

The Iowa Wildlifer

Volume 24, Issue I

July 2007



The Newsletter of Iowa's Wildlife Professionals

Points of Interest:

- Summer Meeting
- President's perspective
- Midwest Birding Symposium
- Bobcat Mounts donated
- Teaming With Wildlife Coalition Grows

Chapter Officers

- President:** Willie Suchy
President Elect: Mike Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Chafa
Member at Large: Bill Bunger

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Bobcat Mounts

National TWS

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Summer Meeting Planned

From the desk of Mike Griffin

Who is a wildlife professional? That is a question that is hard to answer these days. What does a wildlife professional do? Also a hard question to answer these days. This year's summer/fall meeting will take place on July 16 and 17th at Ames in the Memorial Union. We have been planning a great meeting that will help us answer some of the questions above. We have recruited Iowa DNR and ISU researchers, to give us a Wildlife Biology 101 course.

Many of our older members remember why we do surveys and what they are used for (at least they think they do). But surveys, inventories, and indexes have all changed in their use and relevance. With continued pressure from the public and user groups we have to make decision based on sound science and public perceptions. Therefore our job is harder because we have to incorporate good science, human dimensions, demographics, populations' ecology and an overriding conservation principal of wise use of our natural resources.

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The meeting this year will focus on why we collect the data we use to help make these decisions. Also the complicated way we use the data to set seasons, limit harvest, equalize opportunity, stress the outdoor experience and manage the habitat for a multitude of species and user groups.

Who should attend this years meeting? Old hand biologists, young wildlife professionals, conservation multi use directors, legislative liaisons and anyone who wants to know what a wildlife professional does to monitor the many trust species we are charged with managing.

Blocks of rooms have been secured for overnight accommodations:

Memorial Union 515-296-6848

Hotel \$68.00 single Queen or two twin beds

Suite \$78.00 two Queen beds

Super 8 1418 Dayton Ave. 515-232-6510

Rooms will be held until July 12, 4PM

Single \$60.47

Double \$65.47

A meeting agenda is included on page 10



MSIM Chariton crew identify snake discovered under cover board

Multi Species Inventory and Monitoring Update by Karen Kinkead:

During 2006, there were four summer temporary technicians (or Natural Resource Aides) working on 14 properties and we documented over 300 species. We are still in the process of double checking and analyzing this data.

Yes, it is a new season and that means our new summer Natural Resource Aides are out collecting information on birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, dragonflies, butterflies, mussels, terrestrial snails, and their habitats. As of May, we have not started all of our protocols, so technically we are only getting information on birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and butterflies, but as the summer goes on we will pick up the

Notes from the President — *Willie Suchy*

Looking back at the agenda from last fall's meeting I realize how timely the topics were. The ethanol boom was making the news and we had Dr. Michael Duffy from ISU give us some insights into what this meant to Iowa. Much of what he discussed continues to happen today. Tom Colvin from the Animal Rescue league talked to us about their efforts to promote an exotic animal bill in Iowa. A bill was signed into law this spring that accomplished much of what he hoped. Sustainable funding, working with Iowa's landowners and training on dealing with the press were also topics of discussion. I know that I benefited from the knowledge and training gained at the meeting.

The meeting was also an opportunity to renew old friendships, meet new members, and make new friends. This type of networking is very important for us as wildlife professionals to be effective in meeting the challenges we face. Sustainable funding for Iowa's natural resources is a great example of something that will only happen if we work cooperatively to promote it and demonstrate how it will benefit Iowa's citizens.

The meeting planned for this summer is another great opportunity for us all to get together and improve ourselves personally and professionally and to build an even stronger network of wildlife professionals in Iowa. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Continued from page 1 MSIM:
other taxonomic groups.

By May 18, the Wildlife Diversity Program employed 13 –yes, 13– Natural Resource Aides, working on over 70 properties, both on public and private lands. These properties are in Boone, Butler, Clarke, Clay, Dallas, Delaware, Emmet, Iowa, Johnson, Kossuth, Louisa, Lucas, Muscatine, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Polk, Scott, Story, Tama, Wayne, Winnebago, and Worth counties. Forty-two of the properties are enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program through the NRCS, 12 of the properties are enrolled in the Landowner Incentive Program through the IDNR.

