



Big Bluestem Flyer

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Newsletter

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.

Volume 32 Number 1

September/October 1996

Featured Speaker—September 19 meeting: *Dr. Dean Roosa, “Engeldinger Marsh: A Local Treasure”*

Dr. Dean Roosa is well-known and well-loved by not only the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, but nature lovers, botanists, and bird lovers everywhere. He has given many memorable presentations to BBAS in the past, and this year, we couldn't resist asking him back one more time to discuss a biological survey he participated in at Engeldinger Marsh. Most of us know the marsh is in the news because it is threatened by a proposed highway, but perhaps not everyone knows just how remarkable a treasure it is. And, right at our back door! It may be too late to save the marsh, or it may not, but it is incumbent upon us, as observers of nature, to be aware of our environment around us. Those who have heard Dr. Roosa speak know what a captivating speaker he is and what a special love and knowledge of nature he is able to communicate. This is a program not to be missed. Dr. Roosa co-authored *Iowa Birds, Iowa's Natural Heritage*, and *Wildflowers of the Tall Grass Prairie*, and has served as state ecologist for Iowa from 1975 until recently. Presently, he is an environmental consultant for Jacobs and Associates, Inc.

Featured Speaker—October 17 meeting: *Dr. James Fuller, “Birding Attu and Alaska”*

Don't miss an exciting birding trip to Attu and Alaska with Dr. Jim Fuller. Join us as we travel to Alaska, and the islands of Attu and the St. Lawrence during May and June. Dr. Fuller saw a fascinating variety of both North American and Asian birds in these faraway and exotic lands. He has served the Iowa Ornithological Union (IOU) in many official capacities and has operated the IOU Birder's Hot Line for several years. He is a professor of surgical dentistry at the College of Dentistry, The University of Iowa, Iowa City.

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) meetings are held monthly, September-May (except December) on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Room 2532 Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University. If you need directions, please call any of the BBAS officers or committee chairs. See you there!

If you would like to meet and dine with the speaker and the BBAS board before the monthly meeting, there are a limited number of reservations available. Please call Kevin Healy at 233-5914 to confirm space and location.

Coming Field Trips: September & October

Jon Bahrenfus, Field Trip Chair

September

7—Warbler Walk at McFarland Park. Our first field trip of the season will present the challenge of fall warblers and other migrants, but with enough spotters in place, we should do well. Meet at the ISU Design Center at 8:00 a.m. and join us to weave through the trails of

McFarland Park. Trip leader, Dave Edwards (515-292-3790).

21— Walk in Engeldinger Marsh and Prairie Uplands with Loren Loun, Polk County Conservation Officer. Only three days after we are

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Quote of the Month: *Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language.* —Aldo Leopold

As the Crow Flies . . .

Stan Cyran, President

As we begin to anticipate the arrival of autumn, we can take time to reflect upon what a strange and unpredictable spring and summer it has been. Still, we can rely upon the southern movement of our Neotropical friends, and we can anticipate the arrival of our winter visitors. Some things change, and some things stay the same.

Most of you will have noticed immediately a different look to the newsletter. New things are happening in the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. Our officers and board members are motivated and enthusiastic. Newly reorganized and newly formed committees will allow us to pursue with greater vigor the goals of our organization which are reflected in our new mission statement printed in the masthead of this newsletter. We have a web site now, where we will publish this newsletter, a calendar and notices of BBAS activities, and anything else we find appropriate. Let us know what you would like to see.

This is a special organization with a proud tradition. Our vision is to become in every way "more"—more active in conservation and service and education; more visible in our community; more efforts to recruit new members and encourage greater member involvement; more fun; more camaraderie. However, none of these wonderful things will happen without your input and participation. So, check out our field trips and programs for the year. Join a committee. Lead a field trip. Contribute to this newsletter. E-mail us. Call us. Write us. BBAS is going to fly!

Did you know?

The ancestors of birds were reptiles. The skeletons of birds and reptiles are so similar that most paleontologists believe there can be no question of their relationship!

