



# Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 20, No. 10 June, 1986

## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Ames, Iowa

Jim Murdock, Pres. 233-1199  
Dave Edwards, Vice-Pres. 292-3790  
Sherry Dragula, Sec. 292-4014  
Judy Shearer, Treas. 296-7512  
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450

For membership information,  
contact Dave Edwards.

## Monthly Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Robison Wildlife Acres, a county park (Meet in the parking lot behind C.Y. Stephens at 6 p.m. to carpool. We will head east on new Highway 30 to the west edge of Nevada; turn south and proceed 5 miles on S14, and then turn east and drive 1¼ miles on a gravel road to the park.)

**EVENT:** Annual potluck supper. Bring own table service, drinks, and two dishes to share -- one main dish and one salad or dessert. Single persons bring only one dish. The park has picnic tables but no water or electricity. There are many hiking trails for birding after we eat, so bring binocs, bug spray, etc.

## Upcoming Meeting and Events

**I.O.U. Field Trip** -- The first Iowa Ornithological Union summer field trip will be held June 7 at 7:30 a.m. in the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest in Lee County. Preregistration is requested. Anyone interested may contact Bob Cecil, 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa, 52632 (319/524-6407, evenings).

**Summer Board Meeting** -- The society's executive board will meet once over the summer to discuss plans for next year. The meeting date is not yet set, but any member interested in attending may contact an officer.



**New Officers Elected** -- New officers and executive board members were elected at the May chapter meeting. They are: Dave Edwards, president; Judy van der Linden, vice-president; Barb Bettis, secretary; Judy Shearer, treasurer, and board members Cindy Johnson-Groh, Mike Meetz, Marianna Loy, Mark Widrlechner and Sherry Dragula. The board is made up of the five persons listed above, plus current chapter officers, for a total of nine members.

**Warbler Field Trip** -- An enthusiastic group of birders met Sat., May 10, at McFarland Park to enjoy a soggy but productive morning. A total of 45 bird species was seen and/or heard. Featured sightings included the Yellow-Throated, Warbling and Red-eyed vireos, and Northern Parula, Black-throated Green and Blackpoll warblers. Group leader Hank Zaletel gave several good identification tips during the morning.

**June Bird Puzzles and May Answers** -- Which bird's name is described by each of the short phrases below?

1. Crimson macrame
2. Whistler in the dunes
3. Leg joint
4. Itinerant squealer
5. Spy's trollop

The answers to the May puzzles are:

1. Small change in direction -- Least Tern
2. Gulp the money -- Bank Swallow
3. Can make almost anything disappear -- Merlin
4. Wise complainer -- Sage Grouse
5. Feline funeral -- Kittiwake

**Budget Approved** -- A budget anticipating expenses of \$1,460 for the Chapter's 1986-1987 fiscal year was approved by members at the May meeting. Estimated income for the year is \$1,700. Expenses include:

Publications committee	\$700
Publicity committee	\$150
Conservation committee	\$70
Education committee	\$220
Iowa Audubon Council Membership	\$50
Nature Conservancy Membership	\$25
Story County Conservation Grant	\$120
Willson Elder Center Grant	\$50
Clerical Expenses	\$70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,460</b>



**Audubon and Kids** -- Next September a total of 13 classrooms of grade-school children in Ames, Story City, and Colo will be receiving "Audubon Adventures," the National Audubon Society's nature newsletter for youngsters. Our chapter is helping sponsor this popular program in the schools. We hope interest in "Audubon Adventures" will continue to increase -- classroom participation jumped from 8 last year to 13 this year.

**Wildlife Report Available** -- The Audubon Wildlife Report 1986, second in an annual series, is now available from the National Audubon Society. A comprehensive guide to wildlife management, the 1,000-page book continues the 1985 volume's in-depth coverage of such topics as marine mammal and endangered species management, wetlands protection, and migratory bird conservation. Information on federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, is updated and expanded. Twenty-three chapters are devoted to individual species such as the Whooping Crane, lynx, wolf, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Loon, and Knowlton cactus. This fact-filled and well-researched volume will be extremely useful to anyone concerned with the protection of the nation's wildlife. To order, send \$34.95 plus \$2.50 for mailing (make checks payable to National Audubon Society) to Audubon Wildlife Report, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY, 10022.

