

IOU News

Winter 2009



Volume 25 - Number 4



Meeting attendees search for *Ammodramus* sparrows in the tall grass at Buckshot Lake, Sedan Bottoms. How many birders can you count? Photo by Jay Gilliam.

2009 IOU Fall Meeting Report - *Aaron Brees*

The 2009 IOU Fall Meeting was held October 16-18 in Centerville, Iowa. The meeting was co-hosted by the Rathbun Bird Club and over 70 people attended. The festivities got started with the Friday night registration and social at the Motel 60. Food and drink were provided by the Rathbun club and attendees also enjoyed viewing a mounted Snowy Owl from the area. On Saturday, activities moved to our main meeting location at the Manhattan Steakhouse just south of Centerville. All of the meals for the weekend were prepared by the Manhattan, and combined with their meeting room and banquet room, it made

for an excellent meeting facility.

Saturday field trips visited areas around Rathbun Lake, Sharon Bluffs park, and the Sedan Bottoms area. Highlights included good looks at LeConte's and Nelson's sparrows as well finding a field with both Lapland and Smith's Longspurs. Saturday was also the opening day of duck season, so some groups got extra close up looks at a couple pintails and a wigeon at the Buckshot

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IOU News

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

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IOU News issues:

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

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this newsletter was mailed to 437 members.

Things To Do

Dec. 14 – Jan. 5 Audubon Christmas Bird Counts
(see page 8 for a CBC near you)

January 31 List totals due for *IOU News*. (see pages 10, 11 for details)

Feb. 28, 2010 End of Winter reporting season.
Enter field reports online at
www.iowabirds.org or by e-mail to
Aaron Brees at abrees@hotmail.com)

IOU Spring Meeting

The 2010 meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union will take place over the weekend of April 30 - May 2 in Bettendorf, which is one of the Quad Cities on the Mississippi River. Events will be held at the Ramada Inn, which will provide rooms at a discounted rate for meeting attendees. An extensive and varied list of field trips is being put together by our local hosts, and speakers are being arranged as we speak.

Full details and registration information will be forthcoming in the Spring issue of *IOU News*.



IOU Fall Meeting *continued from page 1*

Lake parking lot.

Saturday afternoon started off with the IOU board meeting, followed by the afternoon programs and the business meeting. Don Brown spoke to the group about the importance of the sustainable funding for natural resources constitutional amendment which will be on the ballot in 2010. Tyler Harms of Iowa State



Tyler Harms, ISU graduate student, discusses his research on marsh birds in IA. Photo by J Gilliam.

University gave a presentation on his master's work surveying for secretive marsh birds in Iowa. Torre Hovick, also of ISU, gave a presentation on his master's project working on Grasshopper Sparrows in Ringgold County. Fortunately for Hawk-



Torre Hovick, ISU grad student, presents his research on grassland bird species. Photo by JG.

eye fans, the meeting room was adjacent to the Manhattan's bar where the Iowa-Wisconsin game was on, allowing them to both attend the programs and keep track of the score.

The Saturday banquet began with the presentation of a plaque honoring out-going Iowa Bird Life editor Kay Niyo for her 10 years of service to the organization. Following that pre-presentation, Jon Dunn gave the main banquet program on sparrows. Jon discussed identification, natural history, taxonomy, and nomenclature among other fascinating bits of sparrow information. Jon also spent time signing many of the books that he has authored, participated in our field trips, and spent hours sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of birds with attendees.



Keynote speaker Jon Dunn imparts pearls of wisdom about sparrows in an entertaining and informative talk. Photo by Jay Gilliam.



Vice-president Aaron Brees introduces featured speaker Jon Dunn. Photo by Jay Gilliam.

The Sunday morning field trips again visited Rathbun Lake, Sharon Bluffs, and Sedan Bottoms. The highlights were similar to Saturday with good numbers of puddle ducks and great looks at a lot of sparrows. A forecast of winds out of the north failed to materialize, leaving Rathbun Lake without many waterbird migrants; however a Western Grebe was a good find.