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

Officers:

- President: Stan Cyran 292-4876 scyran@mem.po.com
- Vice-President: Kay Niyo 233-8803 kniyo@aol.com
- Secretary: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396
- Treasurer: Paul Ovrom 292-8862 nc7ao@ars-grin.gov

Board Members:

- Carol Berrier 965-8242
- David Guy 292-8825
- Kevin Healy 233-5914 KevinJMH@aol.com
- Karl Jungbluth 432-5057 kjungbluth@smtgate.ssmc.noaa.gov
- Rebecca Shivers 292-0691 shivers@ameslab.gov

Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zalatel 382-5427 birdhank@aol.com
- Awards Chair: Stan Cyran
- Conservation Chair: Sherry Dragula 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Education Co-Chairs: Carol and Galin Berrier
- Field Trip Chair: Jon Bahrenfus
- Fund Raising Co-Chairs: Kay Niyo and Stan Cyran
- Membership Chair: Mark Widrechner 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Program Co-Chairs: Kevin and Roseann Healy
- Publicity Chair: Mary Doud 296-2178
- Publications and Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivers
- Service & Special Projects Co-Chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth

Web Site:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~shivers/bluestem.html>

Iowa Bird Sightings Hotline—1-319-338-9881

Calendar of Events

Prairie Fungi, September 10. Dr. Lois Tiffany will lead a walk at 6:30 p.m. at the Ames High Prairie.

Annual Errington Lecture, Dr. E.O. Wilson, September 12. "A Conversation on Ants and Sociobiology," 4 p.m. (Scientific Lecture) and "The Diversity of Life," 8 p.m. (Public Lecture with reception following). Both lectures will be in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union. Dr. Wilson is Baird Professor of Science and Mellon Professor of the Sciences at Harvard University. He is the founder of the field of sociobiology and was just named one of the 25 most influential Americans by *Time Magazine*. He is winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, the National Medal of Science, the International Prize for Biology, the gold medal of the World Wildlife Fund, and the Distinguished Humanist Award from the American Humanist Association and a preeminent authority on ants. Dr. Wilson is also well-known for his pioneering work in island biogeography, sociobiology, and biodiversity, and his books include *The Diversity of Life*, *Biophilia*, *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*, *On Human Nature*, *The Ants*, and *Naturalist*.

Warbler Watch, September 14. Birding with the Des Moines Audubon. Contact Denny Thompson, 515-254-0837.

Brekke's Bird Seminar, September 17. The annual Bird Seminar with Wier Nelson of Cedar Rapids will be at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Brekke's Town & Country. Mr. Nelson will have a 45-minute slide presentation, and a question and answer time. Subjects covered will be bird seed preferences, types of feeders to attract specific birds, bird identification, life cycles and habits of wild birds, and how to discourage or limit damage caused by squirrels and sparrows. Contact Brekke's, 515-232-7906.

IPN Annual Meeting, September 20-22. The annual IPN meeting at Camp Tanglefoot Girl Scout Camp. Contact Joel Hanes 515-424-5254.

Margo Frankel Woods, September 24. Hike with the Sierra Club at 6:30 p.m. Contact Jo Hudson, 515-276-6359.

Iowa Audubon Council, October 5. The Iowa Audubon Council, the organization made up of Iowa Audubon Chapters in Iowa will hold its Fall meeting in Ames. Although the details are not finalized, the meeting will run from approximately 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Two speakers will join us from the National Audubon Society to discuss a State Office for Audubon in Iowa. This is an exciting time for new plans for Audubon activity in Iowa and Audubon members are welcome. The meeting will be free, there will be a charge for lunch. Contact Sherry Dragula, 515-233-1532.

15th North American Prairie Conference, October 23-26. Located at St. Charles, Illinois, at the Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center, the meetings are designed to promote a better understanding of our natural heritage through scientific presentations, informal discussions, and the publication of conference proceedings. It will be held jointly with the 23rd Natural Areas and Indiana Dunes Ecosystems conferences. Contact NA/IDE/NAP Conferences, c/o Illinois State Water Survey, 2204 Griffith Dr., Champaign, IL 61820

Notes from the Field

Jon Bahrenfus, Field Trip Chair

Saturday, June 8, was the annual Birder's Breakfast. About eight BBAS members went to Holst Forest, where the highlight of the trip was a scarlet tanager [slide to be shown at the Christmas Party] and a great crested flycatcher. We had breakfast at Don Williams Park where we saw numerous bluebirds. Later, we took a side trip to the Harrier Marsh where yellow-headed blackbirds, blue-winged teal, shovelers, dickcissels, mallards, and two whitetail deer were observed. This relatively new area is located just south of Ogden and has a nice wetlands area.



