401
phertzell@rconnect.com

All photos this issue: Don Poggensee, Paul Hertzell,
Stephen Dinsmore, Reid Allen

IOU Publications Committee:
James J. Dinsmore
Paul Hertzell
Ann Johnson, Chair
Kayleen A. Niyo
Bill Scheible

IOU News deadlines for submission of materials:

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

IOU Membership / Subscriptions:
<http://www.iowabirds.org/>
or : Doug Hunt
1201 High Avenue W
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
birders@mahaska.org

IOU Journal: **Iowa Bird Life**
Kayleen Niyo, Editor

Documenting / Reporting Birds:
Records Committee-
Ann Johnson
532 120th Avenue
Norwalk IA 50211
aj@hologrambirds.com
Website: <http://www.iowabirds.org/>

Winter Field Reports-
Robert Cecil
wewarb@aol.com

Spring Field Reports-
Matthew Kenne
mkenne@netamumail.com

Summer Field Reports-
James J. Dinsmore
oldcoot@iastate.edu

Fall Field Reports-
Paul Hertzell
phertzell@rconnect.com

this newsletter was mailed to 404 members

Dates, Things To Do

July 31

End of summer reporting season. See page 9, and enter field data at the website, www.iowabirds.org

Sept 9

Pelican Festival, Jester Park. Sponsored by Polk County Conservation.

Sept 13-16

Midwest Birding Symposium, Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center, Moline, IL. For more info: www.visitquadcities.com/for_mbs/midwest_birding.html

Oct 6-7

Hawkwatch at Effigy Mounds National Monument, McGregor, IA. Contact Pat Schlarbaum at: pat.schlarbaum@dnr.state.ia.us

Oct 26-28

IOU Fall Meeting, Ankeny, IA. See below.

The Fall Meeting of the IOU will be held October 26-28, 2007, at the Best Western Inn in Ankeny (Exit 92 of I-35). Dr. Stephen Dinsmore will serve as meeting host. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jim Rising of the University of Toronto, author of *Sparrows of the United States and Canada*. Meeting in late October will give the membership an opportunity to search the central Iowa reservoir system for fall migrants like loons, grebes, herons, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns. Field trips will also target woodland birds and sparrows.



Five Willets. P Hertzell, 2006

Editor Sought for *IOU News*

The Publications Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union is seeking candidates for the position of Editor of *IOU News*. See the announcement below.

-Jim Dinsmore, The Villages, FL

Position Open: Editor for *IOU News*

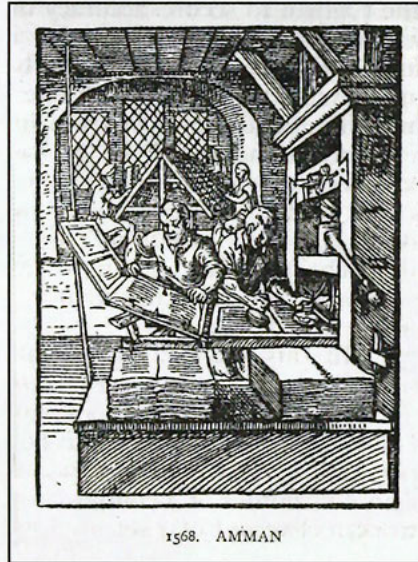
The Publications Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union is actively recruiting candidates for the position of editor of *IOU News*—the quarterly publication of the organization that keeps the membership informed of events and activities around the state as well as providing some entertaining reading.

Qualifications:

1. Skilled at writing articles, and formatting articles, photos, and other material into an attractive newsletter.
2. At a minimum, basic computer skills and, preferred, advanced skills with appropriate software to be able to create high-quality, printer-ready digital files.
3. Ability to take photographs and to capture and/or scan photos taken by others to digital format at print-quality resolu-

tions.

4. Ability and time to prepare and distribute four newsletters annually at a regular quarterly schedule.
5. Ability to work with birders throughout Iowa and with the organizing committees of the two annual meetings to solicit articles about birds, birding, and



birding activities in Iowa.

6. Ability to prepare an annual budget for the newsletter and be able to stay within the limits of that budget.
7. Willingness to participate as an active member of the Publications Committee which provides direction for *Iowa Bird Life* (journal), *IOU News* (newsletter), and *Iowa Birds and Birding* (website).

The successful applicant should expect to be a regular attendee at the spring and fall meetings of the *IOU*.

Letters of interest, which should briefly address each of the above points, should be sent electronically to:

Jim Dinsmore
oldcoot@iastate.edu

Closing date for applications is 15 August 2007. Further information can be obtained from Jim by calling 352-753-4493.

Help Requested with Silent Auction

As many of you know, Bob Cecil has operated the IOU silent auction for the past few years, raising perhaps \$2000 for the support of our excellent publications. Sometimes he has received donations of books that have value well exceeding that which we might receive at our auction table. Consequently, the board of directors has asked Bob to seek an individual or individuals who might have the ability to offer these to a wider market, perhaps through *eBay*. If there are IOU members who are versed in the subtleties of this outlet, please consider sharing your expertise for the benefit of this project. It would probably only be a few offerings per year, if that. Please contact Bob if you would like to consider this service to the IOU.

In addition, Bob is ready to hand off the coordination of the auction to another volunteer. This is a great way to get lots of neat books to browse through between IOU meetings, and gives members an opportunity to recycle unused books while donating to a worthwhile cause. Of course, you or a replacement needs to be at most of the IOU meetings.

Please contact Bob if you are interested in carrying on this worthwhile project.

Bob Cecil
Des Moines, IA
wewarb@aol.com



IOU Spring Meeting . . .

Two days of field trips through the varied habitats of the Loess Hills and the Missouri River Valley produced a record number of species, one more than was found during the meeting a year ago at Ventura. Saturday morning's trip to Broken Kettle targeted the elusive Black-billed Magpies that haunt the hills north of Sioux City. With a dozen birders lining each side of the road at a carefully chosen overlook, the Magpies tried to sneak away. But all eyes shifted to the west side of the road when Chuck Fuller shouted "Magpie in the air!"



Keen-eyed Chuck Fuller. Photo by P. Hertzell.

Other interesting species seen over the weekend included Least Bittern, Eared Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, Whip-poor-will, Western Kingbird, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Spotted Towhee, Blue Grosbeak and Western Tanager.



Birding Stone Park with the Nickolsons. Photo by Don Poggensee.



Loren Hansen and Bob Livermore take a morning break. Photo by Don Poggensee.

