

# IOU News

Winter 2004 \* Volume 20 – Number 4



Bob Cecil walks with Tom Kent through F. W. Kent Park, named in 1967 in honor of Kent's father.

## Iowa City Bird Club Hosts 2004 IOU Fall Meeting at Wickiup Hill

Members of the Iowa City Bird Club hosted an exceptional IOU Fall Meeting 24-26 September, 2004. Activities were centered at the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center, northwest of Cedar Rapids, with field trips to surrounding and nearby areas, and Sunday lunch/compilation at F. W. Kent Park.

Karen Disbrow and Jim Scheib coordinated efforts with help from

many others, including Rick Hollis, Jim Fuller, Bob Dick, John Rutenbeck, Sue Spieker, Hank Zaletel, and Sharon Stilwell. Also, leading field trips were James Huntington, Chris Caster, Jim Durbin, Mike Dooley, Tom Kent and Mark Proescholdt.

Speakers included Carl Kurtz—*Wings Over the Prairie*, Scott Swengel—

*Continued on page 4*

## Tom Kent Leads Walk Through F. W. Kent Park

On Sunday morning, September 26, as part of the 2004 IOU Fall Meeting, Tom Kent led a field trip through F. W. Kent Park, the Johnson County park named in honor of his father. Seven meeting attendees joined Kent for a three-hour stroll around the lake and into the pine woods sections of the park, before breaking for lunch and the two-day compilation of birds seen.

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## IOU News

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

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this newsletter was mailed to 444 members.

## Ann Johnson Recognized by Audubon Society of Missouri



IOU's Ann Johnson was recognized by the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) for her assistance in developing their website at <http://mobirds.org>.

"I contacted Ann over a year and a half ago to discuss the Iowa site and the processes she uses to manage it", wrote Patrick Harrison, editor of the ASM journal, *The Bluebird*. "She was immediately receptive to my inquiries and more than effusive with suggestions and solutions to some of the issues I was troubleshooting. Then, in May of this year, I realized the website was evolving faster than I thought it would and was requiring a significant increase in my time to keep things updated. I again contacted Ann, and we began to discuss the specifics of Active Server Pages (ASP) as a webpage programming option. Together we began to implement this language into the ASM website. Through hundreds of phone calls and dozens and dozens of hours on the phone Ann mentored me in this language and never once showed any impatience nor did she ever indicate she didn't have the time to help!"



The ASM issued Ann a certificate of appreciation, reproduced above. Congratulations, Ann! IOU members know just how fortunate we are to have her on our side of the border. Currently, Ann serves as chair of the Records Committee, chair of the Publications Committee, and Manager of the IOU website.



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## A Proposed Amendment to the IOU Constitution

The IOU Projects Committee is currently an ad hoc committee created by the President of IOU. The primary functions of the Projects Committee are to propose new projects, evaluate requests for funding of special projects, and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval or denial. The committee is also charged with monitoring the results of the ongoing and completed projects. Future projects will vary and be diverse, and the expected results will be aligned with the goals of the IOU (to encourage interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and to unite those who have these interests in common.).

Ad hoc committees such as the Projects Committee are only temporary committees and are dissolved at the end of the term of the President. A proposal was presented during the business and Board meetings during the fall IOU meeting that would change the status of the Projects Committee from an ad hoc to a standing committee. Status as a standing committee creates permanence and continuity of committee duties as new presidents are elected. Five-year terms allow for timely turnover of its members. The security of a standing committee will allow the IOU to examine, evaluate, and monitor long-term projects that may span a number of years. Also, the standing committee would operate under (board-approved) bylaws that would assure clear definitions of roles and responsibilities.

The IOU Constitution requires an amendment to allow for the Projects Committee to become a standing committee. In accordance with Article X, Section 1, an amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the members attending a regularly scheduled meeting of the IOU, provided a quorum is present and the exact text of the proposed amendment has been sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting. This proposed amendment will change Section 1, sentence 2 of Article V (Committees) to include the Projects Committee with the other standing committees. The exact text will read:

Section 1. Committees shall be standing or ad hoc. Standing committees shall include Membership, Records, Publications, Projects, and Historical/Library. Appointments to standing committees shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Ad hoc committees may be created or dissolved by the President, and such committee shall dissolve at the end of the term of that President. The Board of Directors or the membership voting at a meeting may require the creation or dissolution of an ad hoc committee.

