



I.O.U. NEWS

Summer 1990 Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Volume 6 Number 2

The Tri-State Birding Convention, a first-ever joint meeting of birders from Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, was held May 18 through 20 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Hosted by the LaCrosse Audubon Society and the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse Biology Department, the Iowa and Minnesota Ornithologists' Unions and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology shared copious amounts of knowledge, expertise, talent, business, and fun. Even the drenching and relentless rain failed to dampen the spirits of the participants. It did, however, keep down the species numbers seen on Saturday morning field trips. There were 321 registrants for the meeting, 64 of whom were from Iowa. Minnesota sent 60, and the rest, with the exception of a few from Illinois, were from Wisconsin.

A pre-convention trip was offered for those who could come a day early to

enjoy more tri-state birding. 62 intrepid birders boarded two buses on Thursday morning, braving cold, stiff winds and occasional rain. From LaCrosse, the buses

TRI-STATE BIRDING CONVENTION



May 18 - 20, 1990
La Crosse, Wisconsin

followed the Mississippi south, with frequent birding stops, to Wyalusing State Park at the mouth of the Wisconsin River, where the afternoon and evening were spent birding. Ruffed Grouse were a highlight. Friday morning dawned much quieter, with clear skies. Once again, birders could hear warblers! At Yellow River Forest in northeast Iowa, the group split up in several directions. On reconvening for lunch, an impressive warbler list was compiled, including a

Black-throated Blue, Ceruleans, and Kentuckys. Heading north toward LaCrosse, after a stop for grassland birds, the group visited Beaver Creek State Park in Minnesota. A final tally for the trip list was unavailable, but in a contest between

buses, the winning group counted 119 species seen by at least three individuals.

The format of the convention was similar to that of most IOU meetings. Friday evening, in addition to registration and a social hour, the program included Sam Droege, director of the Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a slide sharing session with narration by the photographers. An owl field trip wound up the evening.

Saturday's agenda included early field trips to varied habitat areas near LaCrosse in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The plan for nearly all of the day's activities to be held indoors was fortuitous; it took the rest of day for those who had been on those short field trips to dry out and warm up.

Following breakfast, the morning paper sessions included the following:

* Upper Mississippi River Peregrine Reintroduction by Harrison Tordoff and Patrick Redig.

* Human Use Patterns and Avian Mortality on Seagull Bar in Marinette, Wisc. by Wendel Johnson.

* Henslow's Sparrow in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin by Steve Dinsmore.

* Status of the Loggerhead Shrike by Bonnie Brooks.

A series of panels filled the early afternoon hours. They were:

* Breeding Bird Survey Summary

* Endangered Species

* Records Committee Issues

* Beginning Birding

* Editing a State Journal

* Birders and Politics

Business meetings for each state were held at 4:15 followed by a sumptu-

Tri-State Birding Convention

IOU MOU WSO



May 18-20, 1990
La Crosse
Wisconsin

ous banquet featuring roast turkey breast to over 300 people. Presidents of all three state organizations and other honored guests were seated at the speakers table. Master of Ceremonies Fred Leshar presented an appreciation award for Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History to Ann Marie Plunkett, Rochester, for her fund raising efforts and personal donation. The evening's featured speaker was Robert Nero, Ph.D., from the University of Wisconsin, an acknowledged authority on the Great Gray Owl. Dr. Nero has published extensively in all areas of natural history, and has spent the last 20 years studying the Great Gray Owl. Although his talk was truly outstanding, probably the real hit of the evening was his silent, regal companion, Gray'l, a female Great Gray Owl. The awe she inspired in all those in her presence was unmistakable.

Field trips were the order of the day on Sunday, which dawned cool and overcast, but without Saturday's endless rain. The trips were left open ended to allow birders to depart for home, and went to the following destinations: Harper's Ferry - Effigy Mounds National Monument, Ia.; Yellow River State Forest, Ia.; New Albin, Ia.; Kellogg Sand Prairie - Weaver Bottoms, Minn.; Whitewater River - Weaver Bottoms, Minn.; Beaver Creek State Park, Minn.; Brownsville - Reno, Minn.; Trempeleau National Wildlife Refuge, Wisc.; Wyalusing State Park, Wisc.; Bohemian Valley, Wisc.; Wildcat Mountain State Park, Wisc.; Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge by boat. Because of the scattered nature of the Sunday trips, a compilation of species sighted was not done on a group basis.

