

IOU News

Winter 2005 ❄ Volume 21 – Number 4



Lee Schoenewe records the birds reported during the compilation, Sunday afternoon.

HEAVY RAINS COULD NOT DAMPEN THE SPIRIT

John Rutenbeck

Nearly 100 birders gathered for the IOU fall meeting at the Lakeside Laboratory on West Okoboji Lake in Dickinson County, September 23-25. The wetlands in NW Iowa are incredible, producing 136 species of birds, despite often rainy conditions.

A highlight of the meeting was the Saturday evening banquet presentation by Dr. Robert Ridgely, who discussed

his 1997 discovery in Ecuador of the Jocotoco Antpitta, a previously unknown species of bird. This discovery, made in the dense temperate rainforest of South America, has contributed to the creation and regional acceptance of a foundation that buys and preserves habitat critical to the continued existence of this and other endangered bird species.

Continued on page 4. See Fall Meeting



IOU News

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

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IOU News deadlines for submission of materials:

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

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this newsletter was mailed to 438 members

Dates, Things To Do

December 14–January 5

Audubon Christmas Counts. See page 11 for a CBC near you.

January 01

Send list totals to *IOU News*. See pages 12, 13.

Bald Eagle Watches:

Jan 7: Clinton (815) 259-3628
Jan 7, 8: Quad Cities (309) 794-5338
Jan 14: Dubuque (563) 556-4372
Jan 14: Muscatine (563) 263-7913
Jan 21, 22: Keokuk (800) 383-1219
Feb 11: Red Rock Res. (641) 828-7522
Feb 26: Saylorville Res. (515) 276-4656

February 28

End of winter reporting season. Enter field reports online, or send by email or postal to Bob Cecil. See page 10.

March 3–5

Festival of Owls, Houston, Minnesota. 1 hour north of Decorah. See information on page 15.

April 28–30

IOU Trip Committee field trip to Crex Meadows, Wisconsin. See page 8.

May 19–21

IOU Spring Meeting, Ventura, Iowa.



A Great Blue Heron winters at Elk Creek in Worth County, January 2005.

From the President

Some exciting changes are underway for IOU. At the November 23 Board of Directors meeting, Doug Hunt was approved to fill Dave Edwards position as Registrar when Dave finishes his term at the end of December. The Publications Committee and Board of Directors have taken a look at the Registrar's role and are making some changes in the various duties of this key IOU office, and in the ways we deal with these duties considering the tools we have today. The Registrar formerly handled mailing all IBLs, but Kay Niyo has found a mailing house that can handle our mailings at a significant savings in dollars and man power. We are also moving the membership database to a secure area on our website. This will make it easier for both the Treasurer and the Registrar to keep records up to date.

Many of you already have checked out our newly redesigned website so are familiar with how user friendly it is, not to mention that it just looks terrific. Thanks to Ann Johnson who did all of this in her "spare time" plus a special thanks to Paul Hertzell who did the work on the banners for each section. This is just the first step. Here's what is coming soon for members who have an ID (your e-mail address) and secure password on Iowa Bird:

The membership page has been redesigned to make it even easier to pay dues. I encourage all of you who have internet access to use online payment. We have used this process for meeting registrations for over two years and it is a real time saver. Members who are not online can still register on paper by postal mail. The treasurer will register these folks online when dues are received.

Members, using their passwords, will be able to access and update their own information such as change of address or e-mail. The registrar will update records for those who send this information in written form.

The Board of Directors has approved making the membership directory available to members online, again using a secure password. Members who do not have internet access can still request a printed directory.

Members will be able to print out their own donation letters for tax purposes and eventually even view their membership/dues/donation history.

Members will be able to view the last 8 issues of IBL on-line. Moving forward, we would like to have all the IBLs available on-line and searchable for researchers, but the most recent 8 issues will only be available to members.

ALL members have an ID and password in the current database so Member Services are available today. If you have difficulty figuring this out, please contact Ann Johnson at aj@hologrambirds.com or (515) 961-2002.

Thinking about birding with some IOU friends? The Travel Committee has some exciting trips planned for the upcoming months. Check out the trip announcements on page 8 in this newsletter as well on the website.

Again, thanks go to Dave Edwards for the hundreds of hours he has donated over the last five years, keeping our records in order and getting our mailings out on time.

Another word of thanks goes to our members and their families who have generously hosted birders looking for all those special birds that have shown up in Iowa this year.

Sharon Stilwell

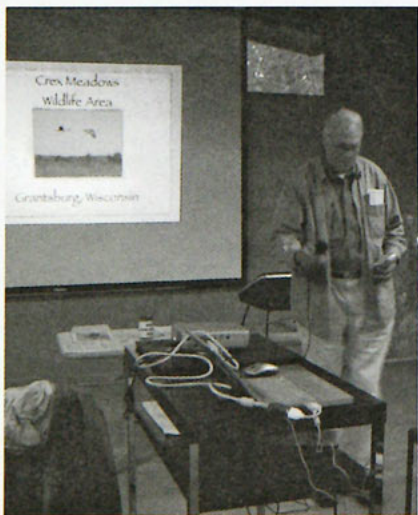


© D. Poggensee



Robert Ridgley spoke to the membership about progressive conservation measures.

