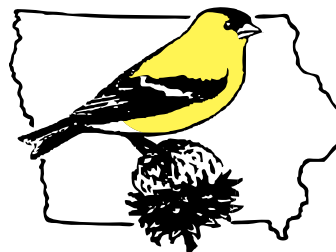


IOU News

Winter 2014



Volume 30 - Number 4



Planning a Birding Trip Using eBird

By Rick Hollis

There is a definite nip in the air and many of us are thinking about going someplace warmer with different birds. How do you find out what your possibilities are?

1. Get your hands on one the ABA's bird finding guides, like A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley
2. Fire up your computer and look for state or local birding sites
3. Head to eBird.com.

A word about eBird: They are particular in the naming of birds and places.

On eBird, go to:

- Explore Data, move down
- Bar Charts. Since we are going to the Rio Grande Valley, Select a Region United States [the default]
- Choose Texas and click on one of the subregion circles
- We choose Subregion = Counties in Texas,
- Go to the bottom of the page and click Continue
- Choose Hidalgo [note you can choose multiple counties]
- Hit Continue and your bar chart pops up

The first thing you notice is the hideous colors, don't blame me.

- To avoid all the ancient data, I might at this time click on Change Date
- Since we are avoiding Winter in Iowa, we choose Winter
- Set the time range to the last 10 years
- Click Set Date Range

Then you say, "how come it shows the whole year?" Yes, I know it does, but it only shows those species found during Winter. You can print this out directly or it is probably best to take a

screen shot and print in black and white. If you are using fancy software, Turn green and blue up and everything else down, during your color transformation of the image.



If your software allows it you can cut December to a new layer and move it over the column that says MAP and then crop the rest. This will make a bar chart for what is normally there.



But wait, you want to know about this year. Are there any Green Jays around? Easy!

- First you go to <http://birding.aba.org> and look for the listservs around your desired location. Texas only has one. Click there and look for it.
- Then you go to eBird
- Explore Data, moving to
- Species Map
- Add Species name, click on Date Range (I cannot show Winter 2014 as this is October, as I write this, so I am using last winter, And Texas as the region).
- Click on the No Reports box. The map will look less cluttered.
- Zoom way in so the lavender rectangles turn to flames or drops.

IOU News

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

IOU News Editor:

John Bissell
328 SE Cedarwood Dr
Grimes, IA 50111-1142
john.annabissell@gmail.com

IOU News Layout:

Anna Bissell
328 SE Cedarwood Dr
Grimes, IA 50111-1142
john.annabissell@gmail.com

IOU Publications Committee:

Ann Johnson, Chair
James J Dinsmore
Stephen J Dinsmore
Bill Scheible
John Bissell

IOU News issues:

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

IOU Journal:

Iowa Bird Life
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Editor
cootjr@iastate.edu

Website:

<http://www.iowabirds.org/>

IOU Membership / Subscriptions:

Doug Hunt
1201 High Avenue W
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
<http://www.iowabirds.org/>

this newsletter was mailed to 47 members.

***** **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** *****

Just a friendly notice that your I.O.U. membership dues are coming due and we really would appreciate everyone renewing their membership, and the easiest way to do this is to renew your membership on-line (even if you are paying by check). Also, please check to make sure that your membership profile is up to date, especially your e-mail address. The URL is:
<http://iowabirds.org/IOU/PayDues.aspx>

Our organization can only continue to provide excellent publications if we have the support of all our members. You might want to encourage others to join our organization or increase your membership giving at a higher level.

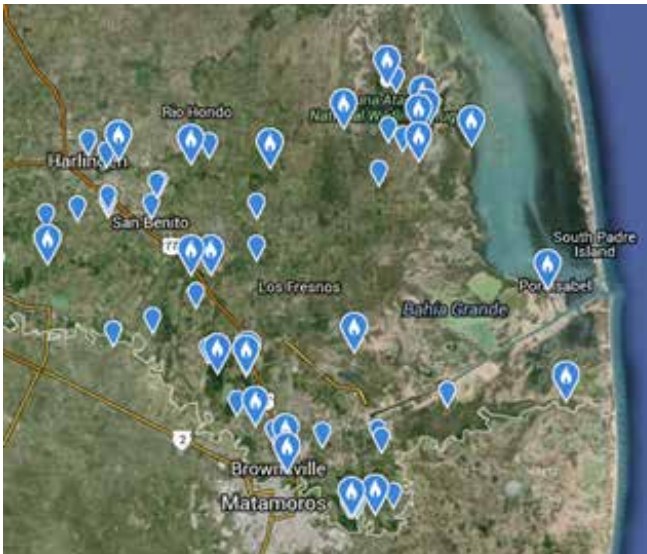
Thanks for your renewal!!!

