



# I.O.U. News

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Newsletter

Fall 1995 \* Volume 11 Number 3

## 1995 Fall I.O.U. Meeting by Mary Kuhlman, Ft. Dodge

The Quad City Audubon Society hosted the I.O.U. Fall, 1995 meeting 8-10 September at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center near Dixon, Iowa. The newly remodeled center is located in a beautiful wooded area along the Wapsi River on the Clinton-Scott County line. It provided a wonderful setting for the Friday night social gathering and for the meeting on Saturday.

Successful field trips were held both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Many areas were covered, including Sherman Park, Goose Lake, Eagle Point Park, Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve and others.

The Saturday afternoon program began with Carol Thompson explaining the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. Members were encouraged to support this initiative which could result in over \$4 million for Iowa non-game species. This money would be generated by a five percent tax on outdoor recreation equipment. Letters of support are needed to be sent to manufacturers of outdoor equipment. Sample letters and addresses were distributed.

The program continued with Rick Nelson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He said reorganization is underway and with budget cuts of 11-15% there will be fewer people, fewer services and fewer land acquisitions. More volunteers will be needed.

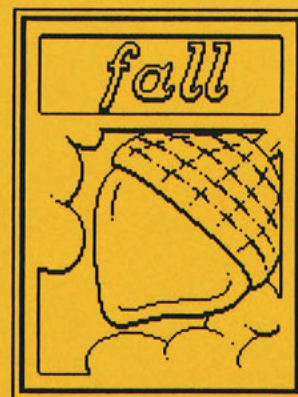
Kelly McKay described fall warbler identification as a "frustrating and difficult experience." His helpful program included slides, songs and call notes of all 36 species of warblers.

The I.O.U. fall business meeting followed the program. In one item of business, members voted to establish an ad hoc environmental committee to review environmental issues and advise the organization when I.O.U. is asked to lend support to environmental causes.

Iowa Machine Shed in Davenport was the location of the Saturday night banquet. A delicious family style meal was served. Pete Petersen entertained the group with slides from his New Zealand birding trip.

The weekend concluded after the Sunday morning field trips with lunch and compilation at Wildcat Den State Park.

Special thanks to the Quad City Audubon Society for their work on local arrangements and field trips. Members helping included Ann Barker, Pete Petersen, Kelly McKay, Marv Skoglund, Sylvia Faust, Mary Lou Petersen, Carol Rogers, Dan Dorrance, Richard Williams, Cathy McKay, Jeanne McKay and Sara Shrig.