On Saturday afternoon, Jim Scheib of Iowa City presented a program on Crex Meadows, WI (highlight birds: Sharp-tailed Grouse and Sandhill Crane), and Jim Dinsmore took a look at the list of 411 bird species verified in Iowa, and speculated on what new birds might be expected in the state in the next few years.



Jim Scheib shared secrets of Crex Meadows.

Additionally, we started what may become a tradition within the organization with the introduction of several new IOU members who were in attendance. Each was presented with a copy of the book *Birds in Iowa*, by Jim Dinsmore



Don Poggensee walks the path from the meeting room to the mess hall.

and Tom Kent.

The meeting was well-attended by members from four different states, including *Iowa Bird Life* editor, Kay Niyo, who made the trip from Evergreen, Colorado. It rained for much of the weekend, but birds were found in surprising diversity. Highlights included the Black-headed Gull found at its traditional spot at the north end of Spirit Lake, Horned, Eared, and Western Grebes, Virginia Rail, Black-bellied and Golden Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Common Tern, Merlin, American Pipit, Cape May Warbler, Leconte's and Lincoln's Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird.

The Spring Meeting of the IOU will be held at the Deer Valley Lodge at Ventura, May 19-21, 2006. The keynote speaker will be native Iowan, Dr. Jerry Jackson of Florida Gulf Coast University, who is a member of the Recovery Team for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.



John Rutenbeck introduced new member, Harsha Jayawardena, from Mason City.



A group of birders extracts a few warblers from the tree outside the mess hall.

Some Observations

Dick Stilwell.

First Published on the
IA-Birds Listserve

After spending 8 hrs, most of it in driving rain, back and forth to Okoboji with the Ridgelys, and participating in some birding as well, I thought I'd pass on some of my observations.

Although Peggy Ridgely is from Iowa, this was Roberts first visit. He was quite impressed with the continuous fields of corn and beans as well as the number of birds, especially the very large flocks of Franklins Gulls seen. He did some birding around our place in W Des Moines and remarked several times about the number of birds.

He was also very impressed with the conservation work being done in the Prairie lakes region as pointed out by Lee Schoenewe on our Saturday after-



On Sunday morning, at a wetland near Dugout Creek, Ridgely was one of the few to leave the comfort of his car.

noon tour and also impressed that Lee could find him a Sedge Wren so quickly. He was also interested in the wind farm and its effect on grassland birds. Lee and Doug Harr might be hearing from him regarding studies done on that.

I noticed that he had a very effective "pishing" technique. The birds just seemed to pop out of the grass to see what was going on. I asked him about that and he said that when he was young he didn't use binoculars and had to learn how to bring the birds in close. I should

have taped it.

Peggy told us that Robert doesn't do many of these talks anymore but apparently felt obliged to come to Iowa because of the contribution Des Moines Audubon Society made to one of the land purchases in Ecuador. As most of you know, they were delayed on their flights to Des Moines. After getting up very early in the morning to leave on their flight, they were delayed, missed connections, and didn't get into Des Moines till after 4:00 pm. They were actually thinking of telling us to go ahead to Okoboji and they would rent a car and drive up when they got in. We thought the best option was just to stay overnight in Des moines and drive up saturday morning which we did. In spite of the weather, they had a good time.

We found them to be down to earth people and fun to be around. Robert is obviously very dedicated to conservation efforts and feels that the American Bird Conservancy is the most cost effective conservation group focused on birds that there is. I agree and that's where our support is going.

I've rambled long enough.



Ridgely and Doug Harr paused on the east side of Spirit Lake.

2005 Fall Meeting List of Attendees

Danny	Akers	Garnavillo, IA	Elizabeth	Carbrey	Ames, IA
Melanie	Akers	Garnavillo, IA	Bob	Cecil	Des Moines, IA
Pam	Akers	Garnavillo, IA	Ray	Cummins	Centerville, IA
Eloise	Armstrong	Van Meter, IA	Drew	Dillman	Iowa City, IA
Eugene	Armstrong	Van Meter, IA	Judith	Dillman	Iowa City, IA
Aaron	Brees	Des Moines, IA	Jim	Dinsmore	Ames, IA
Donald	Brown	W. Des Moines, IA	Stephen J.	Dinsmore	Ames, IA
Jerry	Brown	Evansdale, IA	Karen	Disbrow	Iowa City, IA
Mark	Brown	Iowa City, IA	John	Donelson	Iowa City, IA
Suzanne	Brown	Evansdale, IA	Linda	Donelson	Iowa City, IA
Stan	Buman	Carroll, IA	Ava	Dorrance	Red Oak, IA
Barry	Buschelman	North Liberty, IA			
Ed	Carbrey	Ames, IA			

Continued on page 6.

Fall Meeting Attendees, continued from page 5.

Dan	Dorrance	Red Oak, IA
Carolyn	Fischer	Mason City, IA
Chuck	Fuller	Burlington, IA
Dale	Fye	Cedar Rapids, IA
Judy	Garton	Fort Dodge, IA
Jay	Gilliam	Norwalk, IA
Rita	Goranson	Mason City, IA
Gary	Grange	Ruthven, IA
Loren	Hansen	Kingsley, IA



Loren Hansen lined up a shot. Photo by Don Poggensee.

