



I.O.U. NEWS

Winter 1989 Newsletter of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Volume 5 Number 4

Tri-State Convention, May 18-20, 1990



Fred Leshner, organizer of the meeting, left for China in August of 1989. The following is his status report on the convention to that point.

Stephen McGovern was made chairperson of the local planning group and can be reached at Route 2, Westby, WI 54667, 608/454-3314. All correspondence should go to him.

To date, the following arrangements have been made:

1. Thursday evening, May 17, pre-convention overnight in the group camp at Wyalusing State Park, on the Wisconsin River near Prairie du Chien. This overnight trip will visit Yellow River State Park in Iowa and Beaver Creek State Park in Minnesota on the return to La Crosse Friday, May 18.
2. Arrangements will be made for a Friday only field trip north from La Crosse to Lake Pepin on the Mississippi, returning to La Crosse via Weaver Dunes, Minnesota and possibly Whitewater Park, Minnesota.
3. Program agenda, Saturday, May 19

A. Papers

1. Summary of recent state records—MN, WI, IA—for the Henslow's Sparrow, brief history of the status in each state, and possible habitat requirements of the species. Steve Dinsmore—Iowa.
2. Human use patterns and avian mortality on Seagull Bar in Marinette, Wisconsin. Wendel Johnson—Wisconsin.
3. Upper Mississippi River Peregrine reintroduction. Bud Tordoff and Pat Redig—Minnesota.

B. Panels

1. Endangered Species — Bill Smith, Wisconsin; Dean Roosa, Iowa; Lee Pfannmuller, Minnesota.
2. Accipiter Identification — Bob Rosenfield, Wisconsin.
3. Breeding Bird Survey Summary — Sam Robbins, Wisconsin.
4. Editing a State Journal — Stan Temple, Wisconsin; Tom Kent, Iowa; Bob Janssen, Minnesota.
5. Record Committee Issues — Tom Kent, Iowa; Bob Janssen, Minnesota.
6. Birders and Politics — Laura Erickson, Minnesota.

7. Beginning Birding — Laura Erickson, Minnesota.

C. Banquet Speaker — Robert Nero, Winnipeg, Canada.

Local planning for details of room reservations, banquet menu, projectors, food service, mailings, registration table, etc. is well underway.

Additional paper presenters and panelists may emerge following announcements soon to appear in state newsletters. However, success of the panels, in particular, depends on how well each state is represented, and I hope those close to the convention from each state will be active in recruiting needed panelists.

Response to my efforts in arranging panels and securing paper presenters and the banquet speaker has been gratifying. However, the completion of the program now shifts to other cooperative planners of the 1990 Tri-state Birding Convention.

Smooth Sailing at the 1989 Fall Meeting Ann Barker, Princeton



Queen II

The fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held September 15 through 17, 1989, at the Presbyterian Camp on West Lake Okoboji. Eighty-eight members and guests were hosted by IOU member Harold W. White, Estherville, a.k.a. "The Committee."

The Presbyterian Camp is located in a mature Oak woodland just south of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on the shore of the lake. Upon arrival, many checked out the cabins, where lower bunk space was at a premium. Having secured a spot for our sleeping bags, we headed for the informal orientation meeting in the main hall. Here there was an abundance of information about the area including bird list, maps, and field trip details, as well as sign-up sheets and a list of meeting registrants. All agreed that this "committee" was certainly well prepared. Field trip leaders gave previews of their trips while members enjoyed refreshments and lined up to challenge John Cecil to a game of ping pong.

After breakfast on Saturday, field trips departed to cover a good deal of northwest Iowa, with the following destinations:

1. Kettleston Hogsback, Cayler Prairie, Rush Lake and Jemmerson Slough, led by Doug Harr.
2. Spring Run, east side of Spirit Lake, Swan Lake, Christopherson Slough, and Anderson Prairie, led by Steve Dinsmore.
3. Ruthven area, Dan Greene Slough, Dewey's Pasture, and Trumbull Lake, led by Jim Dinsmore.
4. Ingham Lake, High Lake, West Swan Lake, Cheever Lake, and Four Mile Lake, led by Eugene Armstrong.