The meeting wrapped up with lunch and a compilation of sightings back at the Manhattan. A total of 118 species was seen over the weekend.

- Aaron Brees



New officers of IOU, President Steve Dinsmore and Vice-president Aaron Brees enjoying their favorite pursuit. Photo by Kay Niyo.

IOU Fall Meeting Attendees

Eloise	Armstrong	Booneville	IA
Eugene	Armstrong	Booneville	IA
John	Bissell	Grimes	IA
Aaron	Brees	Des Moines	IA
Don	Brown	West Des Moines	IA
Chris	Caster	Coralville	IA
Bob	Cecil	Des Moines	IA
Ray	Cummins	Centerville	IA
Laura	Decook	Centerville	IA
Stephen	Dinsmore	Ames	IA
Karen	Disbrow	Iowa City	IA
Jon	Dunn	Bishop	CA
Keith	Dyche	Shenandoah	IA
Dave	Eastman	Cedar Falls	IA
Chris	Edwards	Solon	IA
Joan	Fisher	Milan	IL
Fritz	Franzen	Ames	IA
Chuck	Fuller	Burlington	IA
Jay	Gilliam	Norwalk	IA
Tyler	Harms	Ames	IA
Mary Jo	Hartogh	Elma	IA
Mark	Hoffman	Centerville	IA
Torre	Hovick	Ames	IA
Doug	Hunt	Oskaloosa	IA
Mary Beth	Hunt	Oskaloosa	IA
Maridel	Jackson	Ankeny	IA
Ann	Johnson	Norwalk	IA
Becky	Johnson	Mystic	IA
Thomas	Johnson	Mystic	IA
Tiffany	Johnson	Mystic	IA
Dorothy	Kelley	Des Moines	IA
Mike	Kelley	Des Moines	IA
Cathy	Konrad	Bettendorf	IA
Tom	Kurtz	Long Grove	IA
Tucker	Lutter	Bronson	IA
Dewey	McConville	Centerville	IA
Ramona	McGurk	Iowa City	IA
Evans	McWilliam	Paton	IA
Francis	Moore	Waterloo	IA
Jim	Moreland	Boone	IA
Jim	Murdock	Ames	IA
Phyllis	Nickolson	Sioux City	IA
Robert	Nickolson	Sioux City	IA
Kay	Niyo	Golden	CO
Virginia	Padavan	Centerville	IA
Diana	Pesek	Cedar Rapids	IA
Mary Lou	Petersen	Bettendorf	IA
Cheryl	Piatt	Centerville	IA
Larry	Piatt	Centerville	IA
Mark	Proescholdt	Liscomb	IA
Paul	Roisen	Sioux City	IA
John	Rutenbeck	Burlington	IA
Richard	Sayles	Blue Grass	IA
Bill	Scheible	Cedar Rapids	IA
Leo	Schlunz	Chariton	IA
Paul	Skrade	Ames	IA
Stuart	Sparkman	Des Moines	IA
Mike	Stephens	Centerville	IA
Vicky	Stephens	Centerville	IA
Tom	Stone	Waterloo	IA
Tommy	Stone	Waterloo	IA
Alan	Taylor	Paton	IA
Lisa	Taylor	Paton	IA
Daniel	Tiemeier	Centerville	IA
Bill	Tollefson	Cedar Rapids	IA
Fred	Truck	West Des Moines	IA
Lorna	Truck	West Des Moines	IA
Laura	Vander Meer	Le Mars	IA
Peter	Vander Meer	Le Mars	IA
Karen	Viste-Sparkman	Des Moines	IA
Gerald	White	Muscatine	IA
JoAnn	Whitmore	Moline	IL
Hank	Zaletel	Nevada	IA

A Changing of the Guard

After ten years of masterfully guiding our journal, *Iowa Bird Life*, Kay Niyo has decided to step down, and has turned the editorial reins over to Steve Dinsmore.

