

IOU News

Spring 2008

Volume 24 Number 1



Blue-winged Warbler and Ovenbird, Photos by Jay Gilliam

Spring Meeting in Oskaloosa

By Paul Roisen

The Iowa Ornithologists Union Spring Meeting will be held May 9-11 at Bradbury Hall. Bradbury Hall is located on the historic Nelson Pioneer Farm, located about 4 miles northeast of Oskaloosa. Founded in 1844, the Nelson homestead is one of the premier historic attractions in Mahaska County. The property, maintained by the Mahaska County Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit, educational institution, now features historic buildings from all over Mahaska County, providing visitors a glimpse of what life was like for Iowans in 19th century America. The Nelson home, built in 1853, and the Nelson barn, built in 1856, are the focal point of the museum and are designated National Historic Sites by the U.S. Department of Interior.

The spring dates should allow us to catch migration close to its peak in areas such as Peter's Wildlife Area, Ever-Tru Wildlife Area, Millgrove Access Wildlife Area, Eveland Access Wildlife Area, Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area, Maskunky Marsh, Belva Deer Wildlife Area, White Oak Wildlife Area, and Lake Red Rock.

Doug and Mary Beth Hunt are hard at work preparing things for our birding enjoyment. Field trips will be conducted on both Saturday and Sunday to the various wetlands, prairies and woodlands in the Oskaloosa area.

IOU News

is a quarterly publication of the
Iowa Ornithologists' Union

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IOU News deadlines:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring	Mar 1—May 31	Feb 20
Summer	Jun 1—Jul 31	May 20
Fall	Aug 1—Nov 30	July 20
Winter	Dec 1—Feb 28	Nov 20

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

Or: Doug Hunt
1201 High Avenue W
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
birders@mahaska.org

IOU Journal: Iowa Bird Life
Kayleen Niyo, Editor

Calendar of Events

April 26: Wings of Spring
Festival, West Alton, MO

May 2-4: Audubon Society
of Missouri Spring
Meeting, Chillicothe, MO

May 9-11: IOU Spring
Meeting

May 10-11: NW Iowa
Wings & Wetlands Festival

May 16-18: Chequamegon
Bay Birding & Nature
Festival, WI

May 31-June 1: Washing-
ton Island Birding Festival,
WI

June 4-8: Potholes & Prai-
ries Birding Festival, ND

June 20-21: Burke County
Birding Festival, ND

Slate of Officers selected by Nominations Committee to be voted on at Spring Meeting

Nominee	Position	To replace
Cathy Konrad	Secretary	Bob Cecil
Doug Hunt	Treasurer	Tammy Hertzelt
John Bissell	Board At-large	John Bissell (2nd terms are allowed)
Tom Schilke	Board At-large	Tim Humpal
Ken Lowder	Board At-large	Carolyn Fischer

Spring Meeting Schedule

Friday, May 9

6-9 pm: Registration

Social time with snacks

Field trip signup

Saturday, May 10

6-6:50: Breakfast

7 am—1 pm: Field Trips

1:15-2:15: "Note-taking While Birding"

IOU Records Committee presentation

2:15-3:30: IOU General Business Meeting

Update on Iowa BBA2 project by Stephen Dinsmore

3:45-4:00: Introduction of new IOU members

4-5: IOU Board Meeting

6-7: Saturday Evening Banquet

7-8: Keynote Speaker, Dr. David Lambeth

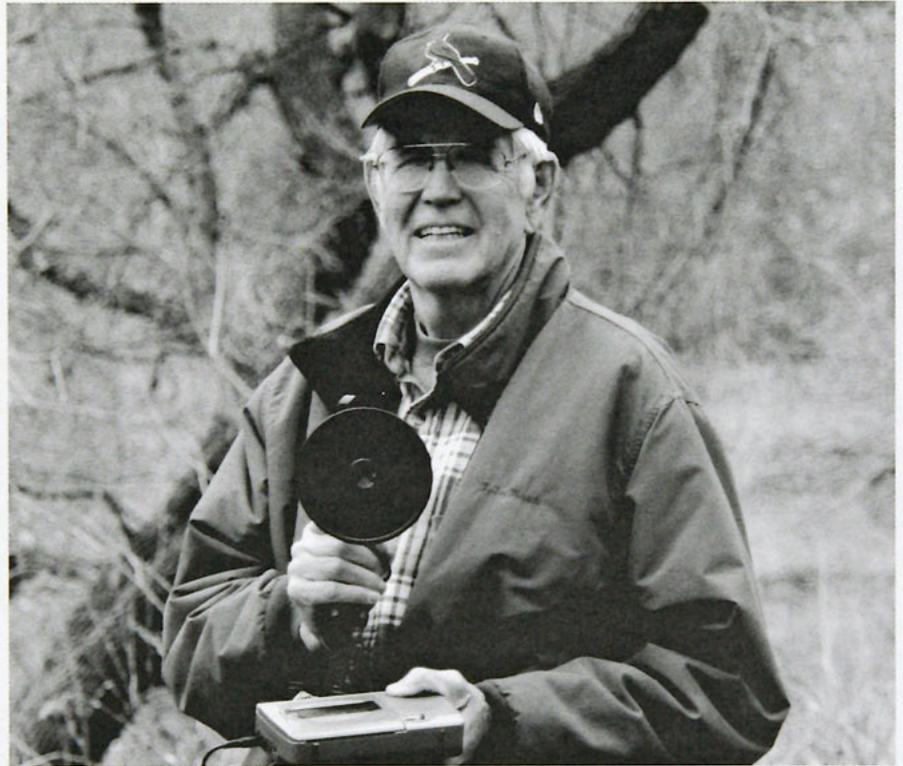
Sunday, May 11

6-6:50: Breakfast

7 am-12 pm: Field Trips

12 pm: Lunch and Final Compilation

Lunch will be in the field **Saturday** allowing field trip groups to stay out somewhat longer than usual. We plan to be back for the afternoon program which will begin around 1:15P.M.



Keynote Speaker:

Dr. David Lambeth

Potholes and Prairie Birding Expert

Dr. David Lambeth of the University of North Dakota will be our banquet speaker. Dr. Lambeth has been an active birder since 1969 and has a great interest in photographing birds. He was the seasonal reports compiler for 17 years in North Dakota as well as serving 10 years as a regional editor for seasonal reports for the Northern Great Plains region for *American Birds*. His promotion of birding includes founding the Grand Cities Bird Club, giving bird presentations, leading field trips at birding festivals, as well as teaching at least one bird identification course each year.

His primary interest lies in prairie species and he has studied the distribution and seasonal calling activity of Yellow Rails in Grand Forks County. In 2005 he was a volunteer searcher for Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas. This photo shows Dr. Lambeth holding playback equipment that he used while surveying of Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Pileated Woodpeckers in the Sheyenne National Grasslands (which isn't just grass!!). The banquet presentation will focus on North Dakota birds with an emphasis on those species found in the potholes and prairies.

Lodging***

Recommended Motel

America's Best Value Inn Phone: 641-673-8351
1315 A Avenue E
Oskaloosa, IA

Directions: Hwy 92-- on left .8 miles past intersection of Hwy 92 (A Avenue and Hwy 63 (N. Market)

Rates: \$53.75-63.75. You must call them and tell them you are with IOU.

