

PURPOSE

The goal of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union is to encourage interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and to unite those who have these interests in common. Our members, most of whom are from Iowa and surrounding states, vary in their level of interest in birds. Many simply enjoy birds at their backyard feeders, others actively pursue field study as a hobby, and a few are professional ornithologists.



Northern Saw-whet Owl
Photo by S. Dismore

The IOU serves as a forum for exchange of information and ideas about field identification, birding locations, habitat, distribution, and other topics. It provides an organized outlet for birding activities and bird study projects. Additionally, the IOU provides a repository for records of Iowa birds.

ACTIVITIES OF THE IOU

IOWA BIRDS AND BIRDING is a web site for everyone to locate information about birds and birding in Iowa. It includes rare bird alerts, summaries of unusual bird sightings, checklists, birding site information, information about activities of the IOU, and fun pages for all. The address is www.iowabirds.org

IOWA BIRDLINE provides a recorded message of Iowa bird sightings. It is updated each Monday and allows callers to report their unusual sightings. The current number is 319-338-9881.

IA-BIRD, though not a function of IOU, is a subscription E-mail system of the National Audubon Society Iowa Field Office for communications about Iowa bird sightings. Directions for joining can be found on the IOU web site.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT brings out more than 600 birders in more than forty 15-mile diameter circle areas to count as many birds as possible for one specified day during the two-week Holiday period.

THE SPRING BIG DAY COUNT is a friendly competition among Iowa's most hearty birders who count as many species as possible in one specified day. Teams may confine their efforts to one county or cover as much of the state as they wish.

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

*A state-wide group for
all who enjoy birds.*



The *IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION* is a non-profit group, organized in 1923 to promote the enjoyment and study of birds.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in birds.

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is on a calendar-year basis.

First Name	Last Name
Address	
City	State ZIP
IA County	Phone Number
E-mail	

Dues

- Regular \$20.00
- Regular + Family \$20.00 plus amounts below
- _____ Name of Spouse/Child \$4.00
- _____ Name of child \$2.00
- _____ Name or child \$2.00
- Student \$12.00
- Life \$300 or 4 annual payments of \$75
- Birdline Contributor \$10.00 suggested gift
- Additional Contribution _____
- Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to **IOU**

Send to

David C. Edwards, Registrar
2308 State Ave.
Ames, IA 50014-8344

Or apply and remit dues online
<http://www.iowabirds.org>

MEETINGS

Both spring and fall meetings of the IOU are held annually at good birding locations across the state.

A typical meeting weekend includes an informal get-together on Friday night.

Birding field trips are made on Saturday morning with sharing of experiences over lunch at noon. A Saturday afternoon program may include workshops on identification, popular presentations on birds and birding locations, or analyses of aspects of Iowa birds. An IOU business meeting follows these features.

Saturday night brings a banquet and a featured speaker.

Sunday is begun with more field trips. A Sunday noon tally of birds seen on field trips concludes the meeting. These meetings highlight many members' birding calendars.



Black-capped Chickadee and Fox Sparrow
Photos by D. C. Edwards

PUBLICATIONS

IOWA BIRD LIFE, our quarterly journal features seasonal comprehensive reports of Iowa bird sightings, notes and articles on rare and unusual sightings, Christmas Bird Count reports, profiles of Iowa's birders, bird-finding guides, articles of general birding interest, original research on Iowa birds, and IOU meetings and business.

IOU NEWS, our quarterly newsletter, provides notes and short articles of general interest and announcements of meetings, field trips, and bird counts sponsored by the IOU and local bird clubs.

FIELD CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS, a pocket-sized folded card listing Iowa's regular and casual species, provides a convenient list for keeping track of species seen in Iowa. The list is updated periodically.

IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS is a project, co-sponsored with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, to systematically survey the breeding birds of Iowa. The project was completed and published in 1996.



Ring-billed Gull
Photo by D. C. Edwards



American White Pelican
Photo by D. C. Edwards