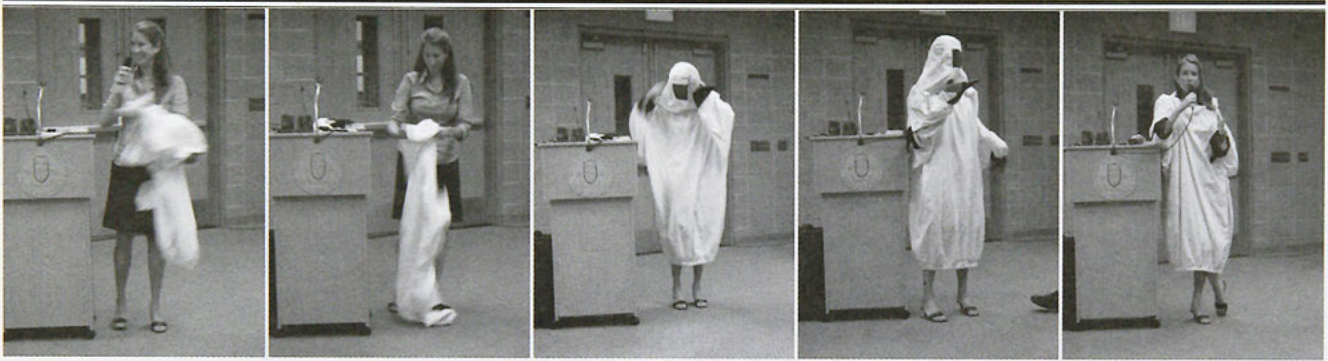


Chris Caster wandered away from the group. Photo by P. Hertzell.

Saturday afternoon presentations included nature slides by Don Poggensee and a discussion of the history and ecology of the Loess Hills by Bill Zales. Stephen Dinsmore and Karen Kinkead spoke to the membership about the launching of a second Iowa breeding bird atlas project.



Stephen Dinsmore and Karen Kinkead discuss the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project. Photo by P. Hertzell.



Metamorphosis.

P. Hertzell.

Saturday evening, during the banquet, this reporter stopped by the table where John Rutenbeck sat, limp, slumped in his chair, looking defeated. "I have no speaker", he said in a weak voice, his eyes staring somewhere beyond the room. The last word was she was stuck in the Twin Cities, six hours away. But with only minutes to spare, Joan Garland, Acting Director of Education for the International Crane Foundation, strode into the room, her equipment bumping along behind her, and John leapt to his feet, suddenly energized. The two chatted, untangled electrical cords, and on time, John introduced Garland to the membership. She spoke on the amazing efforts to introduce a new cohort of migrant Whooping Cranes to the eastern United States, an effort that has produced about 60 free-flying birds all of which migrate from the upper midwest to Florida and back. These birds, known collectively as the Eastern Migratory Population, supplement the existing wild population which breeds in northern Alberta and winters on the Texas Gulf Coast. The last known wild Whooping Crane nest in the midwest was found here in Iowa, in 1894. Near the end of her talk, Garland pulled on the traditional white crane robe used by field biologists when working with live birds, complete with a window at eye-level, and a crane puppet on her right hand. None of us were fooled, not even for a moment, however, it's true she did not play at the same time the



Joan Garland, Acting Director of Education for the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI. Photo by P. Hertzell.

soothing sounds of the adult bird given when in the presence of family.

The meeting marked the end of Sharon Stilwell's distinguished term as IOU President, a term marked by numerous critical and insightful accomplishments.



Bill Zales discussed the history of the Loess Hills. Photo by P. Hertzell.



Sharon Stilwell passes the torch Rules of Order to John Rutenbeck.



A bird is spotted at Stone Park. Photo by Don Poggensee.



Pat Schlarbaum bends the ear of the new President. Photo by P Hertzell.

2007 SPRING MEETING ATTENDEES

Danny	Akers	IA
Melanie	Akers	IA
Pam	Akers	IA
Ed	Allgood	IA
Jean	Allgood	IA
Bill	Bossman	IA
Daria	Bossman	IA
Jacob	Bossman	IA
Jerry	Brown	IA
Suzanne	Brown	IA
Bill	Brown	NE
Stan	Buman	IA
Barry	Buschelmann	IA
Lois	Campolo	IA
Ed	Carfrey	IA
Elizabeth	Carfrey	IA
Christopher	Caster	IA
Bob	Cecil	IA
Dawn	Chapman	IA
Ray	Cummins	IA
Stephen	Dinsmore	IA
Karen	Disbrow	IA
Linda	Donelson	IA
Keith	Dyche	IA
Bruce	Ehresman	IA
Marlene	Ehresman	IA
Michael	Fleming	WA
Chuck	Fuller	IA



Bill Huser, Jerry Probst. (Hertzell)

Ken	Lowder	IA
Leslie	Lutter	IA
Tucker	Lutter	IA
Len	Miller	IA
Francis	Moore	IA
Kelly	Morgan	IA
Larry	Moss	WA
Jim	Murdock	IA
Bob	Nickolson	IA
Phyllis	Nickolson	IA
Kay	Niyo	CO
Shane	Patterson	IA
Donna	Popp	IA
Jerry	Probst	IA
Paul	Roisen	IA
Rex	Rundquist	IA
Maria	Rundquist	IA
John	Rutenbeck	IA
Bill	Scheible	IA
Tom	Schilke	IA
Pat	Schlarbaum	IA
Lee	Schoenewe	IA
Carol	Schumacher	MN
Ross	Silcock	IA

Jim	Sinclair	IA
Bernard	Sorofman	IA
Nancy	Sorofman	IA
Stuart	Sparkman	IA
Susan	Spieker	IA
Sharon	Stilwell	IA
Dick	Stilwell	IA
Gerry	Tetrault	IA
Richard	Tetrault	IA
Rick	Trieff	IA
Pete	Vander Meer	IA
Karen	Viste-Sparkman	IA

Jim	Fuller	IA
Karole	Fuller	IA
John	Garton	IA
Judy	Garton	IA
Jay	Gilliam	IA
Rita	Goranson	IA
Loren	Hansen	IA
Doug	Harr	IA
Gary	Heineman	IA
Paul	Hertzell	IA
Bill	Hittle	NE
Rick	Hollis	IA
Tim	Humpal	IA
Doug	Hunt	IA
Mary Beth	Hunt	IA
Bill	Huser	NE
Maridel	Jackson	IA
Ann	Johnson	IA
Chuck	Johnson	IA
Thomas	Johnson	IA
Mike	Johnston	IA
Beth	Jones	IA
Matthew	Kenne	IA
Karen	Kinthead	IA
Cathy	Konrad	IA
Jim	Konrad	IA
Bob	Livermore	IA



Karen Disbrow. (D Poggensee)



Marlene Ehresman. (D Poggensee)

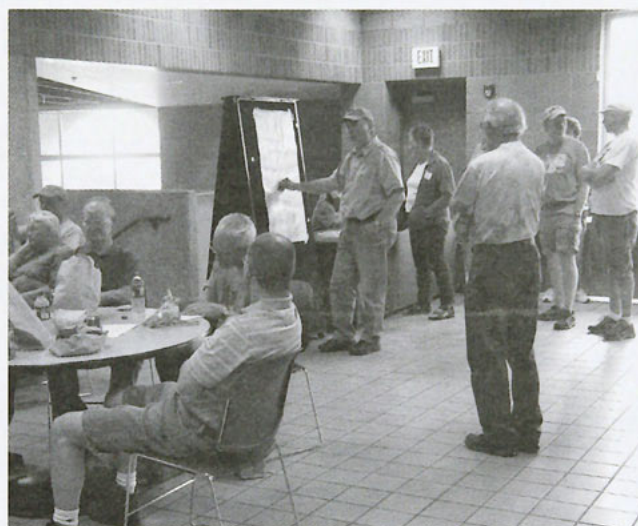


Tucker Lutter. (D Poggensee)

Jerry	Von Ehwegen	IA
Bill	Vust	IA
Marianne	Wanerus	IA
Mark	Wanerus	IA
Pete	Wickham	IA
Harley	Winfrey	IA
Doyle	Woods	IA
William	Zales	IA



Sioux City birders made sure everyone got to see a magpie. Photo by Don Poggensee.



