



Big Bluestem Flyer

Newsletter of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Volume 37, Number 2

November/December 2001

Upcoming Programs

November 15—*Red-shouldered Hawks and Birds of the Upper Mississippi River*

Jon Stravers, Research and Field Trip Coordinator for National Audubon Society's Upper Mississippi River Campaign, will talk about Red-shouldered Hawks, Black-crowned Night Herons, and other birds on the Upper Mississippi River. Jon will also introduce us to Audubon's new Birding Trails Mapping Project and, who knows, he might even sing an original song about the river!

December 13—*BBAS Holiday for the Birds. No speaker. Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park, 7:00 p.m.* Join Audubon friends for an evening of good cheer at the Story County Conservation Center. Bring a few slides (10 or less, please) and your favorite finger food to share. Drinks will be provided. Also, bring along a bag of birdseed or a few dollars for the feeders at the Conservation Center. It's all for the birds!

Program meetings are held monthly, September-May (except December) on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Room 2226 [note room change] Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. If you need directions, please see the map on the back of the Events Calendar. If you would like to meet and dine with the speaker and the BBAS board before the monthly meeting. Please call John Snyder, 515-232-8824, to confirm space and location.

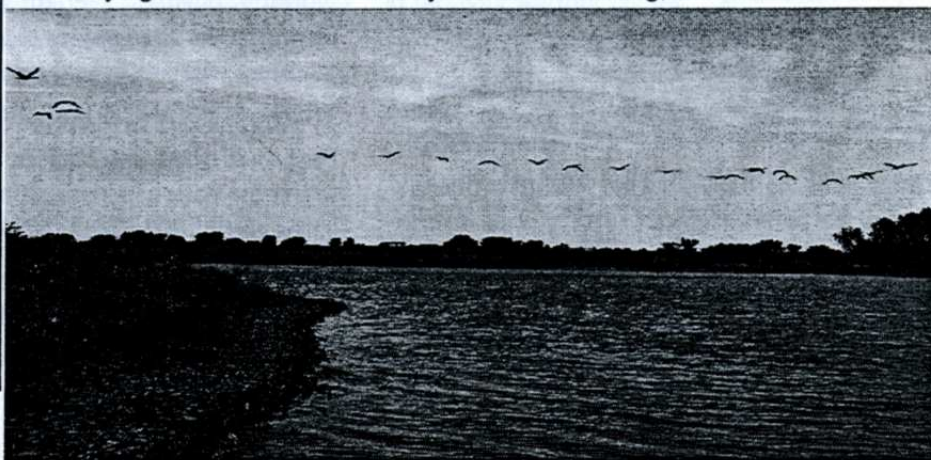
Hallett's Quarry—An Important Special Central Iowa Project Needs Your Help

Marlene Ehrenman

At first blush, you may think this project only impacts the residents of Ames. A closer look reveals the broader issues and impacts of the acquisition and protection of Hallett's Quarry.

A couple of years ago, a Central Iowa developer approached the City of Ames with a plan to construct an up-scale housing development on several hundred acres at the north edge of Ames. The hook was going to be the old quarry, known as Hallett's Quarry, that many of us have longed to bird over the years. For many Ames residents, and some Story County neighbors, there were many environmental and social problems associated with developing this fragile land.

Hallett's Quarry is a 245-acre site located on North Grand Avenue (Highway 69). The City of Ames has secured an option to purchase the quarry site and surrounding parcels that total approximately 465 acres, including 130 acres of open water. When the project is Geese flying over Hallett's. Photo by Dr. John Downing, ISU.



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National Audubon Society Web Site:

<http://www.audubon.org>

Iowa Audubon State Director:

Iowa Bird Sightings Hotline—319-338-9881 iwindjaol.com

Wildlife Care Clinic—515-294-4900

The mission of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society is to enjoy the observation and study of birds and natural ecosystems, contribute to their preservation and restoration, and engage in educational activities to benefit humanity, and to gain a broader understanding and deeper appreciation of the world we live in.

