

*IOU News*

Winter 2003 \* Volume 19 - Number 4

**First 40 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Recognized In Iowa**

The Hitchcock Nature Area (HNA) in Pottawattamie County was dedicated as Iowa's first IBA on Saturday, October 11, 2003, during the Iowa Ornithologists' Union's Annual Fall Meeting at the HNA. Chad Graeve accepted the dedication and a plaque on behalf of the HNA staff. Dedication ceremonies will take place at other IBAs in the future.

At their October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Iowa IBA Technical Committee officially recognized our state's first forty Important Bird Areas (or IBAs). Each of Iowa's IBAs becomes part of a critical network of 1,500 IBAs in 46 states, and a global network of more than 8,000 IBAs in 132 nations.

There are 37 IBA criteria bird species in Iowa, the presence of which triggers the IBA identification process. IBAs are the essential habitats for the species having the most serious population declines.

The Iowa IBA website (at [www.iowabirds.org/IBA](http://www.iowabirds.org/IBA)) contains an explanation of the IBA criteria; a list of our state's first 40 official IBAs; a list of 150 nominated habitats that are in need of additional data before they can be recognized as an IBA; and additional details about this vital and exciting bird conservation initiative. The IBA Program will continue to seek as much additional observation data (collected since 1998) as possible, to support and validate the 150 existing nominations. Additional habitats can be nominated at any time. A user-friendly online system allows birders to submit observation data and to nominate habitats with minimal effort.

National Audubon's Important Bird Areas Program began in Iowa 22 months ago, and the IOU membership has been



Iowa IBA coordinator Ric Zarwell presents HNA's Chad Graeve with a sign identifying the HNA as an Important Bird Area, the first dedication from Iowa's initial 40 IBAs. Photo by Don Poggensee.

a co-equal partner with Audubon members from the outset. The Iowa IBA Program consists of three phases, each a necessary step along the path to effective bird and habitat conservation. Phase I is the identification, recognition and prioritization of the most essential bird habitats within Iowa's borders. Phase II will be surveying and monitoring birds, plant communities, and other habitat components, and organizing education programs, where appropriate at officially recognized IBAs. Phase III is protecting, restoring, and managing each IBA according to its environmental threats and conservation needs.

Each phase of the IBA Program is an opportunity for any citizen with an interest in birds to become effectively

involved in proactive, local-level, habitat-focused conservation action.

On-site inventories will be needed during the coming nesting season to validate the 150 current nominations and move those to official IBA recognition. At the same time, more serious on-site monitoring will be needed at the 40 sites that have already attained IBA status. Watch for information on monitoring procedures to come out in early 2004. All birders are encouraged to get involved with purposeful birding, or citizen-science, during the 2004-nesting season.

For other details, contact: Ric Zarwell, Audubon Iowa's IBA Coordinator, at [zarxzar@salamander.com](mailto:zarxzar@salamander.com); (563) 538-4991.





## IOU News

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

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## From the President

*Richard Tetrault, President, IOU*

Things at the IOU are going very well but as always, there are a few changes. One of the changes is the discontinuing of the Iowa Bird Line as of January 1, 2004. In addition, the IOU will start a photo contest, which will begin with next spring's meeting. Lastly, it appears the trip insurance problem will be resolved and the IOU will start offering field trips...both in state and out-of-state.

Special thanks to Sharon Stilwell for a great fall meeting. The location, programs and food all added up to a terrific get together.

Ric Zarwell has taken the membership committee on with a marvelous flare. Thanks to him and others, our membership is no longer declining. In fact, our membership is growing. Thanks, Ric.

## From the Vice-President

*Sharon Stilwell*

The Spring IOU Meeting will be held May 14 through 16 near Lansing, Iowa, at Village Creek Bible Camp. The camp has a variety of accommodations including single family cabins, dormitory-style cabins and camping. Registration will be on Friday evening starting at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be hosted by Danny Akers and IOU. Field trips may include Effigy Mounds, Yellow River Forest, Sny Magill, Pikes Peak and Bloody Run.

In addition to great field trips we will be having an Iowa Bird Photo Contest. All members of IOU are encouraged to enter. Participants may enter up to three photos. There will be a submission fee of \$5.00 per photo. Winners share the submission fees. Photos must be of Iowa Birds. Photos may be recent or old, digital or film, and color or black and white. Photos will be on display Friday evening and Saturday during the meeting. Complete rules and entry form are on pages 10-11, or see the website *Iowa Birds & Birding*.



