



# 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 34 Number 5

May/June 1999

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!

## Featured Speaker—May 20 meeting: *Linda Scheuermann, "How Can Trumpeter Swans Create New Wetlands?"*

Come and listen to Linda Scheuermann, a fourth grade teacher at Roland-Story Elementary School, as she talks about the involvement of over 500 ten-year-olds in various projects, to help endangered species all over the world. The students have raised funds for the building of bird houses with high school "big buddies," presented at the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism, and teamed up with the ISU Trumpeter Swan Restoration Committee members to be in the VEISHA Parade. She'll have pictures, stories, and experiences to share.

## Featured Activity—June 5: *"Birders' Brunch at the Ledges State Park"*

Don't miss the annual Birders' Brunch at the Ledges State Park near Boone. See the *Coming Field Trips* . . . for more details. 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 John Snyder, 232-8824, to confirm space and location.*

### Coming Field Trips: May & June

*Kevin Healy, Field Trip Chair*

There are several good opportunities coming up to see lots of warblers and other birds, and to enjoy springtime in Iowa. Please join us on one of the exciting field trips.

#### May

9—Mother's Day warbler walk. Meet at north parking lot at Brookside Park at 0800. Trip leaders, Kay Niyo (233-8803) & Kevin Healy (233-5914). If you have questions, call either of them.

#### June

5— The annual Birders' Brunch will be held at the Ledges State Park near Boone. We will meet at the upper part of the park near the shelter houses at 0800 a.m. Call Karl Jungbluth (432-5057) for details.

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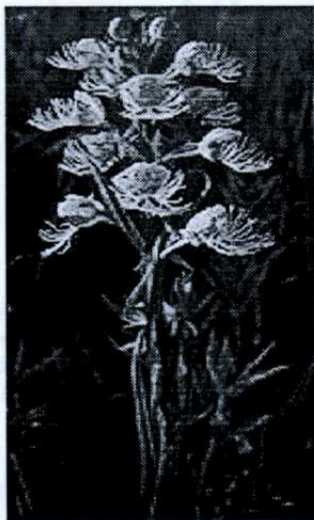
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- Around Hamilton & Polk . . .

**Bird Term of the Month: Zoonosis**—a disease capable of transmission from birds to humans; i.e., psittacosis.

## View from the Prairie

Kay Niyo, President



Is spring finally here after snow for Veisha weekend?! I hope so. I enjoyed spring weather and birding with Paul and Linda Bystrak on their home turf in Maryland the last week in March. Being able to bird in four states in one day is a new concept for me—from Chincoteague, Virginia to Cape

May, New Jersey! The states are so tiny! Amazingly, I added 20 new eastern species to my list. If I had to pick out three highlights, one would be a view from about 50 feet through a Leica scope of about a dozen Harlequin ducks that were preening. They are even more beautiful than our Wood Ducks. Another special treat for an Iowan, who lives in a state where we can't seem to successfully reintroduce Barn Owls into the wild, was walking into Paul's brother Danny's barn and seeing Dad Barn Owl sleeping up on a rafter and Mom sitting in the nest box. Barn Owls are very common in many of the unused burley drying barns. Unfortunately, these structures are gradually disintegrating and are not being replaced. But the birds also are using nest boxes in many places so perhaps that will suffice when all of the old barns have disappeared. The very special culminating visit was to Patuxent Research Station with Paul to meet his Christmas bird count partner of 30+ years, Chandler Robbins, coauthor of *Birds of North America*. At age 80—and he looks 60—he continues his 52-year federal career doing research on neotropical migrants and, in fact, had just returned from a research trip to Guatemala. It is amazing to think about the amount of accumulated ornithological knowledge stored in his mind. I learned much on this trip about how actively the eastern "green" groups partner with the local, state, and federal government to save the bays, estuaries, rivers, coasts and many other habitats. I believe we in the Midwest could be doing more partnering for greater effectiveness. I think our new Iowa Audubon state office may be able to take a lead in such efforts in the future.

I always thought I was very aware of my natural surroundings at all times. However, recent programs presented on the geology of Iowa by Jean Prior and on spring and fall savannahs from Canada to Texas by Bob Dyas have caused me to look at landscapes in a broader context. I hope many of you were able to enjoy their wonderful presentations. Be sure to join us for the May program about a very active teacher and class who have

been involved in the Trumpeter Swan reintroduction program.

Our Iowa woodlands are just beginning their glorious springtime show with the early blooming bloodroot, toothwort, and spring beauty. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the later blooming woodland wildflowers will be carpeting the hillsides of local woodland parks. Prairies are just beginning to break their quiescent period and will become increasingly colorful as May gives way to June. Take every opportunity to enjoy the many natural areas that we are privileged to have nearby in the midst of our corn and beans.

Check the schedule for spring field trips and join us for some good central Iowa birding. We will enjoy wildflowers along with warblers on Mother's Day. And we always have great birding at our Birders' Breakfast in Ledges State Park. So, please join us!



### Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

#### Officers:

- President: Kay Niyo 233-8803 [kniyo@aol.com](mailto:kniyo@aol.com)
- Vice President: Karl Jungbluth 432-5057 [weatherbird@opencominc.com](mailto:weatherbird@opencominc.com)
- Secretary: Mary Doud 296-2178 [mfdoud@ames.net](mailto:mfdoud@ames.net)
- Treasurer: Paul Ovrom 292-8862 [nc7ao@ars-grin.gov](mailto:nc7ao@ars-grin.gov)

#### Board Members:

- Carol Berrier 965-8242
- Mike Freiberg 233-8213 [freiberg9@hotmail.com](mailto:freiberg9@hotmail.com)
- Kevin Healy 233-5914 [khealy@ames.net](mailto:khealy@ames.net)
- Stuart Huntington 296-0248 [x1huntin@exnet.iastate.edu](mailto:x1huntin@exnet.iastate.edu)
- John Pohlman 232-6816

#### Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zalatel 382-5427 [madowl@nevia.net](mailto:madowl@nevia.net)
- Awards Chair: Stan Cyran 292-4876 [scyrans@pol.net](mailto:scyrans@pol.net)
- Conservation Chair: Sherry Dragula 233-1532 [mpwskd@aol.com](mailto:mpwskd@aol.com)
- Education Co-Chairs: Carol and Galin Berrier
- Field Trip Chair: Kevin Healy
- Fund Raising Chair: Stan Cyran
- Membership Chair: Mark Widrechner 233-1532 [mpwskd@aol.com](mailto:mpwskd@aol.com)
- Program Chair: John Snyder 232-8824 [JESnyder@ix.netcom.com](mailto:JESnyder@ix.netcom.com)
- Publicity Chair: Mary Doud 296-2178
- Publications and Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivers 292-0691 [shivers@ameslab.gov](mailto:shivers@ameslab.gov)
- Special Publications Chair: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396
- Service & Special Projects Co-Chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth

#### BBAS Web Site:

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

#### National Audubon Society Web Site:

<http://www.audubon.org>

#### Iowa Audubon State Director:

Paul Zeph [pzeph@audubon.org](mailto:pzeph@audubon.org)

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

## Bird's-Eye View