We were fortunate to have a large number of applicants for the Natural Resource Aide positions this year. Twelve of the 13 have college degrees, graduating within the last few years. The colleges these wonderful NR Aides have graduated from include Iowa State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Wartburg College. The remaining NR Aide will be a senior at Iowa State University this fall. We have a long field season, lasting from the end of March through the end of October. More information on the program can be found at http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/multispecies_inventory_monitoring.html

The work this year is being funded through 3 separate grants, all administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all matched with Iowa Wildlife Diversity Program money generated through the sale of the REAP license plates. Thank you for your continued support of the Wildlife Diversity Program!

*--Karen Kinkead, PhD
Monitoring & Research Biologist*



Multi Species Inventory and Monitoring team members stationed at Chariton Research Station include from left: Randy Schiener, Sara Maniscalco, Josh Otten, Renee Buck, Jonathon Rose and crew leader Ronald Moore.



Boone MSIM crew includes Josh Otten, Natalie Nagl, Eric Sytsma, Torre Hovick. Unavailable for photos were Natalie Randall shared with Upland Game, Jamie Blankenship at Ruthven, Kristin Kennen at Iowa City, and Kelcey Brockmeyer at Rice Lake.

Midwest Birding Symposium



September 13-16, 2007

Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau

102 SOUTH HARRISON STREET, SUITE 203, DAVENPORT, IOWA 52801
(PHONE) 563-322-3911 (FAX) 563-322-6066 WWW.VISITQUADCITIES.COM

Contact: Arlyce Musal, Quad Cities CVB

563-322-3911, ext. 108

amusal@visitquadcities.com

Quad Cities Is Hosting Midwest Birding Symposium

Quad Cities – Bird lovers from across the nation are welcome to the Quad Cities for the Midwest Birding Symposium on September 13-16, 2007. The headquarters for the 2007 Midwest Birding Symposium is the Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center in downtown Moline, Illinois. People can now register for the Symposium online at www.visitquadcities.com/midwestbirding.

This year's Midwest Birding Symposium will highlight fall migrants of the Upper Mississippi River Valley on morning and all day field trips accompanied by some of the country's leading experts on birds. Afternoons will feature presentations on topics ranging from fall warblers to effects of global warming on birds.

Nationally-known birding experts will be keynote speakers, including Kenn Kaufman. Kaufman writes for *Birder's World* and *Audubon* magazines and is the author of several books. The symposium is also a great place for beginning birders and people who are interested in birding to get started.

Plans for the Midwest Birding Symposium include an evening reception on Thursday at the Putnam Museum, a dinner river cruise on the Celebration Belle on Friday, and the closing banquet on Saturday. The charity chosen for the symposium is the Milan Bottoms to help preserve this important wildlife habitat. All kinds of birding merchandise will be available for purchase including premier optics, books, field guides, and feeders.

Fieldtrips will take attendees from exploring bottomland forests to a cattail marsh. Take an educational pontoon ride and then take a walk through grasslands, a sand prairie, or the Maquoketa Caves.

For more information on the Midwest Birding Symposium, a complete schedule, and to register for the conference, visit their website at www.visitquadcities.com/midwestbirding.

The Quad Cities also hosted the Midwest Birding Symposium in October 2005. Sponsors of the Midwest Birding Symposium are: Augustana College, Bird Conservation Minnesota, Birdwatcher's Digest, Bushnell Outdoor Products, Eagle Optics, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Nikon Optic

Audubon Society, Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, Quad-City Times, QCCA Expo Center, Riverboat Development Authority, Swarovski Optik N.A., Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge, US Fish & Wildlife, and Wild Birds Unlimited.

For more information on this or other outdoor-related activities in the Quad Cities, call the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-747-7800 or visit their website at www.visitquadcities.com.

The Quad Cities is made up of the riverfront towns of Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa, Moline, East Moline and Rock Island in Illinois. It is the largest metropolitan area on the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Louis. The area is just a 2-½ hour drive from Des Moines, Iowa, and Chicago, Illinois. It is easily accessible via I-80, I-74, I-88 and several major state highways.