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## Results of the IOU Membership Survey

Linda and Hank Zaletel

At the March 10, 2002 board meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU), Linda Zaletel proposed that a survey be developed that would be sent to all members to gauge their feelings on important topics relevant to the organization.

At the Spring 2002 business meeting held April 27 in Ottumwa, treasurer Rita Goranson reported that revenues from memberships and merchandise totaled \$10,310.52 while expenses exceeded \$13,750.00. Unless some action was taken soon, reserves would soon be depleted.

A draft copy of the membership survey had been sent to IOU board members prior to the Spring Meeting. At the executive session held later in the day, and, as a result of the negative treasurer's report, the survey was approved as drafted and authorized to be sent to the membership. Four hundred copies of the survey were sent out in the next mailing of Iowa Bird Life.

One hundred and ten people returned the survey with the last survey received on August 22, 2003. This represents a return of about 27%. Even though the survey was confidential, 66 people signed their name, 44 abstained. In many cases, whole sections of the survey were left blank by people who felt that they did not have sufficient knowledge of the situation to respond.

On the important question of IOU finances, 35 had no idea of the financial situation, 32 were aware, 40 left the space blank and 3 were undecided. On raising dues 67 said yes, 15 no, 22 with no opinion, 6 maybe and the rest blank. There was universal praise for Iowa Bird Life with many stating that the journal was the main reason for their membership. Suggestions to cut costs included eliminating white space, printing on lower quality paper, getting competitive bids and reducing the number of issues. I.O.U. News received equally high ratings. Suggestions to accept advertising were made to help reduce publication costs. IOU could attract new members through advertising and marketing of meetings and field trips in newspapers and conservation publications, actively participating at environmental events, promoting IOU with family and friends and by giving gift memberships. By far the most popular events at IOU conferences were the Saturday and Sunday field trips followed in importance by the conference location and speakers. In descending order people enjoyed the socialization, meeting other birders, registration packets, Friday night social, banquet, panel discussions, business meeting, and concurrent sessions. In closing, an additional eleven pages of comments were given to board members and they are available to those who request them.

The completed surveys will be placed in the IOU archive at the Special Collection Section of the Library at Iowa State University.



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## AOU Checklist Supplement for 2003

Thomas H. Kent

This 44<sup>th</sup> supplement to the *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds* (Auk 120(3): 923-931, 2003) is the third supplement since the publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Check-list in 1998. Last year I described the process of updating this official list of North American birds (*IOU News* 18(4): 14). The AOU Check-list Committee is planning more frequent updates of the list to keep up with the advancing knowledge of avian taxonomy. The changes reported in the 2003 supplement that affect the Iowa list include moving two major groups of birds, one common name change, and several scientific name changes.

- Move Anseriformes (Ducks, Geese, and Swans) to the top of the list ahead of Loons.
- Move Galliformes (Quails and Grouse) to follow Ducks, Geese, and Swans.
- Change Rock Dove to Rock Pigeon.
- Change the scientific name of Eastern Screech-Owl from *Otus asio* to *Megascops asio*.
- Change the scientific name of Snowy Owl from *Nyctea scandiaca* to *Bubo scandiacus*.
- Change the scientific name of Black-capped Chickadee from *Poecile atricapilla* to *Poecile atricapillus*.
- Change the scientific name of Ovenbird from *Seiurus aurocapillus* to *Seiurus aurocapilla*.

These changes should have little impact on Iowa birders. Full published revisions of the *Official Iowa Checklist* and *Field Checklist* will not appear until at least the end of 2004. In the meantime, the major change in placement of waterfowl and gallinaceous birds in Iowa Field Reports and North American Birds seasonal reports is on hold. The AOU committee promises more complicated changes for 2004.

I have updated the Official Iowa List and my version of the field checklist on my web site:

<http://home.mchsi.com/~thkbirds/>.

The complete AOU Check-list is available at [www.aou.org](http://www.aou.org).

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## PHONE LINE DISCONTINUED

As of December 31, 2003, there will no longer be a telephone birdline for Iowa Birders. Due to little usage versus cost, the number (712 364-2863) will be disconnected. We wish to thank Pete Ernzen for the great job he has done for us, as well as to thank all who helped with the Birdline over the years. It was a wonderful contact for birders until the computer took over. -Richard Tetrault, President



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# IOU Fall Meeting 2003 : Very Cool

*Sharon Stilwell*

The fall IOU Meeting was held October 10 through 12 at Hitchcock Nature Area in the Loess Hills. We had 103 registrations for the meeting with attendees coming from Colorado, Nebraska and Wisconsin as well as Iowa.

