



# I.O.U. News

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Newsletter

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## Atlas Awards Presented

by Carol Thompson  
& Hank Zaletel

Awards were present at the IOU spring meeting held in Keosauqua for work done on the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Out of a total 861 blocks, 717 were worked with 611 of them being completed. There were 507 participants working 14,654 people hours. The atlas committee and few paid atlasers (10 people) accounted for 41 % of the hours worked.

The following awards were presented:

For the most field hours spent in all blocks:

Darwin Koenig

For the most field hours spent in one block:

Tim Brush

For the most field hours spent in all blocks:

Rathbun Bird Club

For the greatest number of blocks covered:

Tanya Bray

For the greatest number of blocks covered:

Iowa City Bird Club

For the greatest number of blocks covered with at least 10 hours in each block or more than 40 species recorded: Marion Brewer, Hank Zaletel, Steve Brunsmma, and Rita Efta

For the greatest number of priority blocks covered with at least 10 hours in each block or more than 40 species: George Crossley

For the greatest number of standard blocks covered with at least 10 hours in each block or more than 40 species recorded: Margrieta Delle

For the most species recorded by one person in a single block: Keith Carris

For demonstrating a range expansion of Chuck-wills-Widow: Tim Brush

For demonstrating a range expansion of Prothonotary Warbler: Harold White and John Fleckenstein

For confirming the breeding of Worm-eating Warbler: Bob Cecil

For documenting the first nesting of Canvasback and Western Grebe: Steve Dinsmore and Erik Munson

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Check Fall Meeting and  
Field Trip Date Changes**

## A Note From The Editors

Using an updated version of Aldus Pagemaker, we have designed a new look for the newsletter. We want to thank Dan Jensen and Linette Riley for their help in creating the new look and for showing us a few new tricks of the trade in using the new program.

I.O.U. News Editors  
Hank & Linda Zaletel  
715 West St.  
Colo, Iowa 50056





# IOU Spring Meeting 1993

by Hilda Sickels,  
Des Moines

The Hotel Manning served as the meeting site for the 1993 annual meeting. Over 80 birders were drawn to this Van Buren County village the weekend of 14-16 May. Friday evening members were treated to a table full of munchies and treats. The Iowa City Bird Club devised a mixer identifying birds by their not so common names.

Saturday morning field trips left for Lacey Keosauqua State Park, Shimek State Forest, Croton Unit and the Mississippi River bottoms. Lunch followed at the Hotel consisting of make your own sandwiches, soup and vegetables.

The afternoon program started with Jim Dinsmore discussing the "Distribution Patterns of Iowa Birds" followed by Tom Kent speaking on record keeping. Barbara Boyle, a member of the Iowa City Song Bird Project, spoke on their efforts to restore Althea Sherman's swift tower that had recently been brought to Iowa City.

The business meeting was held after the third presentation. Elections were held, a code of ethics was discussed, a treasurer's report was submitted, and the spring bird count was explained and discussed. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The evening program was presented by Eloise and Eugene Armstrong speaking on "Birding the Four Corners of Iowa," it followed the banquet of chicken, vegetables, potatoes and pie.

Carol Thompson made a presentation of awards to those individuals and groups who assisted in the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

The following morning field trips returned to the same areas as Saturday morning. A picnic lunch was held at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park followed by the compilation of bird sightings led by Pete Petersen.

Special thanks to Bob Cecil for planning the meeting, the Iowa City Bird Club for their help and the Hotel Manning's management for the delicious food and lodging.



## Recent Literature

Fleskes, J.P., and E. E. Klaas. 1993. Remains of ducks and other prey found near fox and mink dens on an Iowa wildlife refuge. *Prairie Nat.* 25:43-50.

Hemesath, L. M., and J.J. Dinsmore. 1993. Factors affecting bird colonization of restored wetlands. *Prairie Nat.* 25:1-11.





**IOU Field Trip**  
**Grammer Grove County Park**  
**Marshall County**  
**Saturday, September 18, 1993**

**Hawk Mountain, Cape May, Hawk Ridge. . . .**

These places are renowned for the variety and numbers of hawks which pass their way each fall. Now you can add Grammer Grove to the list. While this little spot in Marshall County can never compare to those veritable hot spots for hawk watching, the bluff over the Iowa River has for several years provided the Proescholdts and their friends with some pretty incredible hawk watching. For instance, on 29 September, 1990 sixty-one Sharp-shinned Hawks passed this area. Seven Cooper's Hawks were reported in 28 September, 189. An incredible 561 Red-tailed Hawks were counted on 11 September, 1991 with an additional 203 seen on 5 October of the same year. Add to that the occasional Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, etc., and you have the potential for an exciting day.

The woods in Grammer Grove have also produced some wonderful records of passerines over the years. Late September should still provide us with a delightful number of species.