Field trip participants were blessed with ideal weather and very good birding,

and were heartened to find that wetland acreage in this part of the state is on the increase due to reclamation. The good variety of ducks, gulls, terns and shorebirds was probably typical of the prairie pothole region, and in addition, a generous sprinkling of migrating warblers and vireos was still in evidence.

Saturday afternoon's agenda was packed with top flight presentations, including:

1. "Birding the Iowa Great Lakes" with Jim and Steve Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel.

2. "Wood Duck Nest Box Program at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge" with John Guthrie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

3. "Wings - Adaption to Flight" with Jim Dinsmore.

4. "Waterfowl Identification Techniques" with the IOU Records Committee, presented by Tom Kent, and including Bob Cecil, Ray Cummins, Steve Dinsmore, Pete Petersen, and Francis Moore.

The regular business meeting wrapped up the afternoon.

At 6 PM members boarded the Queen II at Arnolds Park for a "pelagic" cruise trip on West Lake Okoboji. A delicious picnic dinner was served, and the gull flock following in the wake grew steadily throughout the trip as popcorn chum was offered by thoughtful birders.



Larry Stone, banquet speaker

Back at the camp, the group gathered again in the main hall to hear our banquet speaker: outdoor writer for the Des Moines Register, photographer, and IOU member, Larry Stone. Larry's presentation was entitled: "Iowa, a Place to Conserve." It featured breathtakingly beautiful photography which detailed the amazing natural diversity of our state and its people. It evoked an emotional response in this reporter that won't soon be forgotten; we do indeed have fragile treasures of immense value in our state, and our quality of life is second to none.

Following the talk, Big Day committee chairmen Ray Cummins and Eugene Armstrong unveiled the two new handsome travelling trophies and announced the long-awaited results of the spring 1989 competition across the state (article to follow).

On Sunday, following breakfast, the field trips of Saturday morning were repeated, giving birders a chance to cover additional areas. Once again, the weather cooperated as did the birds.

At noon, under an oak canopy near the lakeshore, with an occasional Red-breasted Nuthatch tooting, a picnic lunch was served. Pete Petersen led the bird list compilation. 117 species were tallied for Sunday, with an additional 25 added from Friday or Saturday, bringing the grand total for the weekend to 142. Highlights were: Black-crown Night Heron, Northern Goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, Merlin, Baird's Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Water Pipit, Philadelphia Vireo, Cape May and Pine Warblers, Dickcissel, LeConte's Sparrow, and Pine Siskin. The most notable miss was, surprisingly, the Northern Cardinal.

Our special thanks go to host Harold White and his wife Sallie, who per-

sonally took care of every detail to assure a superb meeting in every respect.

The official species list may be obtained from Ann Barker, 25368 250th St., Princeton, Iowa 52768.

Attendance:

Adel: Janet Eppard.

Algona: Matt Kenne, Rod Schmitt.

Ames: Ed & Elizabeth Carbrey, Jim & Steve Dinsmore, David & Jeanne Edwards, Deborah Fink.

Arnolds Park: Wallace Jardine, Mrs. J.B. Osher.

Booneville: Eloise & Eugene Armstrong.

Cedar Rapids: Dale & Helen Fye.

Centerville: Ray Cummins.

Cherokee: Dick Bierman.

Clear Lake: Jim Hansen.

Colo: Hank Zaletel.

Davenport: Pete Petersen.

Des Moines: Fred Brink, Bob & John Cecil, Jane Clark, Jeanette Frost, Marjorie Koester, Hilda Sickels.

Elma: Mary Jo Hartogh.

Estherville: Harold & Sallie White.

Fairfield: Diane & Michael Porter.

Fort Dodge: Mary Kuhlman, Mina Landes.

Gilman: Jeanette & Kenneth Graham.

Grinnell: Deb & Charlie Manly.

Ida Grove: Don Poggensee.