The lodge, with its beautiful view, was a perfect place to share refreshments and visit with friends on Friday night. Saturday morning Mark Orsag started the day off with a presentation on the Hitchcock Hawkwatch. Clem Klaphake organized our Saturday and Sunday field trips to Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge and Neale Woods/Krimlofsky Flood Plain. Our field trip leaders were Clem, Loren and Babs Padelford, Elliot Beddows, Ross Silcock and Rick Schmid.

The field trips started out in pouring rain Saturday morning and birding was slow, but the weather turned around and was beautiful the remainder of the weekend. Saturday afternoon was spent hawkwatching from the balcony at Hitchcock and enjoying programs. Jim Dinsmore introduced three of our IOU student scholarship winners. Tom Kent presented the History of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union followed by a report on the member survey by Hank Zaletel. Dick Stilwell showed his video of Birding Trinidad and Tobago. Rick Zarwell announced that Hitchcock has been designated an IBA site and presented Chad Graeve of Hitchcock with signs to post in the park.

Following the presentation, the IOU held its business meeting, which was well-attended. Meetings were plentiful on the weekend, with the records committee and the publications committee holding meetings earlier in the day. Also during the weekend, the IOU Board of Directors met, and the *Iowa Bird Life* season report editors met with Kay Niyo to discuss common concerns.

Saturday evening's speaker was Ty Smedes with a spectacular slide show of the birds and Mammals of East Africa. Sunday morning, 19 people at-



Hawkwatching from the deck of the Hitchcock lodge was a popular event. Photo by Don Poggensee.

tended a Digiscoping workshop. It was a first for IOU. Jay Gilliam presented background on digiscoping and information on equipment and procedures. Kent Nickell demonstrated how to handle files after the photo has been taken. Participants brought their own equipment if they had it to try some hands on digiscoping and exchanged ideas and experiences with others in the

group.

After lunch, the compilation was held. Members tallied 102 species including Swainson's Hawk, Merlin and Northern Goshawk. Not bad considering the slow start on Sunday. A special thanks to all those who volunteered to help and especially to the Hitchcock staff for all their advice and help.



Across the wooded hills, the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area lies within sight of the Hitchcock lodge deck. Longrange photo by Ann Johnson.



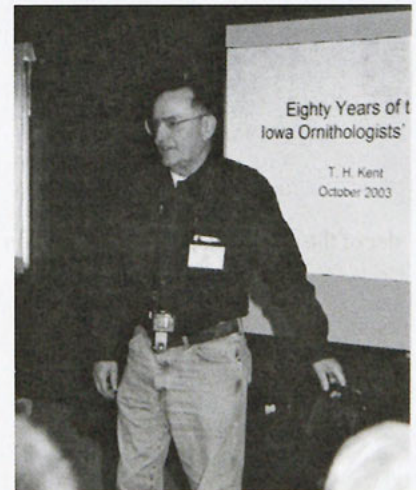
103 people attended the fall meeting at Hitchcock, most from Iowa, but also from Wisconsin, Nebraska and Colorado. Below is a complete list of attendees.

- |                   |                    |    |
|-------------------|--------------------|----|
| Pam Allen         | West Des Moines    | IA |
| Reid Allen        | West Des Moines    | IA |
| Ed Allgood        | Iowa City, IA      |    |
| Jean Allgood      | Iowa City, IA      |    |
| Bill Barker       | Princeton, IA      |    |
| Dianne Barker     | Princeton, IA      |    |
| Carol Berrier     | Ankeny, IA         |    |
| Barb Bettis       | Ames, IA           |    |
| Aaron Brees       | Urbandale, IA      |    |
| Jerry Brown       | Evansdale, IA      |    |
| Suzanne Brown     | Evansdale, IA      |    |
| Stan Buman        | Carroll, IA        |    |
| Diane Buman       | Council Bluffs, IA |    |
| Edward Carbrey    | Ames, IA           |    |
| Elizabeth Carbrey | Ames, IA           |    |
| Bob Cecil         | Des Moines, IA     |    |
| Mary Cecil        | Des Moines, IA     |    |
| Ray Cummins       | Centerville, IA    |    |
| Jim Dinsmore      | Ames, IA           |    |
| Karen Disbrow     | Iowa City, IA      |    |
| Linda Donelson    | Iowa City, IA      |    |
| Jean Eige         | Marshalltown, IA   |    |
| Vergil Eness      | Clear Lake, IA     |    |
| Joan Eness        | Clear Lake, IA     |    |
| Donna Flanagan    | Ames, IA           |    |
| Judy Garton       | Fort Dodge, IA     |    |
| Tim Gedler        | West Des Moines    | IA |
| Jay Gilliam       | Norwalk, IA        |    |
| Rita Goranson     | Mason City, IA     |    |
| Paul Hertzler     | Mason City, IA     |    |
| Tim Humpal        | Waukee, IA         |    |
| Doug Hunt         | Oskaloosa, IA      |    |
| Mary Beth Hunt    | Oskaloosa, IA      |    |
| Ginny Huntington  | Ames, IA           |    |
| Stu Huntington    | Ames, IA           |    |
| Ann Johnson       | Norwalk, IA        |    |
| Mike Johnston     | Waterloo, IA       |    |



