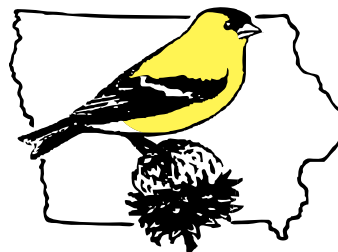


IOU News

Spring 2013



Volume 29 - Number 1



2013 IOU Spring Meeting

Cedar Falls, IA, May 3-5, 2013

The spring meeting of the IOU will be held at the Riverview Conference Center (the old Bible Camp) in Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County. Large oak and maple trees shade 27 acres overlooking the Cedar River. Fully equipped cottages (just bring your own sheets and towels), a dorm style lodge, and RV and tent camping sites are inexpensively available for rent, and are conveniently situated on site close to Missionary Hall, our focal point at the camp for meals and programs for the weekend. The grounds are alcohol free.

Some of the best birding in the area is just minutes from the venue. The area's lake, river, marsh, prairie, river bottom, and upland forest habitats can produce quite a diverse list of birds, especially during the first week of May. Red-shouldered Hawks, Osprey, and American Woodcock nest nearby.

Black Hawk County has a wealth of opportunities for birders and outdoor enthusiasts. 110 miles of paved connecting bike trails and a canoe/kayak trail system pass through great birding areas and parks in and around the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area.



Keynote speaker

George Armistead

George Armistead will be with us for the weekend birding and sharing his knowledge. He comes highly recommended as a speaker, birder and all around good guy from previous IOU speakers and those who have birded with him.

George is the events coordinator for the American Birding Association. Prior to that, he guided birding tours for 10 years, leading trips to all seven continents. He is research associate at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. When not working on book projects, he spends his free time observing and photographing birds at his favorite haunts along the coast between Cape May, NJ, and Cape Hatteras, NC.

Please note the **Fall IOU** meeting will be held October 11-13 in Clinton at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. Derick Lovitch will be the guest speaker and is the author of the book "How To Be a Better Birder."

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

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this newsletter was mailed to 274 members.

(Continued from page 1)

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, May 3

Missionary Hall

- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Registration and Social - Snacks and homemade treats provided by Prairie Rapids Audubon Society (PRAS). Sign up for field trips.
- 8:15 p.m. Woodcock "Sky Dance" mating ritual at nearby Cedar Hills Sand Prairie.

SATURDAY, May 4

Missionary Hall

- 6:00 a.m. Full hot breakfast - Egg Casserole, bacon, fruit, hash browns, juice, coffee.
- 7:00 a.m. Field trips depart
- 12:45 p.m. Field trips return - lunch served by PRAS - make your own sandwiches, homemade salads and desserts, drink
- 1:30 p.m. Bird Nest Identification
Bruce Ehresman of Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program
- 2:00 p.m. Break - visit the silent auction
- 2:15 p.m. The "Mexican" Duck: A Taxonomic Conundrum
Interesting stuff going on with Mallard, Black Duck, Mottled and Mexican Ducks
George Armistead
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. "Keeping Track" by book, chart, software, photograph. Dianne and Mike Porter of Birdwatching.com
- 4:00 p.m. IOU General business meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet - Roast beef, 6 oz. marinated chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn casserole, broccoli-grape salad, rolls, drink, veg. lasagna by Edgewood Locker.
- 7:15 p.m. BBA Awards
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote Address: pOrnithology: The Birds and the Birds and the Bees
George Armistead

SUNDAY, May 5

Missionary Hall

- 6:00 a.m. Full hot breakfast
- 7:00 a.m. Field trips depart
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. BBQ brats and hamburgers, baked beans, salads, and desserts - lunch by PRAS and compilation
- 1:00 p.m. Have a safe trip home.



Missionary Hall

Lodging

Riverview Conference Center - 439 N. Division St. Cedar Falls
Pioneer Hall – 8 bedrooms sleep 1 to 8, shared baths, commons with stove, fridge, fireplace, newly remodeled. Rooms \$15/person/night or \$35/family – bring sheets, towels, and pillow

Cottages – 1, 2, or 3 bedrooms completely furnished except for towels and sheets from \$60 - \$75/night (\$100 damage deposit)
For reservations contact Debbie at 319-268-0787 - tax included in prices.

Motels

Days Inn, 5924 University Ave., Cedar Falls
319-266-1222
Rooms at IOU rate 2 weeks prior \$68.30 tax included

Clarion Inn, 5826 University Ave., Cedar Falls
319-277-2230
Newly remodeled bar, pool, hot breakfast, next to Days Inn
Rooms at IOU rate until 3 weeks prior \$99.68 tax included

Americ Inn, 5818 Nordic Drive, Cedar Falls
319-277-6166
Rooms at IOU rate until 3 weeks prior \$99.68 tax included

Black Hawk Hotel, 115 Main St., Cedar Falls
319-277-1161
National List of Historic sites - where celebrities stay
Close to our venue - rooms from \$99.95

Camping

Riverview Conference Center - next to Missionary Hall
319-268-0787
Tent Camping – \$7/night
RV sites – Full hookup \$25/night (\$50 deposit)
Water and electric \$15/night

George Wyth State Park
Non elec. \$11, Elec. \$16, no full hook ups.