The Board will present the proposal for this amendment to the IOU membership at the spring meeting May 13-15 in Indianola. There will be a discussion on this proposal and it will be voted on at that time.

*Jay Gilliam, Chair  
Projects Committee*

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## Walk Through F. W. Kent Park,

*continued from page 1*

At about 1050 acres, F. W. Kent Park is the largest and most diverse park operated by Johnson County Conservation Board. In 1984, Robert Vane wrote "... because of the respect with which he was held in the community, Fred was honored by having a county park west of Iowa City on highway 6 named in his honor. F. W. Kent Park, established in May of 1967, is the showpiece of the Johnson County Park system." (*Iowa Bird Life* 54:71-74)

Sunday morning was quiet, by birding standards, with twelve warbler species, a few Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Broad-winged Hawk, a flyover group of shorebirds, and the usual array of permanent residents. But it was a pleasant introduction to this unique area for those of us who had never visited the park before. Later in the day, birders reported finding both a Pine Warbler and a Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Kent Park, selected one of Iowa's initial Important Bird Areas, includes a 27-acre lake, pine and deciduous woods, wetlands and prairie habitat. Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls have been found in the pine woods, Short-eared Owls in the prairies, and many songbirds, including Yellow-breasted Chats in the woodland habitats.

The park has become a favorite of Iowans, not just birders, and continues to undergo improvement. In 2001, 43 acres were added to the initial park boundaries, and in June of this year, the Conservation Education Center saw its grand opening.

*- Paul Hertzell*

### Spring Meeting 2005: Camp Wesley Woods.

The spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union will be held May 13 - 15, 2005 at Camp Wesley Woods, five miles south of Indianola. Warren County has a broad diversity of habitats ranging from oak-hickory timber with nesting Broad-winged and Cooper's Hawks to the marsh at the new Middle River Wildlife Area where you may find nesting Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Great-tailed Grackle. By mid-May the grasslands should be alive with breeding Bobolink and grasslands sparrows and we will bird many of the hot spots for warbler migration. The Indianola folks are looking forward to hosting everyone to a great meeting with lots of birds.





## IOU 2004 Fall Meeting

Continued from page 1



Jim Scheib introduces speaker Karl Kurtz.

*Grasslands, Grassland Birds and Henslow's Sparrows, Ty Smedes—Hawk Trapping and Banding Along the Upper Mississippi, and Jodeane Cancilla—Osprey Reintroduction Program.* The Saturday evening program, *Birds as Dinosaurs*, was provided by Chris Brochu, assistant professor in



Chris Brochu discussed "Birds as Dinosaurs".

the Department of Geoscience, University of Iowa.

Field trips found a total of 152 species of birds, amazing given that conditions were generally quiet, with



Wikiup Hill Natural Area Outdoor Learning Center northwest of Cedar Rapids served as the central gathering place for the 2004 IOU Fall Meeting. The Wikiup Hill Natural Area is located along the Cedar River Greenbelt. Members of the Iowa City Bird Club hosted the event.



A group leaves the Wikiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center at dawn to embark on a Sunday morning field trip. In addition to birding the Wikiup Hill area, on the weekend birders visited Red Bird Farm, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Otter Creek Marsh, Pleasant Creek State Park, Squaw Creek, Pali-sades State Park, Pemmican Ridge, Lake McBride, Amana Woods, Swan Lake, F. W. Kent Park, Williams Prairie, Hickory Hill Park, Frytown, and Sandy Beach.

weather that seemed especially suitable for migrating. A Red Knot, which is casual in Iowa, was reported from the Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Jim Scheib's party encountered a rare Red Cross-bill, and among 24 species of warblers

found during the weekend was a Black-throated Blue contributed by trip leader James Huntington.

Bob Cecil coordinated another silent auction of materials donated by members, and Jim Scheib put together



a photo CD of over 100 Iowa Birds contributed by nine photographers. Proceeds from the photo CD, at \$15 apiece, will benefit both the Iowa City Bird Club and the IOU. See page 6.

The fall business meeting was held Saturday afternoon, at Wikiup Hill, and an IOU board meeting was held at Kent Park, on Sunday afternoon.