Douglas	Harr	Ogden, IA
Belva	Henrickson	Estherville, IA
Dennis	Henrickson	Estherville, IA
Paul	Hertzel	Mason City, IA
Tammy	Hertzel	Mason City, IA



Tammy Hertzel chatted with Peggy Ridgely. Photo by P. Hertzel.

Rick	Hollis	N Liberty, IA
Doug	Hunt	Oskaloosa, IA
Mary Beth	Hunt	Oskaloosa, IA
Maridel	Jackson	Ankeny, IA
Harsha	Jayawardena	Mason City, IA
Ann	Johnson	Norwalk, IA
Tom	Johnson	Mystic, IA
Mike	Johnston	Waterloo, IA
Sandy	Johnston	Waterloo, IA

Matthew	Kenne	Algona, IA
Erv	Klaas	Ames, IA
Mary	Kuhlman	Ft. Dodge, IA
Rick	Kuhlman	Ft. Dodge, IA
Nancy	Lynch	Solon, IA
Richard	Lynch	Solon, IA
Leonard C.	Miller	Indianola, IA
Francis	Moore	Waterloo, IA
Jim	Murdock	Ames, IA
Bob	Nickolson	Sioux City, IA
Phyllis	Nickolson	Sioux City, IA
Kayleen	Niyo	Evergreen, CO
Katy	Patterson	Ames, IA
Shane	Patterson	Ames, IA



Shane Patterson scanned the treetops. Photo by Don Poggensee.

Diana	Pesek	Cedar Rapids, IA
Willard	Piercy	Council Bluffs, IA
Don	Poggensee	Ida Grove, IA
Mark	Proescholdt	Liscomb, IA



Gerald Von Ehwegen and Mark Proescholdt discussed an identification. Photo by Don Poggensee.

Carole	Rasmussen	Omaha, NE
Richard	Rasmussen	Omaha, NE
Dr. Robert	Ridgely	North Sandwich, NH
Peggy	Ridgely	North Sandwich, NH
Paul	Roisen	Sioux City, IA

John	Rutenbeck	Burlington, IA
James	Scheib	Iowa City, IA
Sharon	Scheib	Iowa City, IA
Bill	Scheible	Cedar Rapids, IA
Lee	Schoenewe	Spencer, IA
Nancy	Schoenewe	Spencer, IA
Carol	Schumacher	Winona, MN
Jim	Sinclair	Indianola, IA
Ty	Smedes	Urbandale, IA
Carolyn	Sonderman	Omaha, NE
Susan	Spieker	Norwalk, IA
Greg	Steggerda	Orange City, IA
Mike	Stephens	Centerville, IA
Vicky	Stephens	Centerville, IA
Dick	Stilwell	W. Des Moines, IA
Sharon	Stilwell	W. Des Moines, IA
Laura	Vander Meer	Le Mars, IA
Peter	Vander Meer	Le Mars, IA
Jerry	Von Ehwegen	Sioux City, IA
Loraine	Wallace	Spirit Lake, IA
Pete	Wickham	Cedar Rapids, IA
Louise	Wickham	Cedar Rapids, IA
Lynn	Wallace	Spirit Lake, IA
Gerald	White	Muscatine, IA

Doyle L.	Woods	Indianola, IA
Hank	Zaletel	Nevada, IA



Lee Schoenewe led a Saturday morning group through the prairie potholes of Dickinson County. Photo by Don Poggensee.

2005 IOU Fall Meeting Species List

Canada Goose	American Golden-plover	Philadelphia Vireo	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Trumpeter Swan	Killdeer	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Wood Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Gadwall	Lesser Yellowlegs	American Crow	Ovenbird
American Wigeon	Spotted Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard	Sanderling	Tree Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Scarlet Tanager
Northern Shoveler	Least Sandpiper	Bank Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Baird's Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Vesper Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Stilt Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Savannah Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Le Conte's Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Wilson's Snipe	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Red-necked Phalarope	Brown Creeper	Lincoln's Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Franklin's Gull	House Wren	Swamp Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Bonaparte's Gull	Winter Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Eared Grebe	Black-headed Gull	Sedge Wren	Harris's Sparrow
Western Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Marsh Wren	White-crowned Sparrow
American White Pelican	Herring Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Dark-eyed Junco
Double-crested Cormorant	Common Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Northern Cardinal
Great Blue Heron	Forster's Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Great Egret	Rock Pigeon	Swainson's Thrush	Bobolink
Cattle Egret	Mourning Dove	American Robin	Red-winged Blackbird
Green Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Gray Catbird	Western Meadowlark
Turkey Vulture	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown Thrasher	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Belted Kingfisher	European Starling	Rusty Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Pipit	Common Grackle
Cooper's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Great-tailed Grackle
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Tennessee Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Kestrel	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Nashville Warbler	House Finch
Merlin	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow Warbler	American Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	Loggerhead Shrike	Magnolia Warbler	House Sparrow
Sora	Blue-headed Vireo	Cape May Warbler	
American Coot	Warbling Vireo		
Black-bellied Plover			

2006 IOU Field Trips Announced

The IOU Travel Committee wishes to announce the sponsorship of three field trips in 2006. Trips have been planned to one location in an adjoining state, one Iowa location, and a location in a more distant state.