Indianola: Dawn DeVore, Jim Sinclair.

Iowa City: Karen Disbrow, Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, Tom Kent, Mary Noble, Carol Thompson.

Lake Mills: Sibyl Sand.

Liscomb: Beth & Mark Proescholdt.

Larchwood: Doug Harr.

Marshalltown: Jean Eige, Marlys Huff, Alice Smith, Linda Tasler.

Mason City: Patricia Hansen, Beth McBride, Jan & Jim Walter.

Norwalk: Ann Johnson, Sue Spieker.

Osceola: Beth Brown.

Paullina: Horace & Mary Autenrieth, Irwin & Mary Heusinkveld.

Princeton: Ann Barker.

St. Olaf: Andy, Larry & Margaret Stone.

Sioux City: Virginia & Wayne Livermore, Jerry Probst.

Spencer: Dixie & Eldon Kanago, Alice Kehoe.

Spirit Lake: Kathryn Lucas.

Union: Phyllis Harris.

Waterloo: Richard Kraemer, Francis Moore.

Bellevue, Neb.: Babs & Loren Padelford.

South Sioux City, Neb.: Bill Huser.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota: Dennis & Sandy McFarland.

Unknown City: Bonnie Winslow.



Pete Petersen, left, accepting state award for Davenport All Stars from Eugene Armstrong.

1989 Big Day Count Ann Barker & Ray Cummins.

Nine teams took part in the contest this year; four in the county category, and five in the statewide. County competition champions were the Big Deal Team from Woodbury County with Jerry Probst, Bob Livermore, and Alan Stage. They set a new county record with 130 species.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

IOWA BIRD LINE

319-524-3569

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR EDITORSHIP OF IOWA BIRD LIFE

Tom Kent has submitted his resignation as editor of Iowa Bird Life, effective with publication of the last issue for 1989 (volume 59). Tom has served the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and its members well and I know that we all greatly appreciate the efforts he has put into editing our journal. The Publications Committee is now searching for a new editor for the journal. We are soliciting proposals from those who would be willing to accept this challenging and important position. Anyone interested should prepare a written proposal that outlines your ideas on how you would carry out this job. Topics such as layout, format, means of production, budget, associate editors, and content should be covered. Please send your proposal to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010 by 31 December 1989. The Publications Committee will review all proposals and will then select a new editor to start serving in 1990. The committee also welcomes your suggests on how Iowa Bird Life might be improved.

12 - - W I N T E R B I R D F E E D E R S U R V E Y

SPONSORED BY THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NONGAME PROGRAM