100 people from four states attended the fall meeting, with Kayleen Niyo, editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, driving all the way from Evergreen, Colorado.

**List of Attendees.**

Danny	Akers	Garnavillo	IA
Pam	Akers	Garnavillo	IA
Melanie	Akers	Garnavillo	IA
Pam	Allen	W Des Moines	IA
Reid	Allen	W Des Moines	IA
Ed	Allgood	Iowa City	IA
Jean	Allgood	Iowa City	IA
Bill	Barker	Bettendorf	IA
Dianne	Barker	Bettendorf	IA
Neil	Bernstein	Cedar Rapids	IA
Carol	Berrier	Ankeny	IA
Diane	Bradbury	Cedar Rapids	IA
Chris	Brochu	Iowa City	IA
Mark	Brown	Iowa City	IA
Matsalyn	Brown	Iowa City	IA
Suzanne	Brown	Evansdale	IA
Jerry	Brown	Evansdale	IA
Barry	Buschelmann	North Liberty	IA
Jodeane	Cancilla	Iowa City	IA
Ed	Carbrey	Ames	IA



**Jim Durbin led trips around Wikiup Hill and to Pleasant Creek Lake.**

Elizabeth	Carbrey	Ames	IA
Theresa	Carbrey	Ames	IA
Christopher	Caster	Coralville	IA
Bob	Cecil	Des Moines	IA
Mary	Cecil	Des Moines	IA
Robert	Dick	Iowa City	IA
Dara	Dick	Iowa City	IA
Karen	Disbrow	Iowa City	IA
Linda	Donelson	Iowa City	IA
John	Donelson	Iowa City	IA
Mike	Dooley	Iowa City	IA
Jim	Durbin	Marion	IA
Vicki	Eaton	Cedar Rapids	IA
Barbara	Edson	Ames	IA
Clyde	Edson	Ames	IA
Jim	Fuller	Iowa City	IA
Karole	Fuller	Iowa City	IA
Judy	Garton	Ft. Dodge	IA
Jay	Gilliam	Norwalk	IA
Rita	Goranson	Mason City	IA
Paul	Hertzel	Mason City	IA
Tammy	Hertzel	Mason City	IA
Keely	Hertzel	Mason City	IA
James	Huntington	Iowa City	IA
Ann	Johnson	Norwalk	IA
Matthew	Kenne	Algona	IA
Cathy	Konrad	Bettendorf	IA
Jim	Konrad	Bettendorf	IA
Rick	Kuhlman	Ft. Dodge	IA
Mary	Kuhlman	Ft. Dodge	IA
Carl	Kurtz	St. Anthony	IA
Barbara	Lebsock	Cedar Rapids	IA
Deborah	Levy	Iowa City	IA
Lynn	Marsh	Ankeny	IA
Lisa	McDaniels	Iowa City	IA
Ramona	McGurk	Iowa City	IA
John	Mclure	Iowa City	IA
Leonard	Miller	Indianola	IA

Francis	Moore	Waterloo	IA
Darlene	Neff	Iowa City	IA
John	Neff	Iowa City	IA
Kay	Niyo	Evergreen	CO
Maggie	O'Connell	Earlville	IA
Vernon	Ohlendorf	Muscatine	IA
Carolyn	Ohlendorf	Muscatine	IA
Shane	Patterson	Ames	IA
Katy	Patterson	Ames	IA
Diana	Pesek	Cedar Rapids	IA
Mark	Proescholdt	Liscomb	IA
Hollis	Rick	North Liberty	IA
Viana	Rockel	N Liberty	IA
John	Rutenbeck	Burlington	IA
James	Scheib	Iowa City	IA
Sharon	Scheib	Iowa City	IA
Randall	Scheiner	Vinton	IA
Tom	Schilke	Waterloo	IA
Jim	Sinclair	Indianola	IA
Nancy	Slife	Iowa Falls	IA
Ty	Smedes	Urbandale	IA
Carolyn	Sonderman	Omaha	NE
Julius V.	Sonderman	Omaha	NE
Susan	Spieker	Norwalk	IA
Dick	Stilwell	W Des Moines	IA
Sharon	Stilwell	W Des Moines	IA
Larry	Stone	Elkader	IA
Scott	Swengel	Baraboo	WI
Ann	Swengel	Baraboo	WI
Richard	Tetrault	Coralville	IA
Gerry	Tetrault	Coralville	IA
Paul	VanNieuwenhuysse	Dewitt	IA
Jerry	Von Ehwegen	Sioux City	IA
Pete	Wickman	Cedar Rapids	IA
Louise	Wickman	Cedar Rapids	IA
Doyle L.	Woods	Indianola	IA
Hank	Zaletel	Nevada	IA
Linda	Zaletel	Nevada	IA
Ric	Zarwell	Lansing	IA
Betty	Zarwell	Lansing	IA