The first event will be a visit to **Crex Meadows Wildlife Area** in northwest Wisconsin and is scheduled for April 28-30. Target bird is viewing Sharp-tailed Grouse booming on the lek. Continuation of the trip on the final day will take the group to Necedah NWR to view Whooping Cranes and the International Crane Foundation near Baraboo. Principal leader for this trip is Jim Scheib of Iowa City.

Southwest Iowa specialties will be featured during a trip on May 27-29. Locations in Fremont, Mills, and Pottawattamie Counties will be birded under the leadership of Ross Silcock of Tabor. Target species will include, but not be limited to, shorebirds such as Whimbrel, Blue Grosbeak, Western Kingbird, Piping Plover, Least Tern, and Chuck-will's-widow.

Southeast Arizona will be the site for a long-distance trip, scheduled for August 4-13. Ann Johnson of Norwalk will be the leader of this trip, which will organize in Tucson and visit sites which will include California Gulch, Madera Canyon, Patagonia, the Huachuca Mts.,

Chiricahua Mts., San Pedro Riparian Area, and Sulphur Springs Valley.

Further information and registration forms will be presented on the IOU website at a later date, as trip details become available.

- Jim Fuller

The IOU Travel Committee consists of

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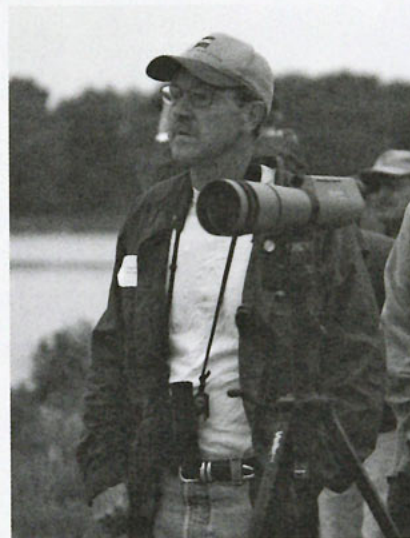
Hank Zaletel
515-382-5427
madowl@midiowa.net

James Huntington
319-338-1837
james@attu.net

Communication via FRS/GMRS radios:

The IOU is recommending that birders within the state wishing to communicate birding information with FRS/GMRS radios use channel 5 without a sub channel. Since this is a public channel it may be busy with non birders; in that event use channel 6 with no sub channel. Radio use rules should be observed, one of the most important rules is to monitor the channel for other users before keying for your transmission. Please restrict your transmissions to information relative to the subject of birds and locations.

Hunt Succeeds Edwards as IOU Registrar



Doug Hunt, photographed by Don Poggensee.

Doug Hunt, Oskaloosa, has volunteered to succeed Dave Edwards as the IOU Registrar, starting January 1, 2006. The duties of the Registrar were split from the Treasurer about six years ago. Edwards has served faithfully since that time. This editor sincerely appreciates the outstanding job done by Dave Edwards.

Dinsmore Appointed to Records Committee

Stephen Dinsmore, Ames, has been appointed to the Records Committee to replace Mike Overton, whose term will expire at the end of 2005.



Stephen Dinsmore, photographed by Don McKee.

Ticked Off

Bill Scheible

"You are a person of interest", intoned the unfamiliar voice on the telephone. This is not what you want to hear from an agency of the Federal Government. Rather than the FBI or the IRS, thankfully, this was a call from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. They wanted my blood.

In March, 2005, I guided birder friends from California and North Carolina on a tour of the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas. I am passably familiar with the region and its spectacular avifauna. The trip was judged successful by my three companions, who observed from 45 to 77 life birds in four days in the field. Of course, when Green Jay and Great Kiskadee are yard birds and Crimson-collared Grosbeak is a "stake-out" at an Audubon sanctuary, it's darn easy to look good. So, on a happy note, we all returned home.

I had been back in Cedar Rapids for ten days and was covering the late night shift at the hospital. Remember those grade B movies about Africa that were popular in the 50's, the ones with scenes of malaria victims suffering from rig-

ors, fever, and delirium? That was me. Physicians, you know, are slow to admit to their own illnesses. A colleague from the Emergency Room ambled over to Radiology to discuss a CT scan, took one look at me and exclaimed, "Bill, you are sicker than anyone in our ER right now!". In no time I found myself loaded onto a gurney, I.V. fluids running, on my way to the ward, a consumer rather than a provider of medical care.

Rickettsia parkeri is her name. A poorly understood bacteria, related to the organisms that cause Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, one of several arthropod-borne diseases. Sure enough, I had been the recipient of four tick bites during my stay in Texas. Believing that I had successfully removed the culprits before they could wreak havoc, I gave it no

more thought. There's no Lyme Disease in Texas, I reasoned. Indeed, I never even donned my recently purchased tick-repellent clothing, which remained neatly folded in my luggage.

Now the CDC possesses several vials of my blood. The tick guys in Atlanta are intrigued by my case, as there are few reports of *Rickettsia parkeri* illness in humans. The final diagnosis is still pending (some of my serum is in a lab in France, no less!). I have become a data set.

What can we learn from this story, fellow birders? First, our hobby is a dangerous one. We put our very lives on the line every time we venture afield. Those 6- and 8-legged creatures that accompany us clearly warrant our respect. Second, if you own "tick-proof" clothing, it seems like a really good idea to wear it. And finally, as those ubiquitous bumper stickers make clear: "Don't mess with Texas!"