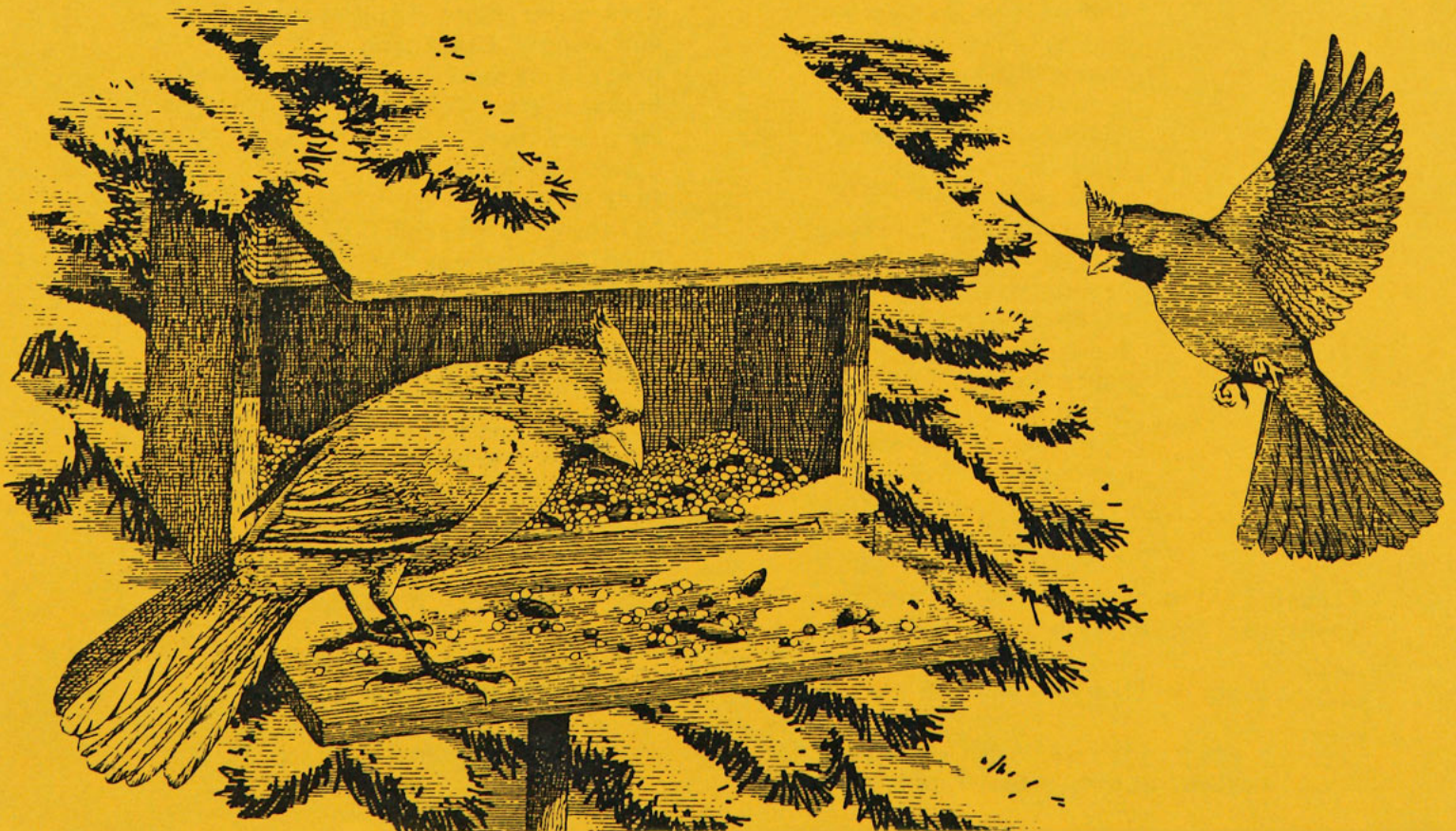
On two consecutive days during January 25-28, 1990, observe your feeder and using this form, describe your feeder and record the birds that visited you. In the space provided, list the highest number of each species that you saw together at any one time. For example, if you saw 10 Juncos at 9:00, 11 at 12:00 and 7 at 4:00, the number you should record is 11. If males and females can be distinguished (cardinals, downy woodpecker etc.) record the combined total. For example, if you saw 3 male cardinals at 11:00 then 1 male and 2 females at 2:00, record 5 cardinals--the highest count for the males and the highest count for the females combined. Count only on the two consecutive days and record only the birds that you see at your feeder, under your feeder or in the trees around your feeder. Do not count birds which just flew past your house and did not use your feeder area. We want information only about birds influenced by your feeders. If you cannot get an exact count, record your best estimate. An honest estimate is far more useful than 'umpteen' or 'too many to count.' Mail the completed form to me by February 12, 1990:

R. J. Hollis

3351 Lower West Branch Road

Iowa City, IA 52240

If you would like a personal reply, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and be patient; it may take 12 months before I can get back to you. Look for results in the Iowa Nongame News and the I.O.U. newsletter.



