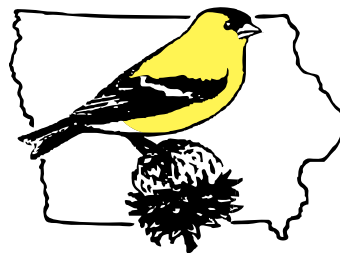


IOU News

Winter 2012  Volume 28 - Number 4



IOU Helps Iowa Young Birders Take Flight

By Carl Bendorf, Executive Director,
Iowa Young Birders



Starting with our first trip in July, more than 100 young birders, parents, siblings and volunteer leaders have taken to Iowa's fields and forests to learn more about birds, have fun, and enjoy Iowa's great natural resources. Iowa Young Birders was created for exactly this purpose: to encourage young Iowans to study and enjoy birds and learn more about conservation issues and habitat preservation.

The IOU Projects Committee awarded a generous 2012 grant of \$1500 to Iowa Young Birders (IAYB) to purchase loaner optics for young birders to use during our field trips. With the assistance of IOU members, Diane and Michael Porter of Birdwatching.com, IAYB was able to purchase 12 pairs of waterproof 8X42 binoculars and a spotting scope & tripod through Eagle Optics' nonprofit equipment purchase program. On every trip, our loaner binoculars have been put to good use

and the spotting scope has given some eye-popping views to many young birders who don't ordinarily have access

to a scope.

Young Birder Day 2012 on September 1 in Iowa City attracted 35 participants to a morning field trip to Hickory Hill Park. The woods were swarming with migrants and we did our best to sort out the various warblers and vireos. In the afternoon, 14 young birders enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes tour of the University of Iowa's Museum of Natural History bird collection which included a look at century-old specimens of Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Carolina Parakeet, and Passenger Pigeon. We also attended a raptor demonstration by the Macbride Raptor Center. Jeffrey Gordon, President of the American Birding Association,

IOU News

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

IOU News Editor:

John Bissell
328 SE Cedarwood Dr
Grimes, IA 50111-1142
john.annabissell@gmail.com

IOU News Layout:

Anna Bissell
328 SE Cedarwood Dr
Grimes, IA 50111-1142
john.annabissell@gmail.com

IOU Publications Committee:

Ann Johnson, Chair
James J Dinsmore
Stephen J Dinsmore
Bill Scheible
John Bissell

IOU News issues:

- (1) Spring: Published approximately mid-March, depending on date of annual spring meeting.
- (2) Summer: Published late June or early July.
- (3) Fall: Published late August or early September, depending on date of fall meeting.
- (4) Winter: Published late November.

IOU Journal:

Iowa Bird Life
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Editor
cootjr@iastate.edu

Website:

<http://www.iowabirds.org/>

IOU Membership / Subscriptions:

Mary Beth Hunt
1201 High Avenue W
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
<http://www.iowabirds.org/>

this newsletter was mailed to 285 members.

(Continued from page 1)

was with us all day which was a special experience for both Jeff and our young birders.

In addition to the Iowa City field trip above, IAYB has sponsored field trips to Terra Park (Polk Co.), George Wyth SP (Black Hawk), Neal Smith Refuge (Jasper), Pleasant Creek (Linn), Coralville Reservoir (Johnson), and Lake Manawa (Pottawattamie.) Overall, our seven field trips to date have averaged more than 15 participants each.

Getting young birders into the field has been our main priority and IAYB is planning a full slate of field trips for 2013. We are happy to work with groups and individuals who can help us promote field trips to local young birders, ages 8-18, and their families. Volunteer trip leaders undergo an orientation and background check.

Special thanks to IOU members who have served as volunteer trip leaders: Ross Silcock, Denny Thompson, Francis Moore, Karen Viste-Sparkman, Rick Hollis, Jason Paulios, and Bill Scheible. In addition, we are grateful to the more than 30 families and individuals (many of whom are IOU members) who care about the future of Iowa's birding community and have made financial contributions to Iowa Young Birders.

