



# Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 20, No. 9

May, 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.

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## Monthly Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Room 181-1 (Jury Room), College of Design, ISU Campus

**WHO:** Marie Carlson of Boone

**TOPIC:** "An Interpretive Walk along Montgomery Creek," a slide show depicting a small Iowa stream and the birds, trees and flowers found there through the seasons.

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## Upcoming Meeting and Events

**Warblers Field Trip** -- Hank Zaletel will lead a trip to see migrating warblers on Sat., May 10. Meet in the parking lot at McFarland Park at 8 a.m.

**Wildlife Rehabilitation** -- There will be a symposium on the rehabilitation of wildlife (raptors, mammals, reptiles) on May 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in room 1225, Veterinary Medicine Building, Ames. Because the pre-registration deadline has passed, persons interested in attending must contact either Sue Barrows (296-2766) or Marlene Ehresman (432-8186) immediately to reserve a space. Donations of \$5-10 will be accepted to help defray costs of the symposium.



**Audubon Conference** -- National Audubon Society's North Midwest Region, which includes Iowa, will hold a conference Oct. 10-12 at Camp Sunnyside near Des Moines. Our chapter has been invited to make a display that would inform persons attending about our activities. Audubon chapters from Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin, as well as from throughout Iowa, will be represented. If you are interested in working on a display, call Sherry Dragula or another officer.

**Olympics Booth** -- The Bluestem chapter has been asked to help provide entertainment in the form of a bird information booth for youngsters attending a Special Olympics competition in Ames in late May. Olympics organizers are asking different clubs to set up and man booths that feature items of interest to the youngsters so they will have something to do between their events. It was thought that our society could sponsor a booth on birds, and some bird skins are available for our use. Anyone wishing to help organize or man the booth should call Judy van der Linden, 232-3450, no later than Mon., May 12. The Olympics will be held Thursday and Friday, May 29-30, and we may open the booth for any part or all of both days.

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

1. Small change in direction
2. Gulp the money
3. Can make almost anything disappear
4. Wise complainer
5. Feline funeral

The answers to the April puzzle are:

1. Queen's moment -- Royal Tern
2. Thunder mug -- Nightjar
3. Embarrassed singer -- Red-faced Warbler
4. A very unkingly Bill -- Common Poor will

**200 Trees In** -- The conservation committee reports that 200 trees were planted along Highway 30 on Wed. evening, May 1, after the scheduled April 26 planting was rained out. As we "go to press", another 200 trees are to be planted on Sat., May 3.



**Photo Contest** -- Sioux City's Loess Hills Audubon Society is sponsoring a photo contest to showcase the environment, wildlife and the out-of-doors experience in this part of the Midwest. Both color and black and white prints in any of three categories, landscape, wildlife and people enjoying nature, will be accepted. For further rules, prize information and a contest entry blank, contact Judy van der Linden, 232-3450.



**1986 Elections** -- New officers and board members will be elected at the chapter meeting this month. The following names have been submitted by the nomination committee thus far:

- President -- Dave Edwards
- Vice-President -- No candidate
- Secretary -- Barb Bettis
- Treasurer -- Judy Shearer (incumbent)
- Board members -- Cindy Johnson-Groh, Mike Meetz, Marianna Loy and Mark Widrlechner, to fill four existing vacancies.

Anyone wishing to serve or to nominate someone for a position may speak up at the meeting or call Peter van der Linden (232-3450), Dianne Mumm (232-4930), or Sherry Dragula (292-4014) beforehand.

**Audubon Facts** -- National Audubon Society manages a system of 80 sanctuaries, ranging in size from 12 acres surrounding Theodore Roosevelt's grave in New York state, to 26,000 acres of coastal marsh in Louisiana. Many of the sanctuaries are staffed by resident wardens, who also patrol adjacent natural areas for other private and public organizations.