The Sunday afternoon Compilation. Photo by P Hertzell.

WEEKEND SPECIES LIST

Snow goose
 Canada goose
 Wood duck
 Gadwall
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Northern Pintail
 Green-winged Teal
 Canvasback
 Ring-necked Duck
 Lesser Scaup
 Common Goldeneye
 Hooded Merganser
 Ruddy Duck
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Greater Prairie-Chicken
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Horned Grebe
 Eared Grebe
 American White Pelican
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American Bittern
 Least Bittern
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Cattle Egret
 Green Heron
 Black-crowned Night-heron
 White-faced Ibis
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 Virginia Rail
 Sora
 American Coot

Black-bellied Plover
 American Golden-plover
 Semipalmated Plover
 Piping Plover
 Killdeer
 American Avocet
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Upland Sandpiper
 Hudsonian Godwit
 Marbled Godwit
 Sanderling
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Baird's Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Stilt Sandpiper
 Short-billed Dowitcher
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Franklin's Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Black Tern
 Rock Pigeon
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Eastern screech Owl
 Great horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Whip-poor-will
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker

Eastern Wood Pewee
 Alder Flycatcher
 Willow Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Bell's Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 Black-billed Magpie
 American Crow
 Horned Lark
 Purple Martin
 Tree Swallow
 No. Rough-winged Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Carolina Wren
 House Wren
 Sedge Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Ovenbird
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Wilson's Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Summer Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Western Tanager
 Spotted Towhee
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Harris's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 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

IOU South Texas Trip

Ann Johnson and Jim Bangma led a wildly successful IOU-sponsored field trip to south Texas, 27 April - 6 May, 2007. Joined by ten participants, they kept on the move, visiting over twenty locations, including

Corpus Christi
 Flour Bluff
 Padre Island National Seashore
 Port Aransas
 Paradise Pond
 El Canelo Ranch
 Laguna Atascosa NWR
 Sabal Palm Sanctuary
 Old Port Isabel Road
 Santa Ana NWR
 Estero Llano Grande State Park
 Bentsen State Park
 Anzalduas County Park
 El Rio de los Pajaros at Chapeño
 Roma Bluffs World Birding Center
 Falcon State Park



IOU Members at Roma World Birding Center. *Back row:* Linda Donelson, John Donelson, Mike Johnston, Linda Rudolph, Dick Lynch, Smokey Cranfill (Roma WBC). *Front row:* Nancy Lynch, Ann Johnson, Sandy Johnston, Jim Dinsmore, Loren Hansen, Jim Bangma.

A complete account of the ten-day adventure can be found online at

http://www.iowabirds.org/IOU/trip_reports/2007TX.asp

Many participants scored dozens of life birds. Some of the more interesting species seen were

Least Grebe	Groove-billed Ani
Anhinga	Greater Roadrunner
Reddish Egret	Elf Owl
White Ibis	Pauraque
Roseate Spoonbill	Black Phoebe
Muscovy Duck	Great Kiskadee
Harris's Hawk	Clay-colored Robin
Gray Hawk	Verdin
Crested Caracara	Green Jay
Plain Chachalaca	Chihuahuan Raven
Gull-billed Tern	Olive Sparrow
Black Skimmer	Pyrrhuloxia
Inca Dove	



Sometimes you just have to stop and pull the burrs off. Photo by Sandy Johnston.



Richard Lynch



Richard Lynch

SUMMER FIELD REPORTS — *Jim Dinsmore*

Field reports for the summer 2007 season are due by 3 August. The season covers the months of June and July. Typically emphasis is placed on nesting species, especially those of conservation concern such as those identified by the IBA program. Most years at least some late spring or early fall migrants, especially shorebirds, show up during the summer season as well as an occasional rarity. Last summer, a Red-throated Loon, Ruff, and Painted Bunting were all found. A quick review of species included in last summer's report in the fall issue of Iowa Bird Life will give you a good idea of species that are typically of

interest. The preferred way for reporting is through the IOU website www.iowabirds.org and going to the link for reporting birds. Alternatively, hard copies of your material can be sent to Jim Dinsmore, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 or emailed to him at oldcoot@iastate.edu.

With the IOU committed to embarking on a new Breeding Bird Atlas in 2008, this summer would be a great time to start scouting out some areas in preparation for that effort. I look forward to hearing from you.



BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT — *Stephen Dinsmore*

At the spring IOU meeting in Sioux City, Karen Kinkead of the Iowa DNR and I proposed a second 5-year Breeding Bird Atlas project in Iowa to begin in 2008. Many members are aware that Iowa's first Breeding Bird Atlas was a 6-year project completed in 1990 and that the results were published in a 1996 book. That important work provided the first comprehensive statewide survey of Iowa's breeding birds and laid the groundwork for subsequent atlas projects. Numerous changes to Iowa's landscape in the intervening 17 years (e.g., widespread wetland restorations and the CRP program) give good reasons to believe a second atlas project will reveal many corresponding changes in the resident bird life. For example, think about range expansions of species like Eurasian Collared-Dove, Henslow's Sparrow, and Great-tailed Grackle, or as yet undiscovered breeders (Northern Saw-whet Owl in North-east Iowa?).

To be successful, this project will require many hours of volunteer help

from birders statewide. The 1990 project utilized 508 field observers who logged 14,654 hours covering the 861 atlas blocks. Atlasing is a fun way to bird during summer and a great way to explore new areas, so it is hoped IOU members will lend their full support to this important project.



Attendees at the spring IOU meeting strongly supported the idea of a second atlas project, and it was decided that the next step would be the formation of a 5-member Steering Committee. This committee will consist of representation from both the Iowa DNR and the IOU and will begin meeting in late summer or early fall to select sampling blocks, review data collection protocols used in the last atlas project, work with Ann Johnson to add a web-based data entry form to the IOU web page, and organize volunteers to begin work next spring.