Youth membership in IAYB is open to any young person age 8-18 and is only \$10 per year. Adult Supporting Memberships are \$35 which is fully tax-deductible. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we depend on contributions from the public. Anyone interested in supporting the future of Iowa's birding community can give securely online through our website or by mail to P.O. Box 549, Solon IA 52333.

For more information, visit www.iowayoungbirders.org or contact Carl@iowayoungbirders.org.

Membership Renewal

Just a friendly notice that your I.O.U. membership dues are coming due and we really would appreciate everyone renewing their membership. The easiest way to renew your membership is to do it on-line (even if you are paying by check) where you can double-check your mailing address and select to receive the newsletter on-line to help us save mailing costs. The URL is: <http://iowabirds.org/IOU/PayDues.aspx>

Our organization can only continue to provide excellent publications and support our projects if we have the support of all our members. You might want to encourage others to join our organization or increase your membership giving at a higher level.

Thanks for your renewal!!!

Pam Allen, I.O.U. Membership Coordinator

IOU-Southern Wings Partnership a Success

By Tyler M. Harms

Last spring, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union launched a donation drive to raise funds for the Southern Wings Program, a partnership between the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the American Bird Conservancy. The Program provides an avenue for state wildlife agencies and other organizations to help protect migratory birds on their wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean. This year, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has committed to giving \$10,000 to the program, and the Iowa Audubon will be adding \$500 to the Iowa DNR's contribution. I am pleased to announce that the IOU will be contributing \$2,985 to the Program this year thanks to the generosity of our members.

Currently in its third year, the Southern Wings Program has raised upwards of \$300,000 to be put towards education and habitat restoration and protection in wintering areas critical to the conservation of migratory birds. Migratory birds comprise 50-75% of the birds we enjoy in the central U.S., and these birds spend nearly half their lives on the wintering grounds.

This contribution and partnership illustrates the passion of Iowans in conserving migratory birds for future generations to enjoy. It's partnerships like this one that make cooperative conservation possible. On behalf of the birds, I would like to thank the IOU and its members for their generosity and dedication to safeguarding our migratory bird populations.

Records Committee Update

By Ann Johnson

By now birders are becoming accustomed to the annual summer AOU changes in bird nomenclature and taxonomy. Continuing DNA work seems to continually challenge our long-held understanding of how all the pieces fit together. Most of the name changes have involved the scientific names as birds are moved from one family to another or even into their own defined genus. These may be temporarily confusing but we generally quickly adapt.

The changes this past summer, however, have sent people looking frantically for the falcons which mysteriously disappeared from just after the hawks. Falcons and parrots have been moved to just before the passerines and after the woodpeckers to more closely reflect their genetic relationship. If you're lost in our latest checklist, find the woodpeckers and keep scrolling. Science is just so interesting!

A few Iowa species recently had their status adjusted

Breeding Bird Atlas Online Auction

By Steve Dinsmore

One of the unique functions of an organization such as the IOU is the compilation, dissemination, and archiving of information about the state's birds. As many of you are aware, field work for Iowa's second Breeding Bird Atlas project was completed earlier this fall. The committee is now reviewing records and working towards a printed publication of the project's results to be completed sometime in 2013. As part of this process, we are trying to raise funds to support the cost of the publication, including extras like color photos. To help this effort, we have decided to auction off sponsorship of all confirmed breeding birds (169 species) found during this 5-year project. Winning bidders will be acknowledged by name in the respective species account in the book. This on-line auction is now open and will end at midnight, December 15th when winners will be announced. You may sponsor a species yourself or for someone else – a great gift idea for the birder on your gift list. Bids start at \$25, can only occur in \$5 increments (e.g., \$25, \$30, etc.), and must be raised by at least \$5. You may pay for your winning bid by check or through PayPal at the conclusion of the auction.