Bring a sack lunch and a lawn chair to join in the fun. Hawk watching doesn't get very exciting until mid to late morning when the thermals are right, but the group will meet at the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to check out the passerines. Come whenever you can and head northwest from the main parking lot to a large pine planting on the ridge.

To get to Grammer Grove, go north of Albion or south of Liscomb on County Road S75. Go west for just over a mile on either 125th or 130th Street. At Knapp Avenue you will turn north from 130th or south from 125th and continue to 127th Street. Go west on 127th Street to the park.

**Motels - Marshalltown**

Franklin - 1 mile west jct. hws 30 & 14, 515/752-1563

Flamingo - 1/2 mile west of jct. hws 30 & 14, 515/752-1533

Super 8 - just north jct. of 30 & 14, 515/752-8181, 1/800/800-8000

Best Western Regency - jct. hwy 30 & 14, 515/752-6321, 1/800/528-1234





## Research on Iowa Birds

Over the past five years, about 900 natural basins in Iowa that had been drained have been restored to their natural, wetland condition. Although conservationists are delighted to see these wetlands restored, little information is available to predict what bird species will use these areas and what factors are important in their use. Kristin VanRees, a graduate student at Iowa State University is currently trying to answer some of these questions. Kristin is studying birds on 24 restored wetlands in northwestern Iowa. These wetlands have been restored from 1-4 years so she can compare how rapidly various species occupy the wetlands after they are restored. She also is studying the insects and other invertebrates in these ponds to see how rapidly they colonize the wetlands. Since these animals are important food for the birds and their young, their presence may be important in determining what birds use the ponds.

Most of Kristin's study areas were originally drained about 50 years ago but as few as three years after they were restored, they supported an average of about five different nesting species of birds. These included ducks, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rails, and grebes.

Kristin is a native of Des Moines where she attended Hoover High School. After a brief stay at a college in Colorado, she transferred to the University of Northern Iowa and graduated from there with a major in Biology in 1990. In the summer of 1990, she was a hack-site attendant for the release of Peregrine Falcons in Cedar Rapids. That fall she started graduate work at Iowa State. Kristin is an avid runner and outdoors enthusiast. She recently married Jeff Siewert and they live in Nevada. Jeff is also interested in birds of prey and when Kristin finishes her degree, she plans to take a break from school while Jeff attends graduate school.

Kristin's work was supported by a number of different organizations including the Aldo Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment

Station, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Nongame Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation.

## IOU People

**Roy Ollivier**, a member of over 50 years, died recently at Starkville, Mississippi at age 89. He taught chemistry and physics in Iowa for over 40 years, the last 28 in Mt. Pleasant. He helped organize the Henry County Nature Society and was active in the Nature Conservancy.

The current issue of the *Iowan Magazine* features an article by Linda Bendorf titled "The Joy of Birding." Members featured include **Ross Silcock, Doug Rose, Bob Cecil, Ann Johnson, Jim Fuller, and Dennis Carter.**

## State and County Lists 1992 by Pete Petersen, Davenport

This year 24 people reported lifetime Iowa totals down from 28 last year. We have at least one listing for 48 counties, up from 40 last year.

Only two people indicated a desire for listing yearly totals for the state or counties, not enough to warrant such a compilation. Please send in your totals after December 31, 1993 to the author at 235 McClelland Blvd. Davenport, Iowa 52803

### Iowa Totals 200 minimum

Pete Petersen	359
Gene Armstrong	349
Eloise Armstong	345
Brian Blevins	345
Mark Proescholdt	331
Beth Proescholdt	329
Ann Johnson	321
Pam Allen	318
Reid Allen	317
Mary Lou Petersen	314
Ray Cummins	307





Curt Nelson	289
Corey Blevins	283
Jan Walter	279
Marj Heusinkveld	276
Bill Heusinkveld	275
Mary Jo Hartogh	275
Dick Bierman	271
Matt Kenne	270
Jim Walter	269
Maridel Jackson	268
Charlotte Scott	265
Peter Ernzen	249
Rita Goranson	241

### County Totals 125 Minimum

Allamakee:		
Mark Proescholdt	156	
Appanoose:		
Ray Cummins	258	
Lee Schoenewe	256	
Marj Heusinkveld	254	
Bill Heusinkveld	252	
Charlotte Scott	232	
Black Hawk:		
Pete Petersen	235	
Mary Lou Petersen	235	
Boone:		
Mark Proescholdt	192	
Beth Proescholdt	183	
Gene Armstrong	177	
Eloise Armstrong	177	
Ann Johnson	166	
Buena Vista:		
Dick Bierman	181	
Butler:		
Mark Proescholdt	150	
Cerro Gordo:		
Curt Nelson	259	
Jan Walter	257	
Rita Goranson	216	
Dick Bierman	174	