The Inn serves a breakfast of waffles, cereals, fruit, pastries, beverages if you are not planning on eating at Bradbury Hall. They have agreed to open a little early so you may eat and still arrive in time for the field trips.

Other area Motels:

Budget Inn 641-673-8333 (mainly smoking rooms).
Comfort Inn 641-672-0375
McNeil Stone Mansion (B&B) 641-673-4348
Red Carpet Inn 641-673-8641
Super 8 Motel 641-673-8351; 1-800-800-8000

Cabins: A great deal!

Eveland Access Luxury Cabins owned by the County Conservation Board

Reservations and questions: MCCB at 641-6739327

\$65.00--min. 2 nights

First night due at booking; \$100 refundable damage deposit due at check-in

- *2 Bedrooms with queen beds
- *Fold-out queen sofa bed
- *Bathroom with shower
- *Full kitchen: stove, micro, refrigerator, coffee pt, pots, pans, etc.
- *TV and DVD player
- *Internet Access
- * Toilet tissue, cleaning supplies, garbage bags are supplied
- *Guests bring sheets and towels

Camping:

Lake Keomah State Park : 641-673-6975

Mahaska County Conservation Board areas (Eveland Access): 641-673-9327

***The sooner you register for lodging the better especially if you wish NON-Smoking rooms.

REGISTRATION

On-line registration should be done by using the following link::

http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/current_meeting.asp

Make all checks out to Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU)

Mail to: Paul Roisen
4420 3rd Ave.
Sioux City, IA 51106-2902

Mail-in registration:

Spring 2008 IOU Meeting REGISTRATION FORM

Copy, fill out, and mail--don't forget your check.

Name(s) _____

(FIRST and LAST names of ALL persons registering on this form)

Address _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Registration		No. of Persons	Total Cost
	\$12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Meals			
Sat. Breakfast:	\$ 6.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sat. Box lunch:	\$ 8.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sat. Banquet:	\$12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sun. Breakfast:	\$ 6.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sun. Lunch:	\$ 8.00	x _____	= \$ _____

Meatless Option? _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Breakfasts will include eggs, meat, rolls, drink (slightly different each day)

Box Lunch (Sat.) 6 inch sub, sides, and drink (pick it up BEFORE you leave on field trip.

Banquet meal--two entrees, veggie, salad, dessert and drink.

Lunch SUNDAY--Soup, salad, and sandwich bar with drink.

Silcock rejoins IOU Records Committee

By Ann Johnson

The Iowa Records Committee welcomes back Ross Silcock – scholar turned pig farmer turned insurance agent. Ross lives in Tabor in the far southwest in Fremont County. Before he discovered the state of Nebraska, Ross was actively involved in analyzing species status in Iowa. An original Records Committee member and instigator in the creation of said committee in the early 80s, Ross has reviewed numerous records for our state over the years. This transplanted Kiwi was President of the IOU from 1981 - 1983 and has also served a couple of term of the Board of Directors. Well known for asking tough questions and providing well-reasoned answers, Ross is a welcome addition to the Iowa committee. To learn more about him, read the "Meet An Iowa Birder" article at <http://library.iowabirds.org/issues/ibl-1987-2.pdf>.

Ross replaces Mike Overton on the committee. Mike graciously agreed to finish two separate terms of members who resigned. Although he is now living in Texas, Mike has been a valuable contributor to the work of the committee. Thanks Mike and we hope to someday have you back in the state.

Photo by Steve Dinsmore



What's your most memorable view?

Suggested by Bob Cecil and Bill Scheible

IOU members are invited to share their lists of "best birds seen in a single view" with the editors. Here are a few already submitted:

"A Worm-Eating Warbler under the same bush as a Prairie Warbler and an Ovenbird at the Croton Unit" - Bob Cecil

"Surf Scoter and Collared Plover" - Bob Cecil in Tamaulipas, Mexico with Steve Dinsmore

"My life Black-Throated Sparrow at the base of a small shrub, at the top of which perched a Willet." - Bill Scheible, at Malheur NWR, Oregon

**2007 Big Day totals will be printed in
the
Summer issue of IOU News**

2008 IOU Bigby Competition!

What is a "bigby"? It stands for "Big Green Big Year," and is a friendly competition to count the most birds without any use of fossil fuels. The worldwide bigby movement is organized online at www.sparrowworks.ca/bigby.html.

Why do a bigby? Two great reasons stand out. First, it's a great way to reduce the guilt of burning up a tank of gas to chase a rare bird on the other side of the state. Perhaps just as importantly, it's a great motivation to get out and explore your local area on foot, bike, or by public transportation. If you live near water, you can haul out your canoe or kayak for some hydro-bigbying. Or perhaps some IOU members living on the state's coasts will try some river-bluff hang-gliding for their aero-bigby list!

Birding and listing doesn't have to mean giving your odometer a workout. The best reason of all to do a bigby in 2008 is to reduce your use of fossil fuels while birding. If we all commit to bigbying, we may end up seeing even more birds in our cleaner skies!

Look for the 2008 Bigbies in next year's listing summary.

2007 Listing Totals – Paul Hertzel

2007 was a remarkable year for Iowa birders who keep track of their sightings. When people with state lists over 340 are able to add 10 or 12 more species to their lists, you know it had to be an exceptional year. The 2007 fall season was particularly eventful, with three species new to Iowa, one 2nd-state record, one 3rd-state record, four other accidental species, plus six casual species. And there were 14 other accidentals and casuals found during the other three seasons. Paul Roisen added the most species to his list, 27, and Jeff Livingston added 24.