The auction and detailed instructions can be accessed through the Iowa Ornithologists' Union web page at <http://iowabirds.org/BBA/>. Bid early and bid often!

based on records reported each year. After a paucity of reports, Tri-colored Heron and Gyrfalcon have been changed back to accidental. Conversely, an increase in Painted Bunting reports has elevated that species to casual. As Painted Buntings show up from the south and Lazuli Buntings appear from the west, perhaps Iowa will someday become a melting pot for three bunting species.

Two gulls, Iceland and Laughing, have been elevated to regularly occurring species. Both, however, can be confused with more common species so please keep submitting details and photos of these two so we can continue to better understand their status in our state.

Please keep making your observations available by reporting to the seasonal field reports and documenting rare birds. Your records are imperative to our understanding of Iowa's bird life.

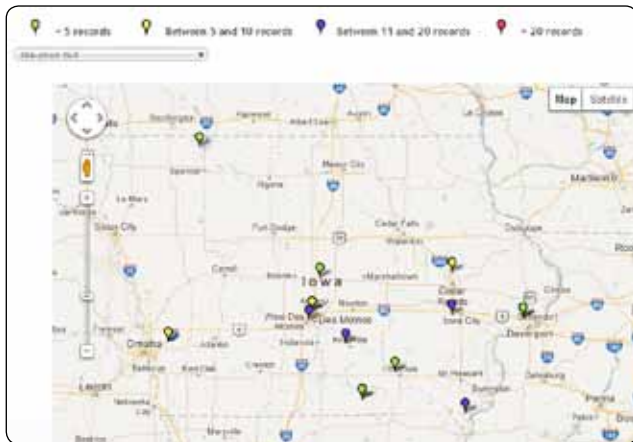
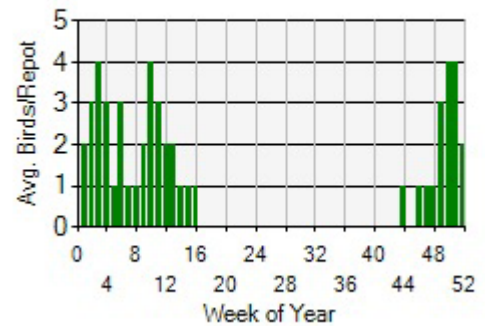
IOU – Connected

By Ann Johnson

In my first column we looked at the frequency charts generated from seasonal field reports (<http://iowabirds.org/Birds/Frequency.aspx>) to help determine when you are most likely to find a species. But where should you go? There are a few tools on the website to help us figure that out.

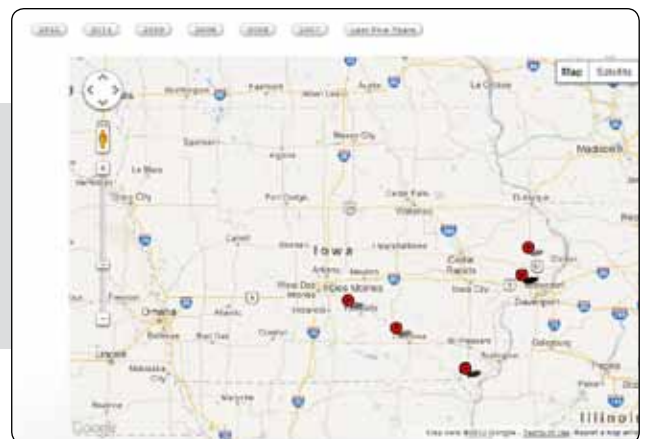
For our example, I would really like to see a Glaucous Gull in Iowa. I have checked the frequency graph and see that the most likely time to look will be late November into March. On a beautiful, sunny, cold and crisp Saturday morning in January, I decide this is the day to search for this new species but which way should I go? Enter tool number 2 – Species Mapping (<http://iowabirds.org/Birds/SpeciesMapping.aspx>).

Glaucous Gull

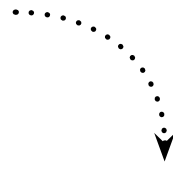


This map gives me an overview of Glaucous Gull records in the field reports data. I can quickly see that not surprisingly most reports come from the large reservoirs and the Mississippi River near Keokuk. Chances are, on any given day in January, no one location has better odds than another, but just to be sure I want to see which ones have the most January reports in the last few years. Our next tool, Recent Reports (<http://iowabirds.org/Birds/SpeciesSightings.aspx>), will give me a little more detail on these reports.