Field trips

Excellent birding nearby – these are sites often reported on the listserv and are connected by paved trails. There are many good spots to choose from.

- George Wyth State Park – lakes, river, wooded trails.
- Hartman Reserve – across the river from Geo. Wyth Park
- Big Woods Lake
- Black Hawk Park
- Prairie Lakes

A little farther out:

- Cedar Valley Nature Trail - A tram will be available to take you to spots along the paved nature trail.
- Cedar Hills Sand Prairie
- Beaver Valley Wetland and Railroad Lake
- Sweet Marsh – large popular birding area – not unusual to find 100+ species in a day.
- Hickory Hills Park (Tama Co. – managed by Black Hawk Co.)

Directions

From Hwy 20

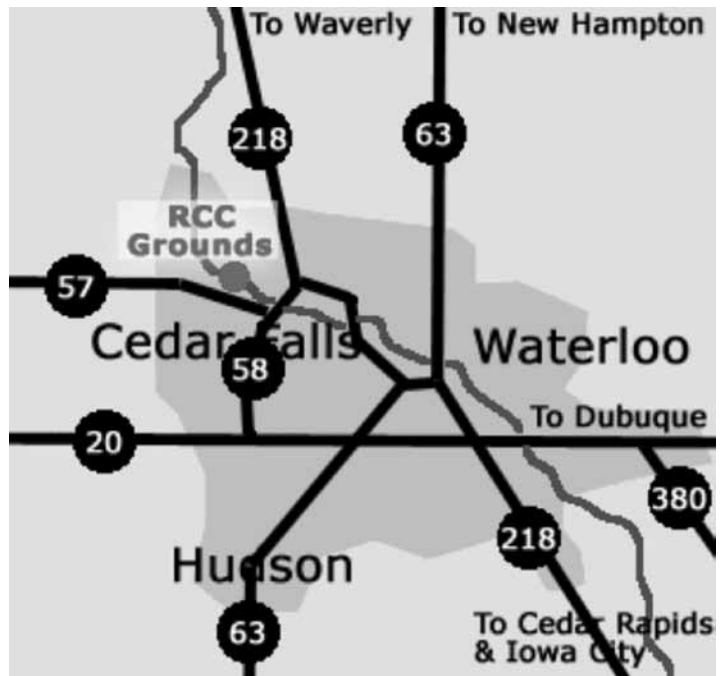
Take Hudson Road Exit into Cedar Falls. Past Dome. Take right at Hwy 57 (1st St.) by Godfathers. Turn Left on North Division.

From Waverly:

Take 218 South. Exit 57 go West into Cedar Falls. Watch for sign on the right for RCC. Turn right on North Division.

From New Hampton:

South on 63 into Waterloo. Jump on 218 West which turns into 57. Go through downtown Cedar Falls and past the Ice House. Watch for sign on the right for RCC. Turn right on North Division.



2013 IOU Spring Meeting – Cedar Falls

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

On-line registration:

If possible, please register through the IOU website at: <http://www.iowabirds.org/>

Make checks payable to: **Iowa Ornithologists' Union**

Mail to: Tom Schilke
1432 Liberty Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702

Mail-in registration:

2013 IOU Spring Meeting Registration Form

Copy, fill out, and mail--don't forget your check.

Name(s): _____

(Please include first and last names of all persons registering on this form)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

		No. of Persons		Total Cost
Registration Fee:	\$20.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Meals				
Sat. Breakfast:	\$9.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Sat. Lunch:	\$6.50	x _____	= \$	_____
Sat. Banquet:	\$13.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Sun. Breakfast:	\$9.00	x _____	= \$	_____
Sun. Lunch:	\$6.50	x _____	= \$	_____

Meatless Option? Please check here _____.

\$ _____ Total

Election of Officers and Proposed Amendments

The Iowa Ornithologists' Unions Spring Meeting will be held May 3-5th in Cedar Falls, IA.

Saturday May 4, 2013 at ~ 4:00PM we will hold the membership meeting. Business items that will be discussed and voted on are:

Election of Officers:

President, Vice-President, and two directors.

The nominating committee consists of three members – Mark Proescholdt, John Rutenbeck, and Sharon Stilwell. They have prepared a slate of candidates as follows:

- President - Paul Roisen
- Vice-President - Dennis Thompson
- Directors - Keith Dyche, Gerald White, and Tyler Harms (to complete Dennis Thompson's remaining year of his term.)

Process: Slate must be published in a regular IOU publication and in the member's hands a minimum of three weeks prior to the vote. A quorum of not less than 15 must be present. A simple majority will elect candidates. If two or more candidates are vying for one position the winner must win by a majority.

Constitutional Amendments

Removing Term Limits for the Treasurer

Rationale: The Board of Directors has requested the term limits on the Treasurer position be removed from the Constitution. The updates, changes, and forms required for non-profit organizations have changed considerably. We have run into

serious difficulties in the past when transitioning from one treasurer to another. Appropriate record keeping has become more and more difficult as the government entities we deal with continue to require more stringent reporting.

