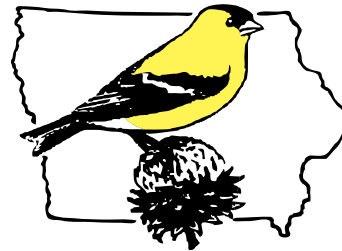


IOU News

Spring 2015  Volume 31 - Number 1



2015 IOU Spring Meeting

Algona, IA, May 22nd - 24th, 2015

Photo by Tyler Harms. Article by Dennis Thompson



The spring meeting for IOU will be in Algona, IA, May 22 – May 24. We will be headquartered at the Water's Edge Nature Center in Smith Lake Park (North of Algona). This should be a prime time for migrating shorebirds and breeding marsh birds in a prime spot in the state for them. A bonus will be access to Union Slough NWR, which is normally closed to the public this time of year. Those who love chasing migrant passerines will have the Des Moines River corridor serving as a woodland oasis in prairie pothole country. Field trips locations will include Union Slough NWR, Ambrose A Call State Park, Smith Wildlife Area, Stateline Marsh, Goose Lake, Iowa Lake, and a potential canoe trip to Eagle Lake.

Keynote Speaker - Joel Greenberg

Hope is the Thing With Feathers: Americans and Three Birds

Joel Greenberg has over 25 years experience working on natural resource related issues in the Midwest. Currently a Research Associate of both the Chicago Academy of Sciences Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and the Field Museum, he has authored four books including *Of Prairie, Woods, and Waters: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing* (2008, University of Chicago Press.); *A Natural History of the Chicago Region* (2002, University of Chicago Press); and *A Feathered River Across the Sky:*

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IOU News

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

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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.

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

Slate of Officers:

Please note voting will take place at the membership meeting in Algona.

President

Pending

Board Members

2 positions pending

Vice President

Pending

This newsletter was mailed to 56 members.

(Continued from page 1)

The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction (2014, Bloomsbury USA). Joel spent four years as a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon which marked the 100-year anniversary of the species' extinction last year. He co-produced with director David Mrazek the documentary, *From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*. Greenberg has JD and MA degrees from Washington University.

This talk looks at three birds, each representing a different outcome at the hands of people. With a population in the billions, the Passenger Pigeon was the most abundant bird in North America, if not the world. Yet within a matter of decades, unrelenting human exploitation drove it to extinction. The Kirtland's warbler has since historical times bred in a very limited range and within that tiny area could only breed in jack pines of a certain height and age. In addition, they are heavily parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. In 1971, there were less than 200 singing males but today, although it costs a million dollars a year, we now know how to maintain healthy populations. The whooping crane was in even more dire straits, having declined to 23 living individuals twice. Extensive conservation work has been devoted to saving this charismatic species, but its fate is still an open question.

Obituaries

Thomas Kevin Lawson

October 11, 1957—July 27, 2014

Tom was a long-time member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and our most recent Photo Contest Editor. Tom's favorite pastime was bird watching and his colleagues often referred to him as "The chief birder of Dallas County." He was a devoted member of the Dallas County Conservation Foundation and dedicated countless hours to conservation education and the study of wild birds.

Joe Brown

October 16, 1926—September 3, 2013

Dorothy Brown

March 16, 1926—December 4, 2014

Joe and Dorothy were long-time members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. They were also active in the Des Moines Audubon Society before moving to Texas.

Joel Kemp

May 1, 1944—December 5, 2014

Joel lived in Madison County in southwest Iowa, and was a member and financial supporter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union since 2003. Joel always looked forward to spring migration. His favorite pastime was being outdoors and enjoying nature. Warblers were particularly special to him. His wife Tracy survives him.

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, May 22

Water's Edge Nature Center

- 5:00 - 8:30 pm Registration and Field Trip Sign-up
Snacks and Social
- 8:00 pm IOU Board Meeting

SATURDAY, May 23

Water's Edge Nature Center

- 6:00 am Hot Breakfast Buffet
Scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns,
sliced fruit, doughnuts, juice & coffee
- 7:00 am Field trips leave (Pick up your box lunch)
Ham or turkey sandwich (includes cheese
and mayo & mustard packets), a small bag
of potato chips, homemade bar, and a bottle
of water
- 12:30 pm Field trips return
- 1:00 pm Larry Dau
Bird Photography Techniques
- 2:00 pm Kevin Murphy
Multiple Species Inventory and
Monitoring Update
- 3:00 pm Pat Schlarbaum
Falcon River Trip
- 4:00 pm IOU Membership Meeting
- 6:30 pm Dinner - Roast beef or lemon pepper
chicken, baked potato, mixed green salad,
green bean casserole, and fruit crisp
- 7:00 pm Keynote Address
Joel Greenberg
Hope is the Thing With Feathers:
Americans and Three Birds

SUNDAY, August 24

Water's Edge Nature Center

- 6:00 am Hot Breakfast Buffet
Ham & cheese egg bake, cinnamon roll,
mixed fruit, and orange juice & coffee
- 7:00 am Field trips leave
- 12:00 noon Compilation - All field trips end at the
Water's Edge Nature Center for the
compilation of species

Lodging Options

Motels

Blocks of rooms are being held at the Super 8 and Burr Oak motels.