Feel free to contact me if you might be interested in serving on the Steering Committee, although I need to make it clear that this will require a considerable amount of time and a commitment to serve for the duration of the 5-year project.

Stephen J. Dinsmore
Iowa State University
cootjr@iastate.edu

ANN BARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY — *Ann Johnson*

The IOU Publications Committee is pleased to announce the creation of the Ann Barker Memorial Library, an on-line digital collection of *Iowa Bird Life* dating back to the first issue in 1931. The library was made possible by the generous bequest of Ann Barker, IOU President from 1991 to 1995 and just generally one of the great people one gets to know by being a part of this organization.

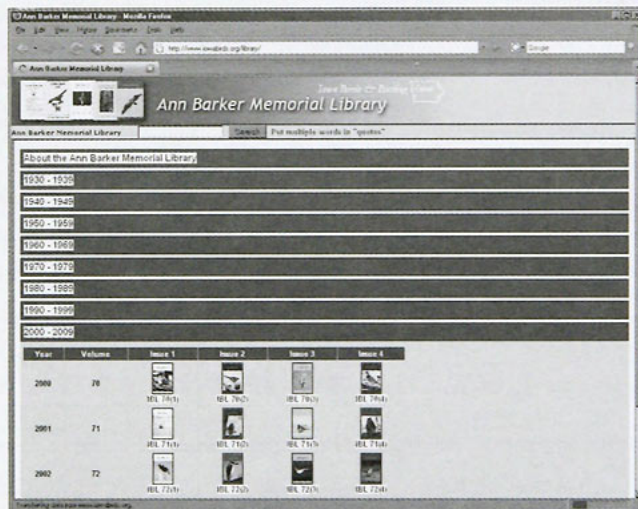


Ann Barker

The library is accessible through a special area of our website — <http://library.iowabirds.org>. Although the most current two years of IBL are available to members only through the Member Services area of the website, the public library will continue to grow each year as new volumes are added. The search capabilities should make it especially useful for those wishing to research a particular subject or species. For sheer entertainment, however, it can be great fun to just randomly open one of the old issues and read about the topics of the time. One I particularly enjoyed was a lengthy discussion on how best to create a new state checklist and determine the status of species statewide. You will also be able to read ar-

ticles by and about some legendary people in Iowa ornithological history, names that we now know by the signage at marshes, forests, and parks.

Although in its current incarnation high-speed Internet access is nearly mandatory for a satisfactory experience, watch for changes over the next several months as we work to make it even more efficient. We hope you all enjoy this new resource.



A DELAWARE COUNTY BIG YEAR - *Bill Scheible*

Seems like nobody ever birds Delaware County, and now I understand why. Despite an exhaustive and sometimes desperate search, I failed to discover a decent restaurant there. Nonetheless, by participating in this year-long challenge, I was introduced to areas that I might otherwise have never explored. For example, Ram Hollow Wildlife Area, a DNR property that for sure must harbor Ruffed Grouse, though I didn't find them, and Bailey's Ford Park, a marvelous, user-friendly migrant trap replete with a bubbling trout stream. Not only that, but visits to Colesburg, Oneida and Hopkinton provided me with three new life towns.

My birding endeavors in this mystery region were, I believe, modestly successful. I documented a total of 162 species in Delaware County, 49 of which had never before been recorded there in the history of the universe, including Pluto. As a result, Delaware County now possesses a marginally acceptable list of 180 species.

"Best birds"? I'm probably most pleased with my waterfowl and shorebird finds. I knew from the outset that this county was water and mud challenged. I was aware of the peculiarly sterile lake at Backbone State Park and of Lake Delhi, more welcoming to boaters than to birds. By combining satellite imagery (Google Earth) with the Iowa Sportsman's Atlas, I identified several locations that appeared to contain

actual water molecules, areas that would otherwise have gone undetected. Outings targeting these places enabled me to add 15 waterfowl and 5 (yes, 5!) shorebird species to Delaware's heretofore meager counts. Hydrophilic species like American White Pelican, Great Egret, Green Heron, Sora, Ring-billed Gull and Osprey, all new to the county, were "bonus" birds on these trips.

Birds sought but missed included several IBA Criteria Species that I'm almost certain should breed in Delaware County: Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed and Bell's Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chat and Henslow's Sparrow. Next year, perhaps.

Virtually all of my expeditions were solo voyages, but I would like to acknowledge the unstinting and unflagging support of four indefatigable birding colleagues. Pete Wickham, Ken Lowder, Mike Dooley and Kay Niyo each accompanied me at least once and never did they stint. Not once did they flag. No, wait. Dooley was observed stinting on one occasion.

Iowa birders, this was an enjoyable and informative year-long pursuit. Those of us who participated in Paul Hertzell's challenge surely contributed a little bit more to our understanding of Iowa's birds. Let's do it again in the not too distant future.

A BIG YEAR AND COUNTING IN CLAY COUNTY

Lee Schoenewe

When the suggestion was made to consider doing a county Big Year in 2006, it did not take me long to decide to do it. The first county Big Year I ever did was in Clay County in 1996. Doing one again ten years later was a great idea! In 1996 I found 236 species in Clay County during the course of that year. I was happy with that effort and so exceeding that total became my first goal.

I located my list from ten years ago and started thinking about the project in 2006. I drafted a "Hit List" and a "Miss List" where I tried to identify the opportunities to add species I did not get in 1996 and list those species I most likely would not get again. When I was done there were forty birds I considered as possible additions and fifteen species I was likely to miss this time around.

If I hit every hit and missed every miss, I would end up with 261 species in 2006. It was an unrealistic number, really. It was 92% of my lifetime total of 284 species seen in Clay County, compiled over 28 years. Reaching 85% of my life list in the county in the course of one year would be an ambitious and realistic threshold, so 244 species became my second goal.

What about a top end goal? Two hundred fifty is a nice, round number and impressive in its own right. Over the last ten years it has become the threshold I look to break each year as I keep track of the birds I see in the five county area I consider to be my home territory in northwest Iowa. Most years I end up with 252 or 254, and a couple of times I did not make it quite to 250. Dickinson county alone is worth an extra five or six good birds. Ask Ed Thelen. So I decided 250 would be my third and most hopeful goal.

I got lucky with a couple of good birds early in the year. When my neighbor found the Long-eared Owls roosting in a pine tree by my driveway at the end of 2005, I hoped they would stick around to start the year off right. I got up on New Year's Day, covered my ears and

shielded my eyes as I walked out to the drive. I didn't want a House Sparrow or starling to be my first sighting. I looked up and began the year with Long-eared Owl – a good omen. Prairie Falcon and Varied Thrush in February were definitely additions to the good birds list.

From the beginning I started thinking about the habitat and timing for finding the birds on my "Hit List". On May 18th, I checked off the 200th species for the year and by the end of May I was at 221. It was not a good spring for warblers and my total of nineteen species would have been one good day in past experience. I had twenty-six warbler species in 1996.

