

Dear fellow birder:

An informal committee has met and is offering the following as a working proposal for an Iowa Birdline. Now we need help from a larger sample. Your name was chosen because you are a frequent contributor to the Field Reports.

The line probably would work as follows: A single phone line, likely to be located in Iowa City, will be connected to a telephone answering machine. When the number is dialed, the machine will play a message and then allow for listener input. The following items have been suggested for inclusion on the line:

1. Rare birds: including directions for finding the bird.
2. Birding events: Christmas counts, conventions, etc.
3. Migrant arrival dates and unusual nestings.

The tape will be updated at least weekly during the less exciting seasons, and more often during migration. The system as proposed would cost around \$500 for the first year and \$300 in the following years. This would cover the cost of a business telephone line and purchase or rental of the answering machine.

We propose to finance this through donations. These would be given to the IOU (therefore tax deductible) but earmarked for the Birdline. The system would not be set up until one year's operating costs were in hand.

Your prompt answers to the following questions will be of great help to us. Thank you. Please send your responses to: Rick Hollis, 3351 Lower West Branch Rd., Iowa City, IA 52240. Call me if you have any questions: 319-338-4834.

Name: Phone: 29 Returned of 55-60 Sent Out Tabulated 29 Sept.
Address: ca 50% return

1. Would you be willing to contribute \$20-25 the first year and somewhat less in the ensuing years? Yes or No. 18 9 and 2 willing to contribute \$10
2. How often do you think that you would call to listen to the tape? 765 times a year.
3. Would you be willing to contribute information to the line, regularly and quickly? Yes or No. All who would give \$\$ indicated yes as well as a few others.
4. In the past year, how many bits of information do you think you would have had to put on line? 450 bits.
5. What other kinds of information would you like to hear on the line?
6. Would you drive across the state to see a rare bird? Yes or No. 11 Yes
Halfway across the state? Yes or No. 17 Yes
7. Do you have access to a WATS line? Yes, No, or Sometimes.
Only 2 or 3 WATS lines.
8. Are there any local organizations in your area that might be willing to help fund this operation? Or collectively make use of it?
9. Do you know of any individuals, outside of the regular Field Reports contributors, who might be interested?
10. Please write any additional comments which you may have on the back of this sheet.