Super 8

210 E. Norwood Dr.
515-295-7225

Burr Oak

1903 Co. Hwy N
515-295-7213

AmericInn

600 Hwy 18W
515-295-3333

Park View Inn

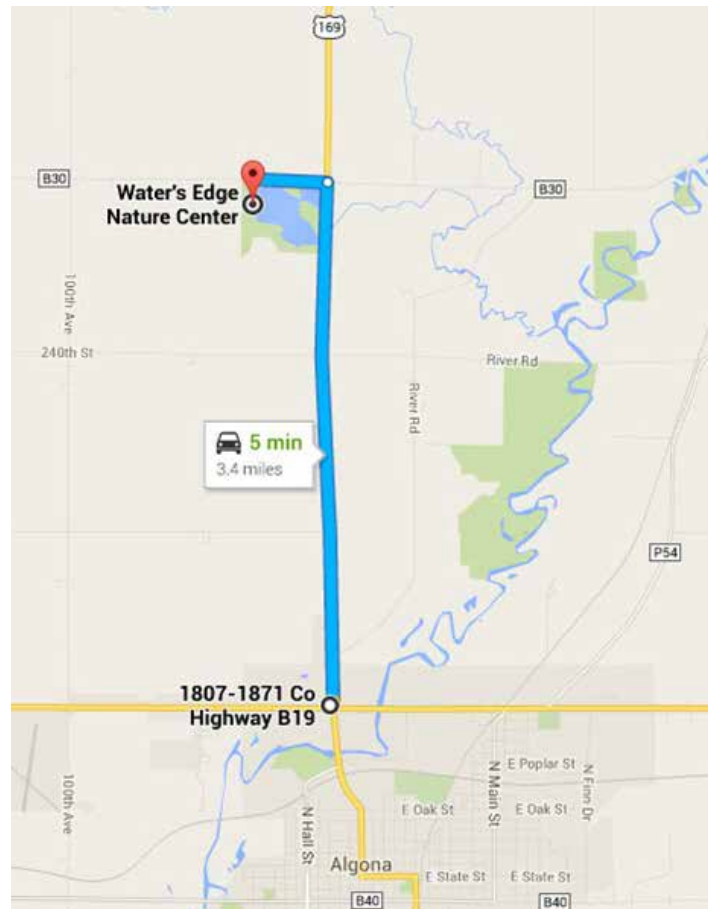
13 4th St NE (West Bend)
515-887-3611

Camping

- Smith Lake Park
- Ambrose A Call State Park
- Siems Park (Whittemore)
- Grotto of the Redemption (West Bend)

Directions to Meeting Locations

Water's Edge Nature Center - from the corner of Hwy 18 and Hwy 169, head north on Hwy 169 for 3 miles. Turn west at 250th Street and proceed for 0.4 miles.



2015 IOU Spring Meeting – Algona, IA

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: Dennis Thompson
7503 Wildflower Ct.
Johnston, IA 50131

Mail-in registration:

2015 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:	\$6.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sat. Lunch:	\$4.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sat. Banquet:	\$12.50	x _____	= \$ _____
Sun. Breakfast:	\$6.00	x _____	= \$ _____

Meatless Option? Please check here _____.

\$ _____ Total

2014 Listing Totals

By Paul Hertzel

2014 Statewide Listing

In 2014, Tom Stone Sr. and Jim Fuller both added the Saylorville Common Raven to their state lists to remain two apart at the top of the rankings. Other new birds showing up on many lists were the Ames Pine Grosbeak, Red Rock Reservoir Long-tailed Jaegers, and the Des Moines Harlequin Duck. On the Personally Found List, Steve Dinsmore added a Saylorville Fish Crow, in which he managed to get both photos and voice recordings. Lee Schoenewe moved up two ticks with his first Eurasian Tree Sparrow, and Iowa's 3rd summer record of a Ruff, which he found in Palo Alto County.

Iowa State Life Lists

392 Tom Stone (+Common Raven)
390 Jim Fuller (+Common Raven)
387 Chuck Fuller (+Common Raven 2014, +Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 2013)
386 Tom Kent
386 Stephen Dinsmore (+Fish Crow, +Common Raven)
384 Reid & Pam Allen (+Common Raven)
382 Ann Johnson (+Pine Grosbeak)
380 Mark Proescholdt (+Common Raven, +Harlequin Duck)
378 Denny Thompson (+Common Raven)
373 John Rutenbeck
366 Chris Edwards (+Long-tailed Jaeger)
366 Aaron Brees (+Long-tailed Jaeger, +Common Raven)
365 Jay Gilliam (+Pine Grosbeak)
361 Paul Roisen (+Red Phalarope, +Long-tailed Jaeger, +Pine Grosbeak, +Harlequin Duck)
356 Ray Cummins (+Long-tailed Jaeger, +Common Raven)
355 Jim Dinsmore
352 Tommy Stone (+Cinnamon Teal, +Long-tailed Jaeger)
351 Curt Nelson (+Lazuli Bunting, +Chuck-will's Widow)
346 Rita Goranson (+Lazuli Bunting)
343 Carolyn Fischer (+Lazuli Bunting)
342 Thomas Johnson
342 Bill Scheible
341 Lee Schoenewe (+Eurasian Tree Sparrow, +Ruff)
341 Keith Dyche (+Long-tailed Jaeger, +Pine Grosbeak, +Harlequin Duck)
336 Ric Zarwell (+Costa's Hummingbird)
332 Paul Hertzel (+Gyr Falcon)
331 Mary Lou Petersen
330 Bill Huser
327 Paul Skrade (+Bewick's Wren, +Northern Bobwhite, +Least Bittern, +Golden Eagle, +Long-tailed Jaeger)
324 John Bissell (+Common Raven, +Harlequin Duck)
324 Mike Stephens
322 Vicky Stephens
319 Tyler Harms (+Red-throated Loon, +Long-tailed Jaeger, +Common Raven, +Pine Grosbeak, +Harlequin Duck)

