

JOHNSON - CEDAR COUNTIES BREEDING BIRD ATLAS NEWSLETTER

• Carol Thompson, 338-5361

For our first year of atlas work, we did fairly well. All of the nine blocks in Johnson County were worked on and two of them are very close to being completed. Less work went on in Cedar County - of the nine blocks, three were visited briefly. The following is a summary of our progress:

JOHNSON COUNTY

Block #	Name	Time (hrs)	Ob	Po	Pr	Co	Total	Comments
530	Hawkeye Wildlife	15	8	8	8	19	44	Need data from DNR personnel
531	Lake McBride							In progress, no formal report
532	Morse	5	3	12	23	5	43	
557	Oxford							In progress, no formal report
558	Coralville Dam	20.5	8	18	23	11	60	
581	Old Man's Creek	9.5	4	2	13	7	26	Original surveyor moved, just started
611	Frytown	35	9	15	16	13	52	
612	Hills							In progress, no formal report
637	Lone Tree	1.5	7	7	4	2	20	No habitat

LOUISA COUNTY

Block #	Name	Time (hrs)	Ob	Po	Pr	Co	Total	Comments
662	Cone Marsh	5.5	13	18	8	6	45	Started late in year

Now is a good time to be out checking for owls and hawks. Barred and Great Horned Owls are very active. Red-tailed Hawks should be beginning to nest as well.

This year we are going to sponsor some contests related to breeding block activity. There will be both individual and group awards in each category. The group can be a bird club, a group of birding companions, or any other group of interested participants. Prizes are not yet finalized, but will include signed copies of this year's non-game poster. Categories are as follows:

1. Best bird
2. Most blocks covered based on 10 or more hours or 50 or more species

3. Ghostbuster (most nocturnal hours)
4. Most total species in a block
5. Most hours spent
6. Most confirmed species in a block

We are also going to sponsor several blockbusting field trips this summer. Four weekends are planned in the four parts of the state. We are going to arrange a camping area, preferably in a block, and spend Saturday and Sunday morning working on a block or blocks in the area. Try to reserve a space on your schedule to come to at least one of these outings. This will be fun for the whole family. If you can't come for both days try to come at least for one day or part of a day. If you don't like to camp a list of area motels will be provided. The scheduled dates, tentative locations, and leaders are listed below. Contact the leaders directly for further information.

NW Iowa            Palo Alto-Clay Counties  
Jun 11-12        Leader: Jim Dinsmore, 515-292-3152

SE Iowa            Monroe Co.  
Jun 18-19        Leader: Carol Thompson, 319-338-5361  
Blocks in this area include part of Stephens State Forest, La Hart State Public Hunting Area, Carmack County Park, and Miami Lake state and county areas. Camping will be at Miami Lake County Park. There are trailer hook-ups and showers available.

SW Iowa            Prarie Rose State Park, Shelby County  
Jun 25-26        Leader: Barb Wilson, 712-624-8800  
Showers, trailer hook-ups, swimming, fishing, boating

NE Iowa            Leader: Doug Reeves, 515-432-2823  
Jun 25-26

There are new atlas cards available. There are no major changes, but the cards are certainly easier to read. I have included one with this newsletter - if you need more, please let me know.