

IOU News

Winter 2013



Volume 29 - Number 4



Fall IOU Meeting Wrap-up

Clinton, Oct 11-13, 2013

90 people attended the 2013 IOU Fall Meeting that was held October 11-13 in the Clinton area. The Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center served as our base of operations for the weekend. Situated within Rock Creek Marina and Campground south of Camanche, it proved to be a perfect location for hosting our group. It's a beautiful facility, with plenty of space and an eye-catching 8,000 gallon aquarium. The wooded campgrounds provided easy birding opportunities, but the highlight for many was the use of the Blue Heron pontoon boat. The 24-passenger pontoon made several excursions along the backwaters and onto the big river itself. A huge "thank you" to Clinton County Conservation for allowing use of the boat and especially to "Captain" Mark Roberts.

The meeting kicked off Friday evening with check-in and an opportunity to socialize. Chuck Jacobsen is a Clinton County Conservation naturalist and had a dynamite PowerPoint presentation of Mississippi River birds and scenery set to live acoustic music. His performance was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

After an early breakfast Saturday morning, it was time to go birding. The government shutdown restricted access to a few planned stops, but wasn't a big hindrance. Field trip options included: Rock Creek Park (w/pontoon); Princeton Marsh, Eagle Point Park; Lost Mound Unit; Lock and Dam 13 and Thomsen causeway. Others visited areas along the Wapsipinicon River and Goose Lake. Carl Bendorf led an Iowa Young Birder's outing around the Rock Creek Park campground. One of the IYB participants, Walt Wagner-Hecht, sold notecards during the afternoon to help defray the cost of his upcoming trip to Costa Rica. It appeared to be well supported by our members.

After lunch, Stephanie Shepherd from Iowa DNR got



our afternoon session started with a presentation on a recent volunteer initiative from the DNR for monitoring bird populations. The Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program, coordinated by the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program, trains citizen volunteers to monitor Bald Eagle and other Raptor nests and Colonial Waterbird rookeries. Stephanie gave an overview of the training involved and shared some early results. The raptor monitoring has been successful, but there hasn't been much data returned on the waterbirds. She's working on changes to increase the results for those species.

Derek Lovitch followed with a program that recounted his journey to the Russian Far East in search of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, one of the most sought after birds in the world. After seeing a few of this critically endangered species on its wintering grounds in Thailand, Derek was determined to see them on their nesting grounds in Kamchatka. Through contacts from his role as a WINGS tour guide, Derek was given that opportunity. His (well, mostly Jeanette's) photos and videos took us from the seabird cliffs of the Commander Islands through the spectacular landscapes of the Kamchatka Peninsula. Brown Bears, Walrus, Stellar's Fish Eagles and much more made for a fascinating travelogue. And yes, there was an encounter with nesting Spoon-billeds. An uneventful general business meeting closed out the session.

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 259 members.

(Continued from page 1)

After the banquet, the nine first-time attendees were recognized. Since the afternoon session had run long, Kelly McKay led off the evening session with his description of the first ever completed full Christmas Bird Count Marathon (doing a full count during each of the 23-day count period). He began with a brief overview of the CBC Program and what led to him to doing a full marathon. Kelly described each of the 23 counts that made up the marathon, including a summary of the species he encountered on each count. The logistics of getting to counts from central Iowa to southern Illinois to central Wisconsin were mind boggling. Factor in the weather challenges and it was definitely extreme birding!

Derek Lovitch's keynote address was titled "How To Be A Better Birder". Using the Sandy Point (Yarmouth, Maine) Morning Flight phenomenon as a case study, Derek shared tips and takeaways for birders of all levels who want to improve their birding skills. He talked about how we should use geography, weather, and habitat to understand how to maximize our time in the field and challenge ourselves to improve our identification skills. He ended by giving us an introduction to birding by NEXRAD Radar. He logged into a site and showed us in real-time a big movement of migrants through eastern Iowa at that very moment. It definitely got us pumped to get out in the field on Sunday.

There was a generous response to John McCecil's request for silent auction items and we raised over \$350. Copies of Derek's "How To Be A Better Birder" book had been made available to IOU by Princeton Press at a 40% discount, with the profits going to IOU. Derek graciously signed them for folks after the meeting.