To this end, the board feels that it is in the best interest of the IOU to be able to keep a treasurer who is willing to serve more than two terms. Elections will still be held EVERY TWO YEARS allowing for the changing of treasurers in the event it becomes necessary.

Process: An amendment may be proposed by the Board of Directors. The proposed amendment must be published in a regular publication of the IOU and provided to the membership at least 3 weeks before the vote. To pass the amendment, it must receive a 2/3 vote of the membership in attendance, though no less than 15, at a regularly scheduled meeting.

The proposed constitutional amendments requires changes to Articles III and IV

Article III, Section 3 – Wording in the last line will be changed to read: Directors, other than the office of treasurer, shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Terms begin at the end of the meeting at which election took place.

Article IV, Section 2 – The second sentence shall be amended to read: "After serving two consecutive terms (excluding partial terms), a member is not eligible for reelection to the same office, other than the office of treasurer, until one full term has elapsed."

Report of the Library/Historical Committee 2012-2013

Hank Zaletel

Ann Johnson reported to the Iowa Bird Listserv on September 13, 2012 the following good news:

"On behalf of the IOU Publications and Library/Historical Committees, I am pleased to announce the addition of all issues of our newsletter, IOU News, to our website. The newsletter was born in the winter of 1985 and capably edited by Hank and Linda Zaletel for many years. Paul Hertzell's stint as editor moved the newsletter into a new era and the current editors, John and Anna Bissell are now publishing the entire document on-line. Many thanks go to Tom Kent for giving us a full collection last spring and to Hank Zaletel for shepherding the scanning process. I've found some fun and entertaining articles in many of these issues. I hope you enjoy."

<http://iowabirds.org/IOU/IOUNews.aspx>

In addition, a large box of materials was received from Jim Dinsmore regarding seasonal field reports and Christmas Bird Counts, a packet of newspaper clippings and newsletters from Dennis Carter, and material from Kay Niyo related to her editorship of Iowa Bird Life.

The IOU Archive is located at the Special Collections Department at Iowa State University. The Department is located in Room 403 of Parks Library. Please view the campus map for directions to the University Library. Special Collections is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., or by special appointment.

Contact information:

Email: archives@iastate.edu

Phone: (515) 294-6672

Fax: (515) 294-3186

Iowa 2012 Listing and Big Day Totals

Paul Hertzel

It was a good year for Paul Roisen and John Bissell, who both added 8 species to their Iowa State Life Lists. Paul practically spent the entire 12 months on the road pursuing a Big Year, finishing with the 8 new species and a grand total of 314. Not only was this total the highest of all birders, but the percentage of his state list it represents, .885, was also the highest. Keith Dyche had the second-highest percentage with 289 found in 2012 on a state list of 328. Roisen and Dyche are the *IOU News* **Top Birders for 2012**.

All totals listed below are current through December 31, 2012, and do not include additions from 2013.

Iowa State Life Lists

394 Eugene Armstrong
394 Eloise Armstrong
389 Jim Fuller
389 Tom Stone
386 Tom Kent
384 Reid & Pam Allen
383 Stephen Dinsmore
380 Ann Johnson
377 Mark Proescholdt
376 Chuck Fuller
375 Jim Sinclair
375 Denny Thompson
371 John Rutenbeck
365 Pete Wickham
364 Chris Edwards
362 Aaron Brees
359 Jay Gilliam
355 Jim Dinsmore
355 Paul Roisen
353 Ray Cummins
352 Danny Akers
349 Curt Nelson
345 Rita Goranson
342 Carolyn Fischer
341 Tommy Stone
340 Bill Scheible
338 Lee Schoenewe
335 Keith Dyche
332 Ric Zarwell
331 Mary Lou Petersen
331 Paul Hertzel
318 John Bissell
316 Ed Thelen
303 Gerald Von Ehwegen
298 Matt Kenne
292 Doug Harr
291 Jeff Livingston
288 Bob Nickolson
285 Dick Bierman
264 David Kyllingstad

2012 Annual Lists

314 Paul Roisen
310 Stephen Dinsmore
304 Tommy Stone
300 John Rutenbeck
292 Tom Stone
289 Keith Dyche
289 Pam & Reid Allen
287 Denny Thompson
277 Jim Fuller
274 E. & E. Armstrong
272 Jay Gilliam
266 Aaron Brees
256 Mark Proescholdt
253 John Bissell
243 Lee Schoenewe
238 Rita Goranson
237 Jim Sinclair
232 Ray Cummins
227 Bill Scheible
212 Gerald Von Ehwegen
211 Danny Akers

IA Personally Found List

347 Stephen Dinsmore
326 Jim Fuller
324 Ray Cummins
319 Lee Schoenewe
311 Jay Gilliam
311 Aaron Brees
310 Mark Proescholdt
309 Pam & Reid Allen
306 Keith Dyche
305 Tommy Stone
301 Jim Sinclair
298 Matt Kenne
297 Paul Hertzel
294 Paul Roisen
293 Rita Goranson