**Newsletter deadline:
January 4—2 p.m.**



Beyond the Backyard

*Karl Jungbluth,
President*

The Kinglet and I have been spending a lot of time in the backyard lately. It's fall, and I feel like I have to spend every pleasant moment enjoying the sights and sounds. The Ruby-crowned Kinglets, along with Phoebe, Bluebirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers, are the characteristic backyard birds of the fall color season. There's nothing I enjoy more than sitting outside watching the Yellow-rumps fly-catch as the sun sets on a quiet evening. The sound of their call note says "autumn" to me.

Sometimes we wonder how to make a difference for birds and nature, beyond our back yard. When it comes to the Hallett's Quarry issue, there's no question what needs to be done. Here's an opportunity for us to act as Audubon members! If you live in Ames, plan to get out and vote on November 6th, and take a friend and neighbor along. The quarry can be a peaceful place for residents to relax, and birdwatchers to linger.

The Thanksgiving holiday will be here before we know it. Thanksgiving should be a bigger deal than we make it, and not just a kickoff weekend for the Christmas buying season. Personally, I'm thankful for the natural places we do have in Iowa, and for the people who are working so hard to keep those places and expand them. In this mixed up world, we need places of solitude and the reassurance that migrant warblers will return to their habitats each spring.

Right now I'm reading L.H. Pammel's booklet about Ledges State Park, published way back in 1928. It took 6 years and many attempts to get the park established, but I'm thankful that the people of Iowa stuck with it 80 years ago.

Luckily, many of the features mentioned in the booklet are still there. I was out walking in the park this evening, and the gold of the ironwood trees and maple trees and the setting sun was mesmerizing. I saw turkey, deer and, just a few hundred feet behind our house, evidence of a beaver working in the stream. Somehow I didn't see the owner of the dam, but a loud tail-slap let me know I should be moving on. Robins were dropping into the valley from everywhere, and the Yellow-rumps were fly-catching from many a tree. Reindeer lichen, a signature species of the park, is still there if you know where to look. And if you don't, let me know and we'll go for a hike sometime!

Carl Fritz Henning, famous and first custodian of Ledges State Park, was an Audubon Society member. We can follow in his footprints as modern Audubon members, taking time to enjoy, appreciate and conserve Iowa's natural places.



Conservation Corner

Katherine Andersen

The Iowa Gap Project: *Keeping Common Species Common!* What is GAP?

Gap analysis is a scientific method for identifying the degree to which *native* animal species and natural communities are represented in our present-day mix of conservation lands. Those species and communities not adequately represented in the existing network of conservation lands constitute conservation "gaps." The purpose of the Gap Analysis Program (GAP) is to provide broad geographic information on the status of ordinary species (those not threatened with extinction or naturally rare) and their habitats in order to provide land managers, planners, scientists, and policy makers with the information they need to make better-informed decisions.

To achieve this, GAP is the first state and national level effort:

- map existing natural vegetation to the level of dominant or co-dominant plant species;
- map predicted distribution of native vertebrate species;
- map public land ownership and private conservation lands;
- show the current network of conservation lands;
- compare distributions of any native vertebrate species, group of species, or vegetation communities of interest with the network of conservation lands;
- provide an objective basis of information for local, state, and national options in managing biological resources.

The GAP Process in a Nutshell

Vegetation is mapped from satellite imagery and other records using the National Vegetation Classification System. (Iowa's vegetation imagery comes from 1992 satellite data!) Native animal species ranges are mapped by using museum and agency specimen collection records in conjunction with known general ranges and the animal's affiliation with the previously mapped vegetation types and other physical characteristics. These data are combined and displayed with a computerized geographic information system (GIS) at a cartographic scale of 1:100,000. Maps of vegetation types, individual species, or selected suites of species (depending on one's interest) are overlain on maps of land ownership and land management, showing where land-based conservation efforts can be focused to achieve the conservation of selected elements of biodiversity most efficiently, preventing both conservation crises and land-use surprises. *Finding the "gaps" in biodiversity and conservation management.*

Cyber Birding

Rebecca Shivers

[http://worldtwitch.virtualave.net/
search_worldtwitch.htm](http://worldtwitch.virtualave.net/search_worldtwitch.htm)

Welcome to WORLDTWITCH—a site for world birders. Are the cooler days of autumn with the nights dropping down into the 30s making you dream of faraway places to bird? Do you hear the beckoning of the Neotropical birds as they fly towards the warm days and longer nights parts of the world? Are the beating of the Canada Geese's wings as they head south with many other species calling you to follow? Well, WorldTwitch is the birding site for you!