**James Huntington led trips to Hickory Hill.**



**Mike Dooley led trips to McBride, Frytown and Red Bird Farm**



## Species List for 2004 Fall IOU Meeting

Canada Goose	Spotted Sandpiper	American Crow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Red Knot</i>	Horned Lark	Black-thr Green Warbler
Wood Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler
Gadwall	Least Sandpiper	No. Rough-w. Swallow	Palm Warbler
Mallard	Pectoral Sandpiper	Bank Swallow	Bay-breasted Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Long-billed Dowitcher	Barn Swallow	Blackpoll Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Wilson's Snipe	Black-capped Chickadee	Black-and-white Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Ring-billed Gull	Tufted Titmouse	American Redstart
Wild Turkey	Black Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Ovenbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Rock Pigeon	White-breasted Nuthatch	Mourning Warbler
American White Pelican	Mourning Dove	Brown Creeper	Common Yellowthroat
Double-crested Cormorant	Black-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Wren	Wilson's Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	House Wren	Canada Warbler
Great Egret	Eastern Screech-Owl	Winter Wren	Summer Tanager
Green Heron	Great Horned Owl	Sedge Wren	Eastern Towhee
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Barred Owl	Marsh Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Common Nighthawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Field Sparrow
Osprey	Chimney Swift	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Vesper Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	Le Conte's Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Song Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin	Swamp Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Northern Cardinal
American Kestrel	Northern Flicker	European Starling	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Merlin	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Indigo Bunting
Peregrine Falcon	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Blue-winged Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Virginia Rail	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Golden-winged Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Sora	Least Flycatcher	Tennessee Warbler	Western Meadowlark
American Coot	American Phoebe	Orange-crowned Warbler	Common Grackle
Black-bellied Plover	Great Crested Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Golden-Plover	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula	Purple Finch
Semipalmated Plover	Yellow-throated Vireo	Yellow Warbler	House Finch
Killdeer	Blue-headed Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Red Crossbill
Greater Yellowlegs	Philadelphia Vireo	Magnolia Warbler	Pine Siskin
Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-eyed Vireo	Cape May Warbler	American Goldfinch
Solitary Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Black-thr Blue Warbler	House Sparrow

### *Iowa Birds by Iowa Birders, A Photo CD*

A bird photo CD, *Iowa Birds by Iowa Birders*, was compiled by members of the Iowa City Bird Club to benefit the club and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union by sales at the 2004 Fall IOU Meeting.

We very much appreciate the generosity of the contributors:

Reid Allen	Chaiyan Kasornrorkbua	Jim Scheib
Jay Gilliam	Kent Nickell	Ty Smedes
Jim Durbin	Gerald Pearson	Rich Stilwell

The photographer's initials are included at the end of the root of the file name for each picture. Photos are intended for personal use only. All rights for further distribution and use are retained by the contributing photographers.

Species names are according to the Fourth Edition of National Geographic Field Guide. The file names consist of : species name, photographer initials, period, file type.

Order for IOU/ICBC:

\_\_\_ Photo CD (\$15) or \_\_\_ DVD (\$18)

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240  
[jim@tenlongview.net](mailto:jim@tenlongview.net) (319) 337-5206

## 2004 Listing Totals

Iowa bird list totals as of December 31, 2004 may be submitted to the *IOU News* by using the form on the right, or may be sent by email. Totals will be published in the Spring issue, 2005. Current Iowa records by month and by county can be found in the 2004 Spring issue of *IOU News* (Volume 20, number 1).

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.

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 presence of birds in Iowa.