<p>Iowa State Life Lists</p> <p>386 Tom Kent 382 Jim Fuller 377 Reid & Pam Allen 372 Stephen Dinsmore, Mark Proescholdt 371 Ann Johnson 370 Chuck Fuller 365 Jim Sinclair 364 Pete Wickham, Jim Scheib 354 John Ruttenbeck 353 Chris Edwards 350 Jim Dinsmore, Aaron Brees 348 Jay Gilliam 346 Chris Caster 339 Carolyn Fischer 338 Rita Goranson 330 Lee Schoenewe, Bill Scheible 327 Paul Hertzel 325 Paul Roisen 319 Ric Zarwell 315 Dale Fye, Mike Stephens 311 Ed Thelen 297 John Bissell 293 Gerald Von Ehwegen 283 Jeff Livingston, Keith Dyche 274 Nathan Miller 273 Marty Thelen 267 Suzanne Brown 248 Vick Stephens 244 Karen Viste-Sparkman 229 Harley Winfrey 86 Josh Obrecht</p>	<p>For the third consecutive year, Jay Gilliam topped the Annual List, that is, species seen during the calendar year. Not only is he the <i>IOU News Top Birder for 2007</i>, but he now holds the record for the most species seen in any calendar year in the state of Iowa, 320. Congratulations Jay! Many of Jay's sightings were photographed, and all casuals and accidentals were documented, and passed Records Committee Review. This will be a tough mark to surpass.</p> <p>2007 Annual Lists</p> <p>320 Jay Gilliam 303 Stephen Dinsmore 297 John Ruttenbeck 291 Aaron Brees 290 Paul Roisen 286 Pam & Reid Allen 276 Keith Dyche 269 Mark Proescholdt 258 Mike Stephens 256 Chris Caster 252 Ray Cummins 248 Rita Goranson 246 Chris Edwards 244 Nathan Miller 241 Jeff Livingston 237 Paul Hertzel, John Bissell 228 Gerald Von Ehwegen 227 Suzanne Brown, Harley Winfrey 226 Karen Viste-Sparkman 210 Tucker Lutter 149 Dale Fye</p>	<p>County lists come in two varieties; there are annual county lists (County Big Year) and lifetime county lists. In 2007, three people reported annual totals for their counties. As far as we know, all three establish records for those counties.</p> <p>County Big Years</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2007 Polk County</td> <td>261</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aaron Brees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007 Appanoose County</td> <td>221</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ray Cummins</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007 Decatur County</td> <td>209</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Livingston</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	2007 Polk County	261	Aaron Brees		2007 Appanoose County	221	Ray Cummins		2007 Decatur County	209	Jeff Livingston	
2007 Polk County	261													
Aaron Brees														
2007 Appanoose County	221													
Ray Cummins														
2007 Decatur County	209													
Jeff Livingston														
<p>39 of the species on my own state list were birds found by others. A <i>personally found</i> bird is a bird found by a birder without prior knowledge of recent birds or recurring birds of that species at that site. Steve Dinsmore leads Iowa's Personally Found List, with an incredible 342 species.</p> <p>Iowa Personally Found List</p> <p>342 Stephen Dinsmore 326 Jim Fuller 321 Ray Cummins 311 Lee Schoenewe 308 Mark Proescholdt, Aaron Brees 306 Jay Gilliam 305 Pam & Reid Allen 295 Matt Kenne 291 Rita Goranson 276 Carolyn Fischer 268 Nathan Miller 256 Keith Dyche 215 Harley Winfrey</p>	<p>Some birders keep track of the birds they have seen locally. The IOU has traditionally published county information, and yard lists, but thus far has not had requests to publish municipal information. If birders keep track of city lists, it might be an interesting new category. I wonder how many species have been seen in Liscomb, Iowa.</p> <p>Yard Lists</p> <p>208 Jim Fuller (Johnson Co) 189 Carolyn Fischer (Cerro Gordo Co) 185 Ed Thelen (Dickinson Co) 184 Ann Johnson (Warren Co) 184 Rita Goranson (Cerro Gordo Co) 177 Matt Kenne (Kossuth Co) 175 Lee Schoenewe (Clay Co) 175 Ric Zarwell (Allamakee Co) 146 Mark Proescholdt (Marshall Co) 125 Stephen Dinsmore (Story Co) 108 Dale Fye (Linn Co) 107 Chris Edwards (Johnson Co) 102 Jay Gilliam (Warren Co) 102 Harley Winfrey (Boone Co) 97 Reid & Pam Allen (Dallas Co) 88 John Bissell (Polk Co) 87 Karen Viste-Sparkman (Polk Co) 69 Suzanne Brown (Black Hawk)</p>													

Lifetime County Lists are printed below, with totals ranked for each county. Steve Dinsmore is the first IOU member to report a total of more than 100 species for every one of Iowa's 99 counties. He now ranks first in 33 of the 99 counties. Mark Proescholdt is second with the top spot in 15 of Iowa's counties.

Some Top County Lists

322 Stephen Dinsmore, *Polk*
 319 Jim Fuller, *Johnson*
 318 Tom Kent, *Johnson*
 309 Pam & Reid Allen, *Polk*
 299 Chris Edwards, *Johnson*
 299 Carolyn Fischer, *Cerro Gordo*
 297 Aaron Brees, *Polk*
 293 Rita Goranson, *Cerro Gordo*
 292 Ray Cummins, *Appanoose*
 291 Jay Gilliam, *Polk*
 291 Jerry Probst, *Woodbury*
 291 Lee Schoenewe, *Clay*
 290 Chuck Fuller, *Des Moines*
 289 Ed Thelen, *Dickinson*

Adair

117 Stephen Dinsmore
 115 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt
 14 Dale Fye
 11 Paul Roisen

Adams

125 Stephen Dinsmore
 102 Reid & Pam Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt

Allamakee

279 Ric Zarwell
 172 Ray Cummins
 183 Mark Proescholdt
 170 Rita Goranson
 164 Chris Edwards
 153 Stephen Dinsmore
 121 Pam & Reid Allen
 9 Josh Obrecht

Appanoose

292 Ray Cummins
 277 Mike Stephens
 213 Stephen Dinsmore
 204 Aaron Brees
 186 Reid & Pam Allen
 168 Mark Proescholdt
 143 Jay Gilliam
 76 Chris Edwards
 61 Paul Roisen
 27 Dale Fye

Audubon

117 Stephen Dinsmore
 103 Pam & Reid Allen
 53 Mark Proescholdt

Benton

179 Mark Proescholdt
 131 Chris Edwards
 101 Stephen Dinsmore
 80 Dale Fye
 63 Reid & Pam Allen
 42 Paul Roisen

Black Hawk

221 Mary Lou Petersen
 167 Mark Proescholdt
 131 Stephen Dinsmore
 120 Ray Cummins
 89 Dale Fye
 64 Pam & Reid Allen
 54 Chris Edwards
 19 Paul Roisen

Boone

255 Stephen Dinsmore
 249 Jim Dinsmore
 233 Mark Proescholdt
 224 Reid & Pam Allen
 179 Harley Winfrey
 101 Chris Edwards
 53 Paul Roisen
 28 Dale Fye
 6 Josh Obrecht

Bremer

169 Mark Proescholdt
 151 Ray Cummins
 111 Stephen Dinsmore
 82 Pam & Reid Allen
 22 Dale Fye

Buchanan

160 Mark Proescholdt
 142 Stephen Dinsmore
 55 Reid & Pam Allen
 19 Dale Fye
 7 Paul Roisen

Buena Vista

133 Lee Schoenewe
 129 Stephen Dinsmore
 78 Pam & Reid Allen
 71 Mark Proescholdt
 15 Dale Fye

Butler

213 Mark Proescholdt
 142 Stephen Dinsmore
 82 Reid & Pam Allen
 8 Paul Roisen

Calhoun

159 Mark Proescholdt
 155 Stephen Dinsmore
 121 Pam & Reid Allen
 16 Paul Roisen
 15 Dale Fye

Carroll

205 Marty Thelen
 171 Stephen Dinsmore
 165 Reid & Pam Allen
 158 Jim Dinsmore
 154 Mark Proescholdt
 42 Paul Roisen

Cass

145 Pam & Reid Allen
 114 Stephen Dinsmore
 51 Mark Proescholdt
 19 Paul Roisen

Cedar

134 Chris Edwards
 104 Stephen Dinsmore
 79 Dale Fye
 64 Reid & Pam Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt
 14 Paul Roisen

Cerro Gordo

299 Carolyn Fischer
 293 Rita Goranson
 280 Paul Hertzell
 205 Mark Proescholdt
 188 Stephen Dinsmore
 172 Pam & Reid Allen
 171 Jim Dinsmore
 161 Paul Roisen
 91 Dale Fye

Cherokee

264 Dick Bierman
 107 Stephen Dinsmore
 72 Paul Roisen
 67 Reid & Pam Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt

