

Ben O'Neal

Ben O'Neal, who recently graduated from University of Illinois and is now Assistant Professor of Biology at Franklin College in southeastern Indiana, received an IOS grant to continue his work on the four-year study of American Golden-Plovers, their spring migration patterns and habitat usage (see O'Neal and co-author Mark Alessi's article, "The Plover Project" published in Vol. 17, No. 2 of *Meadowlark*).

In spring of 2010, O'Neal and his colleagues at the U of I and INHS:

- Trapped and radio-tagged five American Golden-Plovers in east-central Illinois.
- Tracked these five plovers throughout their stopover and found average stopover duration of 17 days, longer than previously thought.
- During that time, the five plovers moved considerably, occupying an average home range of 856 hectares (slightly more than 2,100 acres).

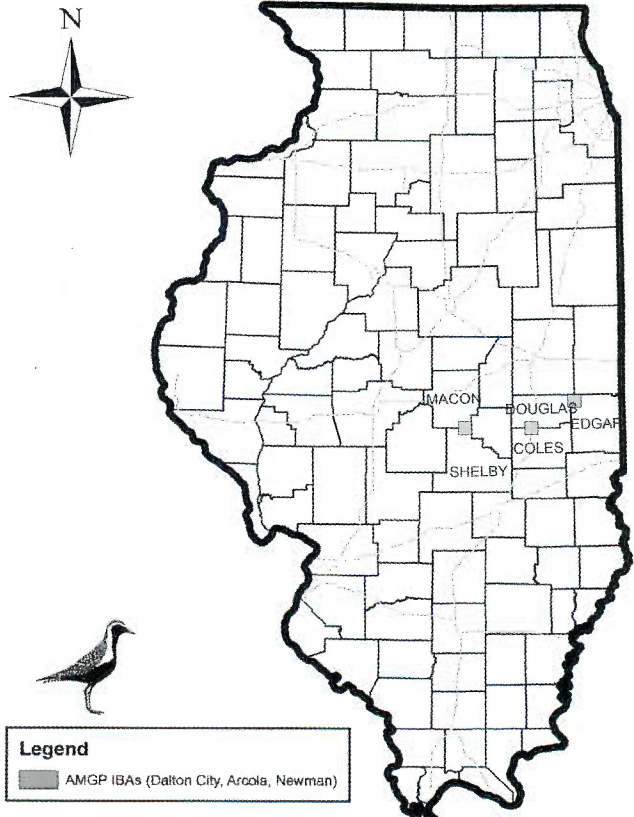
For the third consecutive year, student volunteers and local birders documented substantial plover abundance (13,805) in several key areas, three of which have been named by the National Audubon Society as American Golden-Plover Important Bird Areas.

In 2011, IOS expects once again to receive many proposals for worthwhile bird research projects. For more information, go to www.illinoisbirds.org.

— Compiled by Robert Fisher,
President, Illinois
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Ben O'Neal is studying American Golden-Plovers.



A map of Illinois shows where Important Bird Areas are located for the American Golden-Plover.