### Two Awards

Last year the *IOU News* introduced two new awards for Iowa birders who enjoy listing their sightings. These awards are intended to acknowledge Iowa's most active birders, and to promote birding in Iowa.

**Top Annual List.** This award acknowledges the IOU member with the top annual list for 2004. To be eligible, the participant must submit the species list, and any sightings of casual or accidental species must be accepted by the IOU Records Committee.

**Top Percent of Life List.** This award goes to the IOU member with the highest percent of his/her life list seen in the calendar year. To be eligible, this member's 2003 life list must have been previously published.



## 2004 IOU Bird Listing Report Form

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, 2004.

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 2004 Annual List Total: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Total species seen in Iowa during 2004 )

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>Polk County</i>	<i>5/20/1994</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>Gordon Brown, Steve Dinsmore</i>
	<i>Statewide</i>	<i>7/24/2004</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>Lee Schoenewe, Gary Grange</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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## Winter Birding – Three Months of Shivering and Serendipity

At least a few times each winter, most frequently during a Christmas Bird Count, I wonder why I didn't get interested in butterflies rather than birds. They're beautiful, pose identification challenges, are diurnal, and are most easily observed during sunny, summery days. But, of course, braving breath-freezing cold and little icicles on my moustache is sometimes rewarded by finding a hardy lingerer or, perhaps, a wayward visitor from a northern land I have never seen.

A bird that chooses to share its winter with us is always a curiosity, especially since most of us would not choose to spend a winter with us here, if we had a choice. Their presence, therefore, is always worth noting, if not for curiosity's sake, then to further our understanding of them. For example, I don't know if it is true, but the corvids (crows and jays) and some of their close relatives (Black-capped Chickadee especially) are thought by some to have suffered substantial declines because of West Nile Virus. I do know that it seemed as though I saw fewer Blue Jays this summer. It will be interesting to see if American Crows, many roosts of which have been located by winter birders, will suffer declines, assuming we can ever figure out how to count the birds as they swirl in evening flocks. Over a longer period, we have all noticed the crash in the number of visits by those formerly common winter finches such as Purple Finch and Pine Siskin, and the less common visitants such as Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, and Pine Grosbeak. Is this due to normal cyclical changes in migration patterns and weather, or is something more insidious going on? I don't know if anyone knows at this point, but I do know that if we amateur birders hadn't been paying attention, no one would have even asked.

Iowa birders have been submitting their observations to Iowa Bird Life and other journals for 100 years. While the reports do not constitute a statistically valid data set, no one can argue that they reflect the condition of and changes in Iowa's avian populations. Of course, they also reflect the facts that we now have more people reporting than ever before, and that they are more skilled than their predecessors and have access to vastly better resources. This happy confluence of circumstances has enabled winter observers to confirm the regular occurrence of Black and Surf Scoters and Thayer's Gulls, and to chronicle the arrival and spread of two European species, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls, as well as following the apparent decline of the winter finches. We have learned that there are cyclical appearances of Snowy Owls, Northern Shrikes, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and that diving ducks will almost magically appear on open water of the lower Mississippi River, regardless of whether it is January or March. We will be there to report if something goes

wrong with Rough-legged Hawks, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings or other visitors, and we will be there to report on those species that find our changing world to their liking. We have also learned of and made better known the best places to find and watch birds, which are, consequently, the most important places to protect for birds.

I almost got sidetracked by butterflies one time. Not that that's a bad thing – butterflies are also bellwethers of environmental change — but there is just so much more to learn about our birds. That fact is reaffirmed each time I receive a field report. The past 100 years has taken us from shotguns to dazzling optics and from arcane identification texts to shelves of detailed, beautifully illustrated guides. With your help, the next 100 years will give us a clearer understanding of what our birds are telling us about themselves, and about us.

—Bob Cecil, *Winter Season Editor, IBL*



Winter birds along the Shellrock River, Worth Co. Photo by P. Hertz, 2004.



