



Big Bluestem Audubon Society
Ames, Iowa

Jim Murdock, Pres. 292-5102
Dave Edwards, Vice-Pres. 292-3790
Sherry Dragula, Sec. 292-4014
Judy Shearer, Treas. 292-4430
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450

For membership information,
contact one of the officers
listed above.

Bluestem Flyer

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Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, June 11, 1985, at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Iowa Arboretum (Take Hwy. 30 west to Hwy. 17. Drive south on 17 to Luther and turn west there onto E-57. Go about 2½ mi. to a 4H Camp/Arboretum sign pointing south. Follow the signs about 2 mi. on gravel roads to the Arboretum.)

EVENT: Big Bluestem annual potluck dinner, followed by a tour of the Arboretum with Peter van der Linden, director. Families bring one main dish and a dessert or salad; singles bring one dish of their choice. Everyone bring table service and own beverage.

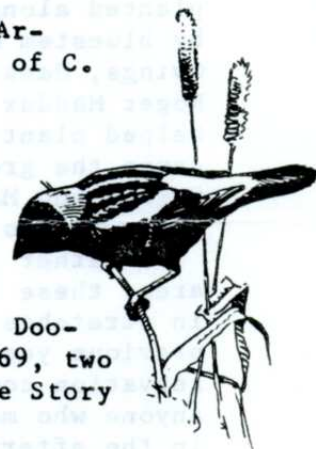
We urge those of you who can to carpool to the Arboretum. Meet at 5:45 p.m. in the parking lot south of C. Y. Stephens for the carpool/caravan!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Prairie Walks -- June 20 and July 25, both at 7 p.m. at Doolittle Prairie (two mi. north of the Gilbert corner on Hwy. 69, two mi. east and ¾ mi. north on gravel roads), sponsored by the Story County Conservation Board.

Heritage Day -- July 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Hickory Grove Park. This old-fashioned 4th of July celebration is sponsored by Story County Conservation Board and open to the public.

Fall Newsletter Deadline -- This will be the last newsletter published until early September. Deadline for the fall issue will be Aug. 20. Send news items to Judy van der Linden, 610-9th St.



AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Officers and board members for 1985-86 were elected at the May meeting. They are: President, Jim Murdock; Vice-president, David Edwards; Secretary, Sherry Dragula; Treasurer, Judy Shearer, and Executive Board, Cindy Hildebrand, Judy van der Linden, Tim Grotheer, Tom Davis and Mary Owings.

Jim Murdock entrusted the club's spotting scope with David Edwards for the first part of the summer, for members wishing to borrow the scope. Dick Trump gave the Bird of the Month report on ... woodchucks?? Mr. Ladin's slide show on hiking in Nepal was very interesting and well-narrated.

SOGGY FIELD TRIP

Rain kept most people away from the planned spring bird walk at McFarland park on May 11. However, the five birders who did brave the weather were rewarded with the sighting of an Orchard Oriole.

200 MORE TREES PLANTED

Another 200 small trees were planted along Hwy. 30 east of Ames by Bluestem members on May 4. Mary Owings, Hank Zaletel, Cindy Hildebrand, Roger Maddux and Judy van der Linden helped plant, and a week later, because the ground was so dry, Mary Owings and Mary Cowan returned to water some of the trees.

Rather than plant in a new area, these trees were used to fill in stretches where trees planted in previous years had died. The conservation committee apologizes to anyone who may have arrived to plant in the afternoon. A mix-up in starting times occurred because of a lack of communication.



IOU MEETING REPORT

The Iowa Ornithologist's Union (IOU) held its spring meeting May 18-19 at Marshalltown Community College. Hosts were the Central Iowa Ornithologists, the Marshalltown bird club.

Participants socialized on Friday evening, then went on field trips early Saturday morning. Late morning workshops were held on flycatcher identification, shorebird identification and building an ornithological library, and afternoon program topics were identifying birds by sound and the state breeding bird atlas project. Carl Kurtz gave a presentation Saturday evening on his safari to Africa.

Activities on Sunday included morning field trips and a compilation at noon of the approximately 155 species seen over the weekend. The best bird spotted was a Ruddy Turnstone (see drawing at right).



NEWSLETTER ASSISTANTS THANKED

The newsletter editor would like to thank those persons who helped with newsletter publication during the past year: Cindy Hildebrand, Sherry Dragula, Tom Davis, Dave & Jeanne Edwards and Hank Zaletel, writers; Cindy Hildebrand, editor for two issues; John Bath, Lois Carr, Janet Graver, Mary Owings and Judy Shearer, who helped with addressing and mailing, and Pete van der Linden, adviser. Thank you for donating your time and energy to the newsletter!

NOTE -- There are no scheduled meetings or field trips over the summer. Our regular activities will resume in the fall.



BIRDER'S NOTES

Ledges State Park is one of the best places to see migrating warblers this spring. A Kentucky Warbler has been seen near the cross bridge at the bottom of the long hill down to the lower Ledges; Cerulean Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found near the intersection of Pease Creek and the lower Ledges road, and Yel-

low-throated Warblers, rare in this part of Iowa, are located 50 yards south of the outdoor shelter in sycamore trees behind an old ranger's shed. Near the park's main entrance, a mockingbird was seen around the ranger's residence.

Other bird sightings in the Ames area include a Connecticut Warbler on May 27 at Brookside Park, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Least Bittern on May 18-19 at Cooper's Marsh and a Least Bittern on May 27 at Hendrickson's Marsh.

CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT

(Sherry Dragula, 292-4014; Cindy Hildebrand, 232-3807)

PLEASE WRITE -- Letters on the Garrison Diversion Project are still needed. Sherry has a fact sheet available for anyone interested.

DRAINAGE RULES -- A hearing on proposed changes in Iowa's drainage rules will be Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. in Des Moines. Cindy, our Iowa Audubon Council lobbyist in the statehouse, is urging that the rules changes be challenged because of their potential environmental impact. The changes already have been tentatively approved and will probably go into effect unless the commissioners' minds can be changed. Letters may be sent to Robert W. Schlutz, chairman of the Water, Air and Waste Management Commission, Box 269, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738.

Anyone wishing to go to the hearing can contact Cindy for a ride to Des Moines.

PRAIRIE WORKSHOP -- A workshop on tallgrass prairie will be held Aug. 7 at Pioneer Central Division, Johnston, and is open to the public. Sponsors are the Iowa Conservation Commission, the Iowa Federated Garden Clubs and the state Department of Transportation. The all-day workshop will include talks on wildflower diversity and propagation, prairie establishment on park lands, and the question of roadside spraying. A tour of the Saylorville Visitors' Center, catered lunch and materials all are included in the \$8.50 registration fee. Preregistration forms are due Aug. 2. Contact Judy van der Linden for a form or more information.

SAFER SUBSTITUTES

In order to decrease the amount of wastes we produce, try using some of these less harmful substitutes.

INSECT SPRAY Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, one minced onion, one tablespoon pure soap in 4 liters of hot water and let sit 1-2 days. Strain before using. OR Place 1 cigarette in 1 liter of water overnight. Strain and spray.

MOSQUITO REPELLENT Drink brewer's yeast or take in tablet form on a daily basis during the summer months (make sure you are not allergic to brewer's yeast before taking it).

GENERAL CLEANER Mix baking soda with a small amount of water.

DRAIN OPENER Prevent clogging by using a drain strainer.
OR Use plunger or mechanical snake. OR Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup borax into the drain followed by 2 cups of boiling water. OR Flush drain weekly with boiling water.

-- Recipes from the Minnesota Waste Management Board

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