

Introduction

I've jotted a lot of notes on the margins which may or may not be readable. Below are some longer comments or thoughts etc. Some of my thoughts relate to how we want to present our history. I have included a summary of it as I know it. I sent this to Jim and Bruce for comment.

Page 1.

I think it was initiated in 1983. It was discussed at Fall 1983 IOU meeting.

The original sponsors were DNR and IOU. Coming just after the initiation statement it sounds like all of those listed were original sponsors.

You speak early of regional coordinators. By 1987, there were 32 listed many of whom were not active. How many of those listed checked cards, guided, etc. I think that this may give a false sense of our progress. We did have some regional/county coords who did this and who should be acknowledged, but I don't want to make it sound as though this was the standard.

#1 a wording suggestion

The goals of the Iowa BBA were to document the distribution of breeding birds in the state, assess regional preferences, provide better data on rare species, and consider habitat associations. It is hoped that this information will be of use to natural resource managers to enhance management of the state's avifauna, to provide data for environmental assessments, and to provide a baseline for comparing any future changes in distribution.

The GIS stuff may never happen and it may not be useful unless the years were the same.

The whole 4th paragraph continuing on to page 2 seems out of place. Block design comes later as does a discussion of Iowa.

Page 3.

Might state why we did not sample all areas like some other states. Population limitation, uniformity of habitat

It is interesting to note that the original project design called for over 1000 blocks. The systematic scheme (even twship and range or odd twship and range) would account for about 800 blocks. Then about 200 priority blocks were added. Jim could maybe add some details of how the 861 were finalized. The original distribution of blocks was 522 standard and 339 priority. What ever happened to the blocks that were changed in 1990? Or did we decide not to change them.

Page 4

I remember that after we came home from atlas meeting in Colorado we discussed unacceptable codes and reviewed the records. Should we list those? - Methods

It might be appropriate to mention when in the project the blockbusters and techs were hired.

Page 5

How much review of the cards actually occurred. Again this relates to whether there were regional coordinators. Did WD staff review all cards. Were documentations requested for special species?

Yes, WD reviewed cards, each yr, & since there were few coordinators, corresponded directly w/ surveyors. Bruce spent hours at this - staying in

They are... these are the ones I am saying we changed. I ones discuss a few which letters have documentation

For whatever reason, Day had decided to call anything that contained natural areas a priority block - so changed a bunch of Standard to Prior. In 1990 - we just put them back to not necessary

... do not recall results after work on weekends to verify data

nobody else does

Might want to include coverage by year. I'm not sure this is totally accurate, but it does give an idea.

The last paragraph needs a little rephrasing to make it clear.

we may have communicated poorly - but we did the work.

Page 6

How much of this quality control happened actually occurred? We didn't review incorrect codes till later? What about documentation? As far as entering data, that was a real problem. I entered some, some was done at Boone. All that was eventually scrapped and the whole set then done at ISU. So I don't know that it is accurate to say it was keypunched annually. And I'm almost certain that it was never sent back to the surveyors or coordinators for checking.

We used the stuff entered at Boone for checking the progress of the atlas & corresponding w/ surveyors & recommending blocks to do.

In 1989 it was decided that the steering committee would review all the data.

recommending blocks to do.

In the third paragraph, you state that after the results were sent to the authors that all data was reviewed by the participants again. Not true.

Actually we did still go back & verify some data w/ surveyors

ArcInfo was used to generate a GIS coverage from the BBA data. The block coverage was developed by picking a section lines from the Public Lands Section Survey coverage. The use of a GIS system allowed an analysis of the respect to other natural features in the state such as landform regions and rivers. The only available habitat covera detailed enough to allow habitat analysis. Final maps were done in ArcView.

(I will have Bernie review this once we get it together)

Page 7

I'm not sure I like the table. What do others say?

Yes - it's good.

BBA History

1983

The project was first announced at the Fall 1983 IOU meeting. I recorded this in the Eastern Iowa Birdlife. I don't think the Atlas Project Booklet was available at that time.

Steering committee: Mike Newlon, Dean Roosa, Dave Newhouse, Jim Dinsmore, Darwin Koenig. Was Bob Howe on this?

1984

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Some field data collected, I think

I don't think so - when I started 1/85 - the packages were just being finished to mail.

1985

My next note on the subject was in the EIB in summer of 1985. I had asked at the IOU meeting about the atlas and was told that it was going and that over 2/3 of the counties were active??

I again voiced concern over lack of communication at the Fall 1985 IOU meeting.

In late fall 1985, the first IOU News was released and mentioned a meeting scheduled for February 8, 1996. Did this happen?

1986

Doug Reeves gave a talk at the Spring 1986 IOU meeting. 120 blocks covered, 41 counties, 13 done.

Meeting: November 16, 1986.

Only about 125 blocks worked in, still needed coordinators for 40 counties.

1987

New steering committee formed: Doug Reeves, Darwin Koenig, Jim Dinsmore, Carol Thompson, Barb Wilson, John Fleckenstein.

Iowa BBA News, Vol. 1, No. 1 issued in June 1987.

190 blocks worked in, 24 done. List of regional coordinators. How many of these actively checked cards etc. Anybody know.

Other newsletters were done by Barb and Carol for their respective areas. Anybody know of other newsletters issued? We should make sure we have copies of them all.

Letters were sent to all listed coordinators (32). There were 17 responses including 2 resignations. I have a copy of the original letter, but not the responses. Anybody have these?

Meeting: May 30, 1987

Items discussed: Added M as a code, discussed blockbusting.

1988

By the end of 1988, we had worked in a total of 421 blocks; 82 were done.

Four blockbusting trips scheduled around the state

Contest for various categories started

Darwin resigned from committee

I took over the BBA in fall of 88 when Doug left. I might not have been formally added to the committee - but pushed the new coverage standards & got \$ to hire people.

1989

Paid for block work, also hired Steve Dinsmore for blockbusting.

Meetings: March 19, 1989; September 15, 1989

Items discussed: How to increase coverage, whether documentation is being done (to be checked), Bruce to write to regional coordinators; add 6th year of fieldwork, all the counties were divided among committee members for review

I pushed for Bruce & Pat to be added since they were doing much of the work.