



I.O.U. News

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Newsletter

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NATURE'S INTERPRETERS

by Mike Krapel

Staff Writer

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It was just a short walk to the bridge. It couldn't have been more than 200 steps down the hill and into the woods.

But that was all it took for the Zaletels to tell another story and teacher another lesson. Hank Zaletel (and if you've ever met Hank you're not surprised by this) did most of the talking. Linda Zaletel (and if you've ever met Linda you're not surprised by this) did most of the teaching.

Just a few weeks ago, Hank said, he'd heard a woodcock climbing and diving over McFarland Park northeast of Ames. "Peet," the strutting, long-beaked bird called, "peet."

Don't know much about woodcocks? Linda suggested reading a description by Iowa-born conservationist and thinker Aldo Leopold. Writing in "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold describes the mating flight of the male woodcock as a "sky dance."

The Zaletels have written a few words about birds, too.

Hank helped

write a booklet about all the birds that live in or fly over Story County. In it, you can learn some of the county's best spots for watching birds. You can also learn that the American coot is a regular here. Its spring migration generally peaks in just a few weeks.

Linda has written a guide to help teachers prepare lessons about birds. One lesson tells teachers about Iowa's state bird, the American goldfinch. Did you know the bird is known for building nests so thick and dense they can hold water?

Then there's the annual Olav Smedal Award (Named after The Tribune's former outdoor writer and editor). It honors some of Story County's leading conservationists. The Zaletels now have their names on that, too.

'There to help'

Hank—who was born in Ames, grew up in Des Moines and went to Dowling High School — is the librarian at the Iowa Department of

Transportation. He spends most of his lunch breaks at Hallett's Quarry looking for birds. That says more about his feelings for birds than his feelings for work.

At work he's in charge of journals, magazines, books, manuals, photos, files and clippings.



Mike Meetz presenting award to Hank & Linda



If somebody needs to know the name of Alaska's lieutenant governor, he knows where to look. If somebody needs help with a desktop publishing program, he hands over a manual. If somebody needs to know more about the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, he finds the file.

"My greatest satisfaction is having somebody ask me something and I get the information," he said. "And then they say, 'Wow, that's exactly what I want.'"

"I'm there to help them."

He also tries to be there for the birds.

He joined Story County's chapter of Pheasants Forever. And it wasn't because he's a hunter. He's not. It was because the group works to protect pheasant habitat, which is also a good home for a lot of other birds.

Of all the conservation work he's down (and that includes working with Linda to produce a newsletter for Iowa's birdwatchers, volunteering to help with nature walks, working on the county bird book) he's proudest of a successful effort to protect wetlands east of Colo.

"Hank was one of the driving forces behind that," said James Dinsmore, a professor of animal ecology at Iowa State University. "He's just one of those people who gets an idea for a project and tackles it."

'Sense of Wonder'

Linda Zaletel — who was born in St. Paul, Minn., grew up in Des Moines and went to Hoover High School — surrounds herself with owls. Visit her office at McFarland Park and dozens of owl eyes — from photos and posters and kid's artwork — are staring back at you.

Owls have been her favorites since she started birdwatching decades ago. As a naturalist for Story County Conservation, she's shown live owls to thousands of schoolchildren.

And it really is thousands. The county's three naturalists see as many as 16,000 students

ever year. Linda wouldn't have it any other way.

"I like being a front-line interpreter," she said. "I like being with the kids. I like standing in a mud puddle or in a pond. I like watching children discover."

There is, she said, a certain "sense of wonder" when children learn about the outside world.

Jim Pease, Iowa State's extension wildlife specialist and an assistant professor of animal ecology, said Linda is the rare naturalist who hasn't lost passion for the work "after doing that thousandth snake program."

"She has maintained that ability to teach kids," he said. "She feels so strongly that it's critical for kids to have a positive outdoor experience."

But she's starting to do more and more of her conservation work indoors.

There's the bird curriculum she wrote. There's another bird curriculum she helped put together. There's the bird newsletter she and Hank produce. And now she's helping to decide which education projects win grants from the state's Resource Enhancement and Protection program.

'Getting something done'

Together, Hank and Linda (who have been married since 1972) are making a difference in our county.

"They get out and educate the public," said Mike Meetz, an assistant scientist at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine. "There both do a lot of that."