318 Ed Thelen (+Harlequin Duck)
316 Doug Harr (+Baird's Sandpiper, +Harlequin Duck)
308 Jeff Livingston
305 Rose Dooley Stone
304 Gerald Von Ehwegen (+Black-bellied Whistling Duck)
219 Linda Rudolph

IA Personally Found List

348 Stephen Dinsmore (+Fish Crow)
326 Jim Fuller
323 Ray Cummins
322 Lee Schoenewe (+Eurasian Tree Sparrow, +Ruff)
317 Aaron Brees (+Long-tailed Jaeger)
315 Jay Gilliam (+Lazuli Bunting)
310 Mark Proescholdt
310 Pam & Reid Allen
310 Keith Dyche (+Say's Phoebe)
305 Tom Stone (+Black-necked Stilt)
298 Matt Kenne
299 Paul Hertzel (+Gyr Falcon)
295 Paul Roisen (+Mississippi Kite)
293 Rita Goranson

No birders broke the coveted 300 mark for species in 2014, but Steve Dinsmore was close with 298. Tommy Stone led all veteran birders in encountering 81% of the species on his life list during the calendar year. Jim Fuller added a Golden Eagle to his yardlist, the top list in the state.

2014 Annual Lists

298 Stephen Dinsmore
284 Tommy Stone Jr.
274 Tom Stone Sr.
269 Pam & Reid Allen
260 Jay Gilliam
259 Aaron Brees
258 Paul Roisen
252 Keith Dyche
248 Lee Schoenewe
247 Ray Cummins
247 Mark Proescholdt
244 Tyler Harms
239 Bill Scheible
236 John Bissell
233 Rita Goranson
228 Doug Harr
210 Vicky Stephens
210 Mike Stephens
208 Gerald Von Ehwegen

2014 Top Birders List

(percentage of life list seen in the year)
0.807 Tommy Stone
0.772 Stephen Dinsmore
0.765 Tyler Harms
0.739 Keith Dyche
0.727 Lee Schoenewe
0.722 Doug Harr
0.715 Paul Roisen
0.712 Jay Gilliam
0.708 Aaron Brees
0.700 Pam & Reid Allen

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Yardlists

212 Jim Fuller (Johnson Co) (+Golden Eagle)
203 Curt Nelson (Cerro Gordo Co) (+Lazuli Bunting,
+Western Tanager)
194 Carolyn Fischer (Cerro Gordo Co)
193 Ed Thelen (Dickinson Co)
189 Ric Zarwell (Allamakee Co)
187 Ann Johnson (Warren Co)
186 Rita Goranson (Cerro Gordo Co)
186 Matt Kenne (Kossuth Co)
185 Stephen Dinsmore (Story Co)
183 Lee Schoenewe (Clay Co)
150 Mark Proescholdt (Marshall Co)
145 Tom Stone (Black Hawk Co)
139 Chris Edwards (Johnson Co)
137 Tommy Stone (Black Hawk Co)
130 Jay Gilliam (Warren Co)
124 Reid & Pam Allen (Dallas Co)
121 Keith Dyche (Page Co)
119 John Bissell (Polk)
117 Thomas Johnson (Appanoose Co)
116 Bill Scheible (Linn County)
111 Jeff & Jenia Livingston (Ringgold Co)
106 Vicky & Mike Stephens (Appanoose Co)
92 Doug Harr (Boone Co)

Counties in which State Birds Have Been Added to My List

50 Eugene & Eloise Armstrong	40 Mark Proescholdt
48 Reid & Pam Allen	23 Paul Hertzell
43 Paul Roisen	14 Jeff Livingston

Big Days

There were five Big Days conducted in 2014, including first county Big Days for Washington County and Hamilton County. These bring the total to 36 Iowa counties now with at least one Big Day record.

Chris Edwards and Bill Scheible ran a route through Washington County on 9 May 2014, coming up with 106 species. In Hamilton County, Steve Dinsmore and Greg Hanson found 129 species on 22 May 2015 for a first county record there. This date is a bit late for a central Iowa Big Day, and they noted that migrants were hard to find. In Dickinson County, Lee Schoenewe and Ed Thelen improved the Dickinson County record by 21 species on 14 May 2014 with a day that included a Swainson's Hawk, both godwits and a White-faced Ibis.

Also, in 2014, Jim Fuller and Chuck Fuller made an attempt to break their own December record, but their total of 69 was a bit short. On 18 May, Steve Dinsmore and Tyler Harms conducted a statewide Big Day through central Iowa finishing with a great total of 182, the highest total since last century. This included 20 species of waterfowl, 21 species of shorebirds and 24 species of warblers. The best bird was a 5th-state record Mottled Duck at Dunbar Slough.

2014 Big Days

182 Statewide, 14 May 2014, Steve Dinsmore, Tyler Harms
152 Dickinson Co., 14 May 2014, Lee Schoenewe, Ed Thelen
129 Hamilton Co., 22 May 2014, Steve Dinsmore, Greg Hanson
106 Washington Co., 09 May 2014, Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
69, 03 Dec 2014, Jim Fuller, Chuck Fuller

Listing Guidelines

List totals are published here for current members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Publishing totals provides a public exposure of birding activity for those who wish to participate. In doing so, birders see what is possible and some find motivation for getting out, looking for birds, and maybe exploring new areas. In turn, this generates data for field reports and adds to our knowledge of the distributions of birds in Iowa.