Chickasaw

103 Stephen Dinsmore
 60 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt
 21 Dale Fye

Clarke

108 Stephen Dinsmore
 102 Reid & Pam Allen
 82 Dale Fye
 58 Mark Proescholdt

Clay

291 Lee Schoenewe
 185 Stephen Dinsmore
 163 Jim Dinsmore
 118 Paul Roisen
 100 Pam & Reid Allen
 76 Mark Proescholdt

Clayton

209 Danny Akers
 116 Stephen Dinsmore
 91 Chris Edwards
 89 Mark Proescholdt
 70 Reid & Pam Allen
 33 Paul Roisen

Clinton

208 Mary Lou Petersen
 136 Stephen Dinsmore
 127 Pam & Reid Allen
 91 Chris Edwards
 55 Mark Proescholdt

Crawford

119 Stephen Dinsmore
 74 Reid & Pam Allen
 56 Mark Proescholdt
 3 Paul Roisen

Dallas

233 Pam & Reid Allen
 189 Stephen Dinsmore
 172 Ray Cummins
 166 Mark Proescholdt
 158 Jim Dinsmore
 57 Paul Roisen
 47 Harley Winfrey

Davis

109 Stephen Dinsmore
 92 Reid & Pam Allen
 64 Mark Proescholdt

Decatur

259 Nathan Miller
 257 Jeffrey Livingston
 129 Stephen Dinsmore
 109 Pam & Reid Allen
 67 Mark Proescholdt

Delaware

176 Bill Scheible
 154 Mark Proescholdt
 102 Stephen Dinsmore
 75 Reid & Pam Allen
 54 Chris Edwards

Des Moines

290 Chuck Fuller
 250 Jim Fuller
 104 Pam & Reid Allen
 100 Stephen Dinsmore
 73 Chris Edwards
 61 Mark Proescholdt
 45 Paul Roisen
 42 Dale Fye

Dickinson

289 Ed Thelen
 287 Lee Schoenewe
 210 Stephen Dinsmore
 187 Jim Dinsmore
 167 Mark Proescholdt
 150 Jay Gilliam
 142 Paul Roisen
 134 Reid & Pam Allen
 106 Ray Cummins
 89 Chris Edwards
 96 Dale Fye

Dubuque

142 Charles Winterwood
 108 Pam & Reid Allen
 102 Stephen Dinsmore
 78 Paul Roisen
 65 Mark Proescholdt
 52 Chris Edwards

Emmet

206 Lee Schoenewe
 154 Rita Goranson
 151 Stephen Dinsmore
 87 Reid & Pam Allen
 83 Mark Proescholdt
 17 Paul Roisen

Fayette

104 Stephen Dinsmore
 91 Chris Edwards
 60 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt
 21 Dale Fye

Floyd

132 Rita Goranson
 127 Paul Hertzell
 106 Stephen Dinsmore
 62 Reid & Pam Allen
 59 Mark Proescholdt

Franklin

207 Mark Proescholdt
 116 Pam & Reid Allen
 103 Stephen Dinsmore
 58 Paul Roisen
 17 Dale Fye

Fremont

255 Stephen Dinsmore
 202 Mark Proescholdt
 200 Reid & Pam Allen
 154 Ray Cummins
 143 Jay Gilliam
 127 Chris Edwards
 36 Paul Roisen

Greene

233 Stephen Dinsmore
 197 Jim Dinsmore
 194 Pam & Reid Allen
 185 Mark Proescholdt
 179 Jay Gilliam
 47 Harley Winfrey
 5 Paul Roisen

Grundy

203 Mark Proescholdt
 106 Reid & Pam Allen,
 Stephen Dinsmore
 26 Dale Fye
 12 Paul Roisen

Guthrie

239 Stephen Dinsmore
 213 Ray Cummins
 212 Pam & Reid Allen
 205 Mark Proescholdt
 168 Jim Dinsmore
 97 Paul Roisen

Hamilton

228 Mark Proescholdt
 226 Dennis Carter
 213 Stephen Dinsmore
 182 Jim Dinsmore
 176 Reid & Pam Allen
 61 Paul Roisen
 52 Harley Winfrey

Hancock

228 Rita Goranson
 208 Paul Hertzell
 174 Stephen Dinsmore
 173 Mark Proescholdt
 157 Pam & Reid Allen
 152 Jim Dinsmore
 129 Paul Roisen

Hardin

261 Mark Proescholdt
 115 Reid & Pam Allen
 110 Stephen Dinsmore
 34 Dale Fye
 7 Paul Roisen

Harrison

183 Dick Bierman
 162 Stephen Dinsmore
 110 Pam & Reid Allen
 109 Paul Roisen
 88 Mark Proescholdt
 20 Josh Obrecht

Henry

113 Stephen Dinsmore
 101 Reid & Pam Allen
 68 Chris Edwards
 63 Mark Proescholdt
 35 Paul Roisen
 11 Dale Fye

Howard

105 Stephen Dinsmore
 59 Pam & Reid Allen
 53 Mark Proescholdt
 16 Dale Fye

Humboldt

119 Stephen Dinsmore
 74 Reid & Pam Allen
 64 Mark Proescholdt
 20 Paul Roisen
 14 Dale Fye

Ida

102 Stephen Dinsmore
 90 Paul Roisen
 64 Pam & Reid Allen
 58 Mark Proescholdt

Iowa

224 Chris Edwards
 158 Mark Proescholdt
 124 Stephen Dinsmore
 113 Reid & Pam Allen
 75 Dale Fye
 6 Paul Roisen

Jackson

121 Chris Edwards
 115 Stephen Dinsmore
 102 Pam & Reid Allen
 77 Mark Proescholdt
 71 Paul Roisen
 14 Dale Fye

Jasper

214 Mark Proescholdt
 153 Reid & Pam Allen
 127 Stephen Dinsmore
 120 Karen Viste-Sparkman
 45 Paul Roisen
 31 Dale Fye

Jefferson

101 Stephen Dinsmore
 75 Pam & Reid Allen
 50 Mark Proescholdt

Johnson

319 Jim Fuller
 318 Tom Kent
 299 Chris Edwards
 286 Chris Caster
 205 Dale Fye
 185 Mark Proescholdt
 178 Reid & Pam Allen
 160 Stephen Dinsmore
 147 Paul Roisen
 123 Ray Cummins

Jones

191 Chris Edwards
 102 Stephen Dinsmore
 82 Pam & Reid Allen
 59 Dale Fye
 56 Mark Proescholdt

Keokuk

121 Bill Scheible
100 Stephen Dinsmore
87 Reid & Pam Allen
56 Chris Edwards
68 Mark Proescholdt

Kossuth

283 Matt Kenne
191 Paul Hertzell
184 Rita Goranson
183 Stephen Dinsmore
163 Mark Proescholdt
151 Pam & Reid Allen
68 Dale Fye
63 Paul Roisen

Lee

219 Chris Edwards, Stephen Dinsmore
176 Ray Cummins
157 Reid & Pam Allen, Mark Proescholdt
128 Jay Gilliam
90 Paul Roisen
22 Dale Fye

Linn

286 Pete Wickham
260 Dale Fye
239 Bill Scheible
225 Chris Edwards
179 Mark Proescholdt
137 Pam & Reid Allen
107 Stephen Dinsmore
89 Paul Roisen

