

Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project completion

Principal Investigator: Stephen J. Dinsmore
Student Investigator: N/A
Collaborators: Karen E. Kinkead, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Duration: April 2012 to December 2012
Funding Source(s): Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Goals and Objectives:

-
- Complete breeding bird atlas work on grid-based blocks during the 2012 field season.
 - Complete data entry for all blocks visited during the 2012 field season.
-

Progress:

In summer 2012 we hired seven field technicians (four for the entire season and three to complete a small number of remaining blocks in August) to assist with the completion of the second Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Results:

During the 2012 breeding season for birds, the team of atlasers helped complete all grid-based BBA blocks in Iowa (this was accomplished in late July). After meeting the original objective of this project, the BBA steering committee came up with revised block completion guidelines (using ratios of confirmed to total species, overall percent confirmed/probable status, etc.). These new guidelines created additional work for the BBA technicians, which they were also able to complete by the end of the project. Collectively, these technicians completed more than 1450 hours of atlas work and entered data for more than 13,000 records, all of which was critical for project completion (Table 1). The Iowa BBA steering committee is now working towards a 2013 book publication summarizing the atlas' results.

Table 1. Effort and productivity data for seven ISU technicians hired to assist with the second Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project, 2012. CO = Confirmed breeding records and PR = Probable breeding records.

Tech	Start Date	Block Visits	Total Hours	CO/PR Species Records
Tom Schilke	5/29/2012	156	429.63	1869
Walt Zuurdeeg	5/29/2012	133	397.07	689
Claudette Sandoval-Green	5/29/2012	53	139.86	130
Tucker Lutter	5/29/2012	95	280.40	1508
Corey Lange	8/1/2012	37	106.91	676
Jamie Balk	8/1/2012	15	49.80	109
Rachel Simmons	8/10/2012	15	55.15	417
Totals		504	1,458.82	5,398