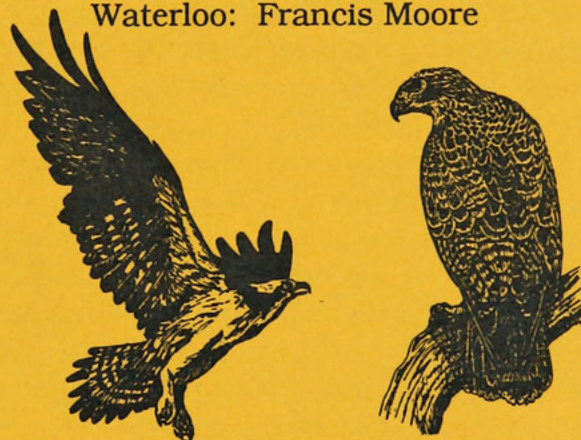
Our thanks to the LaCrosse Audubon Society and the Biology Department at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, convention co-chairs Fred Leshner and Stephen McGovern, as well as countless WSO, MOU, and IOU members who organized and carried off a superb meeting.

Ann Barker

Alice Smith, Linda Tasler
 Osceola: Beth Brown
 Perry: Betsy & Bob Myer
 Princeton: Ann Barker
 Runnells: Fred Brink
 Sioux City: Bob, Cindy, Virginia &
 Wayne Livermore
 Waterloo: Francis Moore

Attendance


 Adel: Janet Eppard
 Ames: Jim & Steve Dinsmore
 Ankeny: Maridel Jackson
 Booneville: Eloise and Eugene
 Armstrong
 Cedar Falls: Ed & Jean Leonard
 Centerville: Ray Cummins
 Clear Lake: Jim Hansen
 Clinton: Jacqueline Gardner
 Colo: Hank Zaletel
 Cresco: Marlene Michel
 Davenport: Mary Lou & Pete
 Petersen
 Decorah: Dennis Carter, Tex
 Sordahl
 Des Moines: Bob & John Cecil,
 Jane Clark, John Fleckenstein,
 Jeanette Frost, Marjorie Koester,
 Carol McMillan, Hilda Sickels,
 Barb Watson
 Dubuque: Charlie Winterwood
 Ellsworth: Jacquelyn Hill
 Elma: Mary Jo Hartogh
 Estherville: Harold White
 Ft. Dodge: Mary Kuhlman
 Iowa City: Carl Bendorf, Margrieta
 Delle, Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller,
 Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, Bernie &
 Cal Knight, Jim Schieb, Dick
 Tetrault, Carol Thompson
 Lake Mills: Sibyl Sand
 Le Claire: Don & Jean Moeller
 Liscomb: Beth & Mark Proescholdt
 Marshalltown: Joan Buwalda, Jean
 Eige, Marlysh Huff, Dorothy Rich,



Recent Literature

A 21 page article on Althea Sherman (1853-1943) was published in the *Palimpsest* v. 70, no. 4, 1989. Authored by Sharon Wood, the article details Sherman's life as a teacher, artist and as an early Iowa ornithologist. Richly illustrated with photographs, many of Sherman's paintings and drawings are depicted. The article reveals how Sherman soon became a nationally known bird expert and her Iowa home a mecca for bird lovers.

An unpublished report on the status of the Red-shouldered Hawk in Iowa was recently submitted by Jon Stravers to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Red-shouldered Hawks nest in mature floodplain forests that are undisturbed and have a well-developed forest canopy. Sixty-eight different areas in 25 counties were searched during 1989 for evidence of breeding activity. Of the 68 locations, nesting was confirmed in eight and suspected in five. Seven of the confirmed nests were in the 19 areas searched in the

northeast part of the state. All of the nest sites were in floodplain forests considered to be in late successional stage and dominated by Silver Maple or Cottonwood. The size of the mature forest area ranged from 96 to 178 acres, although all the sites were surrounded by much younger floodplain forests or wetlands. The size of the hunting territory for a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks is estimated at between 240 and 400 acres. Nest fidelity is strong in northeastern Iowa and reproductive success good, which is not true in other areas. Red-shouldered Hawks begin nesting activity in February or March and lay eggs in March or April. Incubation is about 28 days and the young remain in the nest for about 40 days before fledging. Red-shouldered Hawks appear to be able to defend their nests from Red-tailed Hawks. Since Red-tailed Hawks are less habitat specific, alteration of the habitat may favor Red-tailed Hawks. Crows may pose a problem to Red-shouldered Hawks by preventing them from pioneering new areas. Few crows nest in areas where Red-shouldered Hawks nests were found, but were abundant in areas of suitable habitat where no nests were found.

Another paper on raptors was published in the *Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science*, v. 96, no. 2, 1989, by Dean Roosa and Jon Stravers. This article summarizes the nesting records for uncommon raptors in Iowa, including Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, Common Barn, Burrowing, Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls, and Osprey.