Louisa

272 Jim Fuller
203 Chris Edwards
142 Dale Fye
129 Reid & Pam Allen
126 Stephen Dinsmore
106 Mark Proescholdt
79 Paul Roisen

Lucas

227 Aaron Brees
170 Pam & Reid Allen
164 Mark Proescholdt
154 Ray Cummins
147 Stephen Dinsmore
107 Paul Roisen

Lyon

184 Doug Harr
116 Stephen Dinsmore
68 Reid & Pam Allen
61 Mark Proescholdt
57 Paul Roisen

Madison

199 Pam & Reid Allen
152 Mark Proescholdt
112 Stephen Dinsmore
64 Paul Roisen
17 Dale Fye

Mahaska

151 Mark Proescholdt
116 Stephen Dinsmore
105 Reid & Pam Allen
49 Dale Fye
11 Paul Roisen

Marion

272 Aaron Brees
254 Stephen Dinsmore
227 Mark Proescholdt, Pam & Reid Allen
208 Ray Cummins
146 Dale Fye
126 Jay Gilliam
117 Chris Edwards
111 Paul Roisen

Marshall

275 Mark Proescholdt
204 Stephen Dinsmore
163 Reid & Pam Allen
27 Paul Roisen

Mills

144 Stephen Dinsmore
135 Pam & Reid Allen
61 Mark Proescholdt
4 Paul Roisen

Mitchell

128 Rita Goranson
103 Stephen Dinsmore
60 Mark Proescholdt
59 Reid & Pam Allen

Monona

184 Stephen Dinsmore
157 Gerald Von Ehwegen
146 Paul Roisen
115 Pam & Reid Allen
85 Mark Proescholdt

Monroe

116 Stephen Dinsmore
102 Reid & Pam Allen
53 Mark Proescholdt
32 Paul Roisen

Montgomery

109 Stephen Dinsmore
81 Pam & Reid Allen
54 Mark Proescholdt

Muscatine

230 Mary Lou Petersen
142 Chris Edwards
109 Stephen Dinsmore
100 Reid & Pam Allen
69 Mark Proescholdt
60 Paul Roisen

O'Brien

205 Lee Schoenewe
102 Stephen Dinsmore
65 Pam & Reid Allen
58 Mark Proescholdt
32 Paul Roisen

Oseeola

107 Stephen Dinsmore
59 Reid & Pam Allen
55 Mark Proescholdt
45 Paul Roisen

Page

118 Stephen Dinsmore
75 Pam & Reid Allen
54 Mark Proescholdt

Palo Alto

242 Lee Schoenewe
156 Stephen Dinsmore
102 Reid & Pam Allen
81 Mark Proescholdt
42 Paul Roisen
35 Dale Fye

Plymouth

202 Bill Huser
149 Stephen Dinsmore
130 Paul Roisen
70 Pam & Reid Allen
58 Mark Proescholdt

Pocahontas

213 Ray Cummins
139 Stephen Dinsmore
107 Reid & Pam Allen
66 Mark Proescholdt
28 Dale Fye

Polk

322 Stephen Dinsmore
309 Pam & Reid Allen
297 Aaron Brees
291 Jay Gilliam
272 Mark Proescholdt
263 Jim Dinsmore
231 Ann Johnson
205 Ray Cummins
201 Karen Viste-Sparkman
169 Paul Roisen
149 Chris Edwards
103 Dale Fye
25 Josh Obrecht

Pottawattamie

208 Stephen Dinsmore
165 Reid & Pam Allen
155 Paul Roisen
126 Mark Proescholdt
62 Chris Edwards

Poweshiek

132 Stephen Dinsmore
215 Mark Proescholdt
102 Pam & Reid Allen
100 Stephen Dinsmore
17 Dale Fye

Ringgold

132 Stephen Dinsmore
110 Reid & Pam Allen
77 Mark Proescholdt

Sac

207 Marty Thelen
155 Pam & Reid Allen
152 Mark Proescholdt
139 Stephen Dinsmore
68 Paul Roisen

Scott

286 Mary Lou Petersen
148 Chris Edwards
135 Reid & Pam Allen
131 Paul Roisen
130 Stephen Dinsmore
56 Mark Proescholdt
67 Dale Fye

Shelby

107 Stephen Dinsmore
102 Pam & Reid Allen
55 Mark Proescholdt
7 Josh Obrecht
3 Paul Roisen

Sioux

129 Stephen Dinsmore
75 Paul Roisen
68 Reid & Pam Allen,
Mark Proescholdt

Story

282 Stephen Dinsmore
272 Jim Dinsmore
253 Mark Proescholdt
206 Pam & Reid Allen
106 Paul Roisen
78 Chris Edwards
65 Josh Obrecht

Tama

245 Mark Proescholdt
147 Chris Edwards
130 Reid & Pam Allen
128 Stephen Dinsmore
93 Dale Fye
29 Paul Roisen

Taylor

103 Stephen Dinsmore
83 Pam & Reid Allen
55 Mark Proescholdt

Union

159 Stephen Dinsmore
126 Reid & Pam Allen
66 Mark Proescholdt

Van Buren

184 Ray Cummins
160 Mark Proescholdt
138 Stephen Dinsmore
132 Chris Edwards
111 Pam & Reid Allen
64 Paul Roisen

Wapello

133 Ray Cummins
115 Stephen Dinsmore
102 Reid & Pam Allen
82 Mark Proescholdt

Warren

272 Jim Sinclair
266 Jay Gilliam
254 Aaron Brees
252 Ann Johnson
236 Pam & Reid Allen
201 Mark Proescholdt
169 Stephen Dinsmore
142 Paul Roisen
124 Ray Cummins
78 Dale Fye

Washington

143 Chris Edwards
113 Stephen Dinsmore
92 Reid & Pam Allen
54 Mark Proescholdt
21 Dale Fye
9 Paul Roisen

Wayne

227 Aaron Brees
156 Ray Cummins
116 Stephen Dinsmore
114 Pam & Reid Allen
63 Mark Proescholdt
17 Paul Roisen

Webster

161 Mark Proescholdt
128 Stephen Dinsmore
106 Reid & Pam Allen
21 Paul Roisen
14 Dale Fye

Winnebago

201 Rita Goranson
176 Paul Hertzell
159 Pam & Reid Allen
155 Stephen Dinsmore
80 Mark Proescholdt
44 Paul Roisen

Winneshiek

255 Dennis Carter
230 Tex Sordahl
112 Stephen Dinsmore
97 Reid & Pam Allen
76 Mark Proescholdt
71 Paul Roisen
9 Josh Obrecht

Woodbury

291 Jerry Probst
282 Bill Huser
261 Gerald Von Ehwegen
251 Paul Roisen
172 Stephen Dinsmore
152 Mark Proescholdt
126 Pam & Reid Allen
86 Harley Winfrey

Worth

235 Paul Hertzell
221 Rita Goranson
125 Stephen Dinsmore
122 Reid & Pam Allen
77 Mark Proescholdt
55 Dale Fye
20 Paul Roisen