This birding site will help you with your world birding to warmer climes. It has information for Brazil, Thailand, the Galapagos, etc. To help you with lodging and tours, if you are so inclined, there is a plethora of information for those problematic areas. Once you have decided where you want to go, check out the bird links and the sounds of the unfamiliar birds you will see. There are also discussion boards, if you would like to communicate with people who have been there, done that, or those dreaming/planning to go to faraway warmer climes.

All in all, this is a great site and has terrific links. Even if you don't really go anywhere, you will travel there through the lens of the Internet.

Dear Audubon Members:

Thank you for talking to our class about birds. I learned that the Eastern Goldfinch is the state bird. Also, the birds are sometimes different sizes depending on their sex. Weird! That is interesting that some birds do not migrate. Cool! Thanks for letting us use your binoculars.

From,
The Kids

Continued—page 7

Young Naturalists Camper Report

Daniel Baker, Boone, Iowa

[Editor's note: Big Bluestem Audubon paid for three 6th and 7th graders to attend at the Des Moines YMCA Camp, August 12-18, 2001.]

I had a lot of fun at camp and learned a lot! There were many people from all over Iowa that came and taught us neat things and went out of their way to help us learn about nature.

I had a good time and I would love to go next year.

Things everybody did:

Went on a night hike

Went to an all natural farm south of Boone

Went to the butterfly garden at Saylorville

Visited the Audubon Iowa headquarters at Saylorville

Looked through telescopes with the Ames area astronomers

Slept outside on the big hill watching shooting stars

Watched a presentation on common bats in Iowa

Things offered:

Edible plants, fire by friction, creek hike, discovery hike, bird watching, frogs, turtles, and an animal hospital, identifying furry critters (and skulls)

Things to do:

Riflery, swimming, archery, arts and crafts, dodgeball, the climbing tower, horseback riding, canoeing, orienteering

What I learned:

You can eat cattail tubers.

There is such a thing as a prairie chicken.

Black bears once lived in Iowa.

You can make string out of the inner bark of the basswood tree.

You can eat red clover.

When you smash two pieces of quartz together it makes a spark.

You often see shooting stars around August 11.

American Kestrels can hover.

Camp food is pretty good.



Notes From the Field Trips

(Reports submitted by trip leaders)

Fall Shorebirds and Waterfowl. September 1. Field Trip Leader Jeff Nichols.

Eleven people participated in the first BBAS field trip of the fall. We spent most of the morning at Sandpiper Beach on Saylorville Reservoir, followed by quick visits to Jester Park and Harrier Marsh. We saw 43 birds species during the morning, most notably several Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Corp of Engineers personnel also shot footage of BBAS members in the act of birding for use in interpretive programs, so be watching for familiar faces on the small screen at the Saylorville Lake Visitor's Center.

Grammer Grove Wildlife Area. October 6. Field Trip Leader Jeff Nichols.

About a dozen BBAS members made the trek to Grammer Grove on a cool, clear morning for a day of hawk watching and bird hiking. Many hawks were passing overhead, mostly Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks, but also a Broad-winged Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk. While hiking around the area, we also found both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, an Eastern Towhee, and two Orange-crowned Warblers. For the day, we had 39 species.

Many thanks for the informative post card from the Webster City Chamber of Commerce with some new birding area suggestions. We have a team scouting these potential birding areas for future birding trips.

Hallett's Quarry—Continued from page 1

completed, the plan calls for the reconstruction of over 300 acres of native prairie, wetlands and woodlands surrounding Hallett's Quarry!

While the City's primary goal of this project, and the one that probably interests most Ames residents, is to protect Ames' emergency water supply by protecting the quality of the water, those of us who understand and appreciate the protection of natural habitats and open space can applaud and support this project on other merits.