On this page I am specifically interested in 2012 records and January in particular. After selecting Glaucous Gull from the dropdown I click on 2012 and see the following map of all 2012 records. In the table above I can expand the year 2012 and get some detail on exactly where these reports came from.



Month	Week	County	Location
January	0	Clarke	23 - Other location
January	1	Lake	16 - Madison Forestland Park
January	1	Lake	16 - Madison Forestland Park
January	2	Lake	16 - 23
January	3	Warren	16 - 23
January	4	Wapello	16 - 23
February	0	Scott	16 - 23
February	1	Scott	16 - 23
February	2	Scott	16 - 23
March	0	Scott	16 - 23
March	1	Scott	16 - 23
March	2	Scott	16 - 23



For even more finely-tuned information, you may also want to query the January Glaucous Gull data in the AdHoc reporting tool (<http://iowabirds.org/Birds/SpeciesAdHoc.aspx>) where you can filter by region of the state and view the actual week of the year and number of birds seen at that location. Armed with all this new found knowledge, combined with my study of Glaucous Gull behavior, I am ready to grab some snacks and head out to enjoy what will hopefully be a productive day.

The next stage of this project is to better define locations by GPS coordinates so that species can be more accurately mapped. We will also be syncing our locations with eBird hotspots so that we can better share data nationally. Volunteers to help with this project are needed from all areas of the state. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Spring Meeting Preview

By Tom Schilke

The Riverview Conference Center (the old Bible Camp) overlooks the Cedar River not far from bustling Main Street in Cedar Falls. Tall trees shade dozens of cabins and RV/tent camping sites, all within a stones throw of Missionary Hall, the venue for the IOU spring meeting May 3 - 5, 2013. Also reserved for us on the grounds is Pioneer Hall, a dormitory style lodge that has private rooms, shared baths, and a commons area with a fire place and kitchen facilities. The cabins available for rent are privately owned. They are one, two, or three bedrooms and are fully equipped except for linens. They range in price from \$60 to \$75 per night tax included. Rooms in Pioneer Hall are \$15 per night and camping ranges from \$7 - \$25 per night. Reservations for the camp won't be taken until after March 1st. Rooms are also reserved at a reduced rate at The Clarion, Days Inn, and AmericInn in Cedar Falls for those that prefer a motel experience.

Early May is prime time for birding in the Cedar Valley and surrounding counties. Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, Sandhill Cranes, Bell's Vireos, and Woodcock nest here. A diverse mix of neo-tropic migrants can be found at short distances from our Cedar Falls venue. Public places like George Wyth State Park,

Sweet Marsh, Cedar Valley Nature trail, Hartman Reserve, Cedar Hills Sand Prairie, Beaver Valley Wetland, Prairie Lakes, Big Woods Lake, and Hickory Hills Park may ring a bell from postings made to the IOU listserv. Scouts from Prairie Rapids Audubon Society (PRAS), our hosting club, will be checking lesser known private hot spots, too.

Waterloo/Cedar falls and the Cedar Valley boast over 110 miles of connecting bike trails that loop through excellent birding habitat. A water trail connects lakes and rivers for our paddling friends.

George Armistead, the program director for the ABA and a popular tour guide, comes to us highly recommended as our keynote. He will be with us all weekend birding, answering questions, and sharing his knowledge with a talk on Mallards, Black Ducks, Mottled and the Mexican Duck and pornithology - yep, that's bird sex.