Pam Allen, I.O.U. Membership Coordinator

***** **WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!!!** *****

Do you know someone who is interested in birding but who is NOT a member of I.O.U.? Please ask this interested person (or family) to join I.O.U. We offer so many opportunities for our members to become involved in many ways: joining us on a field trip at one of our semi-annual membership gatherings (held all over the state); becoming actively involved in reporting your bird sightings and observations (through our on-line field notes reporting and documentation process); or, taking part in some of the projects which we help sponsor. To join is simple and the easiest way to do this is to join on-line (even if the new member is paying by check). When someone joins, a membership profile is created and through this process we know where to send your publications, so it is important for this profile to be created. The URL is: <http://iowabirds.org/IOU/PayDues.aspx>

Encourage a new member to join TODAY!!!



(Continued from page 1)

Looking live, there are red and blue flames. The bigger ones are more recent, the smaller ones are 30+ days ago. Flames with inner flames are official hotspots. You can click on any of these to see the date and observer of the sighting.

Clicking on the blue word, Checklist, to the left of each sighting will give the entire checklist.

Clicking on the Arrow, Explore Hotspot, at the top right, will give you other recent sightings at that Hotspot Figure 5

Please note that figures are truncated, and the bottom and sometimes the right is cut off.

Have a safe winter and Good Birding!

Overview Recent Visits

236 Species | 1746 Checklists

Last Seen First Seen High Counts Bar Charts

SPECIES NAME	COUNT	DATE	BY
1 Inca Dove	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke
2 Golden-fronted Woodpecker	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke
3 Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke
4 Great Kiskadee	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke
5 Couch's Kingbird	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke
6 White-eyed Vireo	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke
7 Green Jay	1	30 Oct 2014	Erik Bruhnke

Quinta Mazatlan WBC (LTC 063) EXPLORE HOTSPOT

Hidalgo, US-TX

DATE	#	OBSERVER	
2014-02-22	2	Quinta Mazatlan	Checklist
2014-02-22	2	John Brush	Checklist
2014-02-21	X	Linda Fuller	Checklist
2014-02-21	X	Greg Butcher	Checklist
2014-02-18	1	Quinta Mazatlan	Checklist
2014-02-18	1	John Brush	Checklist
2014-02-15	3	Paul Johnson	Checklist
2014-02-14	1	Jay Rubens	Checklist
2014-02-14	1	Cindy Rubens	Checklist
2014-02-05	1	Quinta eTT	Checklist
2014-02-04	2	Quinta Mazatlan	Checklist

Location Quinta Mazatlan WBC (LTC 063), Hidalgo County, Texas, US

Date and Effort Fri Oct 31, 2014 12:05 PM

Protocol: Traveling
 Party Size: 1
 Duration: 1 hour(s), 30 minute(s)
 Distance: 0.5 mile(s)
 Observers: Erik Bruhnke