I added six species in the month of June, only one more in July, and seven in August. Hard as I tried, I could not find a Black-billed Cuckoo. Nonetheless, my total stood at 235, one short of my first goal. It was within easy reach with fall and vagrant season ahead.

My second goal fell during the month of October when I found the Brant for number 244. It was not only a new county bird, but also a lifer. As it turns out and in the category of good karma, a group of birders coming up to see the Brant joined me to walk a newly restored grassland area. We kicked up a surprising Sprague's Pipit before moving on to find the more likely but always appreciated Smith's Longspur. My total continued to grow.

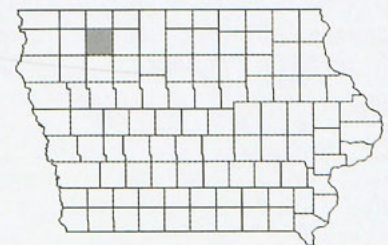
A Surf Scoter appeared and became a new county bird as well as one for the list. I had added a total of eight in the month of October. It is now November and finally, a Common Loon for the year! I searched for and found a Northern Saw-whet Owl in a cedar tree along a creek feeding the Little Sioux River. And then, the last and highest goal was met when a Townsend's Solitaire responded to my tape and popped up from a hillside of cedar trees that sure looked like it should have one. Number 250!

There was a month and a half left in

the year and I still had half a dozen birds left on my "Hit List" that I was working hard to get. Just before ice up on Trumbull Lake I finally found an American Black Duck hanging out with a flock of Mallards. I helped Dick Bierman with his Christmas count in Cherokee county in the middle of December and saw both Northern Mockingbird and Northern Goshawk, but couldn't coax either of those species into Clay county and wasn't able to get them on the big year list.

Finally, on the 23rd of December I found an immature Snowy Owl sitting on a fencepost near Dan Green Slough and as I stopped the truck it sat looking at me like, "What took you so long to find me?!" It was the last new bird of the year for Clay county and I ended with 253 species. Fitting it should be an owl; starting with the Long-eared Owl on January 1, I found all seven of the regular species for the year. It would have really been a coup if I could have added Barn Owl since I have not yet seen one of those in Iowa.

I had great fun with this game of my own making, constrained by the artificial geopolitical boundaries of local human government. Many good birds crossed the borders into my project area in 2006, but luckily the birds know no such artificial boundaries.



IOU MEMBER LISTING TOTALS - 2006

Thirty-three *IOU* members submitted Iowa State Life List totals to the *IOU News*, after January 1, 2007. Topping the chart are two longtime Iowa birders, Tom Kent (385) and Jim Fuller (380), both of whom added two species during the year 2006.

Reporting the greatest gain in his list from 2005 was Danny Akers who added 21 species in 2006.

IOWA LIFE LIST (Through 2006)

385	Tom Kent
380	Jim Fuller
370	Chuck Fuller, Pam & Reid Allen
369	Mark Proescholdt
368	Ann Johnson
365	Jim Sinclair
362	Stephen Dinsmore
359	Pete Wickham
348	Jim Dinsmore
345	Chris Edwards
344	Ray Cummins, Aaron Brees
337	Chris Caster
336	Jay Gilliam, Carolyn Fischer
334	Rita Goranson
330	Lee Schoenewe
328	Diana Pesek
327	Mary Lou Petersen
326	Bill Scheible
321	Paul Hertzal
317	Jim Durbin
315	Ric Zarwell
304	Danny Akers
298	Paul Roisen
288	Judy Garton
281	Dick Bierman
286	Gerald Von Ehwegen
260	Nathan Miller
259	Jeffrey Livingston
255	Ben Baldwin

A *personally found bird*, is a bird found by a birder, without prior knowledge of recent birds or recurring birds of that species at that site.

IOWA PERSONALLY FOUND LIST

337	Stephen Dinsmore
326	Jim Fuller
316	Ray Cummins
310	Lee Schoenewe
308	Mark Proescholdt
305	Aaron Brees
302	Pam & Reid Allen
297	Jay Gilliam
294	Matt Kenne
288	Paul Hertzal, Rita Goranson
280	Mike Dooley
256	Nathan Miller
250	Ben Baldwin
248	Paul Roisen

Many birders keep an annual list, starting from scratch every year on January 1. For some, this list is their most enjoyable one. The thought of starting fresh after a year in which your best friend saw 20 species you were unable to find, can be attractive. Or the thought of actually staying even with Jay Gilliam, at least for a month or two, can be enough to get you out of the house on a damp Thursday in February. Gilliam finished the year with 304 species, and is the *IOU News* Top Birder for the second year in a row. Stephen Dinsmore was second with 291, after spending his first full year back in the state, now a member of the faculty at ISU.

IOWA 2006 YEAR LIST

304	Jay Gilliam
291	Stephen Dinsmore
287	Diana Pesek
284	Paul Roisen
283	Aaron Brees
275	Pam & Reid Allen
268	Paul Hertzal
267	Rita Goranson
263	Mark Proescholdt
262	Jim Sinclair
260	Lee Schoenewe
251	Danny Akers
250	Ray Cummins
247	Chris Edwards
239	John Bissell, Nathan Miller
233	Gerald Von Ehwegen
232	Ben Baldwin
226	Jeffrey Livingston
201	Dick Bierman



Jay Gilliam, Iowa's 2006 Top Birder (S. Dinsmore)

The highest yard list still belongs to Jim Fuller, of Iowa City, Johnson County. I've been to his yard, and I'm sure he is still missing several birds. Close behind are Carolyn Fischer and also Rita Goranson, both of Mason City.

YARDLISTS

207	Jim Fuller (Johnson)
189	Carolyn Fischer (Cerro Gordo)
183	Ed Thelen (Dickinson)
181	Rita Goranson (Cerro Gordo)
176	Matt Kenne (Kossuth Co)
172	Ric Zarwell (Allamakee)
146	Mark Proescholdt (Marshall)
135	Jim Durbin (Linn)
134	Jim Sinclair (Warren)
122	Dick Bierman (Cherokee)
120	Judy Garton (Webster)
97	Jay Gilliam (Warren)
92	Tex Sordahl (Winneshie)
92	Pam & Reid Allen (Polk)
83	Danny Akers (Clayton)



The Allen's best yard bird of 2006. (R. Allen)

For some birders, the local county list is their most coveted list total, reflecting special knowledge acquired through years of exploring areas perhaps little birded by anyone else. Are you thinking of doing a little birding in Iowa County? Nobody knows it better than Chris Edwards, or if they do, they haven't reported that fact to the *IOU News*. Or will you be visiting Cherokee County in the near future? Dick Bierman is the person you'll want to consult with. The following people top more county lists than any other birders:

TOP COUNTY LISTS

24	Pam and Reid Allen
15	Mark Proescholdt
11	Steve Dinsmore
6	Chris Edwards
5	Dick Bierman
5	Lee Schoenewe

INDIVIDUAL COUNTY LISTS

Adair County
 114 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt
 3 Paul Roisen