Meeting Attendees

Danny Akers Ankeny IA	Diane Dentlinger Des Moines IA
Mike Becker Cedar Rapids IA	Drew Dillman Iowa City IA
Carl Bendorf Solon IA	Stephen Dinsmore Ames IA
Linda Bendorf Solon IA	Karen Disbrow Iowa City IA
John Bissell Grimes IA	Rose Dooley Evansdale IA
Linda Boardsen Clinton IA	Keith Dyche Shenandoah IA
Joyce Burch Des Moines IA	Ed Freese Adel IA
Mark Carson Cambridge IA	Jan Freese Adel IA
Brandon Caswell Cedar Rapids IA	Jay Gilliam Norwalk IA
Jane Clark Clive IA	Tyler Harms Ames IA
Jim Clark Clive IA	Doug Harr Ogden IA
Ray Cummins Ankeny IA	Gwyn Hartley Fairfield IA
Julia Dale Wapello IA	Scott Hartley Fairfield IA
Marilyn Davis Moline IL	Mary Jo Hartogh Elma IA
Mitchell Davis Moline IL	Doug Hunt Oskaloosa IA
Gerald Denning Iowa City IA	Mary Beth Hunt Oskaloosa IA

Sunday morning brought a repeat of the field trip options. The noon compilation determined that the group had totaled 143 species for the weekend. That's quite a count for the second week of October. Highlights included:

- Gray Partridge
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon
- Sandhill Crane
- Shrike sp.
- Yellow-throated Vireo (late)
- 16 species of waterfowl (including American Black Duck)
- Neotropic Cormorant – (up to 4 birds seen a couple of times on a wetland north of the Tourism Center)
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- 11 species of warblers – (Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's)
- Philadelphia Vireo (late)
- Veery (late)
- Gray-cheeked Thrush (late)
- 13 species of sparrows
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Many thanks to the fine folks from Clinton County Conservation for their help and hospitality during the weekend. They have every right to be proud of their Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. Eric Ollie and Kelly McKay did a great job scouting and organizing the field trips. Thanks also to Danny Akers, Linda Boardsen and Mary Lou Peterson for leading trips. The speakers were top-notch. Mr. President, Paul Roisen, did another fantastic job in making this a big success. Thanks also to Tom Schilke for getting the ball rolling. Great weather, great location, great birds, and great people made for a great time.

Our 2014 spring meeting will be held jointly with the Nebraska Ornithologist's Union on May 16-18 at Fontanelle Forest in Bellevue, Nebraska. It should be a lot of fun, so mark it on your calendars.

IOU News Electronic Delivery

If you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter which arrived in your mailbox, please read the following and take the appropriate action!

Beginning with the next issue of IOU News, the newsletter becomes strictly an online publication which readers may print on their home printer if desired. All members will be set to read it electronically and availability of a new issue will be announced on the listserv. We recognize, however, that for a few members this is not a viable option and a printed copy will be mailed to you upon request. This year's membership renewal form has a checkbox to make this request so pay special attention (even if you are a life member and generally do not return the form)! You may also make this change yourself by updating your on-line profile or request assistance from Pam Allen, Membership Coordinator.

At the current time we believe we can fulfill these requests for mailed copies through our regular budget, but that may necessarily change in the future. We are hopeful that this small reallocation of resources will allow the IOU to expand or at least maintain other critical organizational activities.

Ann Johnson, Chair, IOU Publications Committee

James Huntington Iowa City IA
 Stuart Huntington Ames IA
 Virginia Huntington Ames IA
 Ann Johnson Norwalk IA
 Thomas Johnson Mystic IA
 Cathy Konrad Bettendorf IA
 David Lesan Elkhart IA
 Rick Louton San Francisco CA
 Derek Lovitch Freeport ME
 John McCecil Des Moines IA
 Brad McConville Centerville IA
 Dewey McConville Centerville IA
 Marita McGurk Iowa City IA
 Ramona McGurk Iowa City IA
 Kelly McKay Hampton IL
 Kristen McNutt Cedar Falls IA

Jody Millar Le Claire IA
 Francis Moore Waterloo IA
 Kevin Murphy Ames IA
 Kathy Myers Des Moines IA
 Art Ollie Clinton IA
 Eric Ollie Ames IA
 Joyce Ollie Clinton IA
 Shane Patterson Ames IA
 Mary Lou Peterson Bettendorf IA
 Bruce Plakke Cedar Falls IA
 Linda Plakke Cedar Falls IA
 Mark Proescholdt Liscomb IA
 Paul Roisen Sioux City IA
 John Rutenbeck Burlington IA
 Barbara Sanders Cedar Falls IA
 Nicole Sanders Iowa City IA