IOU President Richard Tetrault addresses the membership at the Hitchcock lodge.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Sandy Johnston       | Waterloo, IA     |
| Matt Kenne           | Algona, IA       |
| Tom Kent             | Iowa City, IA    |
| Tricia Knoot         | Ames, IA         |
| John Knoot           | Ames, IA         |
| Jim Konrad           | Bettendorf, IA   |
| Cathy Konrad         | Bettendorf, IA   |
| Mary Kuhlman         | Fort Dodge, IA   |
| Fred Leshner         | La Crosse, WI    |
| Jolene Leshner       | La Crosse, WI    |
| Richard Lynch        | Solon, IA        |
| Nancy Lynch          | Solon, IA        |
| Lynn Marsh           | Ankeny, IA       |
| Ramona McGurk        | Iowa City, IA    |
| Marita McGurk-Eicher | Iowa City, IA    |
| Leonard Miller       | Indianola, IA    |
| Francis Moore        | Waterloo, IA     |
| Kent Nickell         | Waterloo, IA     |
| Bob Nickolson        | Sioux City, IA   |
| Phyllis Nickolson    | Sioux City, IA   |
| Kay Niyo             | Evergreen, CO    |
| Jason O'Brien        | Ames, IA         |
| Mark Orsag           | Crete, NE        |
| Loren Padelford      | Bellevue, NE     |
| Babs Padelford       | Bellevue, NE     |
| Shane Patterson      | Ames, IA         |
| Katie Patterson      | Ames, IA         |
| Reva Pedelty         | Nora Springs, IA |
| Diana Pesek          | Cedar Rapids, IA |
| Marietta Petersen    | Walnut, IA       |
| Don Poggensee        | Ida Grove, IA    |
| Mark Proescholdt     | Liscomb, IA      |
| Beth Proescholdt     | Liscomb, IA      |
| John Rutenbeck       | Burlington, IA   |
| Pat Scharbaum        | Nevada, IA       |
| Carol Schmid         | Omaha, NE        |
| Lee Schoenewe        | Spencer, IA      |
| Ross Silcock         | Tabor, IA        |
| Lyn Silcock          | Tabor, IA        |
| Jim Sinclair         | Indianola, IA    |
| Ty Smedes            | Urbandale, IA    |
| Ginger Soelberg      | Johnston, IA     |
| Carolyn Sonderman    | Omaha, NE        |
| Sue Spieker          | Norwalk, IA      |
| Mike Stephens        | Centerville, IA  |



Tom Kent presented "Eighty Years of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union" on Saturday.

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Vicky Stephens     | Centerville, IA     |
| Sharon Stilwell    | West Des Moines, IA |
| Dick Stilwell      | West Des Moines, IA |
| Jaelyn Stolzman    | Conrad, IA          |
| Linda Tasler       | Marshalltown, IA    |
| Dick Tetrault      | Coralville, IA      |
| Gerry Tetrault     | Coralville, IA      |
| Jerry Toll         | Omaha, NE           |
| Doug Van Dyke      | Boone, IA           |
| Vicky Van Dyke     | Boone, IA           |
| Jerry Von Ehwegen  | Souix City, IA      |
| Janice Walter      | Mason City, IA      |
| Cindy Wilson       | Missouri Valley, IA |
| Charlie Winterwood | Dubuque, IA         |
| Gretel Winterwood  | Dubuque, IA         |
| Doyle Woods        | Indianola, IA       |
| Hank Zaletel       | Nevada, IA          |
| Linda Zaletel      | Nevada, IA          |
| Ric Zarwell        | Lansing, IA         |
| Betty Zarwell      | Lansing, IA         |
| Dorothy Zehr       | Fort Dodge, IA      |



Ty Smedes shared his slides of the birds and mammals of East Africa, Saturday evening.