Adams County
 90 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt

Allamakee County
 277 Ric Zarwell
 173 Danny Akers
 168 Rita Goranson
 164 Chris Edwards
 153 Stephen Dinsmore
 121 Pam & Reid Allen
 181 Mark Proescholdt

Appanoose County
 291 Ray Cummins
 213 Stephen Dinsmore
 204 Aaron Brees
 178 Pam & Reid Allen
 103 Danny Akers
 100 Jay Gilliam
 166 Mark Proescholdt
 17 Paul Roisen

Audubon County
 89 Pam & Reid Allen
 53 Mark Proescholdt

Benton County
 179 Mark Proescholdt
 131 Chris Edwards
 62 Pam & Reid Allen
 51 Danny Akers
 38 Paul Roisen

Black Hawk County
 221 Mary Lou Petersen
 167 Mark Proescholdt
 70 Danny Akers
 64 Pam & Reid Allen
 19 Paul Roisen

Boone County
 255 Stephen Dinsmore
 249 Jim Dinsmore
 233 Mark Proescholdt
 221 Pam & Reid Allen
 87 Danny Akers
 13 Paul Roisen

Bremer County
 168 Mark Proescholdt
 148 Ray Cummins
 105 Danny Akers
 65 Pam & Reid Allen

Buchanan County
 160 Mark Proescholdt
 48 Danny Akers
 42 Pam & Reid Allen
 7 Paul Roisen

Buena Vista County
 197 Dick Bierman
 131 Lee Schoenewe
 74 Pam & Reid Allen
 71 Mark Proescholdt

Butler County
 211 Mark Proescholdt
 82 Pam & Reid Allen
 8 Paul Roisen

Calhoun County
 159 Mark Proescholdt
 119 Pam & Reid Allen
 6 Paul Roisen

Carroll County
 171 Stephen Dinsmore
 158 Jim Dinsmore
 157 Pam & Reid Allen
 154 Mark Proescholdt
 10 Paul Roisen

Cass County
 139 Pam & Reid Allen
 51 Mark Proescholdt
 1 Paul Roisen

Cedar County
 125 Chris Edwards
 61 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt
 14 Paul Roisen

Cerro Gordo County
 299 Carolyn Fischer
 291 Rita Goranson
 276 Paul Hertzell
 205 Mark Proescholdt
 188 Stephen Dinsmore
 183 Dick Bierman
 172 Pam & Reid Allen
 171 Jim Dinsmore
 148 Paul Roisen
 93 Danny Akers

Cherokee County
 264 Dick Bierman
 67 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt
 32 Paul Roisen

Chickasaw County
 60 Pam & Reid Allen
 57 Mark Proescholdt

Clarke County
 102 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt

Clay County
 291 Lee Schoenewe
 184 Stephen Dinsmore
 181 Dick Bierman
 163 Jim Dinsmore
 118 Paul Roisen
 100 Pam & Reid Allen
 76 Mark Proescholdt

Clayton County
 209 Danny Akers
 89 Mark Proescholdt
 87 Jay Gilliam
 70 Pam & Reid Allen
 33 Paul Roisen

Clinton County
 208 Mary Lou Petersen
 127 Pam & Reid Allen
 55 Mark Proescholdt

Crawford County
 74 Pam & Reid Allen
 56 Mark Proescholdt

Dallas County
 229 Pam & Reid Allen
 189 Stephen Dinsmore
 173 Ray Cummins
 165 Mark Proescholdt
 158 Jim Dinsmore
 16 Paul Roisen

Davis County
 84 Pam & Reid Allen
 64 Mark Proescholdt

Decatur County
 252 Nathan Miller
 249 Ben Baldwin
 248 Jeffrey Livingston
 109 Pam & Reid Allen
 67 Mark Proescholdt
 22 Paul Roisen

Delaware County
 168 Bill Scheible
 154 Mark Proescholdt
 75 Pam & Reid Allen
 51 Danny Akers

Des Moines County
 290 Chuck Fuller
 249 Jim Fuller
 104 Pam & Reid Allen
 61 Mark Proescholdt

Dickinson County
 286 Lee Schoenewe
 209 Stephen Dinsmore
 199 Dick Bierman
 187 Jim Dinsmore
 164 Mark Proescholdt
 131 Jay Gilliam
 134 Pam & Reid Allen
 118 Paul Roisen
 81 Danny Akers

Dubuque County
 109 Danny Akers
 108 Pam & Reid Allen
 78 Paul Roisen
 65 Mark Proescholdt

Emmet County
 204 Lee Schoenewe
 151 Stephen Dinsmore
 124 Rita Goranson
 120 Paul Hertzell
 87 Pam & Reid Allen
 81 Mark Proescholdt
 17 Paul Roisen

Fayette County
 80 Danny Akers
 60 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt

Floyd County
 132 Rita Goranson
 124 Paul Hertzell
 62 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt

Franklin County
 206 Mark Proescholdt
 117 Pam & Reid Allen
 57 Paul Roisen

Fremont County
 255 Stephen Dinsmore
 202 Mark Proescholdt
 200 Pam & Reid Allen
 154 Ray Cummins
 131 Jay Gilliam
 127 Chris Edwards

Greene County
 222 Stephen Dinsmore
 197 Jim Dinsmore
 193 Pam & Reid Allen
 185 Mark Proescholdt
 110 Jay Gilliam
 5 Paul Roisen

Grundy County
 202 Mark Proescholdt
 97 Pam & Reid Allen
 12 Paul Roisen

Guthrie County
 239 Stephen Dinsmore
 213 Ray Cummins
 212 Pam & Reid Allen
 205 Mark Proescholdt
 168 Jim Dinsmore
 97 Paul Roisen
 43 Danny Akers

Hamilton County
 226 Dennis Carter
 213 Mark Proescholdt
 207 Stephen Dinsmore
 181 Jim Dinsmore
 175 Pam & Reid Allen
 60 Paul Roisen
 58 Danny Akers

Hancock County
 217 Rita Goranson
 208 Paul Hertzell
 174 Stephen Dinsmore
 172 Mark Proescholdt
 157 Pam & Reid Allen
 152 Jim Dinsmore
 116 Paul Roisen
 68 Danny Akers
 92 Jay Gilliam

Hardin County
 261 Mark Proescholdt
 115 Pam & Reid Allen
 7 Paul Roisen

Harrison County
 183 Dick Bierman
 162 Stephen Dinsmore
 105 Pam & Reid Allen
 105 Paul Roisen
 58 Mark Proescholdt

Henry County
 90 Pam & Reid Allen
 63 Mark Proescholdt

Howard County
 59 Pam & Reid Allen
 53 Mark Proescholdt
 45 Danny Akers

Humboldt County
 74 Pam & Reid Allen
 64 Mark Proescholdt

Ida County
 68 Paul Roisen
 64 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt

Iowa County
 221 Chris Edwards
 158 Mark Proescholdt
 97 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Danny Akers
 6 Paul Roisen

Jackson County
 121 Chris Edwards
 102 Pam & Reid Allen
 77 Mark Proescholdt
 71 Paul Roisen
 40 Danny Akers

Jasper County
 212 Mark Proescholdt
 137 Pam & Reid Allen
 9 Paul Roisen

Jefferson County
 75 Pam & Reid Allen
 50 Mark Proescholdt

Johnson County
 317 Tom Kent, Jim Fuller
 295 Chris Edwards
 278 Chris Caster
 185 Mark Proescholdt
 178 Pam & Reid Allen
 177 Danny Akers
 96 Paul Roisen

Jones County
 191 Chris Edwards
 63 Pam & Reid Allen
 56 Mark Proescholdt

Keokuk County		Mills County		Ringgold County		Wayne County
111 Bill Scheible		135 Pam & Reid Allen		108 Pam & Reid Allen		224 Aaron Brees
87 Pam & Reid Allen		61 Mark Proescholdt		77 Mark Proescholdt		152 Ray Cummins
68 Mark Proescholdt						114 Pam & Reid Allen
37 Danny Akers		Mitchell County		Sac County		63 Mark Proescholdt
		60 Mark Proescholdt		159 Dick Bierman		17 Paul Roisen
Kossuth County		57 Pam & Reid Allen		152 Mark Proescholdt		
283 Matt Kenne				151 Pam & Reid Allen		Webster County
191 Paul Hertzell		Monona County		39 Paul Roisen		161 Mark Proescholdt
183 Stephen Dinsmore		184 Stephen Dinsmore				106 Pam & Reid Allen
176 Rita Goranson		143 Dick Bierman		Scott County		12 Paul Roisen
163 Mark Proescholdt		129 Paul Roisen		286 Mary Lou Petersen		
151 Pam & Reid Allen		115 Pam & Reid Allen		146 Chris Edwards		Winneshiek County
65 Danny Akers		80 Mark Proescholdt		131 Pam & Reid Allen		190 Rita Goranson
35 Paul Roisen				109 Paul Roisen		176 Paul Hertzell
		Monroe County		67 Danny Akers		159 Pam & Reid Allen
Lee County		102 Pam & Reid Allen		56 Mark Proescholdt		155 Stephen Dinsmore
219 Chris Edwards		53 Mark Proescholdt				80 Mark Proescholdt
214 Stephen Dinsmore				Shelby County		71 Paul Roisen
155 Mark Proescholdt		Montgomery County		82 Pam & Reid Allen		41 Danny Akers
176 Ray Cummins		68 Pam & Reid Allen		55 Mark Proescholdt		
157 Pam & Reid Allen		54 Mark Proescholdt				Winneshiek County
109 Jay Gilliam				Sioux County		255 Dennis Carter
91 Danny Akers		Muscatine County		68 Pam & Reid Allen		230 Tex Sordahl
65 Paul Roisen		230 Mary Lou Petersen		62 Mark Proescholdt		148 Danny Akers
		141 Chris Edwards		26 Paul Roisen		97 Pam & Reid Allen
Linn County		99 Pam & Reid Allen				59 Mark Proescholdt
286 Pete Wickham		69 Mark Proescholdt		Story County		44 Paul Roisen
258 Jim Durbin		60 Paul Roisen		282 Stephen Dinsmore		
237 Bill Scheible				272 Jim Dinsmore		Woodbury County
223 Chris Edwards		O'Brien County		250 Mark Proescholdt		291 Jerry Probst
221 Diana Pesek		203 Lee Schoenewe		198 Paul Hertzell		258 Gerald Von Ehwegen
176 Mark Proescholdt		188 Dick Bierman		190 Pam & Reid Allen		232 Paul Roisen
129 Pam & Reid Allen		65 Pam & Reid Allen		80 Danny Akers		154 Stephen Dinsmore
119 Danny Akers		58 Mark Proescholdt		60 Paul Roisen		152 Mark Proescholdt
69 Paul Roisen		24 Paul Roisen				126 Pam & Reid Allen
				Tama County		54 Danny Akers
Louisa County		Osceola County		243 Mark Proescholdt		
272 Jim Fuller		59 Pam & Reid Allen		145 Chris Edwards		Worth County
197 Chris Edwards		55 Mark Proescholdt		129 Pam & Reid Allen		234 Paul Hertzell
137 Mary Lou Petersen		27 Paul Roisen		81 Jay Gilliam		221 Rita Goranson
128 Pam & Reid Allen				47 Danny Akers		122 Pam & Reid Allen
106 Mark Proescholdt		Page County				77 Mark Proescholdt
79 Paul Roisen		70 Pam & Reid Allen		Taylor County		36 Danny Akers
61 Danny Akers		54 Mark Proescholdt		67 Pam & Reid Allen		20 Paul Roisen
				55 Mark Proescholdt		
Lucas County		Palo Alto County				Wright County
226 Aaron Brees		238 Lee Schoenewe		Union County		219 Stephen Dinsmore
168 Pam & Reid Allen		154 Stephen Dinsmore		159 Stephen Dinsmore		171 Mark Proescholdt
160 Mark Proescholdt		102 Pam & Reid Allen		126 Pam & Reid Allen		169 Jim Dinsmore
154 Ray Cummins		81 Mark Proescholdt		73 Jay Gilliam		129 Pam & Reid Allen
70 Paul Roisen				66 Mark Proescholdt		
64 Danny Akers		Plymouth County				COUNTY TOTAL TICKS
		142 Dick Bierman		Van Buren County		13,337 Stephen Dinsmore
Lyon County		115 Paul Roisen		179 Ray Cummins		11,717 Mark Proescholdt
68 Pam & Reid Allen		70 Pam & Reid Allen		160 Mark Proescholdt		11,375 Pam & Reid Allen
57 Paul Roisen		58 Mark Proescholdt		132 Chris Edwards		10,699 Jim Dinsmore
55 Mark Proescholdt		39 Danny Akers		111 Pam & Reid Allen		3,329 Paul Roisen
				90 Danny Akers		2,962 Jay Gilliam
Madison County		Pocahontas County		64 Paul Roisen		
193 Pam & Reid Allen		213 Ray Cummins				
152 Mark Proescholdt		155 Dick Bierman		Wapello County		
2 Paul Roisen		103 Pam & Reid Allen		133 Ray Cummins		
		66 Mark Proescholdt		95 Pam & Reid Allen		
Mahaska County				82 Mark Proescholdt		
151 Mark Proescholdt		Polk County		55 Danny Akers		
88 Pam & Reid Allen		314 Stephen Dinsmore				
11 Paul Roisen		303 Pam & Reid Allen		Warren County		
		285 Aaron Brees		272 Jim Sinclair		
Marion County		275 Jay Gilliam		258 Jay Gilliam		
270 Aaron Brees		269 Mark Proescholdt		252 Aaron Brees		
254 Stephen Dinsmore		261 Jim Dinsmore		251 Ann Johnson		
226 Mark Proescholdt		203 Ray Cummins		230 Pam & Reid Allen		
222 Pam & Reid Allen		153 Danny Akers		200 Mark Proescholdt		
207 Ray Cummins		133 Paul Roisen		168 Stephen Dinsmore		
193 Jay Gilliam		110 Chris Edwards		123 Paul Roisen		
121 Danny Akers				104 Danny Akers		
117 Chris Edwards		Pottawattamie County				
82 Paul Roisen		208 Stephen Dinsmore		Washington County		
		162 Pam & Reid Allen		143 Chris Edwards		
Marshall County		123 Mark Proescholdt		78 Pam & Reid Allen		
272 Mark Proescholdt		118 Paul Roisen		54 Mark Proescholdt		
204 Stephen Dinsmore				9 Paul Roisen		
158 Pam & Reid Allen		Poweshiek County				
		215 Mark Proescholdt				
		85 Pam & Reid Allen				