Kay's dedication and expertise have been instrumental in maintaining the high standard of quality established by her predecessors. Steve is extremely well qualified to assume this new role, and the future of *IBL* is secure. All IOU members should



anticipate a seamless transition because Kay and Steve have a long history of working together.

Anyone who has served on the IOU Publications Committee knows all too well the long hours and hard work that are required to produce a highly regarded journal, as ours surely is.

Thank you, Kay. And thank you, Steve.

Bill Scheible
Editor, *IOU News*



Kay Niyo accepts a plaque in recognition of her ten-year service as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. Photo by Jay Gilliam.



Niyo's first issue of *Iowa Bird Life* – Winter 2000.

IOU Fall Meeting Species List

Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall
 American Wigeon
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Northern Pintail
 Green-winged Teal
 Ring-necked Duck
 Lesser Scaup
 Hooded Merganser
 Ruddy Duck
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Horned Grebe
 Western Grebe
 American White Pelican
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Turkey Vulture
 Bald Eagle
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Virginia Rail
 Sora
 American Coot
 Semipalmated Plover
 Killdeer
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Sanderling
 Least Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Wilson's Snipe
 Franklin's Gull
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Common Tern
 Forster's Tern
 Rock Pigeon
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Eastern Screech-Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Chimney Swift
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Phoebe
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Horned Lark
 Tree Swallow



A cooperative LeConte's Sparrow, one of the signature species of the Fall meeting in Appanoose County. Photo by Kay Niyo.

Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Carolina Wren
 Winter Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Le Conte's Sparrow
 Nelson's Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Harris's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Lapland Longspur
 Smith's Longspur
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

Ospreys Throughout Iowa

Twelve Osprey pairs have been reported in Iowa this year. Young birds are still hatching, so we won't know specific outcomes until chicks are big enough to be seen over the edges of the nests. Here's what we do know: Iowans are excited about seeing Ospreys!

We know that there are three nesting pairs around Coralville Reservoir in Johnson County, thanks to the staff of the Macbride Raptor Project. There are four pairs in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area in Black Hawk County (County Conservation Board at Hartman Reserve Nature Center), two pairs in Polk County (Polk County Conservation Board), a nesting pair at Don Williams Lake (Boone CCB staff), a pair at the Duane Arnold Energy Plant in Linn County (Linn CCB staff at Wickiup Hill), and finally, a nesting pair is in Woodbury County along the Missouri River. A previous nest at Lake Rathbun apparently failed this year.

This year 20 Ospreys from Wisconsin and Minnesota will be released at four sites in Iowa. These locations are White Rock Conservancy in Guthrie County, Mud Lake on the Mississippi River in Dubuque County, Spirit Lake, and a new site at Annett Nature Center in Warren County. At these locations, AmeriCorps volunteer projects are planned for kids to "go fishing for the Ospreys" to provide fish for the young Ospreys to live on while they develop flight skills before release. These kids will learn that fish need clean water, Ospreys need clean water, we all need clean water!



Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa DNR

Ospreys have worldwide range, and four subspecies are presently recognized. Two subspecies occupy North America, *P.h. carolinensis* in temperate North America (includes Iowa) and *P.h. ridgwayi* in the Caribbean.

These birds of prey are large narrow-winged, fishing raptors, weighing 2.2 to 4.2 pounds. Length is 21 to 26 inches and wingspread is 59 to 67 inches.

- Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa DNR

History of the IOU Photo Contest

Sharon Stillwell and Tom Lawson

The IOU photo contest has its roots within our organization beginning in the 1950's. It was brought back to life when then Vice-president, Sharon Stillwell, asked Tom Kent to recap our 75 years as an organization at the fall 2003 meeting. Tom had found a journal article from the mid-50's about a contest and thought it would be fun to do again given the increasing interest in wild bird photography by IOU members. The modern version of the contest began with the spring 2004 meeting.