Species 25 species total

- 2 Turkey Vulture
- 1 Cooper's Hawk
- 3 Inca Dove
- 10 White-winged Dove

Christmas Bird Count Dates

Date	Count Name	Compiler	Email Address	Phone
12-14	Davenport	Kelly McKay	kellyjmckay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-14	Spirit Lake	Lee Schoenewe	lschoe@smunet.net	712-262-8194
12-14	Rathbun	Michael Stephens		641-437-1736
12-14	Bremer County	Francis Moore	flmoore@forbin.net	319-269-0741
12-14	Iowa City	Chris Edwards	credwards@aol.com	319-430-4732
12-14	Saylorville	Stephen Dinsmore	cootjr@iastate.edu	515-450-8805
12-15	Keokuk	John Cecil	jcecil01@gmail.com	515-249-5668
12-16	Clinton-Savanna	Kelly McKay	kellyjmcKay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-18	Princeton-Camanche	Kelly McKay	kellyjmcKay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-18	Jamaica	Richard Sayles	d5169@aol.com	563-381-2390
12-20	Burlington	Chuck Fuller		319-753-0710
12-20	Black Hawk County	Francis Moore	flmoore@forbin.net	319-269-0741
12-20	Ames	Shane Patterson	shane7896@yahoo.com	515-232-4682
12-20	Cedar Rapids	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-20	Red Rock	Tyler Harms	harmsy@iastate.edu	515-320-4975
12-20	Cedar Rapids	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-20	Shenandoah	Keith Dyche	kadd27@hotmail.com	712-246-9517
12-20	Lamoni	Jeff Livingston	jeffandjenia@hotmail.com	641-784-8874
12-20	Mason City	Rita Goranson	ritag@mchsi.com	641-423-1699
12-20	Sioux City	Jerry Probst	probstsuebee@aol.com	712-258-1296
12-20	Grinnell	Robert Van Ervelde	crvanersvelde@iowatelecom.net	641-990-0626
12-23	Muscatine	Kelly McKay	kellyjmcKay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-24	Andalusia-Buffalo	Kelly McKay	kellyjmcKay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-26	Western Mercer	Kelly McKay	kellyjmcKay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-27	SE Webster	Erin Ford	eford@webstercountya.org	
12-27	Des Moines	Dennis Thompson	cndthomps@acm.org	
12-27	Ida County	Don Poggensee	donpog@netllc.net	712-364-3491
12-27	Decorah	Larry Reis	naturalist@winneshiekwild.com	
12-27	North Linn	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-28	Taylor County	Corey Lange	corejlange@gmail.com	
12-29	Eldora-Union	Mark Proescholdt		641-496-5219
12-29	Yellow River	Larry Reis	naturalist@winneshiekwild.com	
1-1	Worth County	Curt Nelson	cnelson@omnitelcom.com	641-696-5600
1-2	Union Slough	Tyler Harms	harmsy@iastate.edu	515-320-4975
1-3	Dubuque	Charles Winterwood	cwinterwood@yahoo.com	563-588-2783
1-3	Humboldt County	Jacob Newton	newtja84@gmail.com	
1-3	NW Clayton County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
1-3	Desoto NWR	Jerry Toll	geritol48@cox.net	402-312-1635
1-3	Neal Smith NWR	Karen Viste-Sparkman	k.vistesparkman@mchsi.com	515-556-7936
1-3	Boone County	Mark Widrlechner		515-520-3881
1-3	Westfield	Bill Huser	billhuser@gmail.com	
1-4	SE Clayton County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
1-4	Carroll County	Matt Wetrich	matt@naturebymatt.com	

2014 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, 2014, and should adhere to the standards of the official Iowa State List (accidentals and casuals should have Records Committee acceptance).

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

Name: _____

E-mail or postal address: _____

County of residence: _____

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

Iowa 2014 Annual List Total: _____ (Total species seen in Iowa during 2014) Yardlist Total: _____


Regional or Statewide Big Day * Totals:	Region	Date	Species	Names of Participants
<i>Example:</i>	<i>Dickinson Co</i>	<i>16 May 10</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>Ed Thelen, Lee Schoenewe</i>

*Record totals should be accompanied by the species list.

COUNTY LIST TOTALS

_____ 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	_____ Pocahontas County	
_____ Dallas County	_____ Jefferson County		
_____ Davis County	_____ Johnson County		

County **Total Ticks** _____



Some Comments on the IOU Personally Found List Category

Article and photos by Aaron Brees

In the “2004 IOU Listing Totals” article by Paul Hertz, a new listing category was included for the first time titled “Personally Found In Iowa.” Generally referred to as the Personally Found (PF) list, this category is a lifetime count of bird species independently found by the observer in Iowa. Although this concept sounds simple enough, discussions with other birders have shown that this is disagreement when it comes to exactly what PF means in certain situations.

Listing is a game we play and most games have rules to ensure a level playing field for the participants. The IOU has never developed rules for any of the lists it publishes nor has it formally adopted the American Birding Association listing rules. Iowa birders are assumed to know the unwritten rules of listing, and for the most part this is reasonable and has worked well enough. Basically, if a bird is wild, correctly identified, and is present in the relevant geographic area during the relevant time period, it is countable. The PF list adds an additional variable—the birder must have independently located the bird.

More simply stated, a bird is personally found when the birder is the first person to find it. Chased or otherwise previously reported birds cannot be counted on the PF list. As an example, even though dozens of people saw the Roseate Spoonbill off Jester Park a few years ago, John McCecil is the only one who can count it on a PF list because he was the original discoverer of the bird. This example is so clear cut that it is hard to imagine

how there could be any confusion; however a number of circumstances occur which present legitimate gray areas. Below is a short discussion of three of these situations. These comments reflect my opinions, developed with input from other birders, and are not “the rules” of the PF list. They are presented for discussion purposes with the hope that we can come to a consensus or possibly develop formal rules that could be officially adopted by the IOU.



