

Greetings Birders!

Summer is getting off to a great start, and what better way to celebrate than to gather for a good ol' Blockbusting Weekend! The **first Breeding Bird Atlas Blockbusting Weekend is set for June 5-7 at Viking Lake State Park** in southwest Iowa (~10 miles southeast of Red Oak). This event has been set up as a venue for birders of all levels to get together, search for nesting birds, and most of all -- HAVE FUN!

The purpose of Blockbusting weekends is to focus on areas in the state that have a high concentration of "blocks" and/or haven't received a lot of attention. Our goals for the weekend are to actively SEARCH and CONFIRM nesting of birds within local blocks, contribute at least 10 HOURS to each block, and provide good OVERALL coverage of the blocks visited. Whether you can come and help for a few hours, or all weekend, your help and time will be greatly appreciated! Because of budget constraints, accommodations and meals will be left up to volunteers to manage. If you have questions about food or accommodations, don't hesitate to contact me.

ITINERARY:

Friday, June 5:

- 6:30 p.m. Sign-in/out near campground at Viking Lake (Anytime / all weekend)
7:00 p.m. Informational meeting at the Lower Picnic Shelter about the 2nd Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project. Volunteers will learn more about what signs to be looking for, and what blocks need to be covered in the area. Also, volunteers will be provided with maps and field cards to help while out in the field.
Volunteers are free to atlas whenever and with whomever they want. They may be directed to particular blocks that need coverage, however.

Saturday, June 6:

- ALL DAY Sign-in/out. Blockbusting! Be sure to sign-in at the campground if you haven't done so yet. Further instructions/maps/field cards will be provided at the sign-in station.
6:30 p.m. Dinner at Pizza Ranch in Red Oak.

Sunday, June 7:

- ALL DAY Sign-in/out. Blockbusting! Be sure to sign-in at the campground if you haven't done so yet. Further instructions/maps/field cards will be provided at the sign-in station.
3:00 p.m. Wrap-up. Volunteers will gather at the campground where all records from the weekend will be compiled onto giant final BBA Field Card posters.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Viking Lake State Park has a wonderful campground where volunteers can stay if they wish. Campsites range from \$11-\$16 per night. If this is your chosen path, you can reserve your campsite online at <https://eservices.iowa.gov/iowaparks/>, or call the Call Center at 1-877-427-2757.

- The Stanton Inn Motel is the closest lodging to Viking Lake State Park (less than 10 minutes away).
 - ✓ **Stanton Inn Motel**
620 Hallard Ave.
Stanton, IA 51573
(712) 829-2585
Website: stantoninnmotel.com

- The Super 8 located in Red Oak is about 15-20 minutes away from Viking Lake State Park.
 - ✓ **Super 8 Red Oak**
800 Senate Ave.
Red Oak, IA 51566
(712) 6233-6919
Website: super8.com

- The Red Coach Inn located in Red Oak is about 15-20 minutes away from Viking Lake State Park.
 - ✓ **Red Coach Inn**
1200 Senate Ave.
Red Oak, IA 51566
(712) 623-4864

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in helping out with our BBA Blockbusting Weekend, please let me know by Monday, June 1st. We need all the help we can get! So, if you want to get away, visit a new area, search for birds, and have fun, come join us on June 5-7 at Viking Lake State Park for some Blockbusting madness!! I look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Birding and Take Care,

Nichole Nagl
BBA Volunteer Coordinator
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Map of Viking Lake State Park Link:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/images/maps_pictures/vikingmap.pdf