Many of us know that prairie and wetland ecosystems help filter water, protecting ground and surface water from contaminants, and absorb excess water during flood events. We understand that deep-rooted native prairie plants provide soil stabilization and that the living members of an aquatic system, the plants and animals, are connected to each other – and to us – in the food web. Those of us lucky enough to live in the Central Iowa area know that this has become a migration stop-over site for the birds we love to watch.

The trails that are planned for the area will not only serve to get birders in the midst of the birds, but will provide opportunities for those who may not understand natural systems: the first step toward understanding is often just experiencing! A boat ramp will be for non-motorized crafts, such as canoes and sailboats (if you're concerned about the activity, remember this is a quarry – there has been heavy equipment activity in this area for years). A few other simple amenities are also planned.

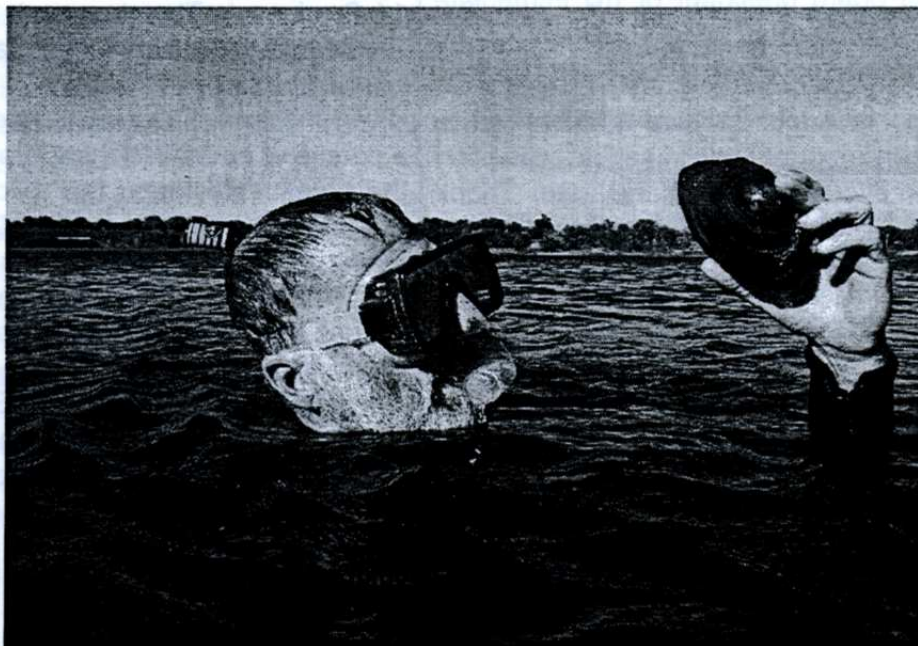
The cost of purchasing the land, restoring the wetlands and prairie, stabilizing the quarry banks, and developing the recreation amenities is \$7.5 million. Pledges, both monetary and in-kind, have been received. Now the City is asking the residents to pass a bond request of \$4,970,000. The vote is coming up November 6, 2001.

So, what can you do to help ensure that this remains public land?

- If you are an Ames resident, **VOTE YES November 6** to pass the resolution;
- Whether you are an Ames resident or not, **write a letter of support** to the Ames Tribune, and maybe mention, among other things, the possible business (eating in local restaurants, shopping, etc) such an attraction might bring to the City;
- **Volunteer your time** on one of the various committees that have formed and help get the word out before November 6;
- **Make a donation** to the grassroots organization that is spearheading this campaign. Many Big Bluestem Audubon members have already been helping.

In short, get involved! Let's do our part to protect Iowa's remaining open space and reconstruct some habitat. It's a challenge, and a responsibility.

Dr. Rolf Koford (ISU) with mussel in hand. Photo by Dr. John Downing, ISU.



A Final Farewell From Paul Zeph, State Office Director

Dear Audubon Members and Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I tell you that Ellen and I will be leaving Iowa at the end of October. I am transferring (migrating?) with the Audubon Society to a new position in Pennsylvania. I have been asked to spearhead a comprehensive conservation, education, and citizen action initiative to protect the Kittatinny Ridge — the ridge that runs along the eastern edge of the Appalachian mountains and eventually becomes the blue ridge of the Smokies, and the ridge that is most used by raptors during migration (Hawk Mountain is located along the ridge).