Wright

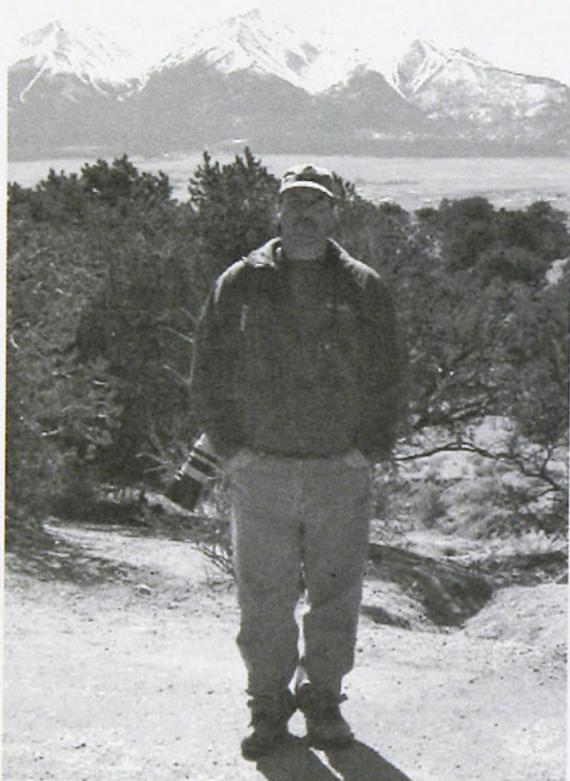
223 Stephen Dinsmore
171 Mark Proescholdt
169 Jim Dinsmore
132 Pam & Reid Allen
7 Paul Roisen

County Total Ticks

14,088 Stephen Dinsmore
11,841 Mark Proescholdt
11,733 Pam & Reid Allen
10,897 Jim Dinsmore
4,574 Paul Roisen
4,540 Chris Edwards
4,242 Dale Fye
4,232 Jay Gilliam

My 2007 Iowa Big Year

Jay Gilliam



I decided to do a Big Year in Iowa in 2007. It turned out to be a “great” year for birding in Iowa that year. The large number of rarities that visited Iowa helped out immensely and allowed me to achieve and surpass the goals that I had set for myself. I recorded 307 species in Iowa in 2005 and 304 species in 2006, so I set my goal for 2007 at 310 species. I hit that goal by the beginning of November so made a new goal of 315 species for the year. By mid-November I was on my way to reaching that goal so I set my final goal of breaking the all-time Big Year record. I had heard the all-time record was either 318 or 319 species so I decided I needed 320 species to set a new Big Year record. I met this goal on 27 December and ended 2007 with 320 species in Iowa. The following is a monthly summary of the highlights of my Big Year.

I started off 2007 with a bang when I found a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake below Saylorville Dam on 1 January. Steve Dinsmore and I made a trip to the northern tier of counties this month to search for rare woodpeckers. We didn’t find any but I did add many species to my county lists and Big Year list. Other highlights from this month included the lingering Hoary Redpoll at Brenton Arboretum, the Gyrfalcon from Boone Co.,

and seeing six Lesser Black-backed Gulls from one location at Saylorville Reservoir. I ended the month with 71 species.

February was a slow month. I spent part of the month along the southern Texas Coast and Rio Grande Valley. The remainder of the month I did not add much to my list, probably because I saw most of the winter birds in January. I added 6 species in February.

Waterfowl started migrating in March so I was able to add several new year birds to my list. Steve and I took a trip to eastern Iowa and the Quad Cities this month and I was able to add Harlequin Duck and Great Black-backed Gull to the list. A trip to southern Iowa with a stop at Kellerton Grasslands allowed me to add Greater Prairie-Chicken, along with several other species. One highlight for me this month was finding a Prairie Falcon chasing and harassing a group of Short-eared Owls at Banner Wetlands in Warren Co. A Snowy Owl in Warren Co. ended the month nicely, and turned out to be the only Snowy Owl I saw in 2007. I added 42 new species in March.

The migration was going strong in April and it was a great month for birding. Shorebirds, swallows, sparrows, and blackbirds were plentiful. I made two trips to southwest Iowa, focused mainly on the Riverton WA, but also included birding on the way down and way back. I saw my first Cinnamon Teal and my only Snowy Egret on these trips. Bob Cecil and I took a weekend to bird the southern tier of counties over to Lee County in search of a new Bewick’s Wren location but we failed to find one. But I did get several birds for the Big Year list. Highlights for me this month were finding a Red-necked Grebe at Maffitt Reservoir and a record-late juvenile Glaucous Gull at Jester Park. I added 71 new species in April.

May continued the good trend started in April and migration was still occurring with the arrival of warblers and a few rarities. I made trips to Stephens and Shimek State Forests and to the IOU spring meeting in NW Iowa (Black-billed Magpie and Blue Grosbeak). Steve Dinsmore and I did a Greene Co. Big Day (150 species) then Steve, Aaron Brees, and I did a Polk Co. Big Day two days later (142 species) which allowed me to add several more species to my Big Year list. Jim Sinclair and I had a good flight of raptors and did a short Hawk Watch at Chariton Cemetery this month. I found a King Rail at Blue Flag Marsh (but it did not stick around) and I also found a record early Connecticut Warbler along the adjacent bike trail on one of my trips to the marsh. Rarities that I saw this month included the White-winged Dove in Johnston, Glossy Ibis at Moeckley Prairie, and the returning Painted Bunting at Brookside Park in Ames. I also added Scissor-tailed Flycatcher to my state list when I saw the one at Cottonwood RA at Saylorville Reservoir. I finished off the month with a Ruffed Grouse from Stephens State Forest. May was my biggest month and I added 73 new species to my list.

Things started slowing down in June with the summer season starting. I made a couple of trips to Stephens State Forest and added Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, and White-eyed Vireo. A trip to Appanoose County and southern Iowa gave me Neotropic Cormorant, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. A single Least Bittern at Blue Flag Marsh was another highlight for this month. I had to cut this month short since I did trips to southern Florida and the Lesser Antilles. I added 15 new species to the list in June.

July, as usual, was a slow month for birding in Iowa. I made a trip to western Iowa (Least Tern), two trips to Dunbar Slough in Greene Co. (Black-crowned Night-Heron), and to Shimek State Forest and Rathbun Reservoirs. Common Moorhen was one of the other highlights in July. I added only 6 new species in July.

Fall migration was starting in August so new birds were starting to show up. A trip to southwest Iowa allowed me to get the Tricolored Heron in Page County. I also made a birding trip in western Iowa on my way back from Nebraska. I saw my first Red Knots of the year during the first week of August when Steve and I found three adults at Pinchey Bottoms. Another highlight for me this month, not rare but unusual for me, was a flock of 100+ Bobolinks in Lucas Co. I added another 6 new species in August.

September was a great month of birding, although I didn't add very many species to my Big Year list. I did my annual trip to Lake McConaughy and western Nebraska with Steve and saw some great birds but this isn't about Nebraska! Steve and I also had a great day of birding in NW Iowa when we found three rare birds, Magnificent Frigatebird, Little Gull, and Red Knot, all in Dickinson Co. I also did a trip to western Iowa to visit Hitchcock Nature Center and bird the area. Two of the other great birds this month were both at Saylorville Reservoir. The first was a juvenile Red Phalarope found by Aaron Brees and the other was a Long-tailed Jaeger (new state bird for me) found by Steve Dinsmore. To be consistent with July and August, I added 6 new species to my list in September.