FEEDER SURVEY JANUARY 25-26, 1987

1. Name _____
- 2A. Address _____
- 2B. County _____ 2C. City _____ 2D. Zip _____
3. The feeder survey period this year runs from Thursday, January 25th to Sunday, January 28th. Count birds on two consecutive days only. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.
Check one: _____ Thursday (1/25) and Friday (1/26),
_____ Friday (1/26) and Saturday (1/27), or
_____ Saturday (1/27) and Sunday (1/28).
4. Is your feeder in Town (including suburbs) or in the Country? Circle T or C
5. Check the one description which best describes the area within a 2-block circle around your feeder:
_____ suburban, houses with shrubs and small trees but few trees wider than 20 inches.
_____ suburban bordered by: (circle 1) timber, grass, field or row crop.
_____ town, neighborhood has many mature shade and street trees.
_____ downtown with mostly buildings, sidewalks, roads, parking lots, high rises
_____ pasture
_____ row crop (corn, beans, etc.)
_____ timber
_____ farmstead with mature trees and shrubs around house.
6. Type and number of feeders: __Thistle, __Sunflower(only), __Fruit, __Safflower, __Peanuts, __Mixed seed, __Peanut Butter, __Suet, __Cracked Sunflower, __Corn, __Millet(only), __unfrozen water, __other _____
7. On what date did you start feeding during 1981-86: About _____
8. Comments or additional description of your feeder or yard: _____

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES DURING 2 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ Ring-necked Pheasant | _____ White-throated Sparrow |
| _____ Rock Dove (Common Pigeon) | _____ White-crowned Sparrow |
| _____ Mourning Dove | _____ Harris' Sparrow |
| _____ Red-headed Woodpecker | _____ Dark-eyed Junco (All races) |
| _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker | _____ Red-winged Blackbird |
| _____ Downy Woodpecker | _____ Grackle (Common) |
| _____ Hairy Woodpecker | _____ Brown-headed Cowbird |
| _____ Flicker (All races) | _____ Purple Finch |
| _____ Blue Jay | _____ Common Redpoll |
| _____ Crow (American) | _____ Pine Siskin |
| _____ Black-capped Chickadee | _____ Goldfinch American |
| _____ Tufted Titmouse | _____ Evening Grosbeak |
| _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch | _____ House (English) Sparrow |
| _____ White-breasted nuthatch | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Brown Creeper . | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Robin (American) | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Cedar Waxwing | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Starling (European) | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Cardinal (Northern) | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Tree Sparrow (American) | _____ (other) _____ |
| _____ Song Sparrow | _____ TOTAL SPECIES SEEN |

Please fill out carefully. Feel free to copy the form for friends and patrons. Thank you and enjoy yourselves!

- I would like to receive the free quarterly Nongame News newsletter.
- I would like information about the Iowa Ornithologists Union which is a statewide bird organization.

The state category was won by the Davenport All Stars captained by Pete Petersen with Brian Blevins and Don Moeller. They set a new state record of 161 species.

This year's big day contributed \$411.00 to the IOU Endowment and Education Funds. Team Rathbun with Bill Heusinkveld and Ray Cummins lead the way in contributions with \$168.00

Congratulations to all! We hope the chance of winning one of the lovely trophies will spur participation next year.



Jerry Probst, left, accepting award from Eugene Armstrong.

Breeding Bird Atlas Notes Carol Thompson, Iowa City

We have now completed our fifth year of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Excellent progress was made this year with most of the priority blocks being completed or at least receiving some coverage. The big news is that the committee has decided to proceed with a sixth year on the project. We feel that if we can continue with the intensity that was shown this year, we can finish a significant number of the blocks

The atlas committee will be meeting in February to review this year's progress and to set our priorities for next year. PLEASE send in your cards now. Send cards even for those blocks that are only partially completed. We would also appreciate it if you would only send in updates and/or new information. This will make date entry much easier. Please check your records to see if any of your observations require special sightings or full documentation reports. If you have seen any of these species, please submit the supporting details. If you need forms, contact Jim Hansen, Fish and Wildlife Station, 1203 N. Lake Shore Drive, Clear Lake, Iowa 50428 or Carol Thompson, 1116 Muscatine, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Remember to let us know if you are entering any of the Breeding Bird Atlas contests. The categories are as follows:

- * Most blocks covered based on 10 or more hours or 40 or more species
- * Most total species in a block
- * Most hours
- * Most confirmed species in a block
- Most unusual bird confirmed
- Addition of a new nesting species to the Iowa record
- Confirmed Sharp-shinned Hawk nesting

Those categories marked with an asterisk are open to both individuals and clubs. We especially encourage club entries — last year we had only one entry in the club category.