Epilogue: Oh. Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was ABA area species #650 for this reporter.



Hitchcock Nature Center Hawkwatch Tower Completed

On November 12, 2005, the Hawkwatch Tower at Hitchcock Nature Center was officially opened to hawkcounters and visitors. The tower will provide spectacular 360 degree views and will allow all the migrating raptors at Hitchcock to be counted from one location. It will also allow for more extended viewing as the birds will be now visible well north of the watch.

Begun in the fall of 1992 by Loren and Babs Padelford, the Hitchcock Nature Area Hawkwatch has been held every fall except in 1996-1997. With the Missouri River providing a geographically visual north-south flyway, and the Loess Hills causing updrafts in the pre-



The new tower adjoins the Nature Center at the north end. Photo by Tina Popson.

vailing westerly winds, a natural corridor for migrating birds occurs along Iowa's western edge. The success of the hawkwatch in counting migrants has steadily grown over the twelve years of operation. In 2003, 9772 raptors and vultures were counted at Hitchcock in what was the first year counters managed full season coverage. Last year, counters broke the 10,000 bird milestone, finishing the year 50 birds short of 12,000 individuals.

The Hitchcock Nature Area, in Pottawattamie County, was dedicated Iowa's first IBA, in October, 2003. In October, 2004, members of the Hawkwatch were recognized by Governor Tom Vilsack for their outstanding contribution in long-term monitoring of migrant raptor populations in Iowa.

WINTER FIELD REPORTS — *Bob Cecil*



Only in Iowa, perhaps. On November 8, I was still picking tomatoes and hot peppers out of my garden. Today, seven days later, the forecast is for snow with blizzard conditions. You've heard the old adage, "If you don't like the weather in Iowa, wait a few minutes."

One thing that doesn't change, though, is the natural flow of the seasons - now, the dry, drifting leaves in the yard, the fat squirrels beginning to recall their previous bird feeder feasts, and the continuous flow of visiting and departing birds as we enter winter. I don't suppose we will be picking tomatoes again for a few months, but as students of our birds, will be attuned to this elegant and noteworthy phenomena.

Another Iowa phenomenon is the effort of Ann Johnson, creating our Iowabirds.org website that has become a standard-bearer, arguably the best in the nation. In addition to the myriad great features such as photos, birding areas, and others, there is one that is of great importance to me, the ability to report one's sightings on-line. The importance is twofold; it makes it simple for more people to enter more of their observations, and it makes it far simpler for me to use the information submitted in hundreds if not thousands of indi-

vidual reports. There are many ways to support the IOU and its objectives, including writing articles, attending meetings, supporting special projects, and helping other birders, but equally as important is the contribution you can make by reporting your observations. The resulting field reports in IBL are not only fascinating snapshots of the seasons and their birds, but provide future research-

ers critical information in determining how and what our birds are doing.

As we enjoy and endure the winter reporting season of December, January, and February, I hope you will have a great holiday season, some excellent birding, and that you will share your findings with all of us.

