

Field staff  
for Harkin  
Campaign

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AMES 292-6412

Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Ames, Iowa  
June, 1984  
v. 18, no. 9

John Stampe, Pres. 294-3370  
Tom Davis, Vice-Pres. 292-1869  
Laura Marek, Sec. 292-9762  
Judy Shearer, Treas. 292-4430  
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450



# Bluestem Flyer

\$17.50 a piece → Kodak → poster print → no cropping

Sat. Je. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Tree Weeding

## Monthly Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Room 210, Bessey Hall, ISU campus  
**WHO:** Bill Horine of Nevada  
**TOPIC:** "Alaskan Eagles -- Up Close and Personal"

Steel Shot  
July 14 - Sat. 10 A.M.

Home Town Fair - Booth at  
N. Grand Mall -  
Sept. 8th - Sat.

by Thurs. - Clean H<sub>2</sub>O  
Act Amendments by  
Oberstar.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

~~Fran Hammarstrom - Birdg. w/ ISU BKstr.~~ - Birdg. w/ a purpose

**Board Meeting** -- The executive board meeting scheduled for June 6 has been postponed. A new meeting date will be set at the society's regular meeting on June 12.

**North Midwest Conference** -- National Audubon's north midwest region, which includes Iowa, will hold its biennial conference Oct. 12-14 at Sturgeon Lake, Minn. Set the dates aside now if you are interested and contact Judy van der Linden for any reservation information the society receives later this summer.

**Fall Newsletter Deadline** -- This will be the last newsletter published until early September. Deadline for the fall issue will be Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 5 p.m. Send articles, artwork or story ideas to Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St., Ames.

(There are no regular field trips or membership meetings scheduled over the summer. For information about the society call Jim Murdock, 1984-85 president, at 233-3185, or Janet Graver, membership chair, at 232-8185.)



CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT

500 More Trees Planted -- Members and friends of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society met at the International Harvester dealer on Highway 30 on a sunny May 12 to plant trees and shrubs along the highway right-of-way. 450 seedlings were planted that Saturday and 50 more several days later. Many member participated -- their help was greatly appreciated by the Conservation Committee. Signs made by the committee in April were posted with the hope that DOT mowers will see them and be aware of the location of the plantings.

This is the fourth year that our club has planted along Highway 30. We have now planted over 80% of the distance between Nevada and Ames. I think this is a great achievement and that those members participating should get a pat on the back for their work. Participants this year were Mary Cowan, Tom Davis, Sherry Dragula, Dave and Jeanne Edwards, Bruce and Eric Munson, Mary Owings, Judy Shearer, Pete and Judy van der Linden, Mark Widrlechner and Hank Zaletel.

(Hank Zaletel)

Garrison Update -- The latest word (as of 5-31) on the Garrison Diversion Unit from the National Audubon Hotline is that the vote in the Senate will come up earlier than expected, possibly the week of June 4th. This is the critical vote, since the House appropriations bill as marked up on May 23rd contained no money for Garrison.

An interesting development is an apparent split in the Administration's attitude toward Garrison (White House for but Office of Management and Budget against). If you would like a state-by-state list of which senators have voted for or against Garrison in the past, contact Cindy Hildebrand (232-3807). There is still time for you or out-of-state environmentalist friends to wire or telephone senators.

Acid Rain Program Loses -- Efforts to pass clean air legislation in 1984 were dealt a crippling blow in early May when the U.S. House Subcommittee on Health and Environment rejected a proposed acid rain control program by a vote of 10-9. Ohio Democrat Dennis Eckart was the lone swing voter. The bill would have brought more than \$3 billion in federal aid to help pay for acid rain cleanup.

ELECTION RESULTS

Society members last month elected the following persons to hold offices for 1984-85:

President -- Jim Murdock

Secretary -- Sherry Dragula

Executive Board -- David Edwards, Janet Graver, Mary Owings

Officers who retain their current positions for another year are Vice-President Tom Davis, Treasurer Judy Shearer and Board members Cindy Hildebrand and Judy van der Linden.



BIRD NOTES

The spring warbler migration is nearly finished. On May 30 at Brookside Park there were still four singing Mourning Warblers, a Tennessee Warbler and several Redstarts; there were also a Philadelphia Vireo and two Yellow-throated Vireos present.

The more unusual warblers seen at Brookside this spring were Worm-eating and Hooded (see drawing, right) warblers on April 28 and the Pine Warbler on May 24. A Prothonotary Warbler was seen May 15 at Hendricksons Marsh.