Lists, themselves, are not considered scientific data sets. Nevertheless, while members are encouraged to keep whatever personal lists they wish to, those submitted for publication here should conform to certain standards so that the totals are comparable across all contributors. Lists should be of live birds seen in Iowa and judged to be wild and of natural origin. Birds classified

"casual" or "accidental" in Iowa should only appear on lists after the particular bird's presence has been reviewed and accepted by the records committee.

The Iowa State Life List is the list of all bird species seen in the state of Iowa and conforming to the standards above.

The Personally Found List is the subset of the Iowa State Life List in which species were personally found by the lister. "Personally found" means the lister found the representative bird with no prior knowledge, current or historical, of its presence. This list differs from all other IOU listing categories since, in other categories, a bird initially found by others may be counted on those lists.

The Annual List is the list of birds seen in the calendar year.

The Yardlist is the list of birds seen in or from the personal residence of the lister. A bird counts if it is seen on the property even though the observer may not have been on the property at the time, or if the bird is seen anywhere (e.g. in the sky) while the observer is present on the property. The totals in this category are difficult to compare, since not all properties are equal.

The Big Day is a list of birds seen in the course of a single day (midnight to midnight) by a group of people (more than one) in a particular geographic region. The IOU publishes any Big Days reported in Iowa, but keeps permanent records for County Big Days and record Big Days by month. Any Big Day conducted across more than one county is considered a statewide Big Day.

Iowa Record Big Days by Month

Jan.	78	31 Jan 2009	Stephen Dinsmore, Jay Gilliam
Feb.	76	25 Feb 2009	Jeff Livingston, Nathan Miller, Matthew Torres
Mar.	102	27 Mar 2009	J Fuller, C Fuller, J Rutenbeck
Apr.	141	29 Apr 1989	Stephen J Dinsmore, Paul Hertzel
May	204	13 May 1996	Pete Petersen, Brian Blevins, Don Moeller
Jun.	135	1 Jun 2005	Danny Akers, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzel
Jul.	120	28 Jul 2005	E & E Armstrong, Dennis Thompson
Aug.	136	26 Aug 2005	Lee Schoenewe, Ed Thelen
Sept.	135	5 Sep 1987	Steve Dinsmore, Jim Sinclair, Andrew Fix
Oct.	101	3 Oct 2008	Livingston, Livingston, Livingston, Miller, Miller, Wilson
Nov.	87	11 Nov 2003	Ed Thelen, Lee Schoenewe
Dec.	79	11 Dec 2012	Jim Fuller, Chuck Fuller, John Rutenbeck

Iowa Record County Big Days

Allamakee	126	10 May 2003	Ric Zarwell, Betty Zarwell, Meliss Wolfe, Matt Paulson
Appanoose	129	10 May 2009	T Johnson, V Stephens, M Stephens, R Cummins, D Teimeier, L Piatt, L Schwerdfeger
Audubon	94	18 May 2013	Keith Dyche, Paul Roisen
Boone	142	13 May 2009	Stephen Dinsmore, Jim Moreland
Cerro Gordo	145	11 May, 2002	Paul Hertzel, Rita Goranson, Carolyn Fischer
Chickasaw	109	14 May, 2011	Paul Hertzel, Mark Proescholdt
Clayton	107	12 May 2007	Danny Akers, Julie Brazell
Clay	148	09 May, 2004	Lee Schoenewe, Gary Grange, Pete Ernzen
Davis	94	7 May 2013	Paul Roisen, Tommy Stone Jr.
Decatur	136	10 May 2009	Nathan Miller, Zack Miller, Ben Baldwin
Delaware	102	9 May 2012	Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
Dickinson	152	14 May 2014	Lee Schoenewe, Ed Thelen
Emmet	140	16 May 2007	Rita Goranson, Matt Kenne, Paul Hertzel
Floyd	118	21 May 2005	Curt Nelson, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzel
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
Hamilton	129	22 May 2014	Steve Dinsmore, Greg Hanson
Hancock	141	09 May, 2005	Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzel, Tom Schilke, Paul Roisen
Johnson	136	08 May, 2004	Tom Kent, Jim Fuller
Jones	114	0 May 2013	Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
Keokuk	112	08 May 2009	Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
Kossuth	153	14 May, 2002	Matt Kenne, Paul Hertzel
Linn	142	14 May 2009	Bill Scheible, Paul Hertzel
Marion	141	10 May 2009	Stephen Dismore, Jay Gilliam
Marshall	123	10 May, 2003	Mark Proescholdt, Paul Hertzel
Mitchell	107	23 May, 2013	Paul Roisen, Tom Schilke
Polk	173	17 May, 2009	Stephen Dinsmore, Jay Gilliam
Ringgold	119	09 May 2009	Torre Hovick, Joseph Lautenback
Warren	154	09 May, 2003	Aaron Brees, Jim Sinclair
Washington	106	09 May, 2014	Chris Edwards, Bill Scheible
Winnebago	127	09 May, 2004	Paul Hertzel, Rita Goranson
Woodbury	165	08 May, 2004	Jerry Probst, Bob Livermore, Dave Stage
Worth	136	13 May, 2003	Paul Hertzel, Rita Goranson
Wright	119	14 May 2012	Rita Goranson, Carolyn Fischer