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Count Schedule

Date	Count	County	Compiler	Phone	email
Dec 17	Ames	Story	Shane Patterson	515 232-4682	shane7896@yahoo.com
Jan 04	Andalusia/Buffalo	Muscatine/Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 31	Boone County	Boone	Mark Widrechner	515 233-1532	mwpskd@aol.com
Dec 17	Bremer County	Bremer	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	flmoore@forbin.net
Dec 17	Burlington	Des Moines/Louisa	Chuck Fuller	319 753-0710	CFuller989@aol.com
Dec 18	Carroll County	Carroll	Rob Thelen	712 792-1793	rthelen@mchsi.com
Dec 18	Cedar Falls/Waterloo	Blackhawk/Grundy/Butler	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	flmoore@forbin.net
Dec 17	Cedar Rapids	Linn	Jim Durbin	319 377-7194	durbinjames@mcleodusa.net
Dec 18	Cherokee	Cherokee/O'Brien	Dick Bierman	712 225-5552	dajabier@netins.net
Dec 22	NW Clayton County	Clayton	Danny Akerrs	563 964-2694	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com
Jan 02	SE Clayton County	Clayton	Danny Akerrs	563 964-2694	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com
Dec 15	Clinton/Savannah	Clinton/Jackson	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 18	Davenport	Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 26	Decorah	Winneshiek	Darwin Koenig	515 964-2790	
Dec 26	Des Moines	Polk/Dallas	Dennis Thompson	515 254-0837	cndthomps@acm.org
Dec 31	De Soto	Harrison/Pottawattamie	Bob Barry	712 642-5404	bob_barry@fws.gov
Dec 31	Dubuque	Dubuque	Charlie Winterwood	563 588-2783	cwinterwood@yahoo.com
Dec 21	Eldora-Union	Hardin/Marshall/Story	Mark Proescholdt	641 496-5219	
Dec 17	Grinnell	Poweshiek	Bob Van Ersvelde	641 236-6600	
Dec 16	Green Island/Lost Mound		Dan Wenny	815 273-3184	dwenny@inhs.uiuc.edu
Dec 26	Humboldt County	Humboldt	Dan Gifford	712 368-4411	giff57@aol.com
Jan 02	Ida Grove	Ida	Don Poggensee	712 364-3491	donpog@netllc.net
Dec 19	Iowa City	Johnson	Chris Edwards	319 626-6362	credwards@aol.com
Dec 20	Jamaica	Guthrie/Greene/Dallas	Ray Cummins	641 856-3518	cummins@sirisonline.com
Dec 19	Keokuk	Lee	Bob Cecil	515 277-5709	wewarb@aol.com
Dec 15	Marshalltown	Marshall	Ed & Betty Savage	641-752-0105	
Dec 17	Mason City	Cerro Gordo	Rita Goranson	641 423-1699	ritag@mchsi.com
Jan 03	Muscatine	Muscatine	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 31	North Linn	Linn	Jim Durbin	319 377-7194	durbinjames@mcleodusa.net
Dec 17	Omaha, NE	Mills/Pottawattamie	Betty Grenon	402 731-2383	grenon925@aol.com
Dec 20	Princeton/Cordova	Clinton/Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 17	Rathbun Res.	Appanoose/Monroe	Mike Stephens	641 437-1736	
Dec 17	Red Rock Res.	Marion/Mahaska	Aaron Brees	641 660-2316	abrees@hotmail.com
Dec 18	Saylorville	Polk/Story	Jim Dinsmore	515 292-3152	oldcoot@iastate.net
Dec 17	Shenandoah	Fremont/Page	Barbara Cunningham	712 246-1203	misscatsms@yahoo.com
Dec 17	Siam-Hopkins	Taylor/Nodaway	Kelly D Norris	712 523-2807	kellydn@frontiernet.net
Dec 17	Sioux City	Woodbury	Jerry Probst	712 258-1296	probstsuebee@aol.com
Dec 17	Spirit Lake	Dickinson	Lee Schoenewe	712 262-8194	lschoe@evertek.net
Dec 30	Taylor County	Taylor	Kelly D Norris	712 523-2807	kellydn@frontiernet.net
Dec 24	Union County	Union	Stephen Dinsmore	515 451-9204	cootjr@iastate.edu
Dec 18	Waterloo/Cedar Falls	Blackhawk/Grundy/Butler	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	flmoore@forbin.net
Dec 31	Webster County	Webster	Breck Johnson	642 647-2666	j.bjohnson@frontiernet.net
Dec 28	Western Mercer Co	Louisa	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Jan 01	Worth County	Worth	Curt Nelson	641 696-5600	mpauley@jumpgate.net
Dec 19	Yellow River Forest	Allamakee	Darwin Koenig	515 964-2790	



2005 Listing Totals

Iowa bird species list totals as of December 31, 2005 may be submitted to the *IOU News* by using the form at the right, or may be sent by email. Totals will be published in the Spring issue, 2006. Current Iowa records by state, county and month can be found in the 2005 Spring issue of *IOU News* (Volume 21, number 1).

For many birders, keeping list totals is both informative and fun, and generating these totals helps motivate birders to stay active, and perhaps to explore new areas. In the *ABA List and Big Day Report*, editor Larry Semo wrote "the joy of watching and preserving bird life remains our inherent objective, but expanding our objectives via listing to keep our appeal in birds alive is also important." I would add that sharing totals unites those who have these interests in common, while the entire process contributes to the gathering of information about the presence of birds in Iowa, a principal objective of the IOU.

The **Iowa Lifetime Total List** is the list with the largest participation. Last year, 35 people contributed their state total for inclusion in this list. This particular list is defined slightly differently by different birders, for example, some birders only list birds they have found, personally. For others, the collection of personally found birds is a subset of their state life list. This year we have included a **Personally Found** list category, after several birders expressed an interest in distinguishing between these ideas.

Two years ago, the *IOU News* introduced two awards for Iowa birders who enjoy listing their sightings. These awards are intended to acknowledge Iowa's most active birders, and to promote birding in Iowa.

Top Annual List. This award acknowledges the IOU member with the top annual list for the previous year. To be eligible, the participant must submit the species list, and any sightings of casual or accidental species must be accepted by the IOU Records Committee. For the

2004 year, this award went to *Eloise Armstrong*, who observed an amazing 306 species in Iowa during the year, one more bird than her husband, *Eugene*.



Eloise Armstrong: Iowa's Top Birder in 2004.

Top Percent of Life List. This award is intended for the IOU member with the highest percent of his/her life list seen in the calendar year. To be eligible, this member's life list must have been previously published. In 2004, *Jay Gilliam* received this recognition, with 91% of the birds on his life list occurring also on his 2004 year list.

Other popular list categories are yard list totals, and individual county list totals. Included for the first time this year is a **County Total Ticks** list in which a birder may add all individual county totals into a superlist.

Another popular listing activity is the **Big Day**. A Big Day is a group affair in which participants attempt to record in a single day, in a particular geographic region, as many species as they can find. We ask that participants follow ABA Big Day rules and adhere to the ABA Birding Code of Ethics. For new record totals in a category, please submit the species list and consider writing a short narrative about the adventure for publication in this newsletter.

Let's Each Do a County Big Year

Which county is your favorite county to bird? I wonder if there is interest in members agreeing to do a County Big Year during 2006, in a favorite county. That is, choose a county you like to bird, and keep track of the species you see in that county during the calendar year 2006. I think it would be interesting to see what sorts of totals are possible in various counties around the state in the course of a single year. Also, I wonder if concentrating more of one's birding activity in a single county would produce some unexpected results.