Birder of the Month

(This is the first in a proposed series profiling the birders in our midst. Why are they birders? Where have they been? What makes them tick? You'll learn this and more in every newsletter.)

Mark Widrechner, past president of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society and current horticulturist at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station, may have never married Sherry Dragula if it weren't for birdwatching. They first met 18 years ago while both were students at the University of Illinois. Sherry was an avid birder, and Mark began to accompany her on birding trips. Soon, he was hooked (on birds, and on Sherry, we presume). "I began birding during the spring migration, which was a neat introduction to birds," he recalls. Mark has gone on to be an accomplished birder, and has 396 birds on his U.S. life list. In fact, Mark and Sherry try to do a little birding almost anywhere they travel, in the U.S. and internationally. Mark included a little birding on his business trips to India and China last fall, and in Mexico in 1993. Closer to home, Mark and Sherry try to manage a multipurpose vacation every winter, seeking warmth and wilderness. Memorable trips include the spectacular birdwatching of the everglades last year, and a trip to Tucson several years ago.

What keeps Mark interested? There are really two levels for him. "I like being outdoors and a student of nature," he notes. "I like seeing how things fit together; how birds fit into their habitats. Birds are also quite simply fascinating creatures," he adds, "their behavior, colors, songs." One of Mark's most memorable experiences was an eye-level encounter with a Blackburnian Warbler, while walking home from work. "It seemed tame and yet, such a spectacular bird." Romance, nature, and beauty, it seems that for Mark, birdwatching has it all.

Editor's Welcome

Rebecca Shivvers, Editor

Welcome to a new year for the BBAS. We have several new officers, board members, committees, and many new agendas we want to accomplish. But, we need your help. I may call you for ideas and assistance.

You may have already noticed changes in this newsletter. Beginning with this issue, we have a somewhat different, informal format. We are trying to become more user-friendly, member-oriented, and we want more membership involvement. For example, there is a new column, "Bird Chat," to answer your birding questions, offer birding tips, and advice. Send me your questions or your birding tips.

Many of you have read good books about birds, the environment, ecological issues, source books, bird guides, video tapes, etc. Send me a short review to share with other BBAS members. If you would like to submit an article, a letter to the editor, have a byline, please send or e-mail it to me.

Last, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sherry Dragula for the fine job she has done as past editor. I would like to also extend a special thanks to Stan Cyran for his creative ideas, help, and organization with our first newsletter. Many thanks to all the people who made their deadlines and contributed to this newsletter. I think your efforts show.

Board Happenings

Joyce Bahrenfus, Secretary

The BBAS held its first annual board retreat, July 21, at the Iowa Arboretum. The day began with a tour of the Iowa Arboretum. Business included drafting the tentative program and field trip schedules for 1996-1997, developing chapter mission and vision statements, discussion of meeting location and dates, and special projects. A motion was passed to create and reform ten committees. The committees are Awards, Conservation, Education, Field Trip, Fund Raising, Membership, Program, Publicity, Publications and Electronic Media, and Service and Special Projects. Discussion of creating a membership directory was tabled pending further investigation of the issue.

If you would like to help on any committee, contact the chairperson, or if you have any concerns, issues, or information you would like brought before the board, please give it to any board member at least one week before the next meeting so it will get on the agenda. Thanks.

Board Meetings—1996-1997: August 28, October 27, December 8, February 23, March 30, April 20. All Board meetings are on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The August Board meeting will be held at Kay Niyo's home and the October Board meeting will be held at Rebecca Shivvers' home. Future locations will be announced in the newsletter.

Mortensen Mound Clean-up

Thursday evening, July 25 at 5:30, nine BBAS members showed up with pruners, loppers, saws, and gloves to clean up the Mortensen Mound, located just southeast of the Towers dormitories in Ames. Various weed trees were removed, including mulberry, Siberian elm, basswood, and red bud. Stop by sometime and admire the beautiful flowers, including purple coneflowers, grey-headed coneflower, maximilian sunflower, liatrus, and goldenrod.