2014 County Listing

Adair 160 Stephen Dinsmore 125 Pam & Reid Allen 116 Jay Gilliam 108 Keith Dyche 106 Paul Roisen 60 Mark Proescholdt	Bremer 242 Tom Stone 173 Mark Proescholdt 166 Stephen Dinsmore 151 Ray Cummins 131 Jay Gilliam 128 Paul Roisen 100 Pam & Reid Allen 98 Keith Dyche	Cherokee 267 Dick Bierman 166 Stephen Dinsmore 111 Paul Roisen 86 Jay Gilliam 71 Reid & Pam Allen 69 Keith Dyche 61 Mark Proescholdt	Decatur 276 Jeffrey Livingston 169 Stephen Dinsmore 141 Paul Roisen 137 Pam & Reid Allen 129 Jay Gilliam 89 Keith Dyche 80 Mark Proescholdt	Fremont 279 Keith Dyche 269 Stephen Dinsmore 232 Babs Padleford 232 Loren Padleford 215 Mark Proescholdt 209 Paul Roisen 209 Jay Gilliam 207 Reid & Pam Allen 178 Ray Cummins 127 Chris Edwards	Howard 169 Paul Hertzell 161 Stephen Dinsmore 132 Rita Goranson 110 Paul Roisen 89 Jay Gilliam 83 Pam & Reid Allen 81 Mark Proescholdt
Adams 158 Stephen Dinsmore 119 Jay Gilliam 106 Paul Roisen 104 Keith Dyche 102 Reid & Pam Allen 62 Mark Proescholdt	Buchanan 162 Mark Proescholdt 151 Stephen Dinsmore 119 Chris Edwards 81 Jay Gilliam 78 Reid & Pam Allen	Chickasaw 176 Mark Proescholdt 175 Paul Hertzell 161 Stephen Dinsmore 104 Paul Roisen 88 Pam & Reid Allen 73 Jay Gilliam	Delaware 199 Bill Scheible 158 Stephen Dinsmore 157 Mark Proescholdt 156 Chris Edwards 87 Reid & Pam Allen 70 Jay Gilliam	Greene 251 Stephen Dinsmore 212 Pam & Reid Allen 201 Jay Gilliam 199 Jim Dinsmore 187 Mark Proescholdt 131 Doug Harr 107 Paul Roisen 80 Keith Dyche	Humboldt 193 Stephen Dinsmore 105 Reid & Pam Allen 104 Paul Roisen 103 Jay Gilliam 64 Mark Proescholdt
Allamakee 295 Ric Zarwell 185 Mark Proescholdt 173 Stephen Dinsmore 171 Rita Goranson 168 Chris Edwards 126 Keith Dyche 122 Jay Gilliam 121 Pam & Reid Allen 92 Paul Roisen	Buena Vista 202 Dick Bierman 194 Lee Schoenewe 177 Stephen Dinsmore 112 Jay Gilliam 112 Paul Roisen 108 Pam & Reid Allen 93 Mark Proescholdt 64 Keith Dyche	Clarke 206 Jay Gilliam 177 Stephen Dinsmore 121 Reid & Pam Allen 101 Paul Roisen 75 Keith Dyche 60 Mark Proescholdt	Des Moines 301 Chuck Fuller 262 John Rutenbeck 253 Jim Fuller 163 Stephen Dinsmore 152 Chris Edwards 104 Pam & Reid Allen 102 Paul Roisen 76 Jay Gilliam 61 Mark Proescholdt 60 Keith Dyche	Grundy 221 Mark Proescholdt 185 Stephen Dinsmore 126 Reid & Pam Allen 103 Jay Gilliam 103 Paul Roisen 67 Keith Dyche	Ia 174 Stephen Dinsmore 144 Paul Roisen 103 Jay Gilliam 100 Pam & Reid Allen 63 Mark Proescholdt
Appanoose 299 Ray Cummins 291 Thomas Johnson 278 Mike Stephens 277 Vicky Stephens 221 Stephen Dinsmore 188 Reid & Pam Allen 185 Mark Proescholdt 184 Jay Gilliam 163 Keith Dyche 153 Chris Edwards 121 Paul Roisen	Butler 214 Mark Proescholdt 175 Stephen Dinsmore 134 Rita Goranson 116 Jay Gilliam 102 Reid & Pam Allen 82 Paul Roisen 70 Keith Dyche	Clay 300 Lee Schoenewe 215 Stephen Dinsmore 163 Jim Dinsmore 156 Paul Roisen 100 Pam & Reid Allen 89 Mark Proescholdt 82 Jay Gilliam 74 Keith Dyche	Dickinson 295 Ed Thelen 294 Lee Schoenewe 268 Doug Harr 234 Stephen Dinsmore 188 Jim Dinsmore 183 Jay Gilliam 176 Paul Roisen 170 Mark Proescholdt 139 Reid & Pam Allen 133 Rita Goranson 119 Keith Dyche 103 Chris Edwards	Guthrie 259 Stephen Dinsmore 228 Pam & Reid Allen 213 Ray Cummins 205 Mark Proescholdt 176 Jay Gilliam 169 Jim Dinsmore 123 Paul Roisen 119 Keith Dyche	Iowa 230 Chris Edwards 166 Stephen Dinsmore 158 Mark Proescholdt 142 Reid & Pam Allen 116 Jay Gilliam 108 Paul Roisen 57 Keith Dyche