The contest serves several purposes for both the organization

and the photographers alike. With each photograph submitted there is a \$5.00 entry fee; winners are given the choice of donating their winnings to IOU publications, or keeping the money for personal use. To date all entrants but one has donated their winnings. Winning photographs are published in the IOU journal and on the Iowa Birds website, thus giving recognition to the great photographers in a tangible way, while their photographs tend to serve as a gathering place during registration at the spring meeting where all entries are on display. Further, the photographs are then taken by Linda Zaletel, who puts together a traveling display which is taken to Iowa conservation offices and is a way of getting our name out around the state.

Iowa Birds Photo Contest Rules

Participants: Any IOU member excluding members of the Judging Committee may submit photos.

Subjects: Still photos of wild, unrestrained birds taken in Iowa of species on the Official State List (including a new species if accepted by the Records Committee) will be accepted. Photos may be recent or old, digital or film, and color or black-and-white.

Submission: Each contestant may submit up to three photos with a submission fee of \$5 for each photo. Entries must be mailed to the Judging Committee within the date range on the entry form. Use the entry form from *IOU News* or on the website *Iowa Birds & Birding* (<http://www.iowabirds.org>). Submitters should indicate yes or no (default) to the following (1) donate winnings to IOU Publications Enhancement Fund (for publication of winning photos), (2) allow publication of photo(s) in *Iowa Bird Life* or *IOU News* or display on the *Iowa Birds & Birding* website (Photos will be watermarked to prevent copying.), and (3) donate the photo(s) to the IOU for use by the IOU for display. See entry form.

Form: Each photo must be on 8 x 10 or 8.5 x 11 inch paper or mounted on 8 x 10 or 8.5 x 11 inch matte board or foam core. Only one photo per board allowed. On the back of the photo the following information is required: (1) name of species (common name), (2) date of photo (e.g., 6 February 2003), (3) location including county, (4) make of camera, (5) digital or film, (6) make and power of lens or telescope and (7) photographer. Other information should not be included. Neatness and quality of mounting will be a factor in judging.

Judging: The photos will be judged by a three-member committee. The time will be determined by the Judging Committee. The judges may divide the photos into categories (e.g., digital—vs. film or passerines—vs. non-passerines). The

judges will base their selections on quality of the photograph, view of the bird, difficulty of obtaining the photo (rarity of species, secretiveness) and quality of the mounting and labeling. The judges shall decide on the details of the judging process and their decisions shall be final.

Winners: The number of prizes will be based on the number of entries. Forty percent of the entries will receive a prize--1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention as appropriate, overall or within categories. The entry fee money will be distributed to the winners approximately as follows: 1st 40%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 15%, and honorable mention 5%. The judges will determine the final allocation to best fit these approximations. All photos will be on display Friday evening and Saturday of the meeting. Photographers not wishing to donate photos may pick up photos after the banquet on Saturday night or make other arrangements with the chair of the Judging Committee.



Iowa Birds Photo Contest Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Photo 1

Species (common name):

Date of Photo:

Location (include county):

Make of Camera:

Digital or Film:

Make and Power of Lens or Telescope:

Photo 2

Species (common name):

Date of Photo:

Location (include county):

Make of Camera:

Digital or Film:

Make and Power of Lens or Telescope:

Photo 3

Species (common name):

Date of Photo:

Location (include county):

Make of Camera:

Digital or Film:

Make and Power of Lens or Telescope:

Please indicate your choices:

I wish to donate any winnings to the IOU Publications Enhancement Fund for publication of winning photos. Yes No

I agree to allow my photo(s) to be published in *Iowa Bird Life* or *IOU News* or to be displayed on the *Iowa Birds & Birding* website
Yes No

I wish to donate my photo(s) to the IOU for use in displays. Yes No

Mail this entry form along with a \$5.00 entry fee* for each photo submitted to:

Iowa Birds Photo Contest Committee

c/o Tom Lawson

703 Prairie St.

Adel, IA 50003

Entries will be received only during the month of March each year.

*Make checks payable to the IOU Treasurer.