Roadkills
75 Dick Bierman

Big Days. A Big Day is a 24-hour birding adventure in which a group of participants attempts to record as many species as possible in some geographic region. The *IOU News* publishes all new Big Days and maintains historical record totals by county and by month. In 2006, Emmet County had its first Big Day recorded, and birders set four other new marks.

2006 Big Days

162 Polk Co* - 12 May 2006
S Dinsmore, A Brees, J Gilliam

136 Warren Co - 147 May 2006
Jay Gilliam, John Bissell

130 Decatur Co* - 11 May 2006
J Livingston, M Torres

122 Emmet Co* - 15 May 2006
R Goranson, P Hertzell

90 Clayton Co - 02 June 2006
D Akers, M Johnston

74 Month of December* - 08 Dec 2006
J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck, B Dick

65 Month of January* - 10 Jan 2006
J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck

* denotes new record total

Iowa Record Big Days by Month:

January 65 - 10 Jan 2006
J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck

February 64 - 29 Feb 2000
P Allen, R Allen

March 90 - 27 Mar 1988
S Dinsmore, R Silcock

April 141 - 29 Apr 1989
S Dinsmore, P Hertzell

May 204 - 13 May 1996
B Blevins, D Moeller, P Petersen

June 135 - 01 Jun 2005
D Akers, R Goranson, P Hertzell

July 120 - 28 Jul 2005
E&E Armstrong, D Thompson

August 136 - 26 Aug 2005
L Schoenewe, E Thelen

September 135 - 29 Jan 1995
G Brown, S Dinsmore

October 91 - 05 Oct 2002
G Grange, L Schoenewe

November 87 - 11 Nov 2003
L Schoenewe, E Thelen

December 74 - 08 Dec 2006
C Fuller, J Fuller, J Rutenbeck, B Dick

Iowa Record Big Days by County:

Allamakee 126 - 10 May 2003
M Paulson, M Wolfe, B Zarwell, R Zarwell

Cerro Gordo 145 - 11 May 2002
C Fischer, R Goranson, P Hertzell

Clay 148 - 09 May 2004
P Ernzen, G Grange, L Schoenewe

Clayton 94 - 08 May 2004
D Akers, J Brazell

Decatur 130 - 11 May 2006
J Livingston, M Torres

Dickinson 91 - 05 Oct 2004
G Grange, L Schoenewe

Emmet 122 - 15 May 2006
R Goranson, P Hertzell

Floyd 118 - 21 May 2005
R Goranson, P Hertzell, C Nelson

Fremont 171 - 11 May 1991
S Dinsmore, BJ Rose, D Rose, R Silcock

Hancock 141 - 09 May 2005
C Fischer, R Goranson, P Hertzell

Johnson 136 - 08 May 2004
J Fuller, T Kent

Kossuth 153 - 14 May 2002
P Hertzell, M Kenne

Marshall 123 - 10 May 2003
P Hertzell, M Proescholdt

Polk 162 - 12 May 2006
S Dinsmore, A Brees, J Gilliam

Warren 154 - 09 May 2003
A Brees, J Sinclair

Winnebago 127 - 09 May 2004
R Goranson, P Hertzell

Woodbury 165 - 08 May 2004
B Livermore, J Probst, D Stage

Worth 136 - 13 May 2003
R Goranson, P Hertzell

A Record Big Day in December - Jim Fuller

After postponing a Big Day effort, originally scheduled for December 1, due to a heavy snowfall in extreme southeast Iowa, John Rutenbeck and Chuck Fuller of Burlington, and Bob Dick and Jim Fuller of Iowa City followed virtually the same route through Des Moines and Lee Counties that had been traversed on 12/1/04 and 12/2/05, when 68 and 70 species respectively were counted. This year's effort netted a new high count of 74 species.

The group started before daylight in Sacred Heart Cemetery near Crapo Park in Burlington logging an Eastern Screech Owl, and ended the day late in the afternoon at the Montrose Marsh with a Swamp Sparrow and Ring-necked Pheasant. The next stop was in Burlington's Aspen Grove Cemetery. The search proceeded along Sullivan Slough Road, Black Hawk bottoms, and the Skunk River Road in Des Moines County, followed by locations in Lee County that included Denmark, the Green Bay bottoms area, the Ft. Madison waterfront, Montrose, Pool #19, Lock & Dam 19, and the Keokuk waterfront. All ponds and backwater areas, plus much of the Mississippi River were iced in, but good and diverse numbers of waterfowl were located in the open water areas.

The highlights of the day were in Burlington at Aspen Grove Cemetery, Great-horned Owl and Pine Siskins and at Crapo Park, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter and Carolina Wrens, Pileated Woodpecker, and Common Grackles. Sullivan Slough Road produced three untagged Trumpeter Swans and Rusty Blackbirds. Along the Skunk River Road Eastern Bluebirds and Fox Sparrows were observed, but the Field Sparrow and Spotted Towhee that had been seen two days previously were not found. The Lee County town of Denmark had numerous Eurasian Collared-doves, and in the Green Bay bottoms area, flocks of Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks, plus a Killdeer in a drainage ditch and 3 American White Pelicans on the river were found. At Ft. Madison, there were Great Blue Herons, and just south of there Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at a feedlot. On Pool #19, Pied-billed Grebes and numerous waterfowl were observed, while on the Keokuk waterfront there was Wood Duck and another Great Blue Heron. Below Lock & Dam #19 there were six American White Pelicans.

Big misses were Brown Creeper, Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers and Northern Shoveler. In the same area two days previously, Common Loon, Spotted Towhee, Field Sparrow, Double-crested Cormorant, and Northern Harrier had been found, but all five were misses on this day.

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



[Address Service Requested]



Thomas H Kent
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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