The mound is the result of extra soil deposited from nearby construction more than a decade ago. It looked grotesque. Someone from the ISU landscape architecture department distributed wildflower seeds over the mound and little by little added other plants. Jeanne Edwards (BBAS) has collected seeds from natural areas around Ames and planted them at Mortenson over the past several years. Subsequently, she petitioned the BBAS for help in maintenance. If you are interested in helping with the Mortenson Mound project, please contact Karl or Carmen Youngbluth, co-chairs, Service & Special Projects Committee.

Bird Drop-ins

Have you seen a new or unusual bird? You may call Wolf Oesterreich at 232-3285 or Dr. James Dinsmore, 294-7669 for identification and consultation. We will get bimonthly reports from them and let you know what everyone is seeing.

WANTED

If you are enthusiastic about birding, want to contribute to the preservation and restoration of planet earth, like to go on hikes and outings, and enjoy people with similar likes, BBAS wants you. BBAS is looking for people who want to interact and help as a team to make BBAS an outstanding club. Contact any of the committee chairs for further information or if you would like to join the committee. No experience necessary.

Conservation Corner

Sherry Dragula, Conservation Chair

"Conservation Committee seeks Activists"

Do you want to join with others from the Big Bluestem Audubon Society to impact conservation issues of local, state, and national importance? If you do, now is the perfect time to join the Conservation Committee. You do not need previous experience, just an interest in and a willingness to be involved in issues. The Committee will meet when needed to develop position statements and information, and generate letters and phone calls to elected officials and state agencies. There are many new tools available to help increase activism on issues, including the use of e-mail to obtain timely information and to send messages to elected representatives.

Recently, members of the Big Bluestem met with the Ames Parks and Recreation Director, Nancy Carroll, to provide input on the Parks and Recreation Department's new trail for Brookside Park, and the Department will follow up on our suggestions. This is an example of a local issue the Conservation Committee can work on.

On the state level, the Iowa Department of Transportation is preparing their transportation plan for the next twenty-some years in Iowa. Input is needed to help guide this plan in an environmentally sound way.

Nationally, wetland and forest issues, plus the Endangered Species Act are all being decided upon. We must make our voices heard if we are to keep our natural treasures.

The Conservation Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11 at the home of Sherry Dragula, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames. Please call Sherry at 515-233-1532, if you are interested in attending the Committee Meeting or interested in joining the Conservation Committee.

Did you know?

The sparrow has 14 vertebrae in its neck and the giraffe and humans have 7!

Roger Tory Peterson Dies

On Sunday, July 28, internationally famous ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson died at age 87 from failing health. He is best known for his *Field Guide to the Birds*, which has sold more than 3 million copies to date. Peterson's mission was "to inform society of the natural world through the teaching of natural history." His exquisite paintings and drawings "stressed coloration and the shapes of beaks, wing feathers and tails," as well as the unique system developed to highlight distinctive markings and characteristics of the birds, which have aided birders everywhere to better bird identification. According to *Peterson Field Guides Western Birds*, he is the "world's most celebrated naturalist and has done more to increase environmental awareness than anyone else in the twentieth century." He has "received more than two dozen honorary degrees, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and every major award in the field of conservation." Peterson also wrote various field guides on butterflies, shells, rocks and minerals, and mammals, which I'm sure many of us have. Roger Peterson will certainly be missed. *[Adapted from The New York Times, July 30, 1996 and Peterson Field*

Parks & Recreation Department Proposes a Multipurpose Trail Through Brookside Park

Thirteen people representing several local organizations, including six representatives from BBAS, attended a meeting with Nancy Carroll, Director of Ames Parks and Recreation, on July 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Brookside Park. Ames Parks & Recreation is applying for a REAP grant to fund the construction of a multipurpose trail through Brookside Park for walkers, bikers, joggers, in-line skaters, etc., and requested our input about concerns on the project. Several concerns were voiced, including the sensitive needs of the environment, the impact of an asphalt trail through the park, possible construction of a bridge, and the linkages with other bike trails present and planned for the city in conjunction with the Land Use Policy Plan. One of the reasons the BBAS was asked to become involved is the BBAS developed the Audubon Trail through Brookside in the late 1960s. We applaud the Parks & Recreation Department for inviting us to work together in the planned bike beltway system. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact Sherry Dragula, Conservation Chair.