We like to have something for everyone at IOU meetings. Much more is in the planning stages. Now may be the time to plan ahead for a less expensive weekender with family or friends in the Cedar Valley. There will be plenty for birders and non-birders (or shall we say "Yet to become birders") to do in the area

2012 Christmas Bird Counts

Count Date	Count Name	Compiler	Email Address	Phone
12-15	Mason City	Rita Goranson	ritag@mchsi.com	641-423-1699
12-15	Red Rock	Tyler Harms	harmsy@iastate.edu	515-320-4975
12-15	Rathbun	Michael Stephens		641-437-1736
12-15	Ames	Shane Patterson	shane7896@yahoo.com	515-232-4682
12-15	Ida County	Don Poggensee	donpog@netllc.net	712-364-3491
12-15	Cedar Rapids	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-15	Spirit Lake	Lee Schoenewe	lschoe@smunet.net	712-262-8194
12-15	Burlington	John Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@mchsi.com	319-753-1733
12-15	Shenandoah	Keith Dyche	kadd27@hotmail.com	712-246-9517
12-15	Dallas County	Tom Lawson	Tom.Lawson@mchsi.com	515-975-9989
12-16	Davenport	Kelly McKay	KellyJMcKay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-16	Saylorville	Stephen Dinsmore	cootjr@iastate.edu	515-450-8805
12-16	Iowa City	Chris Edwards	credwards@aol.com	319-430-4732
12-17	Keokuk	John Cecil	jcecil01@gmail.com	515-249-5668
12-18	Jamaica	Austin Lambert	amlambert11@gmail.com	515-520-1559
12-19	Clinton	Kelly McKay	kellyjmckay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-20	Princeton/Camanche	Kelly McKay	kellyjmckay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-21	Buchanan County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
12-22	North Linn	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-22	Sioux City	Jerry Probst	probstsuebee@aol.com	712-258-1296
12-22	Des Moines	Dennis Thompson	cndthomps@acm.org	
12-23	NW Clayton County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
12-26	Muscatine	Kelly McKay	kellyjmckay@aol.com	309-235-4661
12-29	Boone County	Mark Widrlechner	mpwskd@aol.com	515-520-3881
12-29	Westfield	Jerry Probst	probstsuebee@aol.com	712-258-1296
12-29	Grinnell	Robert Van Ervelde	crvanersvelde@iowatelecom.net	641-990-0626
12-29	Dubuque	Charles Winterwood	cwinterwood@yahoo.com	563-588-2783
12-30	Humboldt County	Jacob Newton	newtja84@gmail.com	
12-31	Western Mercer	Kelly McKay	Kellyjmckay@aol.com	309-235-4661
1-1	Worth County	Curt Nelson	cnelson@omnitelcom.com	641-696-5600
1-3	SE Clayton County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
1-5	Andalusia/Buffalo	Kelly McKay	Kellyjmckay@aol.com	309-235-4661
1-5	Neal Smith NWR	Karen Viste-Sparkman	k.vistesparkman@mchsi.com	515-556-7936
1-5	Carroll	Matt Wetrich	matt@naturebymatt.com	641-919-6061

2012 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. Of course, all categories are optional. Contributed totals should be accurate as of December 31, 2012, and should adhere to the standards of the official Iowa State List (accidentals and casuals should have Records Committee acceptance). Return to: Paul Hertzell, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 or send email to: phertzell@rconnect.com

Name: _____

E-mail or postal address: _____

County of residence: _____

Iowa State Life List Total: _____ Personally Found by Me in Iowa: _____

Iowa 2012 Annual List Total: _____ (Total species seen in Iowa during 2012) Yardlist Total: _____

Regional or Statewide Big Day* Totals:	Region	Date	Species	Names of Participants
Example:	Dickinson Co	16 May 10	131	Ed Thelen, Lee Schoenewe

*Record totals should be accompanied by the species list.

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

Iowa Ornithologists' Union
1201 High Avenue West
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

[Address Service Requested]

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

IOU News

CONTENTS

IOWA YOUNG BIRDERS	1-2
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	2
IOU SOUTHERN WINGS.....	3
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS ONLINE AUCTION.....	3
RECORDS COMMITTEE UPDATE	3
IOU CONNECTED	4-5
SPRING MEETING PREVIEW	5
CBC DATES	6
LISTING FORM	7