County Big Years

2012 Polk County 261 Aaron Brees

Yard Big Years

2012 Ames 130 Steve Dinsmore

Yard Lists

211 Jim Fuller (Johnson Co)
194 Carolyn Fischer (Cerro Gordo Co)
191 Ed Thelen (Dickinson Co)
187 Ann Johnson (Warren Co)
186 Matt Kenne (Kossuth Co)
186 Ric Zarwell (Allamakee Co)
185 Rita Goranson (Cerro Gordo Co)
181 Lee Schoenewe (Clay Co)
172 Stephen Dinsmore (Story Co)
150 Mark Proescholdt (Marshall Co)
141 Tom Stone (Black Hawk Co)
137 Jim Sinclair (Warren Co)
134 Chris Edwards (Johnson Co)
126 Dick Bierman (Cherokee Co)
115 Jay Gilliam (Warren Co)
113 Bill Scheible (Linn Co)
113 John Bissell (Polk)
110 Reid & Pam Allen (Dallas Co)
110 David Kyllingstad (Johnson Co)
109 Keith Dyche (Page Co)
100 Aaron Brees (Polk Co)
94 Tex Sordahl (Winneshiak Co)
77 Doug Harr (Boone Co)



Big Days

There were six Big Days reported for 2012. Rita Goranson and Carolyn Fischer conducted the first Big Day in Wright County, finishing with a total of 119. Bill Scheible and Chris Edwards improved the high total for Delaware County to 102. The team of Jim Fuller, Chuck Fuller and John Rutenbeck established a new Big Day record for the month of December - 79.

The highest Big Day total for 2012 was 162 set 10 May by Steve Dinsmore, Corey Lange and Kevin Murphy.

2012 Big Days

Big Leap Day	58	29 Feb 2012, K Dyche, P Roisen
Statewide	100	31 Mar 2012, J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck
Delaware Co	102	9 May 2012, C Edwards, B Scheible
Statewide	162	10 May 2012, S Dinsmore, C Lange, K Murphy
Wright Co	119	14 May 2012, R Goranson, C Fischer
Month of Dec	79	11 Dec 2012 J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck

Iowa Record Big Days by Month

January	78	31 Jan 2009, Stephen Dinsmore, Jay Gilliam
February	76	25 Feb 2009, J Livingston, N Miller, M Torres
March	102	27 Mar 2009, J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck
April	141	29 Apr 1989, S Dinsmore, P Hertzell
May	204	13 May 1996, P Petersen, B Blevins, D Moeller
June	135	1 Jun 2005, D Akers, R Goranson, P Hertzell
July	120	28 Jul 2005, E & E Armstrong, D Thompson
August	136	26 Aug 2005, L Schoenewe, E Thelen
September	135	5 Sep 1987, S Dinsmore, J Sinclair, A Fix
October	101	3 Oct 2008, Livingston, Livingston, Livingston, Miller, Miller, Wilson
November	87	11 Nov 2003, E Thelen, L Schoenewe
December	79	11 Dec 2012, J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck



Iowa Record Big Days by County

Allamakee	126	10 May 2003 Ric Zarwell, Betty Zarwell, Melissa Wolfe, Matt Paulson
Appanoose	129	10 May 2009 T Johnson, V Stephens, M Stephens, R Cummins, D Teimeier, L Piatt, L Schwerdtfeger
Boone	142	13 May 2009 Stephen J Dinsmore, Jim Moreland
Cerro Gordo	145	11 May, 2002 Paul Hertzell, Rita Goranson, Carolyn Fischer
Chickasaw	109	14 May, 2011 Paul Hertzell, Mark Proescholdt
Clayton	107	12 May 2007 Danny Akers, Julie Brazell
Clay	148	09 May, 2004 Lee Schoenewe, Gary Grange, Pete Erzen
Decatur	136	10 May 2009 Nathan Miller, Zack Miller, Ben Baldwin
Delaware	102	09 May 2012 Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
Dickinson	111	27 Aug 2008 Lee Schoenewe, E&E Armstrong
Emmet	140	16 May 2007 Rita Goranson, Matt Kenne, Paul Hertzell
Floyd	118	21 May 2005 Curt Nelson, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzell
Fremont	171	11 May, 1991 Steve Dinsmore, Ross Silcock, BJ Rose, Doug Rose
Greene	150	11 May 2007 Steve Dinsmore, Jay Gilliam
Guthrie	147	11 May 2008 Jay Gilliam, Steve Dinsmore, Aaron Brees
Hancock	141	09 May, 2005 Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzell
Johnson	136	08 May, 2004 Tom Kent, Jim Fuller
Keokuk	112	08 May 2009 Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
Kossuth	153	14 May, 2002 Matt Kenne, Paul Hertzell
Linn	142	14 May 2009 Bill Scheible, Paul Hertzell
Marion	141	10 May 2009 Stephen J Dinsmore, Jay Gilliam
Marshall	123	10 May, 2003 Mark Proescholdt, Paul Hertzell
Mitchell	90	14 May, 2007 Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson
Polk	173	17 May, 2009 Stephen Dinsmore, Jay Gilliam
Ringgold	119	09 May 2009 Torre Hovick, Joseph Lautenbach
Warren	154	09 May, 2003 Aaron Brees, Jim Sinclair
Winnebago	127	09 May, 2004 Paul Hertzell, Rita Goranson
Woodbury	165	08 May, 2004 Jerry Probst, Bob Livermore, Dave Stage
Worth	136	13 May, 2003 Paul Hertzell, Rita Goranson
Wright	119	14 May, 2003 Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson

2012 County Listing

Adair 154 Stephen Dinsmore 120 Pam & Reid Allen 116 Jay Gilliam 60 Mark Proescholdt 50 Danny Akers	Bremer 243 Tommy Stone 173 Mark Proescholdt 156 Stephen Dinsmore 151 Ray Cummins 108 Danny Akers 105 Jay Gilliam 83 Pam & Reid Allen 83 Paul Roisen	Cherokee 267 Dick Bierman 154 Stephen Dinsmore 110 Paul Roisen 96 Keith Dyche 71 Reid & Pam Allen 61 Mark Proescholdt	Decatur 271 Jeffrey Livingston 160 Aaron Brees 153 Stephen Dinsmore 129 Pam & Reid Allen 129 Jay Gilliam 120 Paul Roisen 78 Mark Proescholdt 78 Keith Dyche 76 Danny Akers	Franklin 215 Mark Proescholdt 204 Stephen Dinsmore 151 Rita Goranson 135 Pam & Reid Allen 104 Jay Gilliam 67 Paul Roisen 51 Danny Akers	Harrison 183 Dick Bierman 182 Stephen Dinsmore 152 Gerald Von Ehwegen 142 Paul Roisen 110 Pam & Reid Allen 101 Jay Gilliam 90 Mark Proescholdt 69 Keith Dyche
Adams 154 Stephen Dinsmore 119 Jay Gilliam 102 Reid & Pam Allen 93 Keith Dyche 62 Mark Proescholdt	Buchanan 161 Mark Proescholdt 151 Stephen Dinsmore 119 Chris Edwards 109 Danny Akers 70 Reid & Pam Allen	Chickasaw 176 Mark Proescholdt 175 Paul Hertzell 156 Stephen Dinsmore 74 Pam & Reid Allen 71 Paul Roisen	Delaware 195 Bill Scheible 157 Mark Proescholdt 156 Chris Edwards 151 Stephen Dinsmore 86 Reid & Pam Allen 59 Danny Akers	Fremont 275 Keith Dyche 268 Stephen Dinsmore 262 Loren Padelford, Babs Padelford 215 Mark Proescholdt 206 Reid & Pam Allen 207 Paul Roisen 203 Jay Gilliam 173 Ray Cummins 143 Danny Akers 127 Chris Edwards	Henry 157 Chris Edwards 155 Stephen Dinsmore 101 Reid & Pam Allen 63 Mark Proescholdt
Allamakee 291 Ric Zarwell 186 Danny Akers 183 Mark Proescholdt 171 Rita Goranson 168 Chris Edwards 165 Stephen Dinsmore 126 Keith Dyche 122 Jay Gilliam 121 Pam & Reid Allen 120 Ray Cummins 92 Paul Roisen	Buena Vista 202 Dick Bierman 194 Lee Schoenewe 177 Stephen Dinsmore 108 Pam & Reid Allen 93 Mark Proescholdt	Clarke 203 Jay Gilliam 161 Stephen Dinsmore 128 Aaron Brees 117 Reid & Pam Allen 60 Mark Proescholdt 53 Keith Dyche	Des Moines 292 Chuck Fuller 261 John Rutenbeck 250 Jim Fuller 152 Chris Edwards 152 Stephen Dinsmore 104 Pam & Reid Allen 98 Paul Roisen 61 Mark Proescholdt 60 Keith Dyche	Greene 246 Stephen Dinsmore 211 Pam & Reid Allen 200 Jay Gilliam 199 Jim Dinsmore 186 Mark Proescholdt 107 Paul Roisen 69 Danny Akers	Howard 158 Stephen Dinsmore 127 Rita Goranson 83 Pam & Reid Allen 81 Mark Proescholdt 51 Danny Akers
Appanoose 299 Ray Cummins 219 Stephen Dinsmore 204 Aaron Brees 188 Reid & Pam Allen 184 Jay Gilliam 183 Mark Proescholdt 161 Keith Dyche 153 Chris Edwards 122 Danny Akers 121 Paul Roisen	Butler 214 Mark Proescholdt 175 Stephen Dinsmore 102 Reid & Pam Allen 68 Keith Dyche	Clay 296 Lee Schoenewe 214 Stephen Dinsmore 163 Jim Dinsmore 154 Paul Roisen 100 Pam & Reid Allen 89 Mark Proescholdt	Dickinson 294 Ed Thelen 291 Lee Schoenewe 265 Doug Harr 232 Stephen Dinsmore 205 Dick Bierman 188 Jim Dinsmore 183 Jay Gilliam 176 Paul Roisen 170 Mark Proescholdt 139 Reid & Pam Allen 133 Rita Goranson 119 Keith Dyche 113 Danny Akers 106 Ray Cummins 103 Chris Edwards	Grundy 215 Mark Proescholdt 172 Stephen Dinsmore 122 Reid & Pam Allen 64 Paul Roisen	Humboldt 190 Stephen Dinsmore 106 Reid & Pam Allen 103 Jay Gilliam 64 Mark Proescholdt