Extensive birding trips have been coordinated for exciting field experiences that include:

Andalusia Slough Flatbottom Field Trip.

The Milan bottoms is a large tract of mature bottomland forest interspersed with buttonbush marsh and backwater sloughs.

Blackhawk State Park Historic Site Field Trip

The Blackhawk State Park Historic Site is the perfect "birding for beginners" field trip.

Credit Island/Nahant Marsh Field Trip

Credit Island is a 400-acre city park in Davenport along the Mississippi and is connected by a causeway.

Mississippi River and Backwaters Eco Cruise IA Field Trip

The Blue Goose is an educational pontoon boat that is operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Savanna, IL.

Port Louisa NWR Field Trip (Keithsburg Division)

One hundred and twelve bird species have been documented using the habitat within the 1,400-acre Keithsburg Division of the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge.

Port Louisa NWR Field Trip (All Three Divisions in Iowa) All day

We will boat through backwater sloughs on the Big Timber Division, drive an auto tour route with wetland stops and hike through woodlands on the Louisa Division, and hike through grasslands/wet meadows on the Horseshoe Bend Division.

Upper Mississippi River NWFR, Lost Mound Unit Field Trip, All day

Birding starts above Lock & Dam 13 and continues on to Thomson Causeway, Sloane Marsh, Mississippi Palisades Park, and the Lost Mound Refuge.

Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

This 225-acre nature center and preserve is located on the Wapsipinicon River, two miles north of Dixon .

Wildcat Den State Park Field Trip

Located in Montpelier, IA, it consists of upland and bottomland forests. Breeding species include whip-poor-will, Kentucky warbler, and Louisiana waterthrush.

Maquoketa Caves

Maquoketa Caves State Park, is one of Iowa's most unique state parks. The caves, limestone formation and rugged bluffs provide visitors a chance to "step back" into geological time thousands of years.

Credit Island & Wildcat Den State Park - Birding with Kenn Kaufman!

Credit Island is a 400-acre city park in Davenport along the Mississippi and is connected by a causeway. In the fall, the harbor area can provide an excellent area for egrets, herons, ducks and shorebirds.

Upper Mississippi River NWFR, Ayers Sand Prairie, All day

Birding starts above Lock & Dam 13 and continues on to Thomson Causeway, Sloane Marsh, Mississippi Palisades Park, Spring Lake and Ayers Sand Prairie. Covers all aquatic, forest, and grassland and sand prairie habitats occurring in the region.



Our rejuvenating Bobcat population has created a powerful presence on the Iowa landscape, especially along our western, southern, and eastern borders. Furbearer biologist Ron Andrews points out, “It’s wonderful to think that the Bobcat, after being very scarce from the Iowa landscape for nearly a century, could be adapting to humankind and making a comeback.” Each year trappers turn in animals that have been caught incidentally in their pursuit of other furbearers. Wildlife Society member Jim Coffey approached Iowa taxidermists to contribute mounted displays for DNR building at 2006 Iowa State Fair. The results were amazing! Visitors to the Fair were able to view 18 individual works of art featuring these stealthy predators. This group of taxidermists provide a critical link between our expanding renewable resources like Bobcats and the publics’ keen interests to learn more about these animals. Considered one of the world’s finest hunters, Bobcats have been described as moving through our landscape like wraiths on padded feet. Few animals have their gifts of keen eyesight and hearing. At the distant approach of people or dogs, Bobcats will fade into the terrain like a puff of smoke. They move without weight or sound, a bundle of spring steel wrapped in gray that, seemingly, hates to be seen by humans and will slip from view without a moment’s hesitation.