We have greatly enjoyed working with all of you and getting to know the hidden gems of habitat that exist throughout Iowa. We'll be in the office for a few more weeks wrapping up projects and preparing the office for the transition. We should be here through the end of October, so feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone if you have questions for me or suggestions to pass along to my successor.

Glenn Olson, Audubon's Senior Vice President of Field Operations, will work with Karl Jungbluth to convene a search committee for a new state director within the next few weeks. Please spread the word about this exciting job opportunity.

After we leave and before a new executive director is hired, questions can be directed to Karl Jungbluth, Audubon Iowa board president or my immediate supervisor, Carol Warden, Vice President, State Programs. Their contact information is listed below.

With your support, Audubon Iowa will continue to grow and play an important role in habitat protection and restoration efforts throughout the state. Thank you, again, for all you have done for the cause and all you will do in the future.

Best Wishes,

Paul

Bird Drop-ins

*Sightings by
BBAS Members*



On Sunday afternoon, October 14, Karl Jungbluth reports there were some nice birds down by the creek behind our house. Hundreds of robins found the cedar berries and were zooming everywhere. There were a few Cedar Waxwings too and about a dozen Yellow-rumped Warblers. The best individual birds, with great close views, were a Wilson's Warbler, a Spotted Towhee and a Winter Wren. Three accipiters, one a Cooper's, went by at high speed. A flock of Canada Geese had a few giants, but the rest were much smaller. The juncos are trickling in, but we still have lots of bluebirds, and a phoebe.

Stephen Dinsmore reports on Friday, September 21, that he spent the morning birding the Saylorville Reservoir area with Aaron Brees. They saw the following birds of note: 400+ Pied-billed Grebes, 26 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Black-bellied Plovers, 1 juvenile Sabine's Gull (off the south end of Jester Park), 1 Northern Parula, 1 Lark Sparrow, and 1 White-throated Sparrow.

He further comments there was apparently a very big thrush movement the night before. In about 10 minutes of listening before dawn, he heard 14 Swainson's Thrushes and 1 Gray-cheeked Thrush overhead his parents yard in Ames.

Karl Jungbluth, Saturday, September 22, spent a couple of hours in his backyard and down by the creek. He found the following warblers: Orange-crowned, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, and Common Yellowthroat. He also saw the following vireos: Blue-headed (2), Yellow-throated (1), Red-eyed (2), Philadelphia (1) [new backyard bird #150]. Also seen were a Scarlet Tanager, several Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 2 hummingbirds, and lots of bluebirds.

Funding Source

The Gap Analysis Program is sponsored and coordinated by the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. Additional support has been provided by the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency. The program has a close working relationship with the National Mapping Division of the U.S. Geological Survey and with The Nature Conservancy.

Mapping and analysis is conducted by GAP projects within each state. Additional analyses are conducted for large multi state regions in partnership with state governments, federal agencies and other cooperators. Presently, GAP is made up of over 445 contributing organizations in 44 states. Contributors include business, universities, state and federal agencies, tribes, and non government organizations. In Iowa, GAP has been an on-going, collaborative effort by the Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit (Department of Animal Ecology, ISU) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Many other state, federal, and private agencies have contributed expertise, in addition to contributing data to the project.

Broad-scale Biodiversity Planning

Because GAP provides a standardized method and format, the data can be edge-matched with adjacent states as the state projects are completed. The importance of having data which is consistent across state boundaries is in revealing, for the first time, actual patterns of biodiversity at scales relevant to both the magnitude of present-day changes and the multiple levels of biological organization - from species and natural communities to large landscapes.

Who Will Use GAP Data?

One key importance is the generation of large amounts of information on land cover and zoological geography, with strong demand for these data from all sectors. Initial digital products are being used for many different purposes by businesses, county planners, state agencies, schools, research institutions, nonprofit organizations, and federal agencies. Visit the National GAP website to see which states have data and final reports complete: <http://www.gap.uidaho.edu>.