## Attendance:

**Ames:** Roger Alexander, Barb Bettis,  
Jim & Steve Dinsmore,  
Marcia Minear, Laura Myers,  
Russell Reisz.

**Ankeny:** Carol & Galin Berrier.

**Boone:** Lisa Hemesath.

**Cedar Falls:** Ed & Jean Leonard.

**Davenport:** Dan Dorrance,  
Mary Lou & Pete Petersen,  
Carol Rogers.

**Des Moines:** Bob & John Cecil,  
John & Mary Fleckenstein,  
John & Mary Mitchell.

**Dubuque:** Charlie & Gretal Winterwood.

**Eldridge:** Sylvia Faust.

**Estherville:** Harold White.

**Ft. Dodge:** Judy Garton, Mary Kuhlman,  
Cliff & Sharon Perkins.

**Iowa City:** Steve Ekblad, Bud Gode,  
Rick Hollis, Carol Thompson.

**Lake Mills:** Sibyl Sand.

**Liscomb:** Beth & Mark Proescholdt.

**Lowden:** Marnell Scheeper.

**Marshalltown:** Joan Buwalda, Jean Eige,  
Edna Kirse, Alice Smith.

**Mason City:** Carolyn Fischer,  
Rita Goranson, Curt Nelson.

**Moline, IL:** Cathy & Kelly McKay,  
Marv Skoglund.

**Muscatine:** Gerald White.

**Nevada:** Hank Zaletel.

**Nora Springs:** Reva Pedelty.

**Norwalk:** Ann Johnson.

**Osceola:** Beth Brown.

**Oskaloosa:** Ron Muilenburg.

**Princeton:** Ann Barker.

**Van Meter:** Eloise & Eugene Armstrong.

**Waterloo:** Francis Moore.

**West Des Moines:** Pam & Reid Allen.



## Fall IOU Field Trip Added

On Saturday, November 4th there will be a field trip to Saylorville Reservoir. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot on the west side of the spillway below the dam. Early November is an excellent time to view loons, grebes, waterfowl and gulls. We hope to see Common Loon, Horned and Western Grebes, Greater Scaulp, Bonaparte's Gull, Long-eared Owl, Snow Bunting, and maybe something unusual like a Red-necked Grebe, scoter, Oldsquaw, or rare gull. Following the field trip, there will be a Partners in Flight state working group meeting. The meeting will be in the early afternoon, probably at the Conservation Center at McFarland Park in Story County. Details will be forthcoming, or you can contact Lisa Hemesath 515/432-2823. For more information about the field trip contact Steve Dinsmore 515/292-3152.

## Recent Literature

Best, L.B., K.E. Freemark, J.J. Dinsmore, and M.Camp. 1995. A review and synthesis of habitat use by breeding birds of agricultural landscapes in Iowa. *American Midland Naturalist* 135:1-29.

LaGrange, T.G., J.L. Hansen, R.D. Andrews, A.W.Hancock, and J.M. Kienzler. 1995. Electric fence predator enclosure to enhance duck nesting: a long-term case study in Iowa. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 23:261-266.





# **CELEBRATE!**

## **New Members**

### **New Members**

Please take the opportunity to welcome the following new members: Terri Abbett, David Anderson, Tim Bergin, Barb Bettis, Larry Braby, D. Eugene Callender, II, Jerald & Mary Carris, Joel & Rebecca Coats, Robert George Cooledge, Phil Cronin, Stanley Cyran, Ron Dahle, Tom Ellsworth, Julie Englander, Eric E. Ewing, Jill Fieldkamp, Linda Fenton, John Finnegan, Susan Floy, Ben Fox, Paul & Michael Freiberg, Mary Ann & Ken Gregory, John A. Harri, Tim Helentjaris, Karen Hermanson, Alda Hightshoe, Bruce Hochstetler, Blythe Hoyle, David B. Johnson, Barbara Kalm, Liesl Kelly, Jim & Cathy Konrad, James & Karalee Loeffelholz, Pete Melde, John E. & Mary K. Mitchell, David R. & Peggy Moody, Laura Myers, Sharon & Clifford Perkins, Tim Phalen, Mark A. Platte, Steven D. & Tonya A. Powers, Bill Reisz, Jeremiah Rice, Michelle Sacora, Jeannette Schafer, Marnell Scheeper, Terry Schenk, Katheryn Shaffer, Jerry Springer, Tammy Stafford, Tom Stamets, Michael & Joanne Staton, Joyce Stille, Shala & Stephen Street, Andy Swanson, Fran Tagesen, Rob Thelen, Mary Lou Topp, Elaine Tweedy, Nan Van Bruggen, Jamie Vervaecke, Douglas A. Wallace, Phil Walsh, Wapsi River E.E. Center, Eliza Willis, Steve & Joy Wilson, Kirsten Winter, Karin & Ralph Zahorik.