# 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>email</u>
Dec 18	<b>Ames</b>	Story	Dave Edwards	515 292-3790	<i>dcejce@dandje.org</i>
Jan 03	<b>Andalusia/Buffalo</b>	Muscatine/Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	<i>kellyJmckay@aol.com</i>
Jan 01	<b>Boone County</b>	Boone	Mark Widrechner	515 233-1532	<i>mwpskd@aol.com</i>
Dec 18	<b>Bremer County</b>	Bremer	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	<i>flmoore@forbin.net</i>
Dec 18	<b>Burlington</b>	Des Moines/Louisa	Chuck Fuller	319 753-0710	<i>CFuller989@aol.com</i>
Dec 19	<b>Carroll County</b>	Carroll	Rob Thelen	712 792-1793	<i>rthelen@mchsi.com</i>
Dec 19	<b>Cedar Falls/Waterloo</b>	Blackhawk/Grundy/Butler	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	<i>flmoore@forbin.net</i>
Dec 18	<b>Cedar Rapids</b>	Linn	Jim Durbin	319 377-7194	<i>durbinjames@mcleodusa.net</i>
Dec 19	<b>Cherokee</b>	Cherokee/O'Brien	Dick Bierman	712 225-5552	<i>dajabier@netins.net</i>
Jan 01	Clayton County	Clayton	Danny Akerrs	563 964-2694	<i>birdmandan1231@hotmail.com</i>
Dec 16	<b>Clinton/Savannah</b>	Clinton/Jackson	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	<i>kellyJmckay@aol.com</i>
Dec 19	<b>Davenport</b>	Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	<i>kellyJmckay@aol.com</i>
Dec 27	<b>Decorah</b>	Winneshiek	Dennis Carter	319 382-3754	
Jan 02	<b>Des Moines</b>	Polk/Dallas	Dennis Thompson	515 254-0837	<i>cndthomps@acm.org</i>
Dec 19	<b>De Soto</b>	Harrison/Pottawattamie	Bob Barry	712 642-4121	DeSoto NWR
Jan 02	<b>Dubuque</b>	Dubuque	Charlie Winterwood	563 588-2783	<i>cwinterwood@yahoo.com</i>
Dec 15	<b>Eldora-Union</b>	Hardin/Marshall/Story	Mark Proescholdt	641 496-5219	
Dec 18	<b>Grinnell</b>	Poweshiek	Bob Van Ervelde	641 236-6600	
Dec 15	<b>Green Island/Lost Mound</b>		Dan Wenny	815 273-3184	<i>dwenny@inhs.uiuc.edu</i>
Dec 26	<b>Humboldt County</b>	Humboldt	Dan Gifford	712 368-4411	<i>giff57@aol.com</i>
Jan 02	<b>Ida Grove</b>	Ida	Don Poggensee	712 364-3491	<i>donpog@netllc.net</i>
Dec 19	<b>Iowa City</b>	Johnson	Chris Edwards	319 626-6362	<i>credwards@aol.com</i>
Dec 14	<b>Jamaica</b>	Guthrie/Greene/Dallas	Ray Cummins	641 856-3518	<i>cummins@sirisonline.com</i>
Dec 20	<b>Keokuk</b>	Lee	Bob Cecil	515 277-5709	<i>wewarb@aol.com</i>
Dec 14	<b>Lost Nation</b>	Clinton/Jackson/Jones	Mark Roberts	563 847-7202	
Dec 15	<b>Marshalltown</b>	Marshall	Ed Savage	641-752-0105	
Dec 18	<b>Mason City</b>	Cerro Gordo	Rita Goranson	641 423-1699	<i>ritag@mchsi.com</i>
Jan 02	<b>Muscatine</b>	Muscatine	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	<i>kellyJmckay@aol.com</i>
Dec 29	<b>North Linn</b>	Linn	Jim Durbin	319 377-7194	<i>durbinjames@mcleodusa.net</i>
Dec 18	<b>Omaha, NE</b>	Mills/Pottawattamie	Betty Grenon	402 731-2383	<i>grenon925@aol.com</i>
Dec 17	<b>Princeton/Cordova</b>	Clinton/Scott	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	<i>kellyJmckay@aol.com</i>
Dec 18	<b>Rathbun Res.</b>	Appanoose/Monroe	Mike Stephens	641 437-1736	<i>tjbjohn@iowasocean.com</i>
Dec 18	<b>Red Rock Res.</b>	Marion/Mahaska	Aaron Brees	641 660-2316	<i>abrees@hotmail.com</i>
Dec 19	<b>Saylorville</b>	Polk/Story	Jim Dinsmore	515 292-3152	<i>oldcoot@iastate.net</i>
Dec 27	<b>Shenandoah</b>	Fremont/Page	Barbara Cunningham	712 246-1203	<i>bjcswwu@heartland.net</i>
Dec 18	<b>Siam-Hopkins</b>	Taylor/Nodaway	Kelly D Norris	712 523-2807	<i>kellydn@frontiernet.net</i>
Dec 18	<b>Sioux City</b>	Woodbury	Jerry Probst	712 258-1296	<i>probstsuebee@aol.com</i>
Dec 18	<b>Spirit Lake</b>	Dickinson	Lee Schoenewe	712 262-8194	<i>lschoe@evertek.net</i>
Dec 30	<b>Taylor County</b>	Taylor	Kelly D Norris	712 523-2807	<i>kellydn@frontiernet.net</i>
Dec 19	<b>Waterloo/Cedar Falls</b>	Blackhawk/Grundy/Butler	Francis Moore	319 232-0217	<i>flmoore@forbin.net</i>
Jan 02	<b>Webster County</b>	<b>Webster.</b>	Breck Johnson	642 647-2666	<i>tjbjohn@iowasocean.com</i>
Dec 21	<b>Western Mercer Co</b>	Louisa	Kelly McKay	309 755-6731	<i>kellyJmckay@aol.com</i>
Jan 02	<b>Westfield</b>	Plymouth	Scott Moats	712 568-2596	<i>smoats@acsnet.com</i>
Jan 01	<b>Worth County</b>	Worth	Curt Nelson	641 696-5600	<i>mpauley@jumpgate.net</i>
Dec 29	<b>Yellow River Forest</b>	Allamakee	Dennis Carter	319 382-3754	