Audubon 178 Stephen Dinsmore 134 Jay Gilliam 126 Keith Dyche 116 Pam & Reid Allen 114 Paul Roisen 66 Mark Proescholdt	Calhoun 185 Stephen Dinsmore 160 Mark Proescholdt 130 Pam & Reid Allen 110 Paul Roisen 105 Jay Gilliam	Clayton 223 Danny Akers 152 Mark Proescholdt 151 Stephen Dinsmore 112 Chris Edwards 109 Jay Gilliam 103 Reid & Pam Allen 69 Paul Roisen 58 Keith Dyche	Dubuque 169 Chris Edwards 160 Stephen Dinsmore 110 Paul Roisen 109 Pam & Reid Allen 87 Jay Gilliam 66 Mark Proescholdt	Hamilton 261 Stephen Dinsmore 230 Mark Proescholdt 227 Dennis Carter 184 Jim Dinsmore 179 Reid & Pam Allen 130 Paul Roisen 128 Jay Gilliam	Jackson 187 Chris Edwards 164 Stephen Dinsmore 102 Pam & Reid Allen 102 Paul Roisen 99 Jay Gilliam 77 Mark Proescholdt
Benton 179 Mark Proescholdt 160 Stephen Dinsmore 155 Chris Edwards 101 Paul Roisen 100 Reid & Pam Allen 73 Jay Gilliam	Carroll 210 Stephen Dinsmore 187 Reid & Pam Allen 168 Mark Proescholdt 158 Jim Dinsmore 158 Paul Roisen 151 Jay Gilliam 83 Keith Dyche	Clinton 210 Mary Lou Petersen 176 Stephen Dinsmore 172 Chris Edwards 127 Pam & Reid Allen 123 Paul Roisen 109 Jay Gilliam 83 Mark Proescholdt 81 Keith Dyche	Emmet 222 Lee Schoenewe 176 Stephen Dinsmore 155 Rita Goranson 155 Paul Hertzell 110 Paul Roisen 100 Reid & Pam Allen 83 Mark Proescholdt 80 Jay Gilliam	Hancock 231 Rita Goranson 222 Paul Hertzell 213 Stephen Dinsmore 173 Mark Proescholdt 166 Paul Roisen 164 Pam & Reid Allen 160 Jim Dinsmore 139 Jay Gilliam	Jasper 220 Mark Proescholdt 181 Stephen Dinsmore 166 Reid & Pam Allen 134 Jay Gilliam 110 Chris Edwards 107 Paul Roisen 92 Keith Dyche
Black Hawk 305 Tom Stone 221 Mary Lou Petersen 182 Mark Proescholdt 177 Stephen Dinsmore 127 Paul Roisen 120 Ray Cummins 117 Pam & Reid Allen 116 Jay Gilliam 105 Keith Dyche 100 Chris Edwards	Cass 158 Stephen Dinsmore 150 Pam & Reid Allen 128 Jay Gilliam 129 Keith Dyche 115 Paul Roisen 72 Mark Proescholdt	Crawford 166 Stephen Dinsmore 118 Jay Gilliam 105 Paul Roisen 100 Reid & Pam Allen 63 Mark Proescholdt	Fayette 158 Stephen Dinsmore 153 Mark Proescholdt 137 Chris Edwards 79 Pam & Reid Allen 76 Jay Gilliam	Hardin 269 Mark Proescholdt 200 Stephen Dinsmore 137 Reid & Pam Allen 136 Jay Gilliam 113 Paul Roisen 86 Keith Dyche	Jefferson 166 Chris Edwards 150 Stephen Dinsmore 103 Pam & Reid Allen 92 Paul Roisen 79 Jay Gilliam 61 Mark Proescholdt
Boone 269 Stephen Dinsmore 250 Jim Dinsmore 240 Doug Harr 234 Reid & Pam Allen 233 Mark Proescholdt 158 Paul Skrade 153 Jay Gilliam 132 Keith Dyche 102 Paul Roisen 101 Chris Edwards	Cedar 195 Chris Edwards 159 Stephen Dinsmore 103 Paul Roisen 89 Jay Gilliam 74 Reid & Pam Allen 64 Mark Proescholdt 57 Keith Dyche	Dallas 249 Pam & Reid Allen 216 Stephen Dinsmore 197 Ray Cummins 195 Jay Gilliam 169 Mark Proescholdt 162 Jim Dinsmore 107 Keith Dyche 105 Paul Roisen	Floyd 202 Paul Hertzell 182 Rita Goranson 160 Stephen Dinsmore 110 Jay Gilliam 78 Mark Proescholdt 74 Paul Roisen 72 Reid & Pam Allen	Harrison 183 Dick Bierman 183 Stephen Dinsmore 158 Gerald Von Ehwegen 142 Paul Roisen 110 Pam & Reid Allen 108 Jay Gilliam 107 Keith Dyche 94 Mark Proescholdt	Johnson 324 Jim Fuller 318 Tom Kent 311 Chris Edwards 270 Bill Scheible 205 Paul Roisen 193 Reid & Pam Allen 192 Mark Proescholdt 186 Stephen Dinsmore 172 Jim Dinsmore 165 Jay Gilliam 132 Keith Dyche 123 Ray Cummins
	Cerro Gordo 305 Curt Nelson 303 Carolyn Fischer 295 Rita Goranson 287 Paul Hertzell 214 Stephen Dinsmore 205 Mark Proescholdt 183 Paul Roisen 179 Pam & Reid Allen 175 Jim Dinsmore 121 Jay Gilliam 53 Keith Dyche	Davis 176 Chris Edwards 156 Stephen Dinsmore 130 Ray Cummins 105 Jay Gilliam 101 Paul Roisen 100 Reid & Pam Allen 99 Keith Dyche 64 Mark Proescholdt	Franklin 216 Mark Proescholdt 212 Stephen Dinsmore 151 Rita Goranson 136 Pam & Reid Allen 129 Jay Gilliam 118 Paul Roisen	Henry 162 Chris Edwards 157 Stephen Dinsmore 101 Reid & Pam Allen 100 Paul Roisen 82 Jay Gilliam 63 Mark Proescholdt	Jones 206 Chris Edwards 163 Stephen Dinsmore 144 Bill Scheible 111 Paul Roisen 100 Pam & Reid Allen 91 Mark Proescholdt 72 Jay Gilliam

