



# Big Bluestem Flyer

Newsletter of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Volume 37, Number 4

March/April 2002

## Upcoming Programs

### March 14—Kestrel Nest Box Program Along I-35

The American Kestrel was one of a number of victims of our indiscriminate use of the pesticide DDT. After the ban the recovery of this small Falcon was aided by an increase in habitat and nesting sites. Mike Meetz will review the success of the nest-box program along Iowa's roadways.

### April 18—“Eagle Watch: Sightings, Behaviors, and Activities from our Nation's Capital”— Desiree Sorenson-Groves

Lots of birds migrate, but it's not just birds! Learn what some other migratory species – your congressional delegation – are up to. Although these elected officials have two birdhouses, by far and away their most important nest is located in their home state. Find out the current status of all Federal Audubon Priorities in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with Desiree Sorenson-Groves, Audubon's Grassroots Coordinator from the Public Policy Office in Washington, D.C.

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.

## Birdathon! It's a Big Deal.

*Karl Jungbluth*

As I look back on our first four Birdathons, I'm amazed at the accomplishment. In 2001, twenty-eight (28) “Birdathoners” counted birds and raised pledges. We recruited 21 new members and totaled a whopping 240 individual sponsors! Some of those people were hearing about Audubon, the needs of birds, the excitement of birding, or the importance of habitat, for the first time. Through Birdathon, our chapter is really reaching out to new people.

All of this was accomplished through the dedication of just a couple dozen people, and their sponsors. Imagine what we could do if you joined in this year!

Birdathon is much more than the money raised, but that money is making a difference too. In just four years, we've raised over \$16,000 for birds and nature education. Big Bluestem Audubon has been able to say YES when a need or project arises. And, we are able to dream about more, higher-impact projects such as bird blinds or bird information displays at the new Ames (Hallet's) Quarry park.

Last year's Birdathon funded three local kids at the Y-Camp's Young Naturalists Camp, donated \$1000 (worth 2 osprey) to the Saylorville Osprey Introduction Project, supported the Audubon Iowa state program with a \$2700 donation, and delivered Audubon Adventures educational packets to 24 classrooms. This year, one half of our proceeds will go to Audubon's startup Important Bird Areas (IBA) program in Iowa. IBAs identify, monitor and protect areas that are truly important to birds, some close to home, and others throughout the state.

**Grab the newsletter insert, and join us for Birdathon on May 11th!**

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## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

### Officers:

- President: Karl Jungbluth 432-5057  
[weatherbird@opencominc.com](mailto:weatherbird@opencominc.com)
- Vice-President: John Pohlman 232-6816  
[pohlman@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:pohlman@city.ames.ia.us)
- Secretary: Mary Doud 795-4176  
[mfdoud@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mfdoud@iowatelecom.net)
- Treasurer: Donna Flanagan 268-0458  
[ddflana@iastate.edu](mailto:ddflana@iastate.edu)

### Board Members:

- Bruce Ehresman 296-2995 [behresma@opencominc.com](mailto:behresma@opencominc.com)
- Jeff Nichols, 795-4176 [jnichols1961@hotmail.com](mailto:jnichols1961@hotmail.com)
- Al Ravenscroft 268-0294
- Linda Thomas 956-3145 [wbuames@tebra.net](mailto:wbuames@tebra.net)

### Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zalatel 382-427 [madowl@nevia.net](mailto:madowl@nevia.net)
- Bird-a-thon Co-chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth
- Conservation Co-chairs: Bruce Ehresman and John Pohlman
- Education Chair: Ida Johnson 233-4831 [iwindj@aol.com](mailto:iwindj@aol.com)
- Field Trip Chair: Jeff Nichols
- Membership Chair: Al Johnson 233-4831  
[awindj@aol.com](mailto:awindj@aol.com)
- Program Chair: John Snyder 232-8824  
[jesnyder@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jesnyder@ix.netcom.com)
- Publicity Chair: Linda Thomas, 292-7534  
[wbuames@mcleodusa.net](mailto:wbuames@mcleodusa.net)
- Publications & Electronic Media Co-Chairs: Rebecca Shivvers 292-0691 and Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396  
[shivversnaturesanctuary@hotmail.com](mailto:shivversnaturesanctuary@hotmail.com)