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## Festival Wrap-Up

Ric Zarwell

At least 255 individuals from 52 cities in 8 states attended November's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival headquartered at Kee High School at Lansing, in Allamakee County. Birders came from Florida, California, Ohio, Kansas and Michigan, plus Iowa and nearby Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Half-day birding trips on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning explored excellent river habitats teeming with Tundra Swans and many varieties of ducks, all within easy driving distance in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Two boat trips each day took participants near waterfowl on pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge – one of Iowa's 70 officially recognized Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

A total of 91 species of birds were observed during the event, including Golden Eagles, and a Red-necked Grebe (a species the co-organizer of this event does not yet have on his county list). The composite total of 78 species observed during the first two festivals was easily exceeded this year. Recent mild weather and a higher number of excellent birders involved as bird trip leaders helped push the total species seen to a new high. The mild weather held Tundra Swan numbers down to around 8,000–10,000 as compared to 15,000–18,000 seen during the 2003 festival. Duck numbers were approximately the same this year - around 150,000–200,000. These combined numbers proved once again that the concentration of waterfowl centered at this time of year where the three states of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin meet, is one of the nation's great wildlife spectacles.

Thanks to the many organizations and individuals who helped out, and who donated items for silent and live auctions. The final proceeds have not yet been determined, but all proceeds from these two auctions will be used to aid Iowa's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program – a bird and habitat conservation initiative with 70 IBAs in 55 Iowa counties.

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## Hitchcock Nature Center Hawkwatch Volunteers Receive Governor's Volunteer Award.

Members of the Hitchcock Nature Center Hawkwatch were recognized for their service by Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, in October 2004. The "Governor's Volunteer Award in October" was presented for the outstanding effort of the Hitchcock Hawkwatch Volunteer Group in the long-term monitoring of migrant raptor populations in Iowa. Phylisha Eshelman, Chad Graeve, Jim Meyer, Sue Mattix, and Clem Klaphake all went east for the ceremony to accept the award on behalf of all who have helped build the hawkwatch program at Hitchcock. This includes senior hawkwatcher, Mark Orsag, and members of previous year's groups, Jerry Toll, Brett Ford, Tina Popson and Carol Young, to name a few.

Pat Schlarbaum of Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program nominated the hawkwatch group for the award, and the governor agreed. The presentation took place in Des Moines on October 22nd. Jim Meyer as the President of the Hitchcock Hawkwatch Group this year, formally accepted the award on behalf of the Volunteer Group.