The IOU Records Committee met at the lodge. From left: Lee Schoenewe, Jim Sinclair, Ann Johnson, Jim Dinsmore, Aaron Brees, Paul Hertz. Not shown : Tom Kent, behind the lens.



Senior hawkwatcher Mark Orsag. Photo by Don Poggensee.



Hawkwatcher and field trip leader Clem Klaphake. Photo by Paul Hertz.



Birding the Loess Hills. Photo by Don Poggensee.



2003 lead hawkwatcher Jerry Toll. Photo by Paul Hertz.



The Hitchcock Nature Area lodge. Photo by Don Poggensee.



# 2003-2004 Christmas Bird Count Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>email</u>
Dec 20	Ames	Story	Dave Edwards	515 292-3790	dcejce@dandje.org
Jan 05	Andalusia/Buffalo	Muscatine/Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Jan 03	Boone County	Boone	Mark Widrechner	515 233-1532	mwpskd@aol.com
Dec 20	Bremer County	Bremer	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	flmoore@forbin.net
Dec 20	Burlington	Des Moines/Louisa	Chuck Fuller	319 753-0710	CFuller989@aol.com
Dec 21	Carroll County	Carroll	Rob Thelen	712 792-1793	rthelen@mchsi.com
Dec 21	Cedar Falls/Waterloo	Blackhawk/Grundy/Butler	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	flmoore@forbin.net
Dec 20	Cedar Rapids	Linn	Jim Durbin	319 377-7194	durbinjames@mcleodusa.net
Dec 14	Cherokee	Cherokee/O'Brien	Dick Bierman	712 225-5552	dajabier@netins.net
Dec 18	Clinton/Savannah	Clinton/Jackson	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 14	Davenport	Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 26	Decorah	Winneshiek	Darwin Koenig	563 382-3754	(Dennis Carter)
Dec 21	Des Moines	Polk/Dallas	Dennis Thompson	515 254-0837	cndthomps@acm.org
Dec 20	De Soto	Harrison/Pottawattamie	Mark Orsag		morsag@doane.edu
Jan 03	Dubuque	Dubuque	Charlie Winterwood	563 588-2783	cwinterwood@yahoo.com
Dec 17	Eldora-Union	Hardin/Marshall/Story	Mark Proescholdt	641 496-5219	
Jan 03	Grinnell	Poweshiek	Bob Van Ervelde	641 236-6600	
Dec 28	Humboldt County	Humboldt	Dan Gifford	712 368-4411	giff57@aol.com
Dec 27	Ida County	Ida	Don Poggensee	712 364-3491	donpog@netllc.net
Dec 14	Iowa City	Johnson	Bob Dick	319 321-0706	dickrw@earthlink.net
Dec 16	Jamaica	Guthrie/Greene/Dallas	Ray Cummins	641 856-3518	cummins@jetnetinc.net
Dec 22	Keokuk	Lee	Bob Cecil	515 277-5709	wewarb@aol.com
Dec 15	Lost Nation	Clinton/Jackson/Jones	Mark Roberts	563 847-7202	
Dec 17	Marshalltown	Marshall	Ed Savage	641-752-0105	
Dec 20	Mason City	Cerro Gordo	Rita Goranson	641 423-1699	ritag@mchsi.com
Jan 04	Muscatine	Muscatine	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Jan 03	North Linn	Linn	Jim Durbin	319 377-7194	durbinjames@mcleodusa.net
Dec 27	Omaha, NE	Mills/Pottawattamie	Betty Grenon	402 731-2383	grenon925@aol.com
Dec 23	Princeton/Cordova	Clinton/Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 20	Rathbun Res.	Appanoose/Monroe	Mike Stephens	641 437-1736	tjbjjohn@iowasocean.com
Dec 21	Red Rock Res.	Marion/Mahaska	Aaron Brees	641 872-1602	abrees@hotmail.com
Dec 14	Saylorville	Polk/Story	Jim Dinsmore	515 292-3152	oldcoot@iastate.net
Dec 27	Shenandoah	Fremont/Page	Barbara Cunningham	712 246-1203	bjcsuu@heartland.net
Dec 20	Sioux City	Woodbury	Jerry Probst	712 258-1296	probtsuebee@aol.com
Dec 14	Spirit Lake	Dickinson	Lee Schoenewe	712 262-8194	lschoe@evertek.net
Dec 19	Western Mercer Co	Louisa	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	kellyJmckay@aol.com
Dec 21	Waterloo/Cedar Falls	Blackhawk/Grundy/Butler	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	flmoore@forbin.net
Dec 14	Worth County	Worth	Curt Nelson	641 696-5600	mpauley@jumpgate.net
Jan 03	Yellow River Forest	Allamakee	Darwin Koenig	563 382-3754	(Dennis Carter)





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## Big Days Aren't Just for May Anymore

Lee A. Schoenewe

Broaden your horizon. Think outside the box. Big Days don't have to be done just in the middle of May when the migration and the number of bird species peaks in Iowa.