In suggesting this, that members participate in a county Big Year, I'm not thinking birders need increase their birding activities, only that they keep track of those birds specifically found in a chosen county. However, such a project could certainly turn into a more elaborate affair. In 1990, Tom Kent assigned himself just such a goal: "For 1990, I chose a project for which I could make maximum use of the time available and for which I could best use my own abilities. I set out to find as many species as possible in Johnson County in one year." (See *A County Big Year*; **IBL** 61:65-68) He ended the year with 255 species found within the boundaries of Johnson County, including a 3rd-state record Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

On the listing form, on the opposite page, there is a line marked "I agree to do a County Big Year", with a space provided to denote which county. If this sounds like fun to you, fill in the county of your choice, and report your running total four times a year to the *IOU News*. Each issue, we'll publish these progressive totals and include highlights as the year unfolds.

I guess I can start things off by announcing in which county I will do this. I hereby agree to do a 2006 County Big Year in the fine Iowa county of **Worth**.

-Paul Hertzell

2005 IOU Bird Listing Report Form

Please return this form within a week or so of the new year in order for your totals to be included in the next compilation. Of course, **all categories are optional**. Contributed totals should be accurate as of December 31, 2005. Return to: *IOU News*, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401; or email totals to: *phertzel@rconnect.com*

Name: _____

E-mail or postal address: _____

County of residence: _____

I will do a County Big Year in _____ County during 2006.

Iowa State Life List Total: _____ Personally Found by Me in Iowa : _____

Iowa 2005 Annual List Total: _____ (Total species seen in Iowa during 2005) Yardlist Total: _____

<u>Regional or statewide Big Day*:</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Names of Participants</u>
<i>Examples:</i>	<i>Hancock County</i>	<i>5/09/2005</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzell</i>
	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>12/01/2004</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Jim Fuller, Tom Kent</i>

* for record totals, please submit the species list.

COUNTY LIFE LIST TOTALS

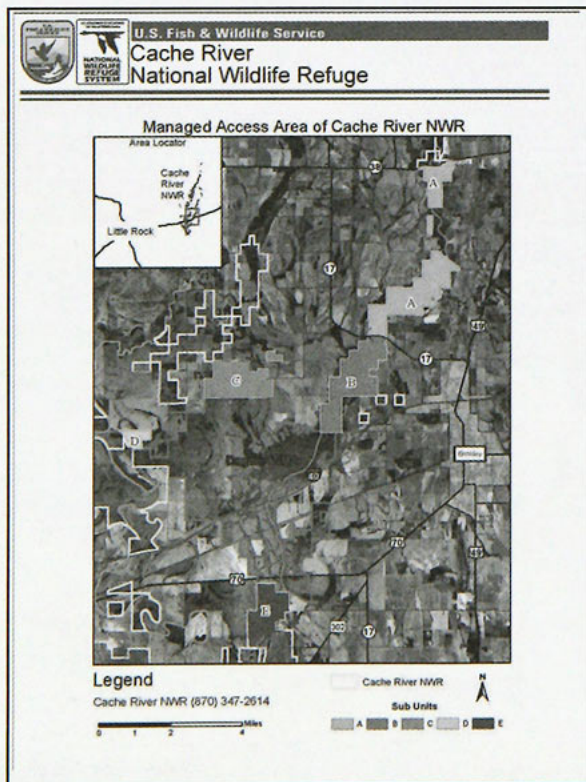
_____ Adair County	_____ Davis County	_____ Johnson County	_____ Pocahontas County
_____ Adams County	_____ Decatur County	_____ Jones County	_____ Polk County
_____ Allamakee County	_____ Delaware County	_____ Keokuk County	_____ Pottawattamie County
_____ Appanoose County	_____ Des Moines County	_____ Kossuth County	_____ Poweshiek County
_____ Audubon County	_____ Dickinson County	_____ Lee County	_____ Ringgold County
_____ Benton County	_____ Dubuque County	_____ Linn County	_____ Sac County
_____ Blackhawk County	_____ Emmet County	_____ Louisa County	_____ Scott County
_____ Boone County	_____ Fayette County	_____ Lucas County	_____ Shelby County
_____ Bremer County	_____ Floyd County	_____ Lyon County	_____ Sioux County
_____ Buchanan County	_____ Franklin County	_____ Madison County	_____ Story County
_____ Buena Vista County	_____ Fremont County	_____ Mahaska County	_____ Tama County
_____ Butler County	_____ Greene County	_____ Marion County	_____ Taylor County
_____ Calhoun County	_____ Grundy County	_____ Marshall County	_____ Union County
_____ Carroll County	_____ Guthrie County	_____ Mills County	_____ Van Buren County
_____ Cass County	_____ Hamilton County	_____ Mitchell County	_____ Wapello County
_____ Cedar County	_____ Hancock County	_____ Monona County	_____ Warren County
_____ Cerro Gordo County	_____ Hardin County	_____ Monroe County	_____ Washington County
_____ Cherokee County	_____ Harrison County	_____ Montgomery County	_____ Wayne County
_____ Chickasaw County	_____ Henry County	_____ Muscatine County	_____ Webster County
_____ Clarke County	_____ Howard County	_____ O'Brien County	_____ Winnebago County
_____ Clay County	_____ Humboldt County	_____ Osceola County	_____ Winneshiek County
_____ Clayton County	_____ Ida County	_____ Page County	_____ Woodbury County
_____ Clinton County	_____ Iowa County	_____ Palo Alto County	_____ Worth County
_____ Crawford County	_____ Jackson County	_____ Plymouth County	_____ Wright County
_____ Dallas County	_____ Jasper County		
	_____ Jefferson County		