### BBAS Web Site:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ia/>

### National Audubon Society Web Site:

<http://www.audubon.org>

### Iowa Audubon State Director:

Iowa Bird Sightings Hotline—319-338-9881

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:  
April 12—2 p.m.**



## Beyond the Backyard

*Karl Jungbluth,  
President*

Except for one beautiful snowfall, the backyard is looking pretty much like it did in November. A bluebird pair has been visiting our yard since mid January, on nice days. I've noticed some cedar trees still loaded with berries, so the robins and waxwings should be in good shape, even if we get hit by a March blizzard. We've had an excellent winter for goldfinches and Purple Finches, plus a flicker and one Red-Breasted Nuthatch.

It has been a busy winter. There are many Big Bluestem activities to coordinate, and a hearty group of volunteers is working to keep our state program afloat as we search for a new Audubon Iowa State Director. Now that people know about Audubon in Iowa, they are coming to us asking for Audubon's participation. There are a number of events coming up in the next couple of months, and I might be looking for volunteers!

I was happy to see that a great turnout of chapter members provided input on the Ames (Hallet's) Quarry plan. Eight volunteers talked with planners specifically about making the new park friendly to birds and bird watchers. Thanks to Marlene Ehresman for coordinating this effort.

Bluebirds are one of my favorites, and they readily accept our help. If you want to learn more about bluebirds, and bluebird houses, don't miss the Bluebirds in Iowa meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., at McFarland Park.

Please keep Pat Schlarbaum of DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program in your thoughts. Pat fell off a ladder and really crunched his back. Pat will be recovering for some time at Iowa Methodist Hospital.

Our chapter has donated \$150 to have a Barn Owl mounted for display and education at the Story County Conservation Center. The bird, a rare visitor to Story County, met an untimely death along a highway. Our board of directors also voted to help sponsor the IA-BIRD email list at \$50. IA-BIRD focuses on bird sightings across Iowa and is enjoyed by many Big Bluestem members. Learn how to join the list by checking <http://www.iowabirds.org/main/listserve.asp>.

I can't close without putting in one more plug for Birdathon! If you only reach Beyond the Backyard once this year, Birdathon is the time to do it. Just ask, and I'll personally help you get started.



## Conservation Corner

*Bruce Ehresman*

## Bird Drop-ins

*Sightings by  
BBAS Members*



### CHICKADEE CHECKOFF

It's time to fill out Iowa Income Tax Forms again. That means it is also an opportunity to donate to a worthy cause – Iowa's nongame wildlife. Funds raised from the Fish & Wildlife Protection Fund – known as the "Chickadee Checkoff" go to support the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This program supports everything from chickadees to eagles, bluebirds to otters and bats to butterflies. Goals of this non-game program include environmental education, wildlife research, habitat management, and species management. Efforts will benefit all non-hunted wildlife and will help to keep Iowa's wildlife species from becoming endangered. Every dollar raised will match three dollars of aid. No general tax dollars are used for the Wildlife Diversity Program. Funds raised from the tax checkoff are permanently protected in the Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund for the exclusive use of this program. So, if you wish to contribute to the restoration of Iowa species like the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and even the Prairie Chicken, please consider donating to the Chickadee Checkoff.

For more information, contact: Chickadee Checkoff,  
515-432-2823 [doug.harr@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:doug.harr@dnr.state.ia.us)

Donna Flanagan reported on January 9 that she saw 2 Kestrels on wires between Ames and Nevada during the morning along old Highway 30.

February 17, at 8:30 AM Linda and Hank Zaletel found and heard a Winter Wren at Pine Lake State Park. Pine Lake is located one mile to the east and a mile north of Eldora in Hardin County. It was located along the bank of the stream below the spillway of lower Pine Lake where it enters the Iowa River.

### **Wish Pat a speedy recovery!**

You may send cards of well wishes to Pat Schlarbaum, Room 478, Powell Rehab Center, Iowa Methodists Hospital, 1200 Pleasant Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. Or, stop by for a visit—he enjoys visitors.