In fact, the American Birding Association has Big Day Count rules and keeps track of Provincial and State Record Big Days by month in Canada and the US. See [www.americanbirding.org/information](http://www.americanbirding.org/information). Paul Hertzelt has also highlighted Big Day rules and records for the IOU to promote this data gathering and information within our state group.

Several years ago there were some months in Iowa that had no official Big Day records, but thanks to a number of Iowa birders those holes are now all filled in. Such records are, however, made to be broken.

Several of the months in Iowa present good opportunities for people to join the competition and increase the official totals. Different parts of the state hold advantages for different times of the year, too. Southern Iowa and especially southeast Iowa should post the best records for January. Northern Iowa, however, has a distinct advantage for the best June record, I believe.

Effort, experience, habitats visited, timing and time of day, weather and weather patterns, and, of course, luck can all play a part in a Big Day total. There is always the chance to hit it right and get a few more birds on the list from one day to the next in a given month, or from one year to another.

Previous records were smashed this year for the months of August and November. An effort by Paul Hertzelt and Rita Goranson in north

Iowa at the end of August produced 125 species. In November with the count Ed Thelen and I had on Veteran's Day in Dickinson county, we found Black Scoters, White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks among twenty-five species of waterfowl on Spirit Lake and ended the day with 87 species. Pick a month and give it a try. Each month presents a different experience to produce a high total and it will sharpen your birding skills in the bargain.

If you are not into the competitive thing, unofficial Big Day efforts can also be a way to add some variety and intrigue to your individual birding experience. For instance, I have a long-standing tradition of taking my birthday (August 27<sup>th</sup>) off work and I spend the day out birding. So every year I do a Big Day of sorts on my birthday, except I play by my own rules and I change the rules if I want to. It is my birthday, after all, and at the end of the day I end up with a list that is my own! One year I had my best look ever at a King Rail, and this year I had my best total at 124 species.

You could do a Big Day in your county or in your back yard. You could do one with your mother on Mother's Day, or with a hanger on New Year's Day. I have done a half-day Big Day because I had to be done at noon. You could do a Big Night and quit when the sun comes up. You could put on a blindfold and do a "heard only" Big Day to test and sharpen your auditory skills, but you would need somebody else to drive.

The possibilities are endless and the fun is yours to be had. If it's an official Big Day, you have to follow the rules, but otherwise, it's all up to you. May a Big Day of birding be in your future.

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## Winter Field Reports Due March 1

The winter reporting season is from December through February, and offers you an opportunity to share your sightings with other Iowa birders and the scientific community. Even if you are not an active birder, you probably make observations that have value to the birding community. While we have dozens of organizations who support worthwhile conservation efforts, it's just us,

the IOU, who provide measurable information on their effectiveness in maintaining or increasing bird populations. I encourage you to participate in the process by submitting field reports.

Send to: Bob Cecil  
1315 41st St.  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
[wewarb@aol.com](mailto:wewarb@aol.com)

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## 2003 Listing Totals

Iowa listing totals as of December 31, 2003 may be submitted by using the form on the right, or sent by email to [phertzel@rconnect.com](mailto:phertzel@rconnect.com). Big Day totals should conform to ABA Big Day guidelines, and should involve a party of at least two. If a Big Day establishes a new record for a category, please submit the species list and consider writing a short narrative about the adventure for publication in this newsletter. Current Iowa records by month and by county can be found in the 2003 Spring issue of *IOU News* (Volume 19, number 1).

Also of interest to many birders are lifetime totals for the state of Iowa, totals for Iowa during the calendar year, totals by county, and yardlist totals. If there is a category that you would like to see included, please let the *IOU News* know. For many birders, sharing list totals is fun and generating totals helps motivate birders to get out and bird, and also to explore new areas. In turn, this can help contribute records for significant bird sightings, adding to our knowledge of the timing and distribution of Iowa's birds.

### Two New Prizes

This year the *IOU News* announces two new acknowledgements for top listers. These awards are intended purely as an incentive to promote birding.