These data are disseminated by the state projects and over the Internet as well as in professional journals. Publication and distribution of the data on CD-ROMs is being developed. An Iowa GAP website is in the works too! The URL for this site is: <http://www.iowagap.iastate.edu>. GAP data will be available for public use once the final report is complete (see note). Meanwhile, Iowa land cover (vegetation) is complete and available for use in digital (grid) format. Instructions for obtaining the land cover data are available at the Iowa GAP website.

Effective biodiversity conservation planning and implementation requires that we know where and to what degree species exist. Knowing the geographic distributions of species, and their habitat needs, becomes the most important information needed for conservation efforts to succeed. Species range limits are mapped using known location data and the collective knowledge of expert reviewers. GAP attempts to map species predicted distributions based on species habitat requirements within a species range limits. Species richness and abundance maps will provide information about "hotspots" of biodiversity. Overlays of a state's stewardship data (boundaries of federal, state, county, and NGO lands) with the species habitat distribution maps will enable natural resource policy-makers, researchers, and managers to address areas of biodiversity importance at local and regional landscape scales. Important conservation areas may or may not have current protection plans for biodiversity (i.e. they may fall on private lands). In other words, those species and communities not adequately represented in the existing network of conservation lands constitute conservation "gaps."

Note: The Iowa GAP Project will be completed December 30, 2001. After January 1st, check the website address in this article for details about the final report, and how to acquire various products and data.

For more information and a map of the proposed Hallett's Quarry project: www.city.ames.ia.us. Also see the Friends of Hallett's quarry website: www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com/halletts or contact Erv Klaas, Friends of hallett's Quarry Co-chair, at the address and phone number provided in the brochure.

The View from Wolf's Den



Wolf Oesterrich

I live on the north side of Ames, on a ridge overlooking the south lake at Hallett's Quarry. I have a clear view of the fields to the west and some of the south lake. Since moving here in December 1997, I have kept records of all the avian species sighted from my backyard and house (especially from my study on the second floor). The total stands at 172 species. The monthly totals range from 17 to 88 species, while the yearly totals range from 128 to 151 species.

One advantage of birding from my study is that I can often see flying birds and birds at the top of the trees at eye-level. While writing this article I stopped to watch a Turkey Vulture glide past. I felt as if I could have reached out and touched the bird. In August, I caught a glimpse of a bird with a long tail that flew into the trees. I thought, "Perhaps a cuckoo." Then it flew into the yard and landed in one of our trees. "Definitely a cuckoo, but which one?" It must have read my mind because it then flew up towards the window, banked, and then returned to the trees. A Black-billed Cuckoo! I can also see a small opening of the north lake. In December 1999, I was looking through my scope at this opening and talking to Kay Niyo on the phone. We were talking about the Yellow-billed Loon when I observed the loon cross my field-of-view. Not many people can get a Yellow-billed Loon on their yard list! In November 2000, I watched 4 Trumpeter Swans take off from the south lake and head west. They turned and flew through our yard, lower than the top of the trees, gaining elevation as they headed southward. My daughter, Annamarie, was watching with me and we didn't need binoculars to see these large birds that close. (Only the lead swan had a neck band.) Of course, having such a spectacular view can have its disadvan-

tages. I often spend too much time looking out the window. Since the start of this article I have probably gone to the window at least 6 times. My wife complains that I can't be giving her my full attention when I always have one or both eyes looking out the windows.

Ames residents will have an opportunity this November 6th to support the acquisition and protection of Hallett's Quarry. By voting **YES** on the bond issue, Ames citizens will help the community in many ways. These include: the protection and improvement of Ames' emergency water supply; creation of a new natural park with recreational opportunities such as birdwatching, fishing, hiking, biking, picnicking, and non-motorized boating; provide quality habitat for plants and wildlife; enhance educational opportunities through prairie, wetland, and lake studies; and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