Carol Thompson and Hank Zaletel



State and County Lists

by Pete Petersen

The response was a bit weak for state totals with 16 reporting compared to 44 totals listed by the American Birding Association. Although the end date was the same, not all totals agreed. Hopefully everyone who keeps a state list will report next year. The county totals were more encouraging. Anyone who didn't have county totals can work on them for the next report.

The lifetime totals of IOU members through Dec. 31, 1990, should be submitted to Peter C. Petersen by Jan. 31, 1991. Just the number is required, not the species list. Wild birds only should be reported at the judgement of the observer, heard as well as seen.

Iowa Totals — 200 minimum

Peter C. Petersen	350
Gene Armstrong	334
Jim Fuller	329
Eloise Armstrong	328
Mark Proescholdt	322
Beth Proescholdt	320
Mary Lou Petersen	309
Tanya Bray	303
Ray Cummins	295
Ann Johnson	291
Babs Padelford	288
Douglas Rose	283
Loren Padelford	281
Curt Nelson	265
Dick Bierman	264
Jerry Probst	256
Matt Kenne	254

County Totals — 125 minimum

Appanoose: Ray Cummins 243

Blackhawk: Peter C. Petersen	221
Mary Lou Petersen	216
Boone: Mark Proescholdt	146
Buena Vista: Dick Bierman	179
Cass: Tanya Bray	170
Cerro Gordo: Curt Nelson	236
Cherokee: Dick Bierman	240
Clay: Dick Bierman	174
Clinton: Peter C. Petersen	239
Dallas: Ray Cummins	137
Des Moines: Jim Fuller	223
Peter C. Petersen	214
Dickinson: Dick Bierman	195
Fremont: Tanya Bray	226
Babs Padelford	204
Douglas Rose	186
Ray Cummins	149
Guthrie: Ray Cummins	195
Tanya Bray	153
Hardin: Mark Proescholdt	215
Beth Proescholdt	205
Harrison: Dick Bierman	178
Tanya Bray	172
Jackson: Peter C. Petersen	225
Johnson: Jim Fuller	273
Peter C. Petersen	245
Kossuth: Matt Kenne	248
Louisa: Peter C. Petersen	240
Madison: Gene Armstrong	249
Eloise Armstrong	244
Marion: Ann Johnson	212
Marshall: Mark Proescholdt	243
Beth Proescholdt	241
Mills: Tanya Bray	202
Douglas Rose	193
Babs Padelford	191
Monona: Tanya Bray	148
Muscatine: Peter C. Petersen	252
O'Brien: Dick Bierman	168
Plymouth: Bill Huser	129
Pocahontas: Ray Cummins	215
Polk: Gene Armstrong	282
Eloise Armstrong	281
Ann Johnson	233
Mark Proescholdt	198
Pottawattamie: Babs Padelford	205
Tanya Bray	204

Scott: Peter C. Petersen	300
Mary Lou Petersen	260
Story: Mark Proescholdt	189
Tama: Mark Proescholdt	165
Van Buren: Ray Cummins	133
Warren: Ann Johnson	215
Woodbury: Jerry Probst	242
Bill Huser	239

Nesting Survey Results

158 reports were sent in - 3984 boxes monitored - 1485 successful broods - 9706 blue Bluebird eggs - 22 white EABL eggs - 7059 Bluebirds hatched - 6674 Bluebirds fledged - 903 Tree Swallow fledged - 280 Black-capped Chickadees fledged - 81 American Kestrel boxes were monitored with 71 Kestrels fledging - 44 Purple Martin boxes were monitored with 931 Martins fledging

Iowa Bluebird Box Data. 1986-1989				
	86	87	88	89
No. of reports	99	171	147	158
No. of boxes	2247	4226	3280	3984
No. fledged	3614	6228	4577	6674
Fledged/box	1.48	1.47	1.39	1.675

Send in your survey forms to Jacquelyn Hill, Route 2, Box 61, Ellsworth, IA 50075 by Sept. 30, 1990. A directory of the results is hoped to be done by Thanksgiving.



The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting
Iowa Western Community College
Council Bluffs, Iowa
August 24-26, 1990

Friday, August 24, 7-9 PM. Registration and social gathering at the Continuing Education Building, Iowa Western Community College. Refreshments, and information about the meeting and the field trips will be discussed.

Saturday, August 25, 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM breakfast at LeDeForest Building
Field trips depart 6:30 AM and 7:00 AM.

Southwest Iowa is noted for its excellent birding. Late August should be good for herons, including Little Blue and Snow Egret, early waterfowl, shorebirds, and migrating passerines. Linger- ing Blue Grosbeak and Western Kingbird, area specialities, may also be present.