Audubon 159 Stephen Dinsmore 125 Jay Gilliam 116 Pam & Reid Allen 66 Mark Proescholdt	Calhoun 177 Stephen Dinsmore 160 Mark Proescholdt 130 Pam & Reid Allen 105 Jay Gilliam 63 Paul Roisen	Clayton 223 Danny Akers 151 Stephen Dinsmore 112 Chris Edwards 109 Jay Gilliam 104 Mark Proescholdt 103 Reid & Pam Allen 58 Keith Dyche	Dubuque 165 Chris Edwards 150 Stephen Dinsmore 123 Danny Akers 109 Pam & Reid Allen 82 Paul Roisen 66 Mark Proescholdt	Guthrie 255 Stephen Dinsmore 228 Pam & Reid Allen 223 Eugene Armstrong 222 Eloise Armstrong 213 Ray Cummins 205 Mark Proescholdt 175 Jay Gilliam 169 Jim Dinsmore 119 Paul Roisen 101 Danny Akers	Iowa 229 Chris Edwards 166 Stephen Dinsmore 158 Mark Proescholdt 142 Reid & Pam Allen 116 Jay Gilliam 84 Danny Akers 58 Paul Roisen 57 Keith Dyche
Benton 179 Mark Proescholdt 156 Stephen Dinsmore 155 Chris Edwards 100 Reid & Pam Allen 53 Danny Akers	Cass 152 Stephen Dinsmore 150 Pam & Reid Allen 128 Jay Gilliam 87 Keith Dyche 72 Mark Proescholdt	Clinton 210 Mary Lou Petersen 170 Chris Edwards 169 Stephen Dinsmore 127 Pam & Reid Allen 108 Jay Gilliam 98 Danny Akers 93 Paul Roisen 66 Mark Proescholdt	Emmet 218 Lee Schoenewe 175 Stephen Dinsmore 155 Rita Goranson 100 Reid & Pam Allen 83 Mark Proescholdt 68 Paul Roisen	Hamilton 251 Stephen Dinsmore 230 Mark Proescholdt 226 Dennis Carter 183 Jim Dinsmore 179 Reid & Pam Allen 128 Jay Gilliam 123 Paul Roisen 62 Danny Akers	Jackson 176 Chris Edwards 153 Stephen Dinsmore 112 Danny Akers 102 Pam & Reid Allen 78 Paul Roisen 77 Mark Proescholdt
Black Hawk 303 Tom Stone 293 Tommy Stone 221 Mary Lou Petersen 167 Mark Proescholdt 162 Stephen Dinsmore 120 Ray Cummins 100 Chris Edwards 100 Pam & Reid Allen 93 Paul Roisen 73 Danny Akers	Cedar 186 Chris Edwards 154 Stephen Dinsmore 90 Danny Akers 74 Reid & Pam Allen 64 Mark Proescholdt	Crawford 153 Stephen Dinsmore 100 Reid & Pam Allen 85 Paul Roisen 63 Mark Proescholdt	Fayette 158 Stephen Dinsmore 153 Mark Proescholdt 137 Chris Edwards 87 Danny Akers 79 Pam & Reid Allen	Hancock 231 Rita Goranson 222 Paul Hertzell 211 Stephen Dinsmore 173 Mark Proescholdt 166 Paul Roisen 164 Pam & Reid Allen 160 Jim Dinsmore 119 Jay Gilliam 69 Danny Akers	Jasper 218 Mark Proescholdt 175 Stephen Dinsmore 163 Reid & Pam Allen 124 Jay Gilliam 81 Paul Roisen 76 Danny Akers
Boone 264 Stephen Dinsmore 250 Jim Dinsmore 236 Doug Harr 233 Mark Proescholdt 233 Reid & Pam Allen 200 Eugene, Eloise Armstrong 139 Jay Gilliam 116 Danny Akers 111 Keith Dyche 102 Paul Roisen 101 Chris Edwards	Cerro Gordo 303 Curt Nelson 302 Carolyn Fischer 294 Rita Goranson 285 Paul Hertzell 211 Stephen Dinsmore 205 Mark Proescholdt 182 Paul Roisen 176 Pam & Reid Allen 174 Jim Dinsmore 112 Danny Akers 105 Jay Gilliam 53 Keith Dyche	Dallas 246 Pam & Reid Allen 216 Stephen Dinsmore 197 Eloise Armstrong 196 Eugene Armstrong 173 Ray Cummins 169 Mark Proescholdt 159 Jim Dinsmore 136 Jay Gilliam 104 Paul Roisen 100 Danny Akers	Floyd 190 Paul Hertzell 181 Rita Goranson 156 Stephen Dinsmore 78 Mark Proescholdt 70 Reid & Pam Allen	Hardin 267 Mark Proescholdt 178 Stephen Dinsmore 118 Reid & Pam Allen 106 Paul Roisen 102 Jay Gilliam 92 Danny Akers 86 Keith Dyche	Jefferson 159 Chris Edwards 150 Stephen Dinsmore 103 Pam & Reid Allen 61 Mark Proescholdt