1989 Bluebird Conference Rita Efta

The fifth annual Bluebird conference was held Sept. 9, 1989 at Buena Vista College with sixty people attending. The conference participants enjoyed the opportunity to visit with each other and exchange ideas used on their Bluebird

trails.

Program sessions were held in the morning and afternoon. During the lunch break, a Bluebird slide presentation from the North American Bluebird Society was shown by Al Yuska and Harold Luers of Manchester. At the conclusion of the program, there was an optional field trip, led by Dick Bierman of Cherokee, to a successful Bluebird box project at the Silver Sioux Recreation area.

The *Iowa Bluebird Directory* is now being compiled. To receive a copy send a \$3.00 donation to Sac County Conservation Foundation, Hagge Park, RR3, Box 96A, Sac City, IA 50583.

REAP Newsletter

Jim Hansen

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act passed in the 1989 session of the Iowa General Assembly, and signed by Governor Branstad on May 27, will provide long-term funding to protect our state's natural resources. If you would like to be informed on REAP activities or become involved in its implementation, you may want to subscribe to a free, bimonthly REAP Newsletter by sending your name and address to: Tammra Pavlicek, REAP Newsletter, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. When you write, I suggest you also ask for the first issue of the newsletter, which just came out in September. It includes a copy of the REAP Act.



IOU FOR CHRISTMAS

We all have that particular friend or relative who has expressed an interest in birds and birding. This year for Christmas enlist that person as a member of the I.O.U. Your gift will be acknowledged with a card.

To: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

From: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make the check for \$12.00 and payable to Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Mail to: Jim Sinclair, 810 North B St., Indianola, Iowa, 50125.





Christmas Bird Counts

Spirit Lake	Sat., Dec. 16	Doug Harr	712/477-2798
Decorah	Sat., Dec. 16	Arnold Rohn	319/382-4176
Cedar Rapids	Sat., Dec. 16	Dale Fye	319/363-1638
Rathbun	Sat., Dec. 16	Bill Heusinkveld	515/856-2342
Iowa City	Sat., Dec. 16	Rick Hollis	319/338-4834
Bremer Co.	Sat., Dec. 16	Francis Moore	319/232-0217
Ft. Dodge	Sat., Dec. 16	Mina Landes	515/573-3482
Mason City	Sat., Dec. 16	Beth McBride	515/423-7861
Lucas Co.	Sat., Dec. 16	Beth Brown	515/342-2783
Ames	Sat., Dec. 16	Steve Dinsmore	515/292-1038
DeSoto	Sat., Dec. 16	Ranger's Office	712/642-4121
Saylorville	Sun., Dec. 17	Gene Armstrong	515/996-2726
Red Rock	Sun., Dec. 17	Gladys Black	515/848-5865
Cedar Falls	Sun., Dec. 17	Francis Moore	319/232-0217
LeHigh	Sun., Dec. 17	Mina Landes	515/573-3482
Quad Cities	Sun., Dec. 17	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
Jamaica	Tues., Dec. 19	Ray Cummins	515/856-3518
Princeton	Thurs., Dec. 21	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
Sioux City	Sat., Dec. 23	Bill Huser	402/494-1657
Tristate	Sat., Dec. 23	Ross Silcock	712/629-5865
Des Moines	Sun., Dec. 24	Gene Armstrong	515/996-2726
Shenandoah	Wed., Dec. 27	Betty Walter	712/246-5086
Muscatine	Sat., Dec. 30	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051
North Linn	Sat., Dec. 30	Weir Nelson	319/393-4927
Yellow River	Sat., Dec. 30	Arnold Rohn	319/382-4176
Clinton	Sun., Dec. 31	Pete Petersen	319/355-7051