Eighteen mounts have been donated to DNR Wildlife Research Stations and nature centers across the state. Listed below, respectively in no particular order, are the people that responded to Jim’s appeal. If you recognize a local taxidermist or friend, or want to patronize their businesses, bear in mind that their self-less acts of benevolence were a tremendous asset in promoting environmental awareness to Iowans across the state. They deserve a hearty **thanks!** **Roger Hutton** - St. Charles, **Robert Bird** - Gowrie, **Joey Bourg** - Britt, **Luke Brown** - West Bend, **Mike Clarke** - Boone, **Jim Free** - Des Moines, **Ben Johnston** - Persia, **Brian Keltner** - Van Meter, **John McCormick** - Madrid, **Adam Newman** - Lime Springs, **Patrick Paxton** - Denver, **Marc Phelps** - South Amana, **Warren Ribbink** - Muscatine, **Robert Rigger** - Tracey, **Bryan Roll** - Marion, **Wayne Souer** - Wapello, **Tom Tracy** - Burlington, **John Vanderschel** - Newton, and **Dana Schultz** - Allison.



Images by Carl Kurtz

Your submissions make for a more interesting newsletter.

Electronic submissions in WORD format are desired. Contact Pat Schlarbaum if you need information about submitting a bit of news for the next newsletter. Pat.Schlarbaum@dnr.state.ia.us, 1436 255th Street, Boone, IA

Dear Wildlifer:

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society is delighted to host The Wildlife Society 14th Annual Conference and Trade Show September 22-26, 2007 in Tucson, Arizona.

The conference will be held at the Tucson Convention Center in downtown Tucson, adjacent to The Hotel Arizona.

Since TWS began these annual conferences, they have been successful because they provide opportunities to learn, relax with old friends, make new contacts, and experience new and different cultures.

We continue the tradition in Tucson! Besides the classical plenary session, papers, symposia, workshops, posters, and related meetings, the 14th conference will introduce panel discussions and a breakfast roundtable, for more detailed yet informal discussions of key conservation issues.

The conference will continue to provide numerous opportunities for students, including a student-professional mixer and an associated student "work-in-progress" poster session.

Because the plenary session this year is entitled, "Across the Borderline: Challenges and Opportunities for North American Wildlife Conservation," you also will be able to learn a bit about issues that are critical to politics, wildlife, and the nations of Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

And, of course, you will be able to enjoy the laid-back lifestyle of the Southwest and experience the beauty of the Sonoran Desert through field trips, personal excursions, Mexican restaurants, and local scenery.

To top it off, the farewell dinner will be at the world famous Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, where we will have the living museum to ourselves.

This is a highlight you will not want to miss. Please examine this brochure for more details about the many exciting educational opportunities and field trips available during the conference.

Additional information can be located at www.wildlife.org/conference/tuscon07/index.cfm

*Paul R. Krausman and
R. William Mannan*
Arrangements Committee Co-chairs

Stuart R. Tuttle
Program Committee Chair

Natural Resource Plates Available

Have you purchased your Natural Resources license plates yet? The traditional American Goldfinch and Wild Rose are just one choice. Iowa wildlife artist, Greg Bordignon's award winning Pheasant and Bald Eagle can also adorn your custom plate and designate money for Iowa's Wildlife Diversity Program and Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). The money that goes to the Wildlife Diversity Program is actually doubled, because it is matched with federal State Wildlife Grant (SWG) money.

Please support Iowa's wildlife diversity and purchase your Natural Resources license plate today at your county treasurer's office.

Pick a plate.



Help Iowa's



natural resources.



Please consider having your favorite conservation business or organization in your area endorse this movement.

Statement of Endorsement



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

a natural investment

*On behalf of the _____, I hereby endorse **Teaming with Wildlife**. Our group is delighted to join the National Coalition and support funding dedicated to fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and conservation education in every state. **Teaming with Wildlife** is our natural investment in a future teaming with wildlife!*

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please Print:

Organization or Business

Signers Name: _____ Office Held: __

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _

Email: _____ Website: _____

Would you like to add additional contacts to our lists?

Name/Title: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

How many members and/or employees does your organization/business represent? _____

If you are a company, what kind (i.e. retailer, manufacturer, etc.)? _____

If you are a state chapter should you be listed under the national organization? _____

Personal letters of support are appreciated and will be documented as testimony of the growing support for Teaming with Wildlife. Please mail with information about your group to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Diversity Program, Boone Wildlife Research Station, 1436 255th St. Boone, IA 50036. 515-432-2823x102 doug.harr@dnr.state.ia.us

For information on the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition and how you can help, please visit <http://www.teaming.com/>

Teaming With Wildlife Coalition Update, May 2007

Hi folks!