Keokuk

183 Bill Scheible
182 Chris Edwards
159 Stephen Dinsmore
103 Jay Gilliam
100 Reid & Pam Allen
97 Paul Roisen
75 Mark Proescholdt

Kossuth

287 Matt Kenne
202 Paul Hertzell
202 Stephen Dinsmore
190 Rita Goranson
163 Mark Proescholdt
155 Pam & Reid Allen
114 Jay Gilliam
104 Paul Roisen

Lee

252 Stephen Dinsmore
224 Chris Edwards
183 Ray Cummins
183 Paul Roisen
172 Jay Gilliam
167 Reid & Pam Allen
158 Mark Proescholdt
149 Keith Dyche

Linn

289 Pete Wickham
276 Bill Scheible
234 Chris Edwards
179 Mark Proescholdt
169 Stephen Dinsmore
141 Pam & Reid Allen
139 Paul Roisen
63 Jay Gilliam

Louisa

273 Jim Fuller
209 Chris Edwards
172 Stephen Dinsmore
151 Mary Lou Petersen
136 Reid & Pam Allen
136 Paul Roisen
106 Mark Proescholdt
100 Jay Gilliam
54 Keith Dyche

Lucas

243 Aaron Brees
181 Pam & Reid Allen
177 Stephen Dinsmore
176 Ray Cummins
174 Jay Gilliam
164 Mark Proescholdt
119 Paul Roisen
115 Keith Dyche

Lyon

187 Doug Harr
166 Stephen Dinsmore
104 Paul Roisen
69 Jay Gilliam
68 Reid & Pam Allen
61 Mark Proescholdt

Madison

267 Eugene Armstrong
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118 Keith Dyche

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210 Bill Huser
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81 Keith Dyche

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Worth

250 Curt Nelson
241 Paul Hertzell
231 Rita Goranson
164 Stephen Dinsmore
128 Reid & Pam Allen
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101 Jay Gilliam
77 Mark Proescholdt

Wright

250 Stephen Dinsmore
174 Rita Goranson
171 Mark Proescholdt
171 Jim Dinsmore
135 Pam & Reid Allen
114 Jay Gilliam
102 Paul Roisen

Total Ticks

18,466 Stephen Dinsmore (+195)
12,996 Pam & Reid Allen (+104)
12,850 Mark Proescholdt (+43)
12,016 Jim Dinsmore (+170)
12,213 Jay Gilliam (+356)
12,046 Paul Roisen (+1657)
7,298 Keith Dyche (+553)

Moorehead Park's Ambassador

Article and Photos by Paul Roisen

During the winter of 2014-2015, people have been flocking to Moorehead Park. At last count, three-hundred seventy-four persons from fifteen states have flown, caravanned, or driven their vehicles—sometimes thousands of miles to get here—despite knowing that they would have to endure the bone-chilling temperatures, blasting winds, and snow.

Just “why” would people from all over the country come to a small county park in little old Ida Grove in Ida County, Iowa in the middle of this brutal Midwest winter. Turns out that there are two reasons—Don Poggensee and owls.

Owls have stirred the imagination of humans for thousands of years. Prehistoric tribes, Greeks, Romans, Chinese, Japanese, Middle East, Native Americans all have stories and beliefs revolving around owls. Whether the draw is mystical, a sign of wisdom, or good luck, strength, incredible night vision, fierceness, or even a representation of evil—people continue to be enthralled by these avian species.

Reports of a “seen” owl are not enough to get people to travel long distances to view them. The owl needs have some special attraction. This would usually be a rarely seen species or a species being seen in an unusual location and the likelihood of actually getting to see the target species. Some of the owls that seem to be a real draw are the Great Gray Owl, the Northern Hawk-Owl, the Snowy Owl, and the smaller “cute” species such as, Boreal Owl, and especially the docile, approachable, photogenic Northern Saw-Whet Owl.

For those of us in Iowa, some of these species only show up during the winter—Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl (LEOW), Short-eared Owl, and the Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO). Some are rather easily seen since they may be flying around or sitting out in the open during daylight hours. Some, such as the LEOW and NSWO are seldom seen since they are nocturnal hunters who roost during daylight hours. Unless you are willing to walk miles of pines and/or cedars, and sometimes snow, trying to locate them, you are unlikely to see them. Even then most folks just do not often locate these owls by themselves. Our best opportunities come when someone reports the owl and is able to direct people to where it is being seen. It is fortunate for us when a reliable source is able to pass on the information so we might be able to relocate and view the bird. Don Poggensee is one of these people.

Don had been passionate about conservation for many years. When Don found his first NSWO in Moorehead Park, the conservation bug really kicked in and his commitment to the Ida County Conservation Board (ICCB) was ensured. While there is no doubt that people come here to see the owls—it is also clear the likelihood of actually seeing these stunning creatures provides a strong incentive to make the trip to Moorehead Park. When you know that Don will be there to guide you and that you will almost certainly see at least one of the NSWO, it makes the decision to spend the time and money so much easier.

Late October 2014, Don reports the first sighting of a Northern Saw-Whet Owl (NSWO) in Moorehead Park of the season.