## MEET AUDUBON'S GRASSROOTS COORDINATOR

The Goal of Audubon's Grassroots Department is to expand Audubon's base of support and grassroots capabilities in each of the 435 congressional districts, in order to further impact the legislative process.

**Desiree Sorenson-Groves**, a native Midwesterner from Gowrie, Iowa, is one of Seven Regional Coordinators that have been actively engaging the Audubon membership for a year now. Desiree covers eight states, including her native Iowa. Others include WI, MN, ND, SD, NE, KS and MO. The second session of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is taking shape quickly. Expect to see legislation to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, pushed by the pro drilling contingency in the US Senate. Look for the Farm Bill debate in early February. Other considerations will be: Interior Appropriations Legislation (including the US Refuge System), Blackbird poisoning in the Dakotas, Environmental Education, Protecting Birds Beyond our Borders (International Family Planning Programs), and public comments on the re-started Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Study of the Upper Mississippi River in March.

If you would like more information about any of these subjects, or would like to attend events such as the Army Corps Public Hearings, please contact Desiree at 202-861-2242 or [dgroves@audubon.org](mailto:dgroves@audubon.org).



## The View from Wolf's Den

*Wolf Oesterrich*



There was only one day (19<sup>th</sup>) that the south lake at Ames Quarry (formerly known as Hallett's Quarry) appeared to be completely iced-over. For much of the month, due to the unseasonably warm temperatures, there was at least a small area still open. The Canada Geese and Mallards, which numbered anywhere from a couple to over 200 individuals, helped to keep this pool open. Other waterfowl included a single blue-phase Snow Goose on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 female Gadwalls on the 19<sup>th</sup>, an American Black Duck for much of the month (last seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>), a male Ring-necked Duck on the 5<sup>th</sup>, a male Lesser Scaup on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, and a male Common Merganser on the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, I spotted a single Canada Goose with a neck band (white with black numbers/letters). However, due to the distance, I could not read the identification number. Several of these waterfowl species may set new late records for Story County: Snow Goose (old record of 2 January 2000), Gadwall (20 December 1998), American Black Duck (17 December 1988), Ring-necked Duck (30 December 1988), and Lesser Scaup (2 January 1999). The Common Merganser is the third winter record for Story County. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and again on the 24<sup>th</sup>, I watched an American Crow continually swoop down at a Mallard, causing it to take flight. The crow followed, continuing to attack the duck while in flight. However, it didn't take long for this crow to lose interest in that duck. Then the crow flew back to the raft of ducks and found another victim. This happened at least three times on both days.

Raptors included an adult Bald Eagle on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and many sightings of Red-tailed Hawks. The largest concentration of Ring-necked Pheasants occurred on the 19<sup>th</sup>, with 20 individuals at one time, including 4 in the thicket along my property line. A Great Horned Owl was hooting from the "woods" on the evenings of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. High numbers of American Crows would descend on my feeders on a regular basis. It got to the point where I would only fill them once a week. Suet would only last a day. Once the crows left, either on their own or by my presence, the regular feeder visitors would return. American Robins were still in the area, as were 2-3 Harris' Sparrows. I ended up with 29 species for the month of January.



## Notes From the Field Trips

*(Reports submitted by trip leaders)*

**Ann Munn Woods and Emma McCarthy Lee Park. January 12.** Al Ravenscroft led five Audubon members on the first field trip of the new year. The day was cool and sunny with little wind. We hiked along Clear Creek as we looked for winter birds. Some of our best birds were Brown Creeper, Tufted Titmouse, and Winter Wren. We also saw a Coopers Hawk, which, after some discussion, became a Sharp-shinned Hawk, before finally becoming an Accipiter sp. After a warming lunch of chili, stew and other goodies (THANK YOU, AL!), four of us drove to the Nevada Cemetery to look for the White-winged Crossbills that had been reported in a hemlock tree. No luck finding the Crossbills, but we did find a small flock of Pine Siskins feeding on the hemlock cones. For the day, we had 28 species.