**Top Annual List.** The first award will go to the person with the top annual list for 2003. That person will receive a special recognition in the form of a plaque, as Iowa's top birder. To be eligible, the participant must be an IOU member, and must submit the species list upon request. Sightings of casual or accidental species included on the list must be accepted by the IOU Records Committee.

**Top Percent of Life List.** The second award will go to the person with the highest percent of his/her life list seen in the calendar year. This award will be more difficult to win for those with high life list totals. For instance, 80% of Eloise Armstrong's 2002 list is 302 birds, whereas 80% of Ed Thelen's 2002 list is 240 birds. To be eligible, life list totals must have been reported in the previous year so they are already on record.



## I O U Bird Listing Information

Please return this form within a week or so of the new year in order for your totals to be included in the next compilation. All totals should be accurate as of December 31, 2003.

Return to: *IOU News*, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401; or email totals to: *phertzel@rconnect.com*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail or postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Iowa State Life List Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Iowa 2003 Annual List Total: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Total species seen in Iowa during 2003 )

Yardlist Total: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Regional or statewide Big Day*:</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Names of Participants</u>
<i>Examples:</i>	<i>Worth County</i>	<i>5/13/03</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzell</i>
	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>11/11/03</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>Lee Schoenewe, Ed Thelen</i>

\* for record totals, please submit the species list.

### COUNTY LIFE LIST TOTALS

_____ Adair County	_____ Davis County	_____ Jefferson County	_____ Pocahontas County
_____ Adams County	_____ Decatur County	_____ Johnson County	_____ Polk County
_____ Allamakee County	_____ Delaware County	_____ Jones County	_____ Pottawattamie County
_____ Appanoose County	_____ Des Moines County	_____ Keokuk County	_____ Poweshiek County
_____ Audubon County	_____ Dickinson County	_____ Kossuth County	_____ Ringgold County
_____ Benton County	_____ Dubuque County	_____ Lee County	_____ Sac County
_____ Blackhawk County	_____ Emmet County	_____ Linn County	_____ Scott County
_____ Boone County	_____ Fayette County	_____ Louisa County	_____ Shelby County
_____ Bremer County	_____ Floyd County	_____ Lucas County	_____ Sioux County
_____ Buchanan County	_____ Franklin County	_____ Lyon County	_____ Story County
_____ Buena Vista County	_____ Fremont County	_____ Madison County	_____ Tama County
_____ Butler County	_____ Greene County	_____ Mahaska County	_____ Taylor County
_____ Calhoun County	_____ Grundy County	_____ Marion County	_____ Union County
_____ Carroll County	_____ Guthrie County	_____ Marshall County	_____ Van Buren County
_____ Cass County	_____ Hamilton County	_____ Mills County	_____ Wapello County
_____ Cedar County	_____ Hancock County	_____ Mitchell County	_____ Warren County
_____ Cerro Gordo County	_____ Hardin County	_____ Monona County	_____ Washington County
_____ Cherokee County	_____ Harrison County	_____ Monroe County	_____ Wayne County
_____ Chickasaw County	_____ Henry County	_____ Montgomery County	_____ Webster County
_____ Clarke County	_____ Howard County	_____ Muscatine County	_____ Winnebago County
_____ Clay County	_____ Humboldt County	_____ O'Brien County	_____ Winneshiek County
_____ Clayton County	_____ Ida County	_____ Osceola County	_____ Woodbury County
_____ Clinton County	_____ Iowa County	_____ Page County	_____ Worth County
_____ Crawford County	_____ Jackson County	_____ Palo Alto County	_____ Wright County
_____ Dallas County	_____ Jasper County	_____ Plymouth County	



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## Iowa Birds Photo Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Photo 1

Species (common name):
Date of Photo:
Location (include county):
Make of Camera:
Digital or Film:
Make and Power of Lens or Telescope:

### Photo 2

Species (common name):
Date of Photo:
Location (include county):
Make of Camera:
Digital or Film:
Make and Power of Lens or Telescope:

### Photo 3

Species (common name):
Date of Photo:
Location (include county):
Make of Camera:
Digital or Film:
Make and Power of Lens or Telescope:

Please indicate your choices:

I wish to donate any winnings to the IOU Publications Enhancement Fund for publication of winning photos.

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I agree to allow my photo(s) to be published in *Iowa Bird Life* or *IOU News* or be displayed on the *Iowa Birds & Birding* website: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No.

I wish to donate my photo(s) to the IOU for use in displays. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No.