2009 - 2010 Christmas Bird Counts



Date	Count	Compiler	Contact
Dec. 14	Keokuk	Bob Cecil	<i>wewarb@aol.com</i>
Dec. 16	Buchanan County	Danny Akers	<i>birdmandan1231@hotmail.com</i>
Dec. 17	NW Clayton County	Danny Akers	<i>birdmandan1231@hotmail.com</i>
Dec. 17	Rathbun	Mike Stephens	
Dec. 19	Ames	Shane Patterson	<i>shane7896@yahoo.com</i>
Dec. 19	Burlington	Chuck Fuller	<i>CFuller989@aol.com</i>
Dec. 19	Cedar Rapids	Jim Durbin	<i>durbinjames@imonmail.com</i>
Dec. 19	Dallas County	Tom Lawson	<i>tom.lawson@mchsi.com</i>
Dec. 19	Mason City	Rita Goranson	<i>retag@mchsi.com</i>
Dec. 19	Omaha	Betty Grenon	<i>grenon925@aol.com</i>
Dec. 19	Red Rock	Aaron Brees	<i>abrees@hotmail.com</i>
Dec. 19	Shenandoah	Keith Dyche	<i>kadd27@hotmail.com</i>
Dec. 19	Sioux City	Jerry Probst	<i>probstsuebee@aol.com</i>
Dec. 20	Cherokee	Dick Bierman	<i>dbierman@mchsi.com</i>
Dec. 20	Davenport	Kelly McKay	<i>KellyJMcKay@aol.com</i>
Dec. 20	Iowa City	Chris Edwards	<i>credwards@aol.com</i>
Dec. 20	Jamaica	Ray Cummins	<i>cummins@sirisonline.com</i>
Dec. 20	Saylorville	Steve Dinsmore	<i>cootjr@iastate.edu</i>
Dec. 23	Eldora-Union	Mark Proescholdt	641-496-5219
Dec. 26	Des Moines	Denny Thompson	<i>cndthomps@acm.org</i>
Dec. 26	Ida Grove	Don Poggensee	<i>donpog@netllc.net</i>
Dec. 27	Humboldt County	Jacob Newton	<i>janewton@iastate.edu</i>
Dec. 30	Ottumwa	Annette Wittrock	<i>wapellocountynaturalist@gmail.com</i>
Jan. 1	Worth County	Curt Nelson	<i>cnelson@omnitelcom.com</i>
Jan. 2	Boone County	Mark Widrlechner	<i>mpwskd@yahoo.com</i>
Jan. 2	Dubuque	Chas. Winterwood	<i>cwinterwood@yahoo.com</i>
Jan. 2	Neal Smith NWR	Karen Viste-Sparkman	<i>karen_vistesparkman@fws.gov</i>
Jan. 2	North Linn	Jim Durbin	<i>durbinjames@imonmail.com</i>
Jan. 3	Carroll County	Matt Wettrich	<i>matt@naturebymatt.com</i>
Jan. 5	SE Clayton County	Danny Akers	<i>birdmandan1231@hotmail.com</i>



The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

a Proposed Constitutional Amendment

In 2010 Iowans will have a chance to vote on an amendment to the Iowa Constitution which is of major importance for bird life in Iowa. Amendments to the Iowa Constitution are rare. If this Amendment receives more votes for than against its adoption, the next time the Iowa Legislature increases the Iowa Sales Tax, the first 3/8ths of one cent of the increase will be permanently dedicated to the preservation and improvement of our water quality, natural areas and soils. Every Iowan, rural or urban, who enjoys birds (or clean waterways, butterflies, native plants, mammals, fish, reptiles, etc.) should promote and vote for this Amendment.

Iowa ranks a dismal 48th out of the 50 states in the amount of land remaining in natural habitat. This Amendment has been approved for submission to Iowa voters by a large majority (over 90%) of both the Republicans and Democrats in the Iowa Legislature. It provides the best opportunity, and probably the last opportunity for a long time, to save or restore Iowa's habitat for birds and fish, wetlands and clean water.