### **Members Who Have Contributed to the I.O.U. in 1995**

Ann & William Barker, Robert & Virginia Bell, Robert Berry, Gladys Black, Robert & Karen Bradley, Rebecca Brandt, Fred & Beverly Brink, Margaret Brooke, Delia & William Brown, Edward, Elizabeth & Shawn Carbrey, Christopher Caster, Elizabeth Christiansen, Dorothy Cornett, Virginia Crocker, David Dankert, Dan Dorrance, William Duval, Gene & Ruth Eash, Bery Engebretsen, Jeanette & Frank Eyerly, Majorie Fee, Carolyn Fischer, Frances Flick, Jane Fuller, Chuck & Jeanne Gee, O.J. Gode, Richard Hanft, Maurice & Ruby Hanson, Mary Houston, Margaret & Marilyn Irey, Laura Jackson, Thomas Johnson, Henry Kail, Richard Kraemer, Sr., Carl Kurtz, Sharon Laub, Kenneth Lowder, Peter Lowther, Richard & Nancy Lynch, Pauline & James Mairs, Kathryn Malmberg, Mary Montgomery, Moorland Book Club, Ginny & David Naso, Steven & Sharon Nelson-Vaux, Michael & Carol Newlon, Majorie Olson, Alexandra Ozolins, B. June Parks, Charles Peters, Mary Lou Petersen, Warren Piette, Daniel & Angela Ray, Ed & Betty Savage, Lee & Nancy Schoenewe, Michael & Joanne Staton, Michael Thomas, Carol Thompson, Robert Towner, Mr. & Mrs. Austin Turner, Mary Beth Vaughn, Jackson & Charlene VerSteeg, Douglas Wallace, Donna Westberg, Eva Wiedmeyer, Miriam Woods.

# **THANKS!!!**



## Heard on the Birdline June 15 - September 15 by Jim Fuller, Iowa City

All reports are considered hypothetical until submitted to and approved by the Records Committee.

For the third consecutive year, a bird that represented a first record for the state, appeared the first week in September. Following the Reddish Egret of 1993 and the the Long-tailed Jaeger of 1994, a juvenile White Ibis was discovered at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area on September 5 by James Huntington. The bird was subsequently seen by many as it stayed through the 16th. Another rarity which spent almost a week at the same location was a Reeve first reported by Tom Kent on August 21. There were also from 1-3 Red-necked Phalaropes at the same spot for almost a month, beginning in mid-August.

The other outstanding September sightings were all gulls. An adult Laughing Gull and a first-year California Gull were found near Swan on September by Steve Dinsmore and Jim Sinclair, and a juvenile Sabine's Gull was reported by Denny Thompson at Terra Lake in Johnston on September 6. Another Laughing Gull was at Saylorville Reservoir on August 13.

Summer nesters in June and July that created news were Prairie Warbler at Lake McBride, Mississippi Kite in the Des Moines area, and Bewick's Wren in Iowa County. Least Terns and Piping Plovers once again were found nesting at utility generating station settling ponds near Council Bluffs and Sioux City.

Additional shorebird reports that raised eyebrows were a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the Coralville Reservoir on July 29, Red Knots at Rathbun Reservoir on July 22 and August 13, and a Marbled Godwit near Burlington on July 14 and 28. Unusual in July were Western Grebes at Fisher Lake in Polk County, and Harrier Marsh in Boone County.

Yellow-crowned Night Herons were in southwest Iowa in June, and along with Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were at the Waubonsie Wildlife Area east of Nebraska City in July and August. Snowy Egrets were also at Union Slough NWR on September 14. An unusually large numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers reports came from various eastern Iowa locations in late August and early September.

## Call for Information

I am collecting sight records as part of a study of the distribution of color morphs of the Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) in Iowa. Color morphs are readily distinguishable in the Eastern Screech-Owl as either rufous morphs or gray morphs. A few individuals are intermediate, but for sight records I assume these would be recorded according to the predominant color of the bird.

If you have Iowa sight records of Eastern Screech-Owls, please report them to me or request a reporting data form. The desired data are date and locality of the observation, and color morph of the bird. Even incomplete data will be useful, the minimum requirement is that the sighting must be from Iowa (county or other locality information is very desirable) and no more than one record should be given for an individual bird (i.e., avoid reporting a bird that is likely to be the same individual reported on another date). Your help will be acknowledged in any publications resulting from this work. Tex Sordahl, Department of Biology, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa 52101-1045.

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## New I.O.U. Decals

The new I.O.U. decal features our logo. They are made of removable plastic that adhere to the inside of car windows or glass. Each logo costs \$1.00 and can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265-2331. Checks should be made payable to I.O.U.



## Adopt-A-Book Pam Allen, West Des Moines

Please help the I.O.U. purchase 781 copies of the Breeding Bird Atlas. They will be distributed to Iowa middle/high schools and county conservation boards. To make your donation, send your check for \$11.50 per book (payable to IOU) to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265-2331.

**Note: Please send Christmas Count Dates to editors by November 15th**

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