Mail this entry form along with a \$5.00 entry fee\* for each photo submitted to the Chair of the Judging Committee:

Tom Kent  
211 Richards St.  
Iowa City, IA 53346-3519

Entries may be submitted after April 15 and should be received no later than May 7, 2004.

\*Make checks payable to the IOU Treasurer.



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## Iowa Birds Photo Contest

The IOU is offering an Iowa Bird Photo Contest in conjunction with the 2004 spring meeting in Lansing, Iowa. Any IOU member is encouraged to enter.

### Contest Rules

**Participants:** Any IOU member excluding members of the Judging Committee may submit photos.

**Subjects:** Still photos of wild, unrestrained birds taken in Iowa of species on the Official State List (including a new species if accepted by the Records Committee) will be accepted. Photos may be recent or old, digital or film, and color or black-and-white.

**Submission:** Each contestant may submit up to three photos with a submission fee of \$5 for each photo. Entries must be mailed to the Chair of the Judging Committee no earlier than April 15 and received no later than May 7, 2003. Use the entry form from *IOU News* or on the website *Iowa Birds & Birding*. Submitters should indicate yes or no (default) to the following (1) donate winnings to IOU Publications Enhancement Fund (for publication of winning photos), (2) allow publication of photo(s) in *Iowa Bird Life* or *IOU News* or display on the *Iowa Birds & Birding* website (Photos will be watermarked to prevent copying.), and (3) donate the photo(s) to the IOU for use by the IOU for display. See entry form.

**Form:** Each photo must be on 8.5 x 11 inch paper or mounted on 8.5 x 11 inch matte board. Only one photo per board allowed. On the photo or below the photo the following information is required: (1) name of species (common name), (2) date of photo (e.g., 6 February 2003), (3) location including county, (4) make of camera, (5) digital or film, (6) make and power of lens or telescope and (7) photographer. Other information should not be included. Neatness and quality of mounting will be a factor in judging.

**Judging:** The photos will be judged by a three-member committee. The time will be determined by the Judging Committee. The judges may divide the photos into categories (e.g., digital—film or passerines—non-passerines). The judges will base their selections on quality of the photograph, view of the bird, difficulty of obtaining the photo (rarity of species, secretiveness) and quality of the mounting and labeling. The judges shall decide on the details of the judging process and their decisions shall be final.

**Winners:** The number of prizes will be based on the number of entries. Forty percent of the entries will receive a prize—1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention as appropriate, overall or within categories. The entry fee money will be distributed to the winners approximately as follows: 1st 40%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 15%, and honorable mention 5%. The judges will determine the final allocation to best fit these approximations. All photos will be on display Friday evening and Saturday of the meeting. Photographers not wishing to donate photos may pick up photos after the banquet on Saturday night or make other arrangements with the Chair of the Judging Committee.

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## Recent Literature on Iowa's Birds

*Jim Dinsmore*

Below are results of a search for published literature on Iowa birds for 2002.

Cordts, S. D., R. R. Koford. 2002. Comparison of helicopter and ground counts for waterfowl in Iowa. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30:317-326.

Fletcher, R. J., and R. R. Koford. 2002. Habitat and landscape associations of breeding birds in native and restored grasslands. *J. Wildlife Management* 66:1011-1022.

Gorman, L. R., and S. M. Haig. 2002. Distribution and abundance of Snowy Plovers in eastern North America, the Caribbean, and the Bahamas. *J. Field Ornith.* 72:485-503.

Gustafson, E. J., M. G. Knutson, G. J. Niemi, and M. Friberg. 2002. Evaluation of spatial models to predict vulnerability of forest birds to brood parasitism by cowbirds. *Ecological Applications* 12:412-426.

Horn, D. J., S. E. Fairbairn, and R. J. Hollis. 2002. Factors influencing the occurrence of birds that use feeders in Iowa. *J. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 109:8-18.

Horn, D. J., R. R. Koford, and M. L. Braland. 2002. Effects of field size and landscape composition on grassland birds in south-central Iowa. *J. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 109:1-7.

Svingen, P. H. 2002. Records of the Black-headed Gull along the Minnesota-Iowa border. *The Loon* 74:176-179.

Membership application to the IOU can be made on the web site at <http://www.iowabirds.org> or by writing to the Registrar at

David C. Edwards  
2308 State Street  
Ames IA 50014-8344

Or contact any member for help.





**Iowa Ornithologists' Union**  
**2308 State Avenue**  
**Ames, IA 50014**

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 Ann Kent  
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 IOWA CITY IA 52246-3519

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*IOU News*

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