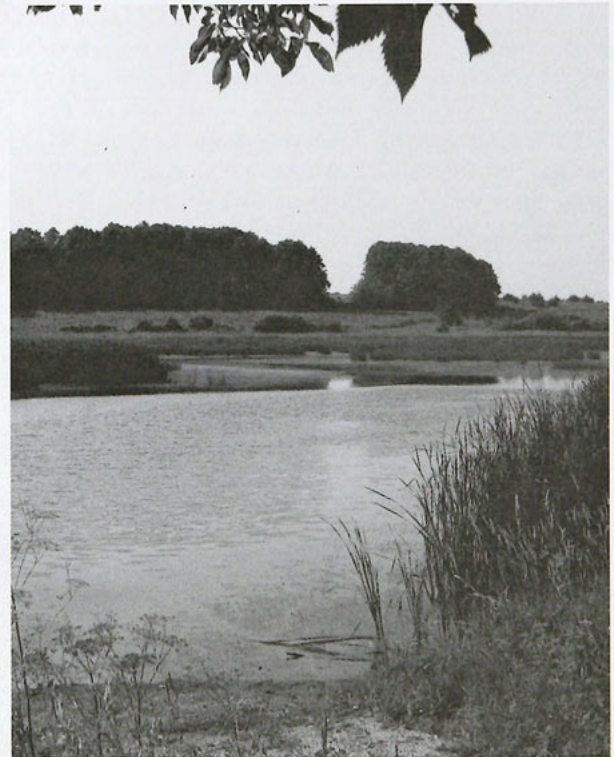
Minnesota voters have just approved a similar amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. Missouri has had dedicated funding for natural resources for over 30 years, and the results for Missourians have been outstanding. If we in Iowa do not begin to take a long view and start to fund habitat conservation now, our quality of life for future generations will suffer seriously, and the very existence of many native Iowa plant and animal species will be in doubt.

The Amendment will provide the basis for the establishment of a permanent fund, to be called "The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund." The Fund will provide permanent and dedicated funding for Iowa's natural resources. The revenue in the Fund will be protected and cannot be reallocated to any other purposes. Currently funding for conservation

programs and outdoor recreational opportunities is subject to a fluctuating state budget, and in many cases these programs have been and continue to be under-funded or unfunded. It is estimated that 3/8ths of a one cent sales tax will provide \$150 million annually.

A number of Iowa organizations have come together to support the Amendment. They include the IOU, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Nature Conservancy,

Pheasants Forever, Izaak Walton League, Ducks Unlimited, Iowa Audubon, Iowa Farmers Union and a substantial number of other organizations that support, in some way, quality outdoor life experiences and recreation in Iowa, or better quality water for all of us.



Cardinal Marsh in Winneshiek County is one of the premier wetlands of eastern Iowa. Photo by Paul Hertzell.

Every member of the IOU should help get out the vote for this important measure. You should also get your local birding groups to participate in some way in the effort to obtain voter approval next November. It is not too early to get started now. It will be a tough fight under current economic circumstances. But if Iowa voters understand what this Amendment can do to make Iowa a better place for us and for future generations they will enthusiastically support it. Now is the time to become better informed, to make your personal commitment to vote next November, and to fight for its approval. Now is also the time to begin to spread the message to everyone that you may be able to influence.

For detailed and up-to-date information about the Amendment and the campaign for its approval, please contact Rosalyn Lehman, campaign coordinator, at riehman@tnc.org or 515-202-7720.