**Tour de Feeders. January 26.** Thirteen BBAS members enjoyed a pleasant spring day (OK, it just seemed like spring) of feeder birding, beginning at the home of Karl and Carmen Jungbluth. The feeders were buzzing with activity, and we enjoyed coffee, tea, and treats (THANK YOU, CARMEN AND KARL!) and BBAS camaraderie while we watched the show. Northern Flicker, Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a Purple Finch pair were just a few of the many interesting birds at the feeders. Afterwards, Karl led us on a hike in Ledges State Park. We watched American Goldfinches feed on thistle and observed the handiwork of the local beaver population. (Amazing rodents, those beaver!) From Ledges, we traveled to the Y-Camp north of Boone, en route observing an immature Bald Eagle soaring overhead. The Y-Camp feeders were unfortunately empty, and few birds were in the area. We next took a short side-trip to investigate a hollow tree where a Barred Owl had been found during the Boone Christmas Count. The owl had moved on, but we did find an Eastern Bluebird. A Northern Harrier was the last new species we saw, bringing the total to 23. We finished the day with lunch at the Dutch Oven in Boone.

**Owls and Dinner. February 9.** The owl trip started out with rather ominous skies. Kevin Healy led us first to the Ledges on the Lost Lake Trail. We hiked as we looked into the cedar trees for the owls. Didn't find any owls or anything else. It had just started to mist when we left for Harrier Marsh. By the time we got there the mist was more of a drizzle and the temperature was dropping. We did see a red tail and a kestrel. I think there were a couple of other species spotted but don't remember what. We chickened out after that and decided to get home before the rain changed to freezing rain.



Audubon

# Birdathon!

May 11, 2002

*Big Bluestem Audubon Society*— bringing people together to help birds

The annual Birdathon is Big Bluestem Audubon's biggest fundraising event. Other groups have their walkathons, bikeathons and bowlathons, but only Audubon has Birdathon!



We count birds to raise funds *for* birds. Anyone can do a Birdathon, and if they can't tell a swan from a swallow, we can teach them. It's fun to reach out and introduce people to birds. Birdathon can be a quiet hour in the backyard, or a 24-hour marathon with friends. Try it!

## How Does it Work?

1. Audubon Birdathon is a national team event.
2. Birders collect pledges from donors to support Audubon efforts. Ask relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers to pledge a fixed amount of \$10, 20, or \$50, or ask them to pledge a specific amount per species identified. We usually spot 50 to over 100 species.
3. Sign up by contacting the Birdathon Coordinators.
4. Prizes and incentives: Non-members who pledge \$20 or more get a complimentary Audubon membership. Everyone is eligible to win prizes— bird feeders, bird books, T-shirts, binoculars— good stuff from local businesses and national sponsors.
5. On May 11th, head to your favorite birding spot. Count as many species as you can. Have fun!

**New to birding? Looking to join up with others or a team? Don't know where to start? Contact Birdathon Coordinators, Karl & Carmen Jungbluth, 515-432-5057**

**There are millions of reasons to support Birdathon— our millions of feathered friends need your help.**



**The #1 reason to join Birdathon? It's fun!**

## Pledges Support These Worthy Causes

- Iowa's Important Bird Areas— Identify, monitor and conserve places essential to birds
- *Audubon Adventures* educational materials for local schools
- Osprey Introduction Project at Saylorville Lake
- Scholarships for Young Naturalists Workshop at the Boone Y-Camp
- All money stays in Iowa and is tax-deductible as allowed by law

**We need ALL chapter members to support this effort!**

- Collect at least \$20 in pledges, and join us on May 11th.
- If you can't join the Birdathon, support us by sponsoring the chapter effort. Send your donation, payable to *Big Bluestem Audubon* to Donna Flanagan, Treasurer, 2511 Aspen Rd, #1, Ames, IA 50014

Art by Steven D'Amato and Kirsten Munson

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# NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON



## OFFICIAL SPONSOR SHEET

100% of all donations go directly to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitat!  
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 Chapter: Big Bluestem Audubon

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Sponsor's Name	Address	Phone Number	Pledge Per Species	Gift	Corp. Match?	Date Paid
				<b>Total Pledged</b>		
					<b>Total Paid</b>	

# NEW INITIATIVE ADDRESSES IOWA'S BEST BIRD HABITATS

BY RIC ZARWELL, IBA COORDINATOR, AUDUBON IOWA

On January 1, 2002 Audubon IOWA's Important Bird Area (IBA) Program officially began. This is a summary of how such a critical international initiative reached Iowa, what the IBA Program consists of, and how Audubon members and others concerned about Iowa's birds and biodiversity issues can make this new bird conservation and public education initiative successful.