IOU—What is it?

by Dr. James Fuller

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) is a nonprofit group, organized in 1923, to promote interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa, and to unite those who have these interests in common. It sponsors meetings, field trips, a quarterly journal, quarterly newsletter, and the Iowa Birdline (319) 338-9881, which provides a recorded message of Iowa Bird sightings, and allows callers to report their unusual sightings.

Memberships are on a calendar basis and include all publications for that year at \$15.00/year. For a membership application contact Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 or e-mail jscheib@aea10.k12.ia.us. IOU is also listed on the web—

<http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/iou.html>

Book Review

by Kevin Healy

Down and Dirty Birding by Joey Slinger. Published by Simon and Schuster, New York 1996. \$11.00.

If you think Mel Brooks should have won an academy award for *Blazing Saddles*, you should read no further and rush out to buy this book. Mr. Slinger takes a humorous look at birds and bird watchers in *Down and Dirty Birding*. While his style is far more approachable than that of the Cornell Laboratory's home study text, his substance leaves something to be desired. Mr. Slinger discusses equipment, bird behavior, anatomy, and a chapter of miscellanea. The book is 225 pages plus a bibliography and index. There are a few comical illustrations.

Ten Top Reasons

Not to go on a Field Trip

10. My binoculars always fog up.
9. Lost my field guide.
8. Couldn't find the Design Center parking lot.
7. Alarm didn't go off.
6. Insurance doesn't cover stiff neck and eye strain.
5. Afraid birds will land in my hair.
4. I can't bring my cat.
3. Birds sing too much.
2. Birds fly too fast.
1. Bird watching may raise my cholesterol.

Actually, field trips are the very life blood of our organization, and we depend upon interest and involvement of our members as well as the general public to make our trips successful and satisfying. If you have never been on a field trip or can always think of an excuse to not go, then this is the year to turn over a new leaf (. . . feather?) and plan to join us. We promise you will not be disappointed. You'll discover not only birds, some rare and spectacular, but also wildflowers, trees, and other treasures of nature. Bring a friend, field guide, binoculars, and the desire for fun. See you birding!

The Birds of Story County

Steve Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel have recently published *The Birds of Story County*. Funded by the Big Bluestem Audubon Society of Ames, it is an annotated list of the 300 species of birds recorded in Story County through May 1996. It includes information about seasonal abundance, breeding and historical status, early and late dates, and a summary of some of the popular birding spots in Story County.

The book sells for \$3.00. It will be available at BBAS meetings or by sending a check for \$4.50 (book plus postage and handling) to Big Bluestem Audubon, c/o Hank Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201-1126.

Steve Lekwa Reviews *The Birds of Story County*

[Annotated from *The Daily Tribune*, Saturday, June 8, 1996.]
 Story County bird enthusiasts should be delighted with a new booklet just published on Story County's birds. Hank Zaletel and Steve Dinsmore, both well-known local ornithologists and bird-spotters extraordinaire, have jointly researched the status of every bird known to have been seen in Story County. Each entry defines the species' relative abundance, states whether it's known to nest here, and offers notes on where, when and sometimes by whom rare sightings have been made. . . . It was great fun to recall some of the rarer sightings and first sightings over the past 20 years. Some were made here at McFarland Park or at other county conservation areas. It's sad to note some of the species that have declined drastically in numbers over that time, but other species have made gains as well. . . . Everyone who enjoys watching birds should want a copy. It's just possible that the unusual bird you're watching may never have been seen in the area and should be reported. You could get credit for a first sighting. *The Birds of Story County* will tell you what's rare enough to get local birders excited!

Bird Chat

Dear B.C.:

I've heard some birds talking about how they use ants for grooming. Is this true? *I. M. An'ant*

Dear Mr. An'ant:

Actually, many different kinds of birds have a curious trick of stroking their feathers with live ants. Their behavior as they do so reminds one of a cat rolling and playing in catnip leaves. They twist into awkward positions, trip over backward. More than 200 species of birds have been reported to use ants in such a manner, including the blue jay and the grackle. Exactly why birds do this is unknown. One possible explanation is the formic acid produced by ants may reduce external parasites and may soothe skin irritation that can accompany the growth of new feathers. In any case, if you are looking for that first chance at flying to impress your friends, or want to drive birds wild (make sure you get the right species), here's your big opportunity.

B.C.