**Newsletter Helpers Thanked** -- The newsletter editor would like to thank a number of persons for their help over the past year: Karen Van Drie, Sherry Dragula, Cindy Hildebrand, Dave and Jeanne Edwards, Marianna Loy, Hank Zaletel, Steve Dinsmore and Mark Widrlecher all submitted reports or stories for the newsletter; Mary Owings, Jeanne Edwards and Sherry Dragula helped prepare newsletters for mailing, and Karen Van Drie and Gladys Van Drie volunteered the time and expertise, and the equipment, respectively, to produce the last few much nicer-looking issues of the newsletter. Many thanks to you all for your much-appreciated help.





## Birder's Notes

Friday, May 30 -- Iowa's summer bird residents have returned and many are setting up housekeeping or already feeding their young. Recent rains have refilled the Colo "ponds" and several species of shorebirds may still be seen there, but the major wave of shorebirds apparently went through central Iowa the weekend of May 17. As many as 11 species of shorebirds were seen near Colo at any one time during that weekend. Most will now spend the month of June on their breeding grounds up north.

The warbler migration is mostly over here, but some species can still be seen nearby. Several warblers that have nested at the Ledges State Park in the past and that may be seen there this year include the Northern Parula, Yellow-Throated and Blue-winged warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush and American Redstart. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers also nest at the Ledges.

Wet areas such as Larson's Marsh, Cooper's Marsh or Hendrickson's Marsh may contain Soras, American Bitterns or Yellow-headed Blackbirds, among others. Have a good summer birding and don't forget to report any unusual sightings to the Iowa Birdline at 1-319-622-3353!

**Trees Planted** -- The Conservation Committee wishes to thank the following persons who helped plant trees along Highway 30 east of Ames this spring: Hank Zaletel, Barb Bettis, Dick Trump, Ed Carbrey, Roger Maddux, Cindy Hildebrand, Dave and Jeanne Edwards, Mark Widrlechner and Sherry Dragula. The recent rains should give those trees a good start!

**Last Newsletter** -- This will be the last issue of the Bluestem Flyer until September, and there are no scheduled chapter meetings or field trips over the summer. Anyone with questions about the chapter this summer may contact Publicity Chair Cindy Hildebrand at 232-3807, or a chapter officer.

### Northwood's Vacations--

For those who are still looking for a unique vacation, several openings are available on trips planned by Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone, Minnesota. The trips include: 3 or 4 days *Sailing the Apostle Islands* in July and August; *BWCA Canoe Trips* Aug. 2-9, and *Quetico Canoe Trip*, July 26-Aug. 9. Contact the center at 612-245-2648 for more information or reservations.







## Audubon Member Profile

Steve Dinsmore and his "teammates" of Eric Munson and Gorden Brown of Ames are the champs for the most species seen during this years Iowa Ornithologist Union's Birdathon. Steve and his friends saw 171 species, a new state record! That was 24 more species than the team you may have read about in the Des Moines Register.

Steve was on the committee to help plan the IOU's annual "big day". He raised \$100 from backers who pledged so much per species. The statewide dollar total is not in yet. Steve estimates that it will be "several thousands".

If Steve is a familiar face it's because he gets around in birding circles. He has led or co-led many Audubon field trips. "I get a kick out of meeting people and sharing my knowledge of birds." He's currently involved with the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas Project. During May and June Steve will look to find an example of as many species as possible nesting in Central Iowa. Only one sighting is needed for each species. He's also involved in Pheasants Forever, an organization that works on wildlife habitat preservation. In the last several months Steve has had seven notes published in *Iowa Birdlife*. He is also an avid duck hunter.

Steve is a sophomore at Iowa State majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. He is interested in pursuing a masters and his ideal job after that would be some sort of research position.

His interest in the outdoors was sparked by his father, James Dinsmore, a professor in the Animal Ecology department at ISU. Next semester will be the first time Steve will have his father for a teacher. The thought brings a chuckle from Steve that can only be described as downright mischievous. "It'll be interesting," he says.

Steve would "rather be stuck in a marsh anyday" than any other sort of habitat. He loves to camp and hike, plus anything else that has to do with the outdoors. He's presently trying to learn all the bird calls, with about 50-60% already memorized. Steve admits he has one birding nemesis. He has yet to see the Hooded Warbler in Iowa. Suggestions anyone?

Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
P. O. Box No. 1843  
Ames, Iowa 50010

S. Dragula/M. Widrlechner  
R. R. 6  
Ames, Iowa 50010

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