The Iowa IBA Program has been planned, developed and led for the previous two plus years by Paul Zeph and the Iowa IBA Technical Committee, chaired by Dr. James Dinsmore. They have established the criteria by which habitats across Iowa will be nominated, prioritized and officially designated as our Important Bird Areas. Paul Zeph strongly believed that Iowa needed to have a successful IBA Program, and wanted it to move aggressively forward, so three grants and other donations were combined to provide seed money to help fund an IBA Coordinator and the expenses needed to implement the program.

Ric Zarwell has accepted the challenge as half-time IBA Coordinator for Iowa in 2002, after serving in volunteer capacity for over a year. Ric attended Audubon's First National IBA Conference early in 2001, funded by National Audubon, and now asks for your help in carrying out a worthy international initiative right here at home.

BirdLife International, a leader in world bird conservation, initiated the IBA Program in the mid-1980s in Europe. Today, there are tens of thousands of acres in European nations that are being carefully monitored and given priority management because they are officially designated IBA sites. The proactive, science-based, and citizen-led IBA approach has since spread to Africa, South America, Canada and elsewhere. National Audubon has been named the IBA management entity for the U.S., and since 1995 Audubon has implemented the IBA Program in 40 states.

The Important Bird Area Program is driven by positive citizenship and patriotism of people at the community and county level. Individuals throughout Iowa will be asked to use nomination forms to nominate habitats that meet the state's established IBA criteria and are of highest importance to nesting, wintering or migrating birds. IBAs can be privately or publicly owned, and can be of any feasible size. Once habitats are nominated and go through the official IBA designation process, they will be prioritized according to any environmental threats or conservation needs that may exist.

Long-term on-site monitoring and stewardship programs will be established. Future Audubon wildlife conservation and education programs could be developed around a core concept that emphasizes the "best of the best habitats" in Iowa. Audubon Chapters or individual Audubon members, and other conservationists and birders, can become *guardians* by watching over specific IBA sites. They can become *advocates* for improved landuse planning and resource management to "keep common birds common" for future generations to enjoy. And, they can become *stewards* through hands-on restoration efforts to perpetuate and increase bird populations at specific IBA sites.

Details about each IBA site will be entered into a world database to facilitate global protection for birds and their essential habitats. Audubon is implementing this unique bird conservation and public education initiative across the entire U.S. because: 1) birding is a gateway to the sciences and to heightened environmental awareness; 2) birding is a very popular pastime that is quickly growing in numbers of participants and in economic clout for protecting critical habitats; and, 3) the terrible reality, that one in every eight birds worldwide is faced with extinction, and one in every five birds in the U.S. is showing serious population declines.

It is critical that Iowa – the *most highly converted landscape in the entire U.S.* – uses a systematic method to identify, prioritize, monitor and manage "the best of the best" remaining natural habitats for birds, biodiversity, and people. The IBA initiative connects Iowa to worldwide bird conservation. It is the right program at the right time for Iowa. Stay tuned in early 2002 for details about how you and your friends can participate in this exciting effort.

Contact Ric Zarwell directly for more information.

Editor's note: One half of our 2002 Birdathon proceeds will go to the Iowa IBA Program.

**Ric Zarwell**  
IBA Coordinator  
P.O. Box 299  
Lansing, IA 52151  
Phone: (563) 538-4991  
zarz@salamanca.com



Owl Field trip on February 9. *Photo by Al Johnson*

### **Beginning Birding Classes**

Story County Conservation (SCC) is offering a beginning birdwatching class. The class takes place over three dates and will include the following topics: Basics of binoculars and bird books, bird feeding, basic bird identification. The dates and times for the class are: Tuesday, April 23 7-9 pm, Thursday, April 25 7-9 pm, Saturday, April 27 7:30 - noon, SCC has a limited number of binoculars to lend. The classes will be held at the conservation center, pre-registration is required, no fees are charged. Contact the conservation center at 515-232-2516 with questions.