So it's easy to find them attending a conservation meeting. Or presenting at conferences. Or writing a grant to support a new lesson plan about important Iowa conservationists. Or recording bird sightings.

"Neither one has been afraid to say yes," said Steve Lekwa, the director of Story County Conservation. "You don't get one without getting both."

The Smedal Award is given annually. A



committee review nominations and selects a winner. Lekwa looked at the award plaque earlier this week and said, "I just feel real good about their names being on it."

The Zaletels, naturally enough, are happy to be award-winners. But that's not why they do all they do.

"If we have a talent and we waste it, it's almost criminal," Hank said. "We're getting something done because nobody else will do it."



2000 IOU SPRING MEETING

by Jane Clark, Clive

The IOU Spring Meeting was held May 19-21 at Camp Ewalu in Clayton County, just west of Strawberry Point near Backbone State Park. It was a lovely time of year to be visiting the many interesting areas in that part of the state.

On Friday evening, there was time for renewing acquaintances and sharing birding tales before heading to cabins and motels. Around the camp, Wood Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and occasional warblers added to the first evening's enjoyment, and American Woodcocks and Barred Owls called through the night.

Early field trips on Saturday and Sunday included Backbone State Park, Bixby State Park, Fountain Springs, Joy Springs County Park, and Sweet Marsh. Some of the high points of the weekend included singing Veery at Backbone (at least a dozen throughout the park), Ovenbirds, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian

Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird on a nest, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the nest, an American Redstart nest, and many interesting wildflowers and plants along the path.

Excellent programs for the meeting included "Birds of Iowa's Restored Wetlands", by Jim Dinsmore, "Birds of Prey of Iowa", by Bruce Ehresman, and "Iowa, Portrait of the Land", by Larry Stone during the afternoon. The speaker for the evening program was Ann Barker - "A Touch of Antarctica: Expedition to South Georgia and the Falkland Islands".

Mark Proescholdt reported that the number of species seen during the weekend meeting was 149 species. Ninety-two people were registered for the meeting.

Attendance:

Algona: Matt Kenne.

Ames: Ed & Elizabeth Carbrey, Jim Dinsmore, Bruce & Marlene Ehresman, Donna Flanagan, Kay Niyo, Dixie & Mike Overton.

Ankeny: Carol & Galin Berrier, Maridel Jackson, Darwin Koenig.

Bettendorf: Cathy Conrad.

Cedar Falls: Alan Brown.

Cedar Rapids: William Scheible.

Centerville: Ray Cummins.

Clive: Jane Clark.

Coralville: Dick & Gerry Tetrault.

Davenport: Ann Barker.

Decorah: Dennis Carter.

Des Moines: Bob & John Cecil, John & Mary Mitchell, Phil & Jason Walsh, Paul Zeph.

Dubuque: Charlie & Greta Winterwood.

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Dysart: Elaine Bravener, Mary Ann Gregory.
Elkader: Larry Stone.
Fairfield: Gloria & Murray Foster, Dave Killman, John McGuire.
Fort Dodge: Judy & John Garton, Mary Kuhlman, Sibyl Sand.
Garnavillo: Danny Akers.
Ida Grove: Pete Ernzen.
Iowa City: Ed & Jean Allgood, Drew & Judith Dillman, Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller, Rick & Jenny Hollis, Bernie & Cal Knight, Jim Scheib.
Iowa Falls: Nancy Slife.
Jesup: David Voigts.
Jewell: Dorothy Wilcox.
Lansing: Betty & Ric Zarwell.
Larchwood: Doug Harr.
Liscomb: Beth & Mark Proescholdt.
Marshalltown: Joan Buwalda, Chuck & Martha Gazaway, Edna Kirse, Linda Tasler.
Mason City: Carolyn Fischer, Rita Goranson, Jan Walter.
Muscatine: Gerry White.
Mystic: Tom Johnson.
Nevada: Pat Schlarbaum, Hank Zaletel.
Norwalk: Ann Johnson, Sue Spieker.
Oskaloosa: Doug & Mary Beth Hunt.
Spencer: Lee & Nancy Schoenewe.
Story City: Marilyn Lekwa, Martha Stebelton.
Walnut: Marietta Peterson.
Waterloo: Francis Moore, Tom Schilke.
Waverly: Lois Eggleston.
Rock Island, Ill.: Ava & Dan Dorrance.
Burlington, Wash.: Jan & Keith Wiggers.



Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is publishing the fourth edition of Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, the complete bird-finding guide to Wisconsin. The new book, due out this fall, features 135 haunts detailing over 1000 specific areas, and it covers all 72 Wisconsin counties.

The WSO would like to announce the availability of the book to people in areas outside of the state who might want to bird in Wisconsin.

We'd like to get the word out fairly soon because we're offering a special pre-publication price of \$25 plus \$3 postage until November 1. After that date, the book will cost \$30 plus \$3.

Thanks for your help.

Don and Christine Reel
 WSO Bookstore Managers
 2022 Sherryl Lane
 Waukesha, WI 53188

262-547-6128
 dcreel@execpc.com



State and County Lists --1999
by Mary Lou Petersen, Bettendorf

For 1999, 16 people reported lifetime totals for Iowa. Two more people reported county totals for Iowa. I received at least one listing for 58 counties. Thank you to all who participated this year.

Please send your lifetime total for Iowa, at least **200** species through 2000, and any counties in which you have recorded at least **125** species to the compiler by May 31, 2001. The total number is all that is needed, not a complete listing of species. Please note the change of address. My new address is 3448 Maple Glen Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Iowa Totals--200 minimum	
Jim Fuller	368
Mark Proescholdt	358
Pam Allen	355
Reid Allen	355
Beth Proescholdt	351
Mary Lou Petersen	326
Chris Edwards	323
Rita Goranson	315
Janice Walter	314
Lee A. Schoenewe	312
Dick Bierman	276
Doug Harr	265
Ric Zarwell	259
Mike Dooley	244
Dave Killman	242
Gerald L. Von Ehwegen	201

County Totals -- 125 minimum	
Allamakee	
Ric Zarwell	224
Mark Proescholdt	171
Steve Dinsmore	153
Appanoose	
Steve Dinsmore	178
Mark Proescholdt	155
Pam Allen	129

Reid Allen	129
Benton	
Mark Proescholdt	168
Black Hawk	
Mary Lou Petersen	221
Mark Proescholdt	159
Boone	
Steve Dinsmore	251
Mark Proescholdt	229
Beth Proescholdt	216
Pam Allen	203
Reid Allen	203
Bremer	
Mark Proescholdt	168
Buena Vista	
Dick Bierman	184
Butler	
Mark Proescholdt	207
Carroll	
Steve Dinsmore	154
Cerro Gordo	
Janice Walter	280
Rita Goranson	263
Steve Dinsmore	188
Dick Bierman	180
Mark Proescholdt	161
Pam Allen	128
Reid Allen	128
Cherokee	
Dick Bierman	262
Clay	
Lee A. Schoenewe	270
Steve Dinsmore	183
Dick Bierman	180
Clinton	
Mary Lou Petersen	192
Dallas	
Steve Dinsmore	189
Pam Allen	175
Reid Allen	175
Mark Proescholdt	157
Des Moines	
Jim Fuller	246
Dickinson	
Lee A. Schoenewe	270
Doug Harr	246