Johnson 322 Jim Fuller 318 Tom Kent 308 Chris Edwards 264 Bill Scheible 216 Danny Akers 192 Mark Proescholdt 187 Reid & Pam Allen 186 Stephen Dinsmore 186 Paul Roisen 169 Jim Dinsmore 165 Jay Gilliam 123 Keith Dyche	Lucas 243 Aaron Brees 179 Pam & Reid Allen 176 Stephen Dinsmore 172 Jay Gilliam 166 Ray Cummins 164 Mark Proescholdt 118 Paul Roisen 105 Keith Dyche 77 Danny Akers	Monona 202 Stephen Dinsmore 189 Gerald Von Ehwegen 178 Paul Roisen 132 Bill Huser 115 Pam & Reid Allen 85 Mark Proescholdt	Pocahontas 213 Ray Cummins 187 Stephen Dinsmore 155 Dick Bierman 130 Reid & Pam Allen 104 Jay Gilliam 71 Mark Proescholdt 64 Paul Roisen 50 Danny Akers	Sioux 162 Stephen Dinsmore 142 Paul Roisen 69 Mark Proescholdt 68 Reid & Pam Allen	Wayne 228 Aaron Brees 162 Ray Cummins 160 Stephen Dinsmore 115 Pam & Reid Allen 107 Jay Gilliam 69 Keith Dyche 63 Mark Proescholdt
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300 Here I come!

By Paul Roisen-Sioux City IA

Not so long ago, my friend Jay Gilliam set the one-year record for species seen in Iowa, 320, surpassing the Eugene and Eloise Armstrong standing record of 318. I stood in awe of their numbers. Back in 2007 I ended up with 291 Iowa species, but did not realize how close I had been to the magical 300 until I entered all my records into my computer early in 2008. This near miss has often played on my emotions with thoughts like “You can’t really be a ‘good’ birder if you haven’t hit the 300 Iowa species in a year mark at least once.” This journey for 300 species just kind of happened.

January 1st : In Davenport watching football with my son-never even getting out of my “jammies.” A post from Aaron Brees on IABirds referencing a Black-legged Kittiwake and the continuing Iceland Gull at Saylorville excites me as I think about possibly seeing them as I pass through Des Moines on my way home to Sioux City. January 2nd : Grandkids and I play with Christmas toys. I view a post from Jim Forde and realize that I don’t have a single bird on my 2012 Year List. The itching to bird pops me up early January 3rd for a trip through Clinton, Linn, Johnson, and Jones counties looking for some of the posted birds. After a long day with a measly 23 species I take consolation that I have Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch all in one day. As a “west coast” Iowan, it was a thrill. Jan 4th: Off to West Des Moines and Saylorville Lake. The Iceland Gull is still there but no Black-legged Kittiwake. “A 300 Iowa species year would be kind of nice”, I think to myself. “Could the Kittiwake have flown to Red Rock Lake?” I think “Dumb me! Should have gone there on the way to Des Moines.” Jan 5th I get up at 5:30 (we are supposed to head home today) without checking with my wife and head for Red Rock. I later defended myself by saying “You were sleeping so peacefully, dear.” Glaucous Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull are found and I wander my way back to West Des Moines via Madison County (yep, way out of the way), pick up my wife and head for home. You guessed it – not directly. The Kittiwake avoids me but a Trumpeter Swan is seen, a Snowy Owl, Story County; Lapland Longspur, Greene County; Long-eared Owl, Carroll County; and Short-eared Owl is found in Woodbury County. The “300” itch is getting worse. I have only been birding 3 days and am at 51 species with at least 7 “not so easy birds” on my list. I’m getting kind of pumped up.

Based on my excellent start this should be easy. I explain it to my wife – she is hesitant but does mention that we are both retired so... neither of us has any inkling of what I/we had gotten into! The itch is no longer an itch. The quest for 300 is on!

Peregrine Falcon, Northern Saw-whet Owl (Plymouth County), Northern Shrike, Rough-legged Hawk – the list grows. Jan. 9th I am at 64 (“this is going well”). John Rutenbeck reports a Great Black-backed Gull down by Fort Madison. Silly me – I



groan to myself “did you not consider you lived in western Iowa?” “Hum, I should chase but I was just over that way and it is 375miles each way!” “Hum, that’s only 6 hours and if I take off tonight I can sleep over in Des Moines then get it tomorrow.” “Have you lost your mind?” I don’t go! “I can get it next week when I go visit family.” Great Black-backed Gull is not seen again until January 26th in Scott County. “Yes! Oh, NO!” Did I mention that Anna and I were heading south (Mexico and Arizona) for four weeks? There would be no Great Black-backed Gull for me in 2012. January birding ended for me on the 26th but I have a respectable 83 species.

Consolation – Mexico was very warm and through the help of my friends Bob Cecil and Ann Johnson I had lots of “lifers” down there! No regrets for taking a month off.

We return late on February 28th but I am blessed with a leap year and manage 15 species on the 29th during a whirlwind swath through Pottawattamie, Mills, and Fremont counties. Keith Dyche and I run into Brewer’s and Rusty Blackbirds, Spotted Towhee, and Carolina Wren for a two-month total of 98 species. By now friends and family begin referring to my 300 quest as a “Big Year.”