## Birder's Notes

Thursday, May 1 -- Spring warblers are moving through the Ames area now -- their migration may peak May 12-15. Probably the best place in Ames to see warblers is Brookside Park, especially in the Audubon Trail area of the park. Meanwhile, along creeks in the lower Ledges

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State Park, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and Northern Parula and Yellow-throated warblers already have been seen. Right now is probably also the best time to see migrating shorebirds, although wet areas are few around Ames. Water is low at the Colo "ponds" and may be gone altogether by next week without more rain. Larson Marsh (east of Ames on 13th Street) and Hendrickson's Marsh (south of Colo) are two places you may see the Yellowlegs, Golden Plovers and Pectoral and Least sandpipers that have been moving through. Call the Iowa Birdline (1-319-622-3353) to report or to learn about unusual bird sightings in Iowa.

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## Conservation/The Environment (Sherry Dragula 292-4014)

**Acid Rain Legislation** -- Two bills on acid rain reduction have been introduced in the U.S. Congress. They are S. 2003 in the Senate and H.R. 4567 (the Tauke-Waxman Bill) in the House. The Senate bill seeks a 12 million ton reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The House bill is not as strong but National Audubon Society and other environmental groups are urging their members to write letters of support for the legislation to both Senators and Representatives. Call Sherry if you need further information on these bills.

**Garrison Update** -- The Garrison compromise legislation was reported out of committee on March 19, approved by the U.S. House on April 23 and now must be considered in the Senate. If passed and signed into law, the compromise will scale down the cost of the presently authorized project from \$1.7 billion to \$1 billion, substantially eliminate irrigation areas and project facilities in high density wetlands areas, preserve Kraft Slough and require a comprehensive study of the James River and its watershed to identify irrigation impacts. It will also require acre-for-acre mitigation for wildlife habitat losses due to project construction and develop municipal and industrial water for North Dakotans, a feature and cost not included in the original project. A complete copy of the bill may be obtained by contacting Charlene Dougherty or Connie Mahan at N.A.S., 645 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington D.C. 20003; (203) 547-9009.

National Audubon admits this compromise is not perfect and will result in some environmental damage, but feels it is much better than the alternative, original project.

## Audubon Member Profile

Not many of us have the interesting sort of work that would make a good story in Life magazine. But Burt Shephard does. He is working on the largest acid rain study in the country - a project that was featured in Life magazine a few years back.

Burt and his wife Tracy have been Audubon members for about six years, the last four in Ames. Burt is here working on his PhD in the Animal Ecology department. He received his Bachelors degree in Chemistry and his Masters in Environmental Health from Purdue. Essentially, his PhD thesis looks at the effect of acid rain and trace elements on zooplankton. It is part of the huge study that Life magazine featured involving the EPA and many other educational institutions. He also teaches the Bird Studies and the Natural Resources Conservation class at ISU.

Tracy Shephard is originally from Wheaton, Illinois, just west of Chicago. She and Burt met while Tracy was attending the University of Florida in Gainesville. She received her Bachelors in Design (focusing on interiors) there.

Unable to use her degree in Ames, Tracy works in the share draft department of the ISU credit union. She also has been working on her Masters in Design at Iowa State. Tracy's studies have focused on the quality of life of toddlers and care givers in day care centers. She is interested in turning the rigid school-like atmosphere of most child care centers into a softer, home-like place with soft furniture and lighting designed on a child's scale but not forgetting the adult care giver's comfort too.

Burt has a chance to deliver a paper this spring at a gathering of international limnologists (those who study fresh water) in New Zealand. Both Burt and Tracy are excited about spending time there. When Burt finishes his degree, he hopes to do research at the EPA in freshwater/heavy metal studies.

Tracy and Burt have many other interests. Together they are building a photography blind for use this summer. They enjoy hiking, nature photography, cooking together (Burt's specialty is Chinese), and furnishing their apartment with his woodworking projects and her refinished furniture.

Because of their busy schedules, Burt and Tracy are unable to attend most meetings but they did get to enjoy the recent Crane trip. It was their first outing with the Big Bluestem group.

**Big Bluestem Audubon Society**  
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