November-Don continues to provide updates on more NSWOs. Soon the information spreads to the American Birding Association list, the Missouri and Nebraska lists and others. By mid November people begin contacting Don regularly about directions to the owls. Don does much more than that. He offers to guide them—everyone who contacts Don gets the same treatment—a personally guided tour if they wish one! Early in February, I finally give Don a call and he excitedly agrees to a time and date. Don informs me that two others will be joining us at 9:00AM. During the phone visit I learn a little about Don's typical day. Early morning—scout for owls. Mid morning—greet visitors; guide them to the owl(s), and tour of the new nature center. Lunch, usually with some of the visitors, is at one of the local restaurants. Don also promotes the town with suggestions for eating, accommodations, or local attractions. After lunch—possibly another group of visitors, or Don is off to photograph churches, scenery, clouds, etc. Evenings—responding to emails and phone calls, making arrangements with potential visitors, and recording everything.

The visit—I pull up just at the other couple does. As we step out of our vehicles, we are greeted with a warm and vibrant “Hi, I’m Don Poggensee—Welcome to Moorehead Park.” As he shakes your hand, you note the binoculars hanging from his neck, a camera in his free hand, a big smile on his face and you just know you are going to see

what you came for—an almost guaranteed viewing of one or more NSWO. He asks if we would like to warm up or use the restroom but most reply with a quick reference to something like “owls first.”

“I located six owls this morning so lets start with the area by the restroom.” We begin walking and Don informs us that he saw his first NSWO in Moorehead Park in 1989 when he also managed his first close-up photos. And thus was born his fascination with this enchanting species! I find out that he begins scouting around mid-September. This surprises me since I remember that his earliest Moorehead Park NSWO was October 31st. Don explains that some groups of NSWO begin moving south in early October so he is ever hopeful that he will find an early arrival. “Often, the Long-eared Owls (LEOW) show up first followed by the NSWO.” “Interestingly,” he remarks, “they just do not hang out close to each other.” “This year, the LEOW seemed to move on shortly after arriving, but the NSWO have showed up in larger numbers than ever before.” “Ah, Here we are!”

I look around but have a hard time figuring out how he knows which tree to stop at since there are numerous trees with numerous footprints around them. Don moves around a little while peering up into the selected tree “There he is!” We move over to where Don is pointing. At first, we have trouble spotting the little guy but then there it is just as relaxed as could be with his eyes following you but showing no signs of flying off. And he doesn’t! We all get our first photos of the day. Don suggests we try for another owl and see if we even better photos. As we walk and talk, Don shares photographic tips to better assure some quality photos.

As we move towards the next roost tree, we learn that the owls often roost facing south and that they usually stay around until mid-March when the temperature starts to rise. In the case of Moorehead



Park, many of the owls choose to use the parks pine trees. The brome grass, surrounding the trees, is home to an abundant population of small rodents-their favorite source of food. As we move from pine tree to pine tree, one of the visitors remarks that he had only seen this species in cedar trees

before today. We arrive at the next roost tree but no owl. A couple of seconds later, Don says “Its over in this tree” and we find this one really tucked in tight. One of the guests is quite saddened that she cannot get a decent photo. Turns out that she expected the birds to be further away and brought a lens that was too long. Don quickly rummages around and then hands her a more appropriate lens. You could have sworn the sun had just come out as the smile stretched across her face and she took photos to her hearts content.

Someone asks Don how he locates the owls since they are often hard to spot when roosting. “White-wash (a.k.a fecal matter)” replies Don, “and pellets (non-digested bones and hair) which the owls ‘cough up’ and drop on the ground below their roost.” As we move on a little further Don points out the ‘white-wash’ on the

needles or on a branch as we pass by. Sometimes it is from a previous roost but if you look up above the ‘white wash’ you might find yourself looking at right into the large yellow eyes of the real thing. A couple of trees later he points out some of the pellets on the ground. I pick up 5-6 to take back to a science teacher who enjoys drying them out and then trying to identify which prey the owl had taken (field mouse, vole, or other).

We find the last owl of the day and get our best photos yet. On the way back to Don reminisces about a couple of owls that he had given names to. “I named one ‘Gypsy’ because it was NEVER in the same roost but wandered to a different roost every day.” “And then there was ‘Faithful’. Normally, the owls seem to have two or three trees in which they may alternate their roosts, but one year we had a NSWO that was in the same tree every day I went out.” Don chuckles as he suddenly recalls one more story. He reminds us how docile and approachable these beautiful little birds have been as we visited them today. “One year there was this one NSWO who would always fly away when anyone approached it. It would not go far, maybe two or three trees away, but it certainly was out of the ordinary.”

“Most years we have between three and five NSWOs. This winter there was a record eight located on one day which came as quite a surprise since the winter of 2013-2014 produced only one.”

We arrive back at the parking lot just in time to greet the next round of visitors. Introductions are made and Don takes us all in for a visit to his pride and joy--the newly completed and long worked for—Moorehead Park Conservation Center. We enjoy a cup of coffee, warm up, use the Internet, and view the wonderful displays. As we leave, Don walks us out and you feel as if you are saying goodbye to a long time friend instead of someone we have just met!

Over the years I have had the pleasure of meeting numerous people who have dedicated themselves to the service of others. Don Poggensee is a good as they come!

Mr. Poggensee is much more than an owl ambassador! He is an ambassador for Iowa, Ida County, Moorehead Park, conservation and nature, birds, and people—as well as being a great friend. We are blessed to have him as one of our own! Thank you, Don Poggensee-person extraordinaire.



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IOU News

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