The property includes the two lakes and some land to the west, for a total of 467 acres. Much of the area will be restored as prairie. The extensive root systems of prairie plants provide soil stabilization and allow rainwater to soak into the soil, thus protecting the lakes from pollution and soil erosion. Wetlands will also be constructed to aid in filtering the runoff. The proposed prairie, wetland, and woodland restoration will be a haven for many species of wildlife. Hallett's Quarry serves as an emergency water supply to Ames. When the Skunk River is low, water is pumped into the river to recharge the aquifer, the source of Ames' drinking water. Currently, the City must get permission from Hallett's Materials, which was recently bought by a foreign corporation, each time water is pumped from the quarry. By purchasing the property, we will guarantee access to Hallett's Quarry and its water. The City of Ames has an option to purchase the quarry site, but the purchase option expires on 15 December 2001. This may be our last remaining opportunity to acquire the property.

The original cost estimate is approximately 7.5 million. Story County will provide just over 1 million of "in-kind" labor. A 1.5 million grant has been offered from Vision Iowa. That leaves about 5 million that would need to be covered by the issuance of bonds. The estimated cost for residential property is only \$21 for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer your time, please contact: Friends of Hallett's Quarry, c/o Erv Klaas, 1405 Grand Ave., Ames, IA 50010; 515.233.3327. To make a donation, please make checks payable to "Friends of Hallett's Quarry" and mail them to: Kevin Kane, Treasurer, Friends of Hallett's Quarry, 1354 Barkley Court, Ames, IA 50010. For further information, you can also visit the website <http://www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com/halletts/>.

Private, State, and Federal Partners Announce a Conference

"Working Landscapes in the Midwest: Creating Sustainable Futures for Agriculture, Forestry, and Communities"

November 8-9, 2001 in Delavan, Wisconsin

Our vision of a working landscape is one in which agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource based activities are conducted in harmony with the environment, taking into account the value of natural, ecological and social integrity for current and future stakeholders.

This conference will explore practices and policies that promote land-based economic activity to sustain families, communities and ecosystems, while also providing multiple benefits to society.

Join us for dialogue, creative work and networking on this emerging concept at beautiful Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, WI on November 8-9, 2001.

Limited scholarships are available.

For more information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.workinglandscapes.org>, email winfo@iatp.org, or contact Marin at 612-870-3436.

Volunteers Wanted

Amy Yoakum

Would you like to spend an evening with naturalists and interpreters from across the nation, and taste some free food? Conservation-minded folks are needed to help serve food at the opening reception of the National Interpreters Workshop on Tuesday, November 6th in Des Moines. The reception will be Tuesday, November 6 from 6:00-9:00 PM, in the atrium of the Capital Square building. We are showcasing Iowa's cultural heritage with a "Culture Cafe" theme, serving food from 6 countries and have entertainers from Mexico, Bosnia, Sudan and Vietnam lined up. It would be nice for our workshop participants to see the "Audubon" name as they are greeted by friendly faces from Big Bluestem Audubon. We will be glad to promote Big Bluestem during the opening reception on signs and special name tags. Contact Amy Yoakum, Naturalist, Story County Conservation, 515-232-2516,

mail to: ayoakum@storycounty.com



Clip and Join

Don't forget gift memberships!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

☐ New member of the National Audubon Society (receive the *Audubon* magazine, the *Big Bluestem Flyer*, membership card)—\$20. Please make your check payable to: National Audubon Society and include "Chapter Code H-57" on the check.

OR

☐ Subscribe to the *Big Bluestem Flyer* for one year and participate in some Big Bluestem Audubon Society activities—\$5.50. Restrictions are that you will not be a National Audubon Society member or have voting privileges, and you cannot be an officer or committee chair. Please make your check payable to: Big Bluestem Audubon Society.

Send your check and this coupon to Mark Widrechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____ fax _____

NOTE: Please do not use this form for renewals to the National Audubon Society.

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Audubon

Please mail this form to:

National Audubon Society, Membership
Department, 700 Broadway, NY, NY 10003.

**Please send a one-year
gift membership to:**

Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____

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State _____ Zip _____

CHAPTER CODE H57

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anywhere — your Chapter receives the \$15.**

In Summary

I'm ordering
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Big Bluestem Audubon Society

2001-2002 Annual Plan

October 4, 2001

Long Term Goals

Continue the tradition of field trips, monthly programs, Christmas Bird Counts and the newsletter.
Possibly expand variety of activities: field trips beyond birding, offer shorter trips, walking tours, work days, workshops, etc.