Hendrickson Marsh Update

Hendrickson Marsh is 700-plus acres of wetland and prairie located west of Rhodes, Iowa. Last year the DNR secured a \$4,500 grant from the Clean Water Act [Federal Government, section 319] to plant prairie grass on 15 acres of former agriculture land and build two prairie potholes, about 1/2 acre each. When established, the prairie and potholes will provide a significant habitat improvement. [Adapted from Times-Republican, Marshalltown, Iowa, June 9, 1996.]



Clip and Join

Do you have a friend who has a burning desire to learn about birds and the natural world, and wants to meet other like-minded individuals? Or, are you looking for that unique and special gift? Don't wait any longer, just clip the membership application form below and send it in.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

New member of the National Audubon Society (receive the *Audubon* magazine, the *Big Bluestem Flyer*, membership card, and participate in all Big Bluestem Audubon Society activities)—\$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 Widrlechner, 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.

Continued page 1—Coming Field Trips
September—21

captivated by Dr. Dean Roosa's presentation at our monthly meeting, we will have the opportunity to visit Engeldinger Marsh in the company of an expert naturalist, Loren Loun. This unique marsh, located on Highway 330 in Polk County, is a wonderful example of a kettlehole marsh and is a rare feature in this part of Iowa. Dr. Roosa completed a biological survey of the area and found an astounding assortment of plants and animals, making it one of the most diverse and pristine areas in the state. In one year, 314 species of ~~reptiles~~ ^{plants}, 5 species of amphibians, and 82 species of birds (22 with established nesting territories) were counted. Despite this, Engeldinger is threatened by a proposal to route a highway through it. The field trip may have particular poignancy if the marsh is destroyed. Of course, this will also be a significant opportunity for trip participants to voice their concerns to the Iowa DOT, if they are so moved.

This will be the first of several exciting opportunities this year in which field trips are scheduled to coordinate with our monthly programs. Additionally, this particular field trip may be especially important to those who are interested in the preservation of habitat, especially habitat so close to home. Our trip leader, Loren Loun, Polk County Conservation Officer, is superbly knowledgeable about the area and can answer all of our questions. Wear waterproof footwear if possible and bring DEET (mosquito repellent). Meet at the ISU Design Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Alternatively, participants can meet at the marsh at 9 a.m. The easiest route is I-35 to north Ankeny exit, east on blacktop to Highway 65, turn northeast on 65 for 3 miles. Park in the parking lot. Be careful of traffic.

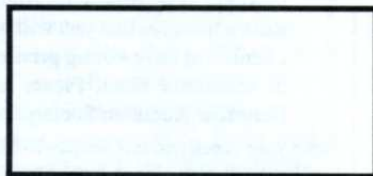
Stan Cyran (515-292-4876) and Kay Niyo (515-233-8803) will lead an optional trip to Sandhill Prairie afterwards, which is nearby.

October

5— Hawk watch on Iowa River Cliffs near Grammer Grove Park in Marshall County. Meet at the ISU Design Center at 8:30 a.m. and caravan to Grammer Grove off County Road E18, 1 1/2 miles before Liscomb, where Beth and Mark Proescholdt will assist us in spotting and identification. This is an excellent area for viewing numerous hawks at this time of year. Bring lawn chairs, binoculars, blankets if cold, and a lunch if you can stay that long. Afterwards, Carol Berrier (515-965-8242) will lead an optional trip to nearby Marietta Sand Prairie.

26— Waterfowl trip to the Runnells/Red Rock Lake area. There should be many waterfowl, including hawks, eagles, gulls, and other birds at this rich wildlife habitat. It is not unusual to spot rare species in this area. There is a refuge with a viewing stand just off Highway 316, south of Runnells, where we will do most of our viewing. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope and wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Meet at the Design Center, ISU, at 8 a.m. Stan Cyran (515-292-4876) or Kay Niyo (515-233-8803) will lead this trip.

There will be four field trips during September/October; all will leave from the parking lot behind the ISU Design Center at the northwest corner of campus. Most field trips are over by noon or earlier, but some may last until early afternoon if we go to a more distant location. For questions about a particular trip, please contact the trip leader(s).



Bulk Rate
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Rebecca A. Shivers, Editor
Big Bluestem Audubon Society
2380 220th Street
Boone, Iowa 50036