

REPORT OF THE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 19, 1989 BOONE RESEARCH STATION

Attending: Jim Dinsmore, Bruce Ehresman, John Fleckenstein, Jim Hansen, Laura Jackson, Jim Kienzler, Dean Roosa, Pat Schlarbaum, Carol Thompson, and Barb Wilson.

1. The main topic of discussion was how to get more blocks done.

Laura suggested workshops around the state possibly coupled with field activities to show how easy atlasing is. These would be in cooperation with local bird clubs.

Jim D. said he would contact students doing field work or working as interns with DNR and try to get them to help out.

Laura said she would contact the field biologists and encourage them to continue working on blocks. She will also get an article in the county board newsletter.

John said he would talk to park people to see if we can get any help there.

Bruce said he would write to the regional coordinators, especially those who don't seem to be doing anything to see if they're still working on the project.

Carol will contact Iowa bird clubs and individual I.O.U. members in counties with no coverage.

2. It was decided to concentrate on priority blocks and try to complete these. This would give us some coverage in every county.

3. There was some discussion over whether to change the criteria for completion based on the number of species. Everyone is in agreement that the current number is too high for many standard farm blocks. The difficulty lay in describing one of these blocks so that everyone would know what is meant. No decision was reached on a formal redefinition of complete.

4. Laura said there is some money available which she could use to encourage people to work on the atlas. She is thinking of a contract type deal with so many blocks completed for a set amount of money. Committee members were to contact her with names of birders that may be interested.

5. Carol will put an article in the I.O.U. newsletter accompanied by a map of all blocks and what is done. In addition, the article will encourage people to move on to new blocks including those in adjacent counties. Also she will ask people to turn in their cards. Also ask for submission of

Other thoughts

1) We need to add a column to the data set to indicate whether the block is a priority or standard block. I would suggest adding a column after the block number. Let me know what you decide, what format, and column width.

2) In regard to the questionnaire that I sent to the regional coordinators last year. I gave their replies to Doug, so they may be in a file drawer somewhere.

I have (possibly) the following changes to the co-ordinator's list.

Kossuth County I have Adele Black listed. Also Matt Kenne, 709 N. Philips, Algona, Iowa 50511 expressed interest in working on this county.

Carroll I have Rita Efta listed for this county as well.

Van Buren Kathy Fisher is definitely not the coordinator. She was upset about the whole idea. I persuaded Jim Sandrock, 1634 Morningside Dr., Iowa City 52245 to take over. He is just starting this summer.

Lee Bob Cecil rather than Francis Moore.

Louisa I have Pete Petersen listed for this county, except for block 661, which I told him I would do.

Linn, Jones Pete Wickham, 2201 5th Ave S.E., Cedar Rapids 52403

Des Moines Peter Lowther?

Palo Alto Miriam Pfeiff, Palo Alto Conservation Board, RR1, Ruthven 51358

Delete Ross Silcock and add his counties to Barb's list

3) I've enclosed some of the material Doug sent me from other atlas projects and from the steering committee. If you get any of these. please pass them on. They can be useful for ideas.

4) The Iowa BBA newsletter was our first and last attempt to establish regular lines of communication with our coordinators. I still think we need to do this, but how?

amusing anecdotes and other stories about atlasing.

6. The natural History Foray will be in O'Brien and Cherokee counties the first weekend in June.

7. We discussed documentation forms and special sighting reports. There was some disagreement as to whether or not they are necessary. We will continue the discussion at the next meeting. In the meantime, we need to get a list of these species, in which blocks they have been seen, and who the observers were. Then we can review them and decide on documentation as needed.

8. Last year's contest was discussed. Not everyone knew we were having one so not all cards were checked. The categories were:

- a) Best Bird
- b) Most blocks covered based on 10 or more hours or 50 or more species.
- c) Ghostbuster (most nocturnal hours)
- d) Most total species in a block
- e) Most hours spent
- f) Most confirmed species in a block

These were both individual and group awards.

We decided to make an attempt to identify some of the winners and announce the winners at the spring I.O.U. meeting. Suggestions were: Erik Munson - best bird, Steve Dinsmore - most hours, Iowa City Bird Club - most blocks.

It was decided to run the contest again, this time we will encourage people to indicate if they want to be considered for the contest. These are the categories:

- * a) Most blocks with 10 or more hours or 40 or more species
- * b) Most hours
 - c) New nest record for Iowa
 - d) Confirmed sharp-shinned nest
- * e) Most total species in a block
- * f) Most confirmed species in a block
- g) Most unusual bird confirmed

* This category is for either individuals or a group.

9) There will be a poster display of atlas progress and results for the I.O.U. meeting and we will run a breeding bird atlas trip. Also we will have a special BBA contest at the meeting. We will give an award for the most confirmed species added to a block in Scott county during the meeting.