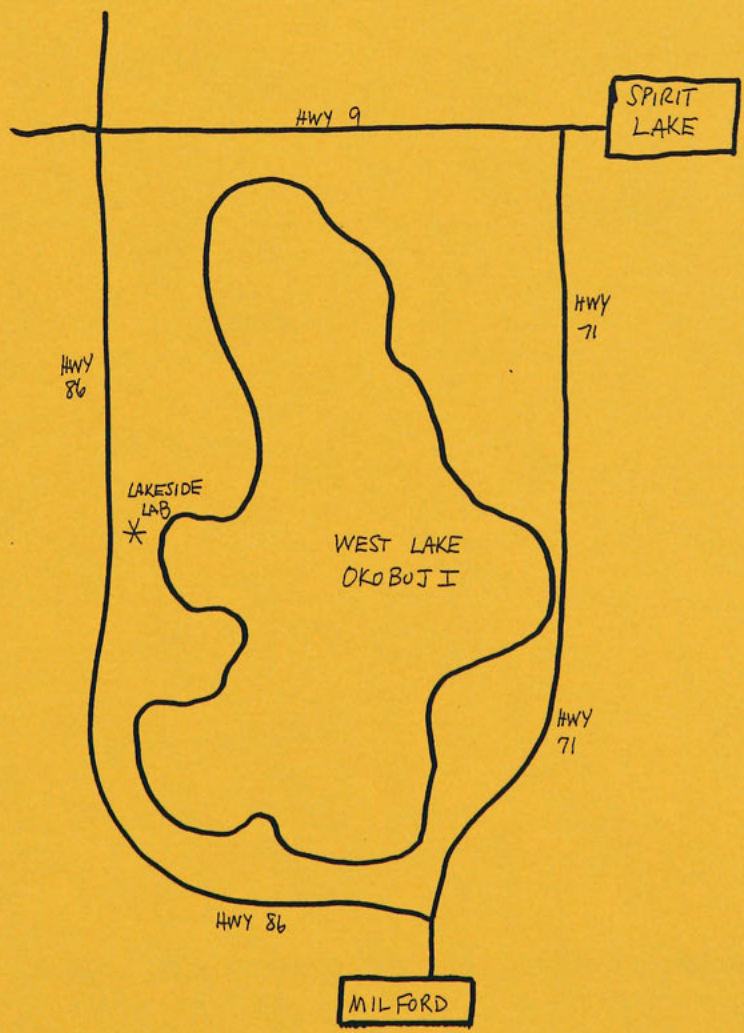


Steve Dinsmore	201	Jefferson	
Dick Bierman	190	Dave Killman	205
Emmet		Johnson	
Lee A. Schoenewe	153	Jim Fuller	305
Steve Dinsmore	147	Chris Edwards	270
Franklin		Mike Dooley	225
Mark Proescholdt	172	Mark Proescholdt	177
Fremont		Pam Allen	150
Steve Dinsmore	245	Reid Allen	150
Mark Proescholdt	200	Jones	
Pam Allen	189	Chris Edwards	160
Reid Allen	189	Kossuth	
Greene		Steve Dinsmore	180
Steve Dinsmore	217	Mark Proescholdt	161
Mark Proescholdt	180	Pam Allen	140
Pam Allen	154	Reid Allen	140
Reid Allen	154	Lee	
Grundy		Steve Dinsmore	207
Mark Proescholdt	181	Chris Edwards	193
Guthrie		Pam Allen	145
Steve Dinsmore	234	Reid Allen	145
Mark Proescholdt	201	Linn	
Pam Allen	193	Chris Edwards	196
Reid Allen	193	Mark Proescholdt	155
Hamilton		Louisa	
Dennis Carter	226	Chris Edwards	158
Steve Dinsmore	206	Lyon	
Mark Proescholdt	204	Doug Harr	181
Pam Allen	142	Madison	
Reid Allen	142	Pam Allen	152
Hancock		Reid Allen	152
Steve Dinsmore	163	Mahaska	
Janice Walter	159	Mark Proescholdt	151
Mark Proescholdt	155	Marion	
Hardin		Steve Dinsmore	227
Mark Proescholdt	249	Mark Proescholdt	217
Beth Proescholdt	225	Pam Allen	184
Harrison		Reid Allen	184
Dick Bierman	182	Marshall	
Steve Dinsmore	161	Beth Proescholdt	263
Iowa		Mark Proescholdt	263
Chis Edwards	181	Steve Dinsmore	204
Mark Proescholdt	155	Monona	
Jasper		Steve Dinsmore	176
Mark Proescholdt	205	Dick Bierman	136
Beth Proescholdt	171		



Muscatine		
Mary Lou Petersen	223	
O'Brien		
Dick Bierman	180	
Lee A. Schoenewe	168	
Palo Alto		
Lee A. Schoenewe	225	
Steve Dinsmore	150	
Pocohontas		
Dick Bierman	151	
Polk		
Steve Dinsmore	306	
Pam Allen	290	
Reid Allen	287	
Mark Proescholdt	262	
Beth Proescholdt	245	
Pottawattamie		
Steve Dinsmore	208	
Pam Allen	129	
Reid Allen	129	
Poweshiek		
Mark Proescholdt	190	
Sac		
Pam Allen	135	
Reid Allen	135	
Scott		
Mary Lou Petersen	283	
Story		
Steve Dinsmore	279	
Mark Proescholdt	242	
Beth Proescholdt	223	
Pam Allen	158	
Reid Allen	158	
Tama		
Mark Proescholdt	234	
Beth Proescholdt	188	
Chris Edwards	128	
Van Buren		
Dave Killman	162	
Mark Proescholdt	151	
Warren		
Steve Dinsmore	162	
Pam Allen	153	
Reid Allen	153	
Mark Proescholdt	152	