Richard Sayles Blue Grass IA
 Tom Schilke Waterloo IA
 Paul Skrade Galesburg IL
 Nancy Slife Iowa Falls IA
 Anne Sloth Cedar Falls IA
 Sharon Somers North Liberty IA
 Stuart Sparkman Des Moines IA
 Michael Stark Marion IA
 Matt Stephenson Cedar Rapids IA
 Walt Stephenson Cedar Rapids IA
 Tom Stone Waterloo IA
 Tommy Stone Evansdale IA
 Gerry Tetrault Coralville IA
 Richard Tetrault Coralville IA
 Cecille Thompson Johnston IA
 Dennis Thompson Johnston IA

Richard Trieff Indianola IA
 Karen Viste-Sparkman
 Des Moines IA
 Christine Wagner-Hecht
 Cedar Rapids IA
 Walt Wagner-Hecht
 Cedar Rapids IA
 Cathy White Moline IL
 Gerald White Muscatine IA
 JoAnn Whitmore Moline IL
 Charles Winterwood Dubuque IA
 Gretel Winterwood Dubuque IA
 Hank Zaletel Nevada IA

Fall Meeting - Clinton 2013 Bird List

Canada Goose	Killdeer
Trumpeter Swan	Greater Yellowlegs
Wood Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs
Gadwall	Spotted Sandpiper
American Wigeon	Long-billed Dowitcher
American Black Duck	Wilson's Snipe
Mallard	Franklin's Gull
Blue-winged Teal	Bonaparte's Gull
Northern Shoveler	Ring-billed Gull
Northern Pintail	Herring Gull
Green-winged Teal	Caspian Tern
Canvasback	Rock Pigeon
Ring-necked Duck	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Bufflehead	Mourning Dove
Hooded Merganser	Great Horned Owl
Ruddy Duck	Barred Owl
Gray Partridge	Chimney Swift
Ring-necked Pheasant	Belted Kingfisher
Wild Turkey	Red-headed Woodpecker
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker
American White Pelican	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Neotropic Cormorant	Downy Woodpecker
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker
Great Egret	Pileated Woodpecker
Cattle Egret	Eastern Phoebe
Green Heron	Shrike sp.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Yellow-throated Vireo
White-faced Ibis	Blue-headed Vireo
Turkey Vulture	Philadelphia Vireo
Bald Eagle	Red-eyed Vireo
Northern Harrier	Blue Jay
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow
Cooper's Hawk	Horned Lark
Red-shouldered Hawk	Tree Swallow
Broad-winged Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Red-tailed Hawk	Cliff Swallow
American Kestrel	Barn Swallow
Merlin	Black-capped Chickadee
Peregrine Falcon	Tufted Titmouse
Sora	White-breasted Nuthatch
American Coot	Brown Creeper



Carolina Wren	Chipping Sparrow
House Wren	Field Sparrow
Winter Wren	Vesper Sparrow
Sedge Wren	Savannah Sparrow
Marsh Wren	Le Conte's Sparrow
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Nelson's Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Fox Sparrow
Eastern Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Veery	Lincoln's Sparrow
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Swamp Sparrow
Hermit Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
American Robin	White-crowned Sparrow
Gray Catbird	Dark-eyed Junco
Brown Thrasher	Northern Cardinal
European Starling	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
American Pipit	Indigo Bunting
Cedar Waxwing	Dickcissel
Tennessee Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Orange-crowned Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Nashville Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Common Grackle
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Purple Finch
Black-throated Green Warbler	House Finch
Blackburnian Warbler	Pine Siskin
Palm Warbler	American Goldfinch
Common Yellowthroat	House Sparrow
Wilson's Warbler	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Scarlet Tanager	
Eastern Towhee	



Report of the Library/ Historical Committee September, 2013

Tim Schantz was an Iowa birder, a member of the IOU and the Iowa Records Committee before leaving for Alaska and success as a tour guide. He died suddenly in May of 2001. His family has established an annual scholarship in his name to provide an aspiring ornithology student an opportunity to participate in one of Tim's passions - the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in Homer, Alaska. (Source: IOU Website)

Tim Schantz – Iowa Bird Life 71:103-105:
<http://www.iowabirds.org/Extras/Documents/TimSchantz.pdf>

The Schantz family has provided Tim's Iowa birding records for inclusion in the IOU archive. The records include his listing of Iowa birds seen by county and date, 35 mm slides of Iowa birds, and a number of completed documentation forms of rare birds seen in Iowa.