1. Birding in groups. We often bird in groups, ranging from two people on up to large field trips. Regardless of group size, usually only one person in a group can be the first to see a bird. However, I believe that when birding is a collective activity, all birders actively searching for birds should be able to count a bird found by the group. This seems fair when

two or three birders are actively searching an area and, as a matter of random chance, birder A sees the bird before birder B or C. This becomes less clear in a field trip setting. Not all participants on a field trip are active participants. Often trip leaders find birds and show them to passive observers. Passive observers should not count birds as PF in these situations. The guiding principle in group/trip scenarios is that a birder should not be penalized for not being the first in a group to spot a bird in a situation where they would more likely than not have actually discovered it momentarily, had the other birder not spotted it first. A birder should not count a bird found by their group if they would not have plausibly found it on their own.

2. Returning individuals. Occasionally a rare bird will return to a location for multiple years. Examples are the Black-headed Gull that returned to the Grade for years and the Painted Bunting that returned for a second summer at Brookside Park. Can the person who discovers that the bird has returned count it as PF? While this is a close call, I lean toward no. Clearly if the bird returns for a third or fourth year, it isn't a PF bird as after the second occurrence there is a reason to expect it back and go look for it.

3. Known locations. This issue is really only applicable to very uncommon or range-restricted species, especially breeders, and is undoubtedly the biggest source of PF list disagreement. Certain species are rare enough that people target them every year at one or two specific locations. Examples would be Bewick's Wren at the Argyle junkyard, Worm-eating Warbler near the Croton Unit parking lot, Piping Plover and Least Tern at the MidAmerican ponds, Black-billed Magpie at Broken Kettle, and Mississippi Kite around Ashworth Park/Des Moines Art Center. There are certainly others, however these illustrate the point. Obviously you cannot count a bird as PF if it has already been reported. But what if you are the first to see and report one of these species at one of these known locations in a given year? Some think the first person to report the species for the year should be able to count it as PF. I disagree. To me, the main principle of the PF list is the discovery of something new, and relocating a species at a specific known location is not in the spirit of the PF list. This then presents the questions of how far away from a known location do you have to find a bird for it to be PF and how rare/restricted does a species have to be to fall under this issue? There are no black and white answers to these questions. Under my interpretation, many of these species become nearly "unfindable" for PF purposes (e.g. Black-billed Magpie, Bewick's Wren). Each birder will have to make their own decision, but I would hope that they would give some thought to these issues before counting birds in these situations.

The PF list without question involves more judgment by the individual birder than any other listing category. Hopefully by pointing out some of the issues involved with this list category, birders will put extra thought into what "personally found" really means and can evaluate the countability of a bird in that spirit or suggest alternative interpretations for others to consider.



Birding in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

A Canoe Camping Adventure in Northern Minnesota

Join Wilderness Canoe Guide Rob Kesselring and Naturalist Sue Plankis on the 4th annual canoe trip where we focus on birding. We explore by canoe the waterways and portages of the BWCAW seeking breeding birds of this beautiful wilderness area. Birds we have seen in previous years: many warbler species including Blackthroated Blue Warbler and Northern Waterthrush; GreatHorned, Barred and Northern SawWhet Owls; Common Loon; Blackbacked Woodpecker; Winter Wren; Veery; Merlin and Bald Eagles.

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



Dates: Session 1: May 22-25, 2015
Session 2: May 27-30, 2015

Fee: \$495 all inclusive canoes and canoeing equipment, tents, meals, BWCA permits

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

Rob has led 17 Arctic canoe expeditions, 61 BWCAW/Quetico trips, has paddled 100 rivers worldwide and is a USFS Licensed Wilderness Guide. Sue has been a Canadian Style and Freestyle Canoe instructor who has been studying birds intensely for over a decade, has a good ear for bird songs and assists in bird banding.

For more information of trip offerings visit: www.robkesselring.com

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

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

IOU News

CONTENTS

PLANNING A TRIP USING EBIRD.....	1-3
<i>Rick Hollis</i>	
CBC DATES.....	4
<i>John Bissell</i>	
2014 LISTING FORM	5
<i>Paul Hertzell</i>	
DISCUSSING PERSONALLY FOUND LISTS.....	6-7
<i>Aaron Brees</i>	