Field trip locations and scheduling are tentative due to the possible variation in water conditions. Check during the Friday evening Social Hour or Saturday morning for final field trip locations.

All trips will be repeated Sunday.

1. DeSoto Wildlife Refuge (Depart 7:00 AM) early waterfowl, shorebirds, migrant passerines.
2. Riverton (Depart 6:30 AM) herons, shorebirds, early waterfowl, other marsh/wetland species.
3. Forney's Lake/Waubonsie State Park (Depart 6:30 AM) early waterfowl, herons, shorebirds (Forneys), passerines, woodland species, Summer Tanager (Waubonsie)
4. Willow Slough/IPL Ponds (Depart 7:00 AM) early waterfowl, shorebirds, other marsh/wetland species.
5. Fontenelle Forest (Nebraska)(Depart 7:00 AM) migrant and resident passerines, woodland species.

12:15-1:00 P.M.	Lunch at the LeDeForest Building
1:00-1:45 P.M.	Identifying the Small Shorebirds (Jim Dinsmore)
1:45-2:30 P.M.	Birding SW Iowa/SE Nebraska by area birders (panel)
2:30-2:45 P.M.	Break
2:45-3:30 P.M.	To be announced
3:30 P.M.	Business meeting
7:00 P.M.	Banquet at the LeDeForest Building. Craig Faanes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will speak on "The Future of the Platte River."

Sunday, August 26

6:00-7:00 A.M.	Coffee and rolls (complimentary)
6:30 & 7:00 A.M.	Field trips depart
12:00 P.M.	Lunch and bird compilation at Lake Manawa State Park.

Lodging

The Community College has dormitory rooms available for \$10 single or \$16 double occupancy, linens included.

Camping is available at Lake Manawa State Park (Exit 3, I-80/29, Lake Manawa exit). Phone 712-366-0220.

Please register by August 15, 1990. Send registrations (and make payable) to Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311. For information call Bob Cecil during work hours 515/284-4746 or evenings and weekends at 515/277-5709.

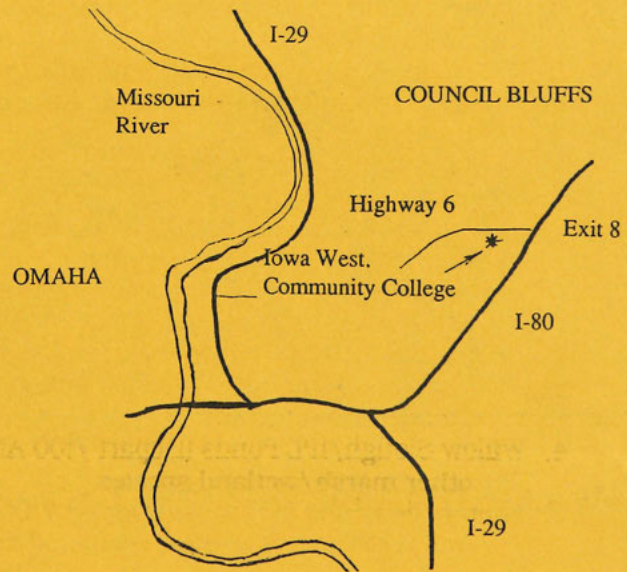
Motels

Comfort Inn, I-80 & I-29, exit 3
712/366-9699 / 1-800/228-5150,
\$30/40.

Motel 6, 1846 N. 16th St.
712/328-8300,
\$24/30.

Super 8 Motel, 2712 S. 24th St.
712/322-2888 / 1-800/843-1991,
\$30/32.

Regal 8 Inn, I-80 & I-29, exit 3
712/366-2405 / 1-800/851-8888,
\$24/34, (10% discount to IOU
members)



Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Registration fee: \$4.00 per person \$ _____

Dormitory room, \$10.00 per night/single \$ _____ Fri. or Sat./both
\$16.00 per night/double \$ _____ Fri. or Sat./both

Saturday breakfast, \$3.25 \$ _____
Saturday lunch, \$4.50 \$ _____
Banquet, \$10.00 \$ _____
Sunday lunch, \$4.25 \$ _____

Total enclosed.....\$ _____

People

Judge Charles Ayres, a former IOU President and Ottumwa resident, died recently at age 83. He and his wife Darleen banded over 70,000 birds, gave many talks to students and led numerous field trips

Tom Staudt, formerly of Iowa City and now of Portland, Oregon, writes to tell us of a six month scientific expedition he will be taking to Hawaii, Costa Rica, and Peru on a seabird survey. Tom is also the secretary of the Oregon Records Committee.



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

HANK & LINDA ZALETTEL
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COLO, IOWA 50056



Ann L Kent
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IOWA BIRDLINE



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