Winneshiek		
Dennis Carter	231	
Worth County		
Janice Walter	178	
Woodbury County		
Gerald L. Von Ehwegen	189	
Pam Allen	125	
Reid Allen	125	
Wright		
Steve Dinsmore	219	
Mark Proescholdt	171	





IOU FALL MEETING

September 22-24, 2000

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, West Lake Okoboji

The meeting will be held at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on the shore of Miller's Bay at beautiful West Lake Okoboji in Dickinson County. Follow Hwy 86 along the west side of the lake to the Lakeside Lab campus.

Field trips will explore the lakes and marshes of the prairie potholeregion of northwest Iowa. We'll be going to places you know or have heard about: Spring Run Complex; Jemerson Slough; Kattleson-Hogsback Complex; Spirit Lake and the Okoboji's; Dugout Creek; Dan Green Slough; Trumbull Lake; Lost Island Lake and Marsh; Barringer Slough; plus additional tracts of newly restored wetland habitats like Welch Lake WPA.

SCHEDULE

Friday 9/22	6:30 - 9:00PM	Registration and mixer in Mahan Hall at Lakeside Lab
Saturday 9/23	6:15 - 7:00	Breakfast @ Mess Hall
	7:15 - 12:00	Field Trips Abroad
	12:15 - 1:00	Lunch @ Mess Hall
	1:00 - 4:00	Afternoon Programs at Mahan Hall Local Birding Tourism Brochure & Checklist - Lee Schoenewe Bird Conservation Areas in Iowa - Doug Harr Sparrows in Migration - Ray Cummins
	4:15	Business Meeting
	6:00	Dinner in Spirit Lake
	7:00	Program - Savage & Savage: Iowa Ornithologists - Tom Kent
Sunday 9/24	6:15 - 7:00	Breakfast @ Mess Hall
	7:15 - 12:00	Field Trips Abroad
	12:15	Lunch & Compilation @ Mess Hall

Send registration, meals and pre-arranged Lakeside Lodging requests along with payment to:

Lee Schoenewe
518 W 4th St
Spencer, 51301
712.262.8194
linschoen@rconnect.com





Lodging options at Lakeside Laboratory Campus:
 Call Lee Schoenewe @ 712.262.8194 or e-mail to
 Inschoen@rconnect.com to reserve and confirm total cost.
 First come, first served.

- 6 Motel units w/ bath & 2 double beds \$80 for both nights
- 1 Motel unit w/ bath & 2 single beds \$80 for both nights
- 15 Cabins sleeping 2-4 & using common bathhouse facilities
 \$10/person/night
- 5 Faculty Cottage rooms sleeping 2-4 & using common bathhouse facilities
 \$10/person/night
- 15 Single bunk beds in Main Cottage using common bathhouse facilities
 \$8/person/night
- Linen charge (sheets, pillowcase, towel & washcloth) OR bring your own
 \$6/person

Other lodging options:

- Northland Inn @ Hwy 9 & 86 712.336.1450
- Shamrock Inn Spirit Lake 712.336.3984
- Super 8 Spirit Lake 712.336.4901
- Ramada Ltd Spirit Lake 712.336.3984
- Camping @ Gull Point State Park 515.281.TENT

Registration \$5.00/person x _____ = _____
 Breakfast Sat \$4.00/person x _____ = _____
 Lunch Sat \$5.00/person x _____ = _____
 Dinner Sat \$8.50/person x _____ = _____
 Breakfast Sun \$4.00/person x _____ = _____
 Lunch Sun \$5.00/person x _____ = _____
 Pre-arranged lodging total _____

Total due _____

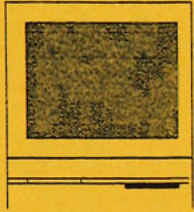
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