More rarities showed up in Iowa in October. The Wood Stork at Jester Park was probably the best one. I did two more trips to northwest Iowa this month, and on one of them Matt Kenne and I found Smith's Longspurs at a spot that Matt predicted they would be. I also saw the Black-headed Gull at Spirit Lake on this trip. Other good birds this month included all three scoters, Pacific Loon and another Red Phalarope at Saylorville, and a Laughing Gull at Red Rock. I added 10 new species to my list in October.

November was another good month for rarities in Iowa. I hit my first goal of 310 species at the beginning of the month. I made trips to Rathbun Reservoir where I found a Red-throated Loon, NW Iowa (again) in search of winter finches, and to western Iowa to Hitchcock to do some hawk-watching. A juvenile Yellow-billed Loon was a great bird at Saylorville Lake, as was the Black-tailed Gull, both new birds for my state list. A juvenile Mew Gull at Red Rock was another new bird for my state list. My annual trip to NE Iowa to see the Tundra Swans yielded several new birds for the year. I saw a Golden Eagle en route to look for the Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Tama Co. (which I also saw), then in NE Iowa I added Tundra Swans, a Northern Goshawk from Yellow River State Forest, and a Townsend's Solitaire from Lansing WMA. I added 10 new species to my Big Year list in November and ended the month with 315 species for the year.

I needed five new species to end my Big Year and set a new all-time record. I had a difficult time finding Gray Partridge but ended up finding a flock of them on my third try in southeastern Boone Co. A juvenile Iceland Gull on the Des Moines River was another good addition to the list. A White-winged Crossbill visiting a feeder in Ames stuck around long enough for me to see it. I made several searches for a Spotted Towhee but failed to add that one to my year list, a big miss. Jim Sinclair found a Northern Saw-whet Owl at Lake Ahquabi, which he showed me. And finally, after searching cemeteries all over Iowa in November and December for winter finches, I added a Red Crossbill from Webster City to end my year at 320 species.

Overall, this was one of my best birding years in Iowa. One key to doing a Big Year is to hit the right locations at the right times throughout the year. I birded 70 counties in Iowa in 2007 and had over 2300 "total ticks" from those counties. But I would never have been able to set a new record if the rarities had not shown up in 2007. I ended the year seeing 296 Regular species, 11 Casual species, 11 Accidental species, and 2 new Iowa species! I also added 12 new species to my Iowa life list in 2007 which brought my total up to 348 species. I missed several Regular species but my biggest miss was Spotted Towhee. My trips outside of Iowa also allowed me to have a pretty good worldwide Big Year. I ended the year with 450 ABA species (55 new ones) and 500 worldwide species (64 new ones).

I couldn't have set this new Big Year record without the help of many of Iowa's birders. A big thanks goes out to the people I regularly bird with...Steve Dinsmore, Aaron Brees, Jim Sinclair, and John Bissell. I also owe a thank you to those that birded with me for a day in search of a target species or allowed me to come over to their residence, including Bob Cecil, Matt Kenne, and Wolfgang Oesterreich. And finally, a big thank you to everybody in Iowa who goes out birding and reports what they find to the Iowa listserv.

Spring Field Reports

Matt Kenne

With the discovery of the Black-tailed Gull and Fork-tailed Flycatcher this past Fall and all the resulting attention, Spring Season is feeling a bit like the child who's older sibling is the star of the high school sports team. Spring tries very hard, and does its own things very well, but Spring still gets fewer headlines that Fall. Spring is a happy child though, delighted by the arrival of daylight, leaves, new migrants, and warm weather.

When you're outside playing with Spring from March 1st until May 31st this year, remember to note your significant ornithological data for inclusion in the Spring Field Reports compilation. This data will be archived for reference, so your information will be interesting and useful to both current birders and those conducting future research on the bird life of our state. The best way to contribute your notable bird sightings is through the IOU webpage: <http://www.iowabirds.org/reporting/default.asp>, where you can enter details soon after your return from the field. Spring Field Reports can also be sent to me by e-mail (or through regular mail), but please keep in mind that seasonal editors are under deadline for both Iowa Bird Life and North American Birds, so receipt of reports is needed during the first week of June.

Fifty Common Birds of the Upper Midwest. Watercolors by Dana Gardner, Text by Nancy Overcott. University of Iowa Press [Bur Oak Books]. 2006

Fifty Uncommon Birds of the Upper Midwest. Watercolors by Dana Gardner, Text by Nancy Overcott. Univ. of Iowa Press [Bur Oak Books]. 2007.

Reviewed by Rick Hollis

It is difficult to imagine these books without Dana Gardner's illustrations, any one of which would nicely hang on my walls. The picture of the Whip-Poor-Will, sitting on a forest floor with two Jack-in-the-Pulpits in the background is wonderful. It nails the bird, the leaf litter, and the Jacks, one in full bloom and one past.

The plan of these books is identical – a painting of the bird faced by the text. One might quibble with the selection of birds for either book. In fact the introduction discusses the problems of a list so small. Still, Common Birds is awfully short on waterfowl (only the Wood Duck is included.) The list reflects the author's and painter's SE Minnesota experience more than a list the average Iowa birder might construct.

The text is set up in a pretty standard manner and includes bits of personal experience with the species, descriptions, and life history all condensed into a single page. Sometimes the author quotes a turn of the century naturalist from SE Minnesota. These sections generally conclude with a comment on status or other names. I am reasonably well read about birds and am used to some of the names. Some other names can be strange: great god woodpecker [Pileated Woodpecker] and tree mouse or devil downhead [White-breasted Nuthatch]. This was the only part that raised questions in my mind --- where did some of these other names come from.

Uncommon Birds includes several different kinds of uncommon birds: species with low populations [Red-head Woodpecker], species seen less often than would be expected by their numbers [Sora], irruptive species [Snowy Owl] and downright rarities [White-faced Ibis]

Common Birds concludes with a short but excellent list of references and an annotated list of field guides. Uncommon Birds finishes with a different set of reference information: an annotated list of websites of national and international organizations, a regional list of state natural resource department websites, a regional list of state birding organizations and their websites, and an annotated list of references.

Were it not for the illustrations neither book would probably make a great gift for the hardcore birder, but both would be fine gifts for the average birdwatcher.

Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas Project

By Steve Dinsmore

Iowa's second 5-year Breeding Bird Atlas Project is set to begin this spring and continue through the 2012 breeding season. This project is sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and will attempt to document changes in breeding bird distribution as a result of land use patterns in the last 20 years. The original Breeding Bird Atlas Project (1985-1990) provided the first comprehensive catalog of Iowa's breeding birds (Jackson, L. S., C. A. Thompson, J. J. Dinsmore, B. L. Ehresman, J. Fleckenstein, R. Cecil, L. Hemesath, and S. J. Dinsmore. 1996. Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City.). That effort covered 861 3x3 mile blocks statewide using a combination of standard blocks (placed systematically across Iowa in a grid) and priority blocks (chosen on the 'basis of their unique or representative natural features'). The current effort also uses 3x3 mile blocks, but with a more balanced sampling design. There are 791 total blocks arranged in two patterns: a systematic statewide grid (grid blocks; n = 395) plus an equal number of blocks that were selected to represent aquatic, forested, and grassland habitats (habitat blocks; n = 396, split evenly between the north and south halves of Iowa). Habitat blocks were randomly selected in proportion to their availability using the most current Geographic Information System (GIS) landcover data for Iowa.