So far, I have not put in excessive time or miles just for birding. March brings a change as my father had a number of health issues and visits to Des Moines become a weekly occurrence. I take advantage of these trips to bird. Sandwiched in-between is a two-day trip down the Iowa “west coast” across the southern tier over to Wapello County for a Bullock’s Oriole followed by a hurried trip all the way back to Plymouth County for a White-winged Dove. Then, an unexpected trip to Hamilton County for a possible Burrowing Owl (yes) and one more trip to Fremont County.

March produces 42 species (total 140) –Winter Wren, Guthrie County; Northern Mockingbird, Madison County; Greater Prairie Chicken, Ringgold County; Cinnamon Teal,

Woodbury County; and Mottled Duck, Fremont County. April is a good month with 53 species – Smith’s Longspur, Jasper County; Black-necked Stilt, Johnson County.

By May 18th things seem to sloooow down in a hurry! I am missing a lot of birds I should have had by now! Doubt begins to creep in and my dreams turn into “birdmares” that I had set a new personal record of 292 but that I would be unable to reach 300.

As is often the case, my mind was out of control but friends and birds alike came to my rescue. All it took was call from James Huntington as I zoom by Iowa City headed for home. He asks if I’m headed for the Curlew Sandpiper at Hawkeye Wildlife Area. “What?” I respond. “That would be a new Iowa bird.” Pause. “Do you have that on your life list?” he asks. “Oh, yeah, lots of them out west.” Long....pause. All of the sudden it dawns on me that I am thinking Long-billed Curlew. I am sure James was beginning to wonder about me! Nothing like a “lifer,” a new state bird, and a new year bird to re-energize me.

Many miles (5 trips to Cedar Rapids area) and lots of help from my friends rack up 77 species in May – special memory: 22 Cerulean Warblers in 1 day in Allamakee County with Mark Proescholdt.

I took advantage of my travels to work on Breeding Bird Atlas blocks all over the state. The rewards for this were unexpected: 1) Fantastic interactions and behaviors involving birds and other animals that I had not seen before, 2) Discovering wonderful areas I never would have visited without



the BBA work, and of course 3) An incredible joy about birding in the summer that I had never experienced before, along with 4) Birds added to my year List.

June favors me with 15 new-year birds, 8 of which came from Fremont Co. 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks magically show up just before I arrive for a try at a Least Bittern (yes). July brings 4 new species and a family of Barn Owls. A rattling mind whispers “305 is possible maybe even 310!”

Best bird of August – Swallow-tailed Kite. September yields an Arctic Tern, Black-throated Blue Warbler (after 7 ½ years), and Roseate Spoonbill. I eke out 2 species in October, one of which is the long sought Sprague’s Pipit. Bohemian Waxwing and Rufous Hummingbird and 5 others bring November to a close. By now I have set my sights on 315 (maybe more..... I count in my head 1-2....8-9-10 species still could be seen. Alas, there would be only two. December – Prairie Falcon and Northern Goshawk.

Silly: Chasing Am. Woodcock from Davenport to up to Black Hawk Co. Tom Schilke puts us on several late that evening. The next day I drive all the way down to Lee County

looking for Worm-eating Warbler only to nearly squash a woodcock on my way into the woods.

Goofy: Upon hearing that there was either a Rufous or an Allen’s Hummingbird in Scott County – either one would add to my Big Year list – I spent about 6 hours debating about “chasing” it since it would be about 370 miles one way. If its a Rufous it would be new Iowa bird and if an Allen’s it would be a “Lifer” on top of being a new state bird and a new year bird. Guess you know what I decided. Left Sioux City at 1:00AM arrived at 6:30AM just as Gerald White pulled up. Jim Fuller and John Rutenbeck show up and between viewings of the bird Jim tells me he once hit 315 (“Hum, sounds like a good number to me!”). Photographed the bird for 6 hours trying to isolate the crucial tail feather for ID, had lunch with my son and headed home – 770 miles and a tired but thrilled birder. This bird would turn out to be #313.

Best: All the new friends I made, reconnection with acquaintances, help from unexpected sources, new places, county additions to list.

Reactions:

- Birding friends – Encouraging, envious, and helpful.
- Non-birding friends – “You’re doing WHAT!”
- Family – Supportive and interested but no longer “just wondering” about my sanity.

Results:

- New county birds – 943
- “lifers” – 2
- New Iowa birds in 2012 – 8
- Total species 2012 – 314
- Iowa species seen by others in 2012 but not by me – 16
- Biggest misses: Black Scoter and White-winged Scoter
- Miles driven: 15,000 more than a normal birding year.
- Hours put in: Shh! Family may be listening .
- Most common question: “What’s the number.”
- Phone conversation start: “Do you have time to talk or are you possibly out birding – chuckle chuckle.”

It was truly a blessed year. There were so many unexpected birds and so many adventures!

I truly have a new found respect for anyone who reaches 300 in a year. It takes obsession, some good fortune, friends, money, time, and a REALLY understanding family. Would I do it again? Of course, already planning for Jan 1st 2052. Jay, Eugene, Eloise, I am even more in awe! Mr. Jim Fuller-I did not catch you. Maybe in 2052!?

I am done!



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