— Don Brown

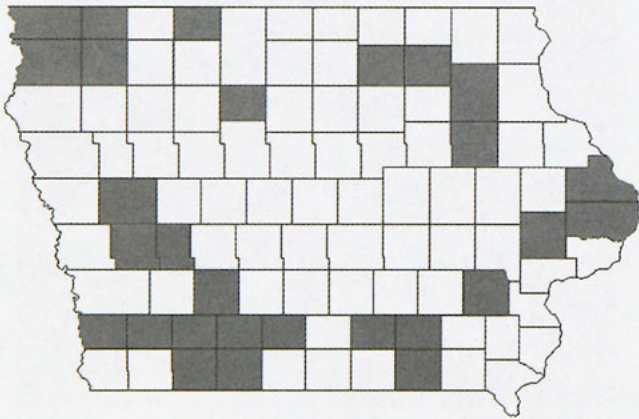


Don Brown addresses the IOU membership at the 2009 Fall Meeting. Photo by Jay Gilliam.

The Mendoza Line

In baseball parlance, the Mendoza Line refers to a batting average of .200, in short, a benchmark of hitting futility. I believe that we can draw an analogy when we look at Iowa birding statistics. There are over 300 regularly occurring bird species in our state, ie, breeders, winter visitors and commonly seen migrants. It's my contention that every Iowa county should have a record of at least 200 of these, hence an "IOU Mendoza Line". Fellow birders, nearly one third of Iowa's counties (29 to be exact), currently fall below this threshold, as posted on the IOU website at www.iowabirds.org/birds/countyCounts.asp

The second year of the 5-year Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project has just concluded. Wouldn't it be appropriate next year to tackle atlas surveys in these under-birded counties? It goes without saying that doing so would bump these low numbers appreciably, but more importantly, it would contribute new knowledge about the distribution of birds in Iowa.



For the record, our species-challenged counties are: Adair, Adams, Audubon, Buchanan, Cass, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clinton, Crawford, Davis, Emmet, Fayette, Floyd, Humboldt, Jackson, Lyon, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Wapello and Washington.

So, in anticipation of the 2010 season, step up to the plate, everybody. Pick a county.

– Bill Scheible.



Report Your 2009 List Totals

Iowa bird species list totals as of December 31, 2009 may be submitted to the *IOU News* by using the form at right, or may be sent by email. Totals will be published in the Spring issue, 2010. Current Iowa records by state, county and month can be found in the 2009 Summer issue of *IOU News*.

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. This process contributes to our learning more about the presence of birds in Iowa, which is a principal objective of the IOU.

The **Iowa Lifetime Total List** is perhaps the premier list, and is the list with the largest membership participation. The top five lists through 2008 were

386 Tom Kent
383 Jim Fuller
378 Pam Allen
378 Reid Allen
377 Chuck Fuller

Another popular list is the **Annual List**, which is a roster of birds seen in the calendar year. An annual list over 300 is a remarkable list and has been accomplished only by a handful of Iowa's birders. Last year, the top five annual lists were

297 Stephen Dinsmore
296 Jay Gilliam
288 Keith Dyche
281 Reid Allen
281 Pam Allen

Other list categories are the Personally Found List, yard list totals, and individual county list totals. Some birders who keep multiple county lists also keep a running Total Ticks, which is the sum of all county list totals.

IOU News also publishes Big Day totals. 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. Each calendar month has an Iowa Big Day record, and 21 of Iowa's 99 counties have Big Day records. The top five county records are

171 Fremont 11 May 1991
165 Woodbury 08 May 2004
162 Polk 12 May 2006
154 Warren 09 May 2003
153 Kossuth 14 May 2002

2009 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, 2009, and should adhere to the standards of the official Iowa State List (accidentals and casuals should have Records Committee acceptance).

Return to: Paul Hertzell, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 or send email to: phertzell@rconnect.com

Name: _____

E-mail or postal address: _____

County of residence: _____

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

Iowa 2009 Annual List Total: _____ (Total species seen in Iowa during 2009) Yardlist Total: _____

Regional or Statewide Big Day * Totals:	Region	Date	Species	Names of Participants
<i>Example:</i>	<i>Linn Co</i>	<i>14 May 09</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>Bill Scheible, Paul Hertzell</i>

*Record totals should be accompanied by the species list.

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

Iowa Ornithologists' Union
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Oskaloosa, IA 52577

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