Conduct yearly Chapter Birdathon.

Increase the visibility of both Big Bluestem and National Audubon.
Promote our presence and activities.

Accomplish projects that make a difference for birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

Be an advocate for birds and the environment at a local, state and national level through grassroots efforts.

Partner with the Audubon State Program.

Annual Plan

1. Provide a full slate of field trips in the spring and fall.
2. Provide 8 educational programs a year (monthly meetings) that are science-based, foster an appreciation and understanding of the natural world, and promote a conservation ethic.
3. Produce 5 newsletters a year to keep our members and communities informed of chapter activities and provide the knowledge and means to be effective environmental advocates.
4. Coordinate and participate in the Ames, Boone and Saylorville Christmas Bird Counts.
5. Conduct a chapter Birdathon on May 11, 2002.
6. Publicize our activities and accomplishments within the local media and other publications.
 - a. With the help of others, Linda Thomas will explore ideas to publicize Big Bluestem Audubon and increase our visibility.
7. Select at least one "Audubon signature" project.
 - a. First idea to be explored would be prairie plantings at scenic overlook close to I-35 or ISU College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - b. Other ideas regarding habitat as noted in the board meeting minutes of August 14, 2001.
8. Partner and volunteer with other like-minded organizations when there are opportunities.
9. Support the Saylorville Osprey Introduction Project, both financially and with volunteers.
10. Continue to fund Audubon Adventures classroom materials at a level deemed appropriate by the board (up to 30 classrooms approved at the August 14, 2001 board meeting).
11. Be an advocate for birds and the environment at a local, state and national level through the Conservation Committee, announcements at meetings and field trips, the newsletter and email lists.
12. Partner with the State Audubon Program by providing volunteer and financial support.
13. File the yearly Recertification Report with National Audubon.

Field Trips

Field trips meet at the Ames Wild Birds Unlimited at 8:00 am unless otherwise indicated. Contact Jeff Nichols (515-296-2178, jnichols1961@hotmail.com) for additional information.

November

10-11 **18th Annual Winnona Tundra Swan Watch**, Winona, MN. Presentation Saturday night and bus tour (\$10/person) to view swans on Sunday. Stops on the tour include Rieck's Lake park, Alma, Wisconsin, and Weaver Bottoms, along Hwy. 61 between winona and Wabasha. For reservations and lodging information, contact Winona CVB at 515-452-2272, 800-675-4972. <http://visitwinona.com>. **Early registration is recommended.** Make your own carpooling and accommodation arrangements. Contact Jeff Nichols (515-795-4176) for more information.

17 **Yellow Banks Park, Runnells, and Red Rock Wildlife Area.** View migrating songbirds and waterfowl along the Des Moines river and at Red Rock Lake.

December

15 **Ames Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Dave Edwards (515-292-3790) for details.

16 (Sunday) **Saylorville Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Jim or Steve Dinsmore (515-292-3152) for details.

January

1 (Tuesday) **Boone Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Mark Widrlechner (515-233-1532) for details.

Welcome New Members!

Aaron Boussetot, Anne Avery, Anne Martin, B. Buswell, Barbara Caldwell, Bob Clark, Bridget Chambers, David Eatriken, Deb Smith, Delbert Jahnicke, Dennis Erickson, Donna Trenkle, J. Timmons, John Smith, Leland Smithson, M.J. Buechler, Marilyn Nelson, Michael Fairchild, Michael Kile, Nick Bessman, Otto Matthies, Patricia Vanmeter, Paul Trost, Phillip Kuhns, Richard Dietz, Rick Kruger, Robert Uetz, Sandra Anderson, Scott Kelly, Sheryl Sturtz, Shirley Doolittle, Steve Brekke, Steve Wright, Tara Clapp, Vanita Mc Kelvey, Warren Sargent



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Big Bluestem Flyer

Rebecca A. Shivvers, Editor

Big Bluestem Audubon Society

2380 220th Street

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We welcome new members!



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