Hope you are enjoying this warm summer weather! I am writing with a few items of news that I thought you all might be interested in.

First I'd like to direct your attention to information below. If you know a group or conservation organization with a newsletter, this information can easily be modified and included to announce their conservation group's membership in the Teaming With Wildlife Coalition. One of our primary goals for this year is to raise the coalition's profile and including this information in your group's newsletter will go a long way in raising awareness. Thanks!

And, as always, if you know of any groups that would be interested in joining they can easily sign up online at: <http://www.teaming.com/action/>

Thanks to all of you once again for everything you do for Iowa's natural resources!

Sincerely,

Stephanie

Iowa Coalition Membership at 197 groups!

WOW! Look at all the support that Iowa's natural resources have! Getting this far wouldn't have been possible without each of you so thanks! We should hit 200 groups pretty soon and we will definitely be advertising that fact with a press release when we do. And of course we won't stop there, as there are many more groups out there that are supportive. The national coalition (which includes Iowa's groups) currently includes over 5,100 groups nationwide!

60 Senators and 162 representatives sign letters supporting increase in State Wildlife Grant funding

162 representatives and a record 60 senators signed on to a letter urging an increase in State Wildlife Grant funding. This letter which was addressed to the chairman and ranking member of both the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committee asked for a total of \$85 million for the 2008 state wildlife grants program. This is a strong show of support from our nation's legislators. Of the 7 congressman representing Iowa, 4 signed the letter including, representatives Boswell, Braley and Loeb sack and Senator Harkin. Senator Grassley wrote a letter supporting the president's budget for State Wildlife Grants which would appropriate \$69.5 million in 2008. Congressmen King and Leach expressed no support for State Wildlife Grants.

For the first time since the inception of the State Wildlife Grants program, a majority of Iowa's congressmen signed on. So, thanks to all of you who wrote, e-mailed or called urging your representative to sign on and thanks also to our supportive legislators!

New Teaming With Wildlife Website

The Teaming With Wildlife website has been revamped and includes all sorts of useful tools and information. If you've never visited before go to www.teaming.com. You can also visit Iowa's page at www.teaming.com/states/iowa.html which has links to our coalition list, the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan and much more. Check it out!

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 Boone, IA 50036

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY-IOWA CHAPTER

TWS CAP ORDER

Name: _____ Address: _____
 _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cap Style: (check one) high profile _____ medium profile _____

Number of hats ordered @ \$15.00 each: _____

Make payment to: Iowa Chapter The Wildlife Society

Send order and payment to: Doug Chafa

1486 Quail Ave.
 Sumner, IA 50674



Phone 515-432-2823
 Cell 712-330-0526
 E-mail Pat.Schlarbaum@dnr.state.ia.us



SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER JAUNARY, 2008

Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Membership Application/Renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Agency/Organization _____ Title _____

Telephone Number (Home) _____ (Work) _____

FAX _____ E-mail _____

Cost \$7.00/year New Member _____ Renewal _____

Make checks payable to: Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society
 c/o Doug Chafa
 1486 Quail Ave.
 Sumner, IA 50674

Agenda for TWS Meeting July 16-17 Memorial Union ISU Ames IA

12:00 1:00 Registration

1:00 - 1:15 Welcome and overview

1:15 2:00 Procedures for setting seasons and bag limits Jeff Joens (IA DNR)

2:00 – 3:00 Zenner 1 hr How the waterfowl seasons are set and Attitudes of Iowa and National Waterfowl hunters

Break

3:25- 4:25 Deer surveys, Surveillance and Season setting Suchy 1 hr

4:30 TWS

July 17 8:15 – 9:00 Roberts 45 min

9:00 – 10:00 Andrews 60 min The Evolution of an Allowable Harvest Season on 2 Restored Furbearers-- River Otters and Bobcats."

Break

10:30 – 11:30 Bogenschutz 1 hr

General discussion or leave for home