COUNTY TOTAL TICKS _____

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Search Guidelines

There are now birding guidelines for Ivory-billed Woodpecker searchers at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, Arkansas. Access is being allowed to 5,000 acres in Managed Access Areas (MAAs) of the 63,000-acre refuge. The guidelines for five specific MAAs include required daily permits, available on a first-come, first-serve basis, for consumptive (angler/hunter) and non-consumptive (birder/photographer) users. Each of the five managed units will maintain a carrying capacity of as few as six and as many as 20 users per day, divided equally between consumptive and non-consumptive users. Hopefully this permit-plan will provide a fine start in getting the public to behave properly in habitat that may be home to the rarest bird in all of North America. More guidelines will probably have to be put in place at Cache River and White River NWRs to responsibly integrate crowd control with reliable citizen science.

A one-page color map of the five MAAs is available free of charge by calling or writing Central Arkansas Refuges, Cache River NWR, 26320 HW 33 South, Augusta, Arkansas 72006; 870/347-2614.



You can find more details on the access guidelines here:
<http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver/managed_access.htm>

The information above is courtesy of *The Birding Community E-Bulletin*, December, 2005.

IOU Spring Meeting 2006- Deer Valley Lodge, Ventura.

The spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union will be held May 19-21, 2006, at Deer Valley Lodge, in Ventura, Cerro Gordo County. Our keynote speaker will be Iowa native, Dr. Jerome Jackson, a professor in the Marine and Ecological Science Department at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers, Florida. Jackson is an expert on the



Deer Valley Lodge is on the southwest edge of Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County.

behavioral ecology of birds, with special emphasis on endangered species and woodpeckers. He is a past editor of the *Wilson Bulletin*, the *Journal of Field Ornithology*, and *Florida Field Naturalist*. He is author of the book *In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*.

Field trips will visit Clear Lake and Ventura, and nearby restored prairie/wetlands, Parker's Woods and the Lime Creek Conservation Area, Pilot Knob State Park, Zirbel Slough, Union Hills W.A., Hanlontown Marsh and Rice Lake.



The observation tower at Pilot Knob State Park, Hancock County.

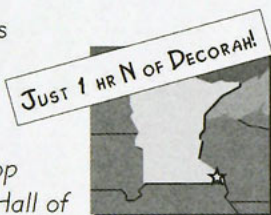


Festival of OWLS

March 3-5, 2006
Houston, MN

Keynote speaker: David H. Johnson,
Director of the Global Owl Project
"Owls in Lore, Culture & Conservation"

- Six species of live owls
- Wild owl calling
- Media celebrity hooting contest
- Owl research workshop
- North American Owl Hall of Fame award presentation
- Owl storytelling, face-painting, & origami
- Much, much more!



507-896-HOOT (4668) • nature@acegroup.cc
www.houstonmn.com/owlfest.htm

Join us for the Festival of Owls, March 3-5, 2006, in Houston, Minnesota. "Owls in Lore, Culture, and Conservation" will be the keynote address by David H. Johnson, Executive Director of the Global Owl Project, at the Friday evening banquet. Banquet attendees will also get a chance to check out a temporary Saw-whet Owl banding station to be set up that evening, and maybe a wild Saw-whet will drop into the nets. For all of you who can't imitate owl calls worth a hoot but would like to see others try, don't miss the Festival's newest activity: the Media Celebrity Hooting Contest! For the more academic owl enthusiasts, the Festival of Owls also will be adding a research workshop on owl survey techniques and habitat. College and university students are especially encouraged to participate. Photographers, both amateur and professional, won't want to miss the new photographer's brunch with the owls. Each registered photographer will get a specified amount of time to photograph each of four owls in an outdoor setting. If you're interested in using owl pellets in your classroom and would like to find out how to do it, sign up for the Owl Pellets in Your Classroom program. The owl origami, owl face-painting, and owl storytelling are all still part of the Festival, as are the raffles, silent auctions, and owl merchandise. And of course we will always send out busloads of people with our expert owl callers to give you a chance to experience these wild marvels personally.

For more information about the Festival of Owls, contact the Houston Nature Center at 507-896-HOOT (4668) or nature@acegroup.cc, or visit the Festival website at www.houstonmn.com/owlfest.htm.

UNSCRAMBLE THE IOU MEMBER NAMES

Maybe win big prizes

1. Kenny O'Leiya
2. Tony Duga Jr.

Previous puzzles:

Dr. Tartar Lutchie: Richard Tetrault

Sharen Crumbee: Bruce Ehresman

Previous winners:

Christopher Caster

Rita Goranson

SPREAD GOOD CHEER



Give a gift membership
in the IOU

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1201 High Avenue West
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

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IOU News

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