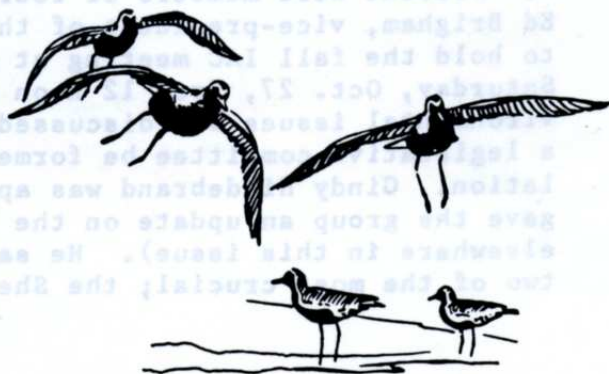
No really big wave of Yellow-rumped Warblers came through Brookside Park this year, although there were a fair number present on May 2. On May 10 a big wave of warblers passed through -- mostly Nashville (112), Orange-crowned (28), Wilson's (18) and Black-throated Green (9) warblers, and Ovenbirds (12). Also on May 10 there were 88 Empidonax Flycatchers, seven of which were identified as Least Flycatchers by their songs. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was first seen May 24. A Willow Flycatcher was heard on May 24 and an Acadian Flycatcher on May 28. Wil-

low, Alder, Acadian and Least flycatchers can only be separated by their songs (although some people can separate them by their calls, the "pep," "pit," "wit," etc.) and since most do not sing, they must be recorded as Empidonax Flycatcher (species).

The shore-bird migration also seems to be over. The most interesting sightings at Larson Marsh were two Black-bellied Plovers, seen in a flock of 125 Golden Plovers (see drawing below) on May 17.

There are still four Coots at Larson Marsh -- probably nesting birds. It is possible there is also a pair of nesting Pied-billed Grebes there. A Whimbrel was seen at Hendricksons Marsh May 12-14 near the place one was seen last year.

Paul Martsching



ETCETERA

Survey Reminder -- If you have returned your BBAS survey, thank you! Twenty-four members have return their surveys, and have given us a better idea of member's priorities and opinions. Many surveys also have ideas for future programs, meeting changes and chapter activities. If you haven's returned your survey, please do! It's a good opportunity to help improve our chapter. Results are being compiled for a report in the fall, and the results will be more useful if they are based on more surveys. If you need another copy of the survey, call Cindy Hildebrand (232-3807).

Thank You, Volunteers -- The publications committee would like to thank the following persons for their help this past year with the newsletter: Writers -- Tom Davis, Cindy Hildebrand, Sherry Dragula, Paul Martsching, Hank Zaletel and John Stampe; Label Typist -- Sherry Dragula; Compilers -- Pete van der Linden, Cindy Hildebrand, Mary Owings, Sherry Dragula, Dianne Mumm and Claudia Kapp, and Adviser -- Pete van der Linden. Newsletter production week can be hectic -- these volunteers' help greatly simplified and speeded up the process. Thanks again!



Spotting Scope Use -- Because Jim Murdock will be out of town until June 11, members who wish to borrow the club's spotting scope before he returns may pick it up from Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St. Jim will keep the scope over the rest of the summer.

IOU/IAC MEETING REPORTS

The annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologist Union (IOU) was held May 4-6 at Camp Wesley Woods near Indianola. A social gathering was held Friday night; field trips began first thing Saturday morning. Three programs were given Saturday afternoon -- (1) A status report on the IOU and Iowa Conservation Commission Breeding Bird Atlas (its starting date has been postponed until Jan. 1, 1985); (2) Where and how to find summer warblers, and (3) Where and how to find summer water birds. Al Farris of the Iowa Conservation Commission was the banquet speaker. He explained the position and direction of the state's nongame wildlife program. Sunday morning field trips were followed by lunch and a tabulation of the species seen during the 3-day meeting. Best birds seen included a Summer Tanager and a Barn Owl.

For those of you who do not belong to IOU, the Ames Public Library now subscribes to the organization's publication, Iowa Bird Life.

The Iowa Audubon Council (IAC) met in conjunction with the IOU on May 5. Present were members of four Iowa chapters (including Big Bluestem) and Ed Brigham, vice-president of the north midwest region. Delegates decided to hold the fall IAC meeting at Ames, and the date was tentatively set as Saturday, Oct. 27, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. A number of legislative and environmental issues was discussed, and IAC President John Miller suggested a legislative committee be formed to keep members informed about state legislation. Cindy Hildebrand was appointed as committee chair. Ed Brigham gave the group an update on the Garrison irrigation project (see article elsewhere in this issue). He said areas to be destroyed next year include two of the most crucial; the Sheyenne Lake refuge and Kraft Slough.

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