Cherokee:		
Dick Bierman	248	
Clay:		
Lee Schoenewe	244	
Alice Kehoe	190	
Dick Bierman	179	
Judy Knight	160	
Clinton:		
Pete Petersen	248	
Dallas:		
Gene & Eloise Armstrong	195	
Ray Cummins	154	
Des Moines:		
Pete Petersen	219	
Dickinson:		
Lee Schoenewe	218	
Dick Bierman	195	
Dubuque:		
Peter Ernzen	213	
Floyd:		
Mary Jo Hartogh	151	
Fremont:		
Mark Proescholdt	187	
Ray Cummins	153	
Grundy:		
Mark Proescholdt	162	
Guthrie:		
Gene Armstrong	211	
Eloise Armstrong	210	
Mark Proescholdt	170	
Hamilton:		
Mark Proescholdt	170	
Hardin:		
Mark Proescholdt	228	
Beth Proescholdt	214	
Harrison:		
Dick Bierman	181	
Howard:		
Mary Jo Hartogh	227	
Ida:		
Peter Ernzen	230	
Jackson:		
Pete Petersen	230	
Jasper:		
Mark Proescholdt	164	





Jefferson:		Scott:	
Diane Porter	197	Pete Petersen	303
Johnson:		Brian Blevins	282
Pete Petersen	248	Mary Lou Petersen	272
Kossuth:		Corey Blevins	271
Matt Kenne	262	Story:	
Lee:		Mark Proescholdt	229
Ray Cummins	136	Beth Proescholdt	196
Linn:		Tama:	
Pete Petersen	204	Mark Proescholdt	213
Louisa:		Beth Proescholdt	174
Pete Petersen	250	Van Buren:	
Lucas:		Ray Cummins	145
Ray Cummins	134	Warren:	
Madison:		Ann Johnson	246
Gene Armstrong	254	Wayne:	
Eloise Armstrong	250	Charlotte Scott	225
Marion:		Ray Cummins	125
Ann Johnson	249	Winneshiek:	
Mark Proescholdt	195	Dennis Carter	190
Ray Cummins	159		
Marshall:			
Beth Proescholdt	254		
Mark Proescholdt	251		
Mitchell:			
Mary Jo Hartogh	194		
Muscatine:			
Pete Petersen	254		
O'Brien:			
Dick Bierman	175		
Palo Alto:			
Velma Keerbs	165		
Pocahontas:			
Ray Cummins	220		
Dick Bierman	151		
Polk:			
Gene Armstrong	292		
Eloise Armstrong	291		
Pam Allen	263		
Reid Allen	261		
Ann Johnson	257		
Mark Proescholdt	246		
Pete Petersen	243		
Beth Proescholdt	228		
Maridel Jackson	195		





## Fall IOU Meeting September 24-26, 1993

Prairie Wetlands Nature Center

Lost Island Lake

Ruthven, Iowa

To reach the Nature Center, go north out of Ruthven on highway 341 and turn left at "T"; or take county road N18 north from highway 18 to Corner Store and then follow the road east along the north shoreline of Lost Island Lake. At the northeast corner of the lake turn south at sign for Huston Park and follow road for approximately 1/2 mile to the Nature Center.

Friday 7:00-9:00 P.M.	Registration and reception at the Nature Center.
Saturday 6:30-7:30 A.M.	Breakfast at the Nature Center.
7:30 A.M.	Field trips leave from Nature Center parking lot.
12:00-1:00 P.M.	Lunch at the Nature Center.
1:00-1:50 P.M.	Small Shorebird Identification by Pete Wickham.
2:00-2:45 P.M.	Getting Started with Computers and Birding by Diane Porter.
2:55-3:30 P.M.	Birding Northwest Iowa (to be announced).
3:30 P.M.	Business Meeting
6:30 P.M.	Banquet meal to be served at Stub's Ranch Kitchen, 1700 11th Ave. S.W. Hwy. 71 South, Spencer
Evening Program	"The Attu Experience" narrated by Carl Bendorf, Jim Fuller and Tom Kent.
Sunday, 6:30-7:30 A.M.	Breakfast at Nature Center
7:30 A.M.	Field trips leave from Nature Center
12:00 Noon	Lunch at Nature Center.

### Motels -Spencer

Budget Inn - 1004 South Grand - 712/262-4620, \$26.00/38.00  
Lamplighter - Jct .Hwys 18 & 71 S. - 712/262-3720, \$30.00/40.00  
Super 8 - 209 11th St. SW Plaza - 712/262-8500, \$31.88/42.92  
Grand Motel-714 South Grand -712/262-4683,\$20.00/25.00

### Emmetsburg

Suburban Motel-Hwy. 4 & 18 West-712/852-2626  
Lucky Charm Motel-Hwy. 4 & 18 West-712/-852-3640

### Camping

Camping is available across the road from the Nature Center with toilets, showers and firewood.  
\$5.00 w/o electricity \$6.00 with electricity.