### **Help Wanted—Newsletter Editor**

Rebecca Shivers will soon be stepping down as our Big Bluestem Flyer editor after many years of dedicated service. Let's all thank Rebecca for her work in producing such an informative and attractive newsletter.

As a result, we are looking for a new newsletter editor to start in August. Do you have desktop publishing expertise and a desire to showcase your talents? Are you looking to build or develop skills as an editor or newsletter publisher? Do you want to make a big contribution to our chapter and the Audubon cause? In today's technological world, there are many possibilities for web publishing and email newsletters as well. Young, or not-so-young, if interested in becoming our newsletter editor, please contact Vice President John Pohlman.



## Nominations Sought for Vice President, Secretary, and Board of Directors

BBAS is looking for candidates for election to Vice President, Secretary, and Board of Director positions. The Vice President and Secretary serve one-year terms. Board members serve for two years. Chapter officers and board members help establish chapter priorities, evaluate requests for funding, and carry out projects to advance the mission of the chapter.

Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee with your nominations. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominating Committee members are John Pohlman ([pohlman@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:pohlman@city.ames.ia.us), 515-232-6816), Mary Doud ([mfdoud@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mfdoud@iowatelecom.net), 515-795-4176), and Jeff Nichols ([jnichols1961@hotmail.com](mailto:jnichols1961@hotmail.com), 515-795-4176).

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## 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 Al Johnson, Membership Chair, 3912 Squaw Road, Ames, Iowa 50014.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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*NOTE: Please do not use this form for renewals to the National Audubon Society.*

### Brekke's Town & Country Store, Inc.

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#### Donation

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Brekke's Town & Country Store generously offers Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) a donation when bird seed and other bird products are purchased. Present this coupon with your purchase and a donation will be given to BBAS.

*Offer good until March 31, 2002.*

## Field Trips

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

### March

- 9 **Des Moines River Bottom** to view early migrating waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. Trip Leader: Karl Jungbluth (515-432-5057).
- 15-17 **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rivers & Wildlife Celebration**, Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE. Field trips to see migrating Sandhill Cranes, Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse leks, and other hot birding spots in central Nebraska; Kenn Kaufmann and other speakers; activities for kids. Sponsored by Rowe Sanctuary and Audubon Nebraska. Request a registration brochure at [nebraska@audubon.org](mailto:nebraska@audubon.org). Contact Jeff Nichols for details (515-795-4176).
- 23 **Hallett's Quarry, Little Wall Lake, Anderson Lake**, and other areas for waterfowl. Trip Leader: Hank Zaletel (515-382-5427).

### April

- 6 **Boone Gravel Pits, Harrier Marsh, Bjorkboda Marsh, and Bob Pyle/Tieg's Marsh** to look for shorebirds, waterfowl, and other marsh dwellers. **Bluebirds in Iowa meeting**, 1:30 pm at McFarland Park in north Ames. Learn all about bluebirds and bluebird boxes. Carol Williams (515-232-2516)
- 20 **FYI - Earth Day**
- 26-28 **FYI - IOU Spring Meeting**, Ottumwa. This year's meeting will be hosted by the Ottumwa Bird Club. Location will be the Forest Lake Baptist Camp south of town. Bird banding and field trips. Contact Darleen Ayres (515-682-1697, [DJAYR@prodigy.net](mailto:DJAYR@prodigy.net)) for more information.

### Welcome New Members!

Royce Bitzer, Bruce Brown, Mendy Cook, Dr. Donald Croghan, Lois Gross, Maribeth Hagley, Barbara Kenney, Cheryl Olfson, Ramona Satre, Linda Sharpnack, Marlys Swanson, Tom Textor, Joe Toot, Jana Weiss



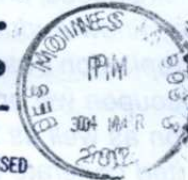
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*Big Bluestem Audubon Society*  
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*We welcome new members!*



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