At the fall IOU meeting, Karen Disbrow of Iowa City gave a box of material for the IOU archive at ISU Special Collections in Ames. The material was from Jim Sandrock of Iowa City. He had been an editor of the first Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas book. The material was correspondence between himself and the co-authors and drafts and revisions of species accounts.

IOU members desiring to serve on the Library/Historical Committee should contact Hank Zaletel at madowl@midioawa.net.

The IOU Archive is located at the Special Collections Department at Iowa State University. The Department is located in Room 403 of Parks Library. Please view the campus map for directions to the University Library.

Special Collections is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., or by special appointment.

Contact information:

Email: archives@iastate.edu

Phone: (515) 294-6672

Fax: (515) 294-3186



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). Also, please check to make sure that your membership profile is up to date including e-mail address. The URL is: <http://iowabirds.org/IOU/PayDues.aspx>. This year especially you should also pay special attention to the newsletter delivery checkbox (see article in this issue).

Our organization can only continue to provide excellent publications 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

2013 Christmas Bird Counts

Count Date	Count Name	Compiler	Email Address	Phone
12-14	Burlington	Chuck Fuller	cfuller989@aol.com	319-750-0872
12-14	Waterloo/Cedar Falls	Francis Moore	flmoore@forbin.net	319-269-0741
12-14	Ames	Shane Patterson	shane7896@yahoo.com	515-232-4682
12-1 4	Cedar Rapids	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-14	Red Rock	Tyler Harms	harmsy@iastate.edu	515-320-4975
12-14	Spirit Lake	Lee Schoenewe	lschoe@smunet.net	712-262-8194
12-14	Rathbun	Michael Stephens		641-437-1736
12-14	Cedar Rapids	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-14	Shenandoah	Keith Dyche	kadd27@hotmail.com	712-246-9517
12-15	Bremer County	Francis Moore	flmoore@forbin.net	319-269-0741
12-1 5	Desoto NWR	Jerry Toll	geritol48@cox.net	402-312-1635
12-15	Saylorville	Stephen Dinsmore	cootjr@iastate.edu	515-450-8805
12-15	Lamoni	Jeff Livingston	jeffandjenia@hotmail.com	641-784-8874
12-15	Iowa City	Chris Edwards	credwards@aol.com	319-430-4732
12-16	Keokuk	John Cecil	jcecil01@gmail.com	515-249-5668
12-21	Mason City	Rita Goranson	ritag@mchsi.com	641-423-1699
12-21	Sioux City	Jerry Probst	probstseebee@aol.com	712-258-1296
12-21	Des Moines	Dennis Thompson	cndthomps@acm.org	
12-2	Ida County	Don Poggensee	donpog@netllc.net	712-364-3491
12-23	Buchanan County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
12-23	Eldora-Union	Mark Proescholdt		641-496-5219
12-23	Decorah	Larry Reis	naturalist@winneshiekwild.com	
12-28	North Linn	James Durbin	bugmugger187@gmail.com	319-721-1593
12-28	Grinnell	Robert Van Ervelde	crvanersvelde@iowatelecom.net	641-990-0626
12-28	Taylor County	Corey Lange	coreyjlange@gmail.com	
12-28	Dubuque	Charles Winterwood	cwinterwood@yahoo.com	563-588-2783
12-29	Humboldt County	Jacob Newton	newtja84@gmail.com	
12-30	Yellow River	Larry Reis	naturalist@winneshiekwild.com	
1-1	Worth County	Curt Nelson	cnelson@omnitelcom.com	641-696-5600
1-2	NW Clayton County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
1-3	Union Slough	Tyler Harms	harmsy@iastate.edu	515-320-4975
1-3	SE Clayton County	Danny Akers	birdmandan1231@hotmail.com	563-880-4270
1-4	Neal Smith NWR	Karen Viste-Sparkman	k.vistesparkman@mchsi.com	515-556-7936

2013 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, 2013, 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: phertzel@rconnect.com

Name: _____

E-mail or postal address: _____

County of residence: _____

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

Iowa 2013 Annual List Total: _____ (Total species seen in Iowa during 2013) 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

FALL MEETING WRAP UP	1-4
LIBRARY/HISTORICAL REPORT	5
2013 CBC DATES.....	6
2013 LISTING FORM.....	7