Members of the Hitchcock Hawkwatch Group accept a Volunteer Award from Iowa Governor, Tom Vilsack. From left to right- Governor Vilsack, Clem Klaphake, Phylisha Eshelman, Chad Graeve, Sue Mattix, Jim Meyer.

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.



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## Papers Published in 2003 Involving Iowa Birds

Jim Dinsmore

Fletcher, R. J., and R. R. Koford. 2003. Changes in breeding bird populations with habitat restoration in northern Iowa. *American Midland Naturalist* 150:83-94.

Fletcher, R. J., and R. R. Koford. 2003. Spatial responses of an area-sensitive songbird near different types of edges. *Auk* 120:799-810.

Murray, L. D., and L. B. Best. 2003. Short-term bird response to harvesting switchgrass for biomass in Iowa. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 67:611-621.

Murray, L. D., L. B. Best, T. J. Jacobsen, and M. L. Braster. 2003. Potential effects on grassland birds of converting marginal cropland to switchgrass biomass production. *Biomass and Bioenergy* 25:167-175.

Norris, W. R., L. M. Hemesath, D. M. Debinski, and D. R. Farrar. 2003. Does bird community composition vary along a disturbance gradient in northeast Iowa, USA, forests? *Natural Areas Journal* 23:262-273.

## 26 Ospreys Released in Iowa During 2004

A total of 26 fledgling Ospreys were released at hack sites around the state of Iowa in 2004. Members of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program coordinated the releases with local volunteers at five sites in five counties. The project, to establish a viable breeding population of Ospreys in Iowa, brought young birds from sites in Minnesota and Wisconsin to Iowa hack sites in Black Hawk, Boone, Cerro Gordo, Linn and Polk counties.

In the western hemisphere, migratory Ospreys breed primarily in the north, and spend winters south of the United States. Adults return in the spring, with many showing a strong faithfulness to former sites. Although first-year birds do not breed, and often return short of their eventual breeding grounds, it is hoped that within a couple of years, the released birds will be refound cruising the skies of their respective release sites.

## Peregrine Falcon R13 Dies

Pat Schlarbaum

The adult female Peregrine Falcon that has nested in Des Moines since 1992 has died. Employees of Smith Barney Investment firm reported the injured bird on a ledge on 38th story of 801 Grand. Injuries were indicative of those sustained from colliding into the railings of the ledge area.

Peregrine Falcons are a very dynamic species that encounter fierce battles between defenders of a nesting territory and intruders. Occasionally these battles result in the death of one of the combatants. The adult female, known as R13 from the number on the black band of left leg, had produced 24 young since her first successful nest in 1993.

## Things To Do

### Dec 04

MOU Paper Session, Bell Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, MN

### Dec 09-12

IOU-sponsored field trip to northern Minnesota, with trip leader Mike Overton. Contact: Ric Zarwell, IOU Birding Trip Coordinator, (563) 543-4991, Ric.Zarwell@mchsi.com

### Dec 14-Jan 05

Christmas Bird Counts.

### Jan 01

Send list totals to IOU News

### Jan 08

Dubuque Bald Eagle Day, at Lock & Dam 11

### Jan 08-09

Quad Cities 16th Annual Bald Eagle Days

### Jan 15-16

Bald Eagle Appreciation Days, Keokuk, IA. (800) 383-1219

### Feb 18-19

Red Rock Bald Eagle Appreciation Days.

### Feb 27

Saylorville Bald Eagle Appreciation Day .

### Mar 01

Winter field reports due.

### Shorebird Summit

Partners In Flight (PIF) is planning to hold a shorebird summit in Galveston, Texas, 22-25 February 2005. The purpose of the summit is to evaluate progress of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, through presentations, and to hold working sessions to outline future strategies. All-day field trips will be planned for Friday, 25 February. The meeting site, the Hotel Galvez, is an historic building located about 50 miles from the Houston International Airport.

—Brad Andres, PIF brad\_andres@fws.gov

### Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas

The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas is now available. Based on field work conducted 1986–1991, the atlas includes information on the distribution, abundance, population trends, habitats, life histories, and historical status of 216 breeding species. The atlas costs \$25.95 and may be ordered from

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Distribution Office  
607 East Peabody Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820



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