The success of this project will depend on participation by IOU members. We are hoping to have a minimum of 20 hours of coverage in each block and encourage IOU members to each adopt one (or more!) local blocks. Atlasing is a fun way to explore new birding areas around the state. Record-keeping is minimal and only requires that you maintain records of the level of breeding activity for each species observed. In fall 2007 a Steering Committee was established to direct the current atlas project. Committee members include Chris Caster, Stephen J. Dinsmore (Chair), Bruce Ehresman, Jay Gilliam, Doug Harr, Ann Johnson (Webmaster), Karen Kinkead, Nicki Nagl (BBA Coordinator), and Karen Viste-Sparkman. The committee has completed the block selection process and is developing a web page (<http://bba.iowabirds.org/>) that should be ready by mid-March with detailed atlas instructions, maps of all atlas blocks, an interface for data entry, and access to data from the first Breeding Bird Atlas. If interested, the BBA Coordinator (contact Nicki at bbacoordinator@iowabirds.org) can visit your local birding club or Audubon Chapter and provide additional information about the project. We hope to sponsor one or more atlas block-busting weekends each year where we'll focus effort in specific regions, so stay tuned to more details.

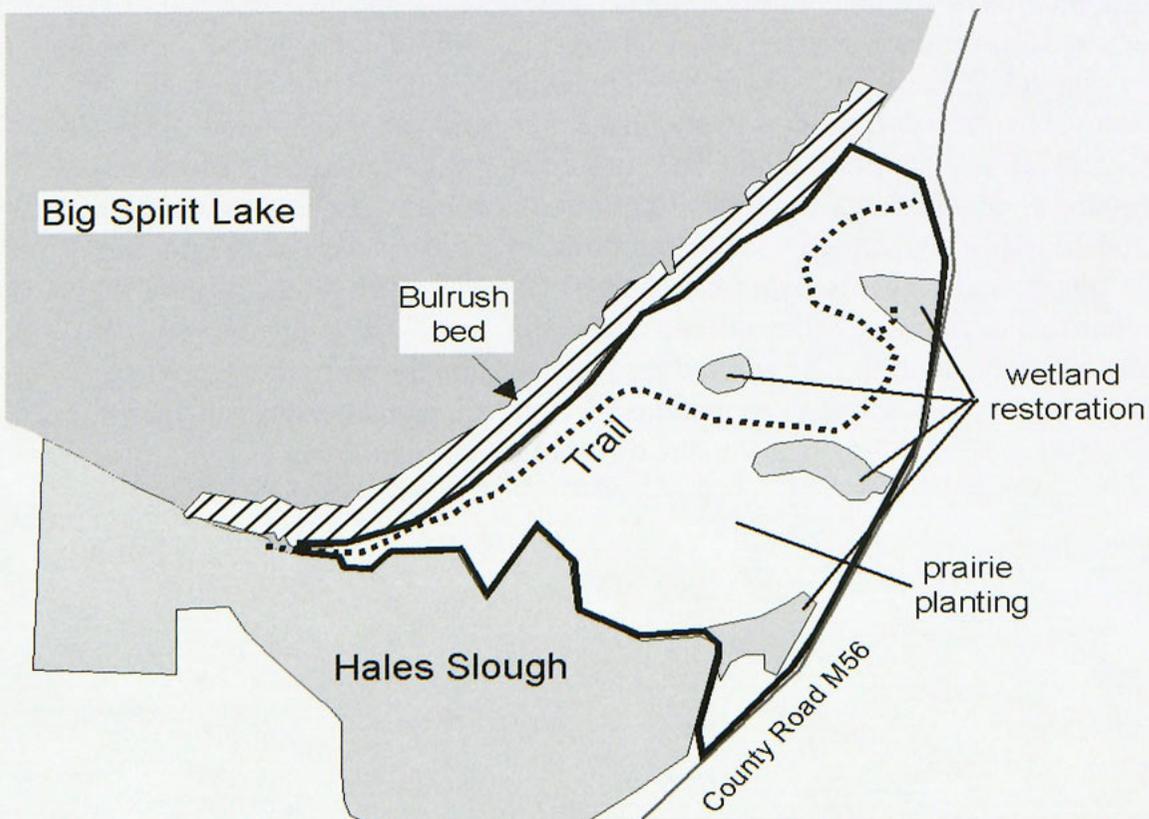
INHF preserves Anglers Bay habitat with IOU support

By *Marlene Ehresman*

Thanks to the Iowa Ornithologists Union and more than 1050 other donors to the Anglers Bay project on Big Spirit Lake, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has claimed success in meeting the project's funding goals of \$1.67 million in private donations and \$5 million in public funds.

"The support for this project has been tremendous," according to Mark Ackelson, INHF President. "We set out to achieve four goals at Anglers Bay: preserving one of the last undeveloped stretches of the Big Spirit Lake shoreline and its accompanying bulrush habitat, expanding and buffering adjacent public land at Hales Slough, restoring wetlands and prairie elsewhere on the site, and providing a corridor to extend the Great Lakes Trail System. The funds are raised, so the first two land protection goals are met. Now the fun begins as we all watch the transformation of these 93 acres to wildlife habitat and see the trail take shape."

Restoration of two wetlands and a prairie planting will begin this fall, weather permitting. A third wetland will be restored in 2008. Restoration will be a joint project of INHF and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Dickinson County Trails Board will be involved in establishing the trail through the new wildlife area which will provide important access for public use and enjoyment of this area.



No public use is allowed yet on the property. Though INHF has completed the purchase of the land from Don and Nancy Yarnes, only the small portion nearest to Hales Slough has transferred to the DNR. After the current crop is harvested, that portion will be posted for public use. The remainder of the land will transfer to DNR by late 2008, making the entire project site available to the public.



Rich Leopold, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, worked for several years in Dickinson County and is excited about the opportunity to preserve a piece of this high-quality ecosystem in his old stomping grounds. “Unique natural areas—Iowa’s

gems—are disappearing every year from Iowa’s landscape,” he said. “The Anglers Bay project is an example of what can happen when citizens pull together to preserve these rare and beautiful areas of statewide importance. The DNR is looking forward to restoring and managing this outstanding area with our partners, and we want to thank all who worked hard over the last several years to realize this dream.”

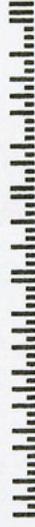
According to IOU members Lee Schoenewe of Spencer and Ed Thelen of Spirit Lake, this area is a crucial migration stopover for all manner of waterfowl and other waterbirds, as well as shore birds. Out of 37 criteria bird species that Iowa has listed for Important Bird Areas, Lee and Ed had seen 12 of those species on the Hales Slough/Yarnes property and Angler’s Bay as of October 2005, including: **Endangered Species:** Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and Peregrine Falcon; and **Species of high conservation priority:** American Bittern, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Broad-winged Hawk, American Woodcock, Forster’s Tern, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo and Bobolink.

Thank you again, IOU board and members, for your wonderful support of this project. It takes all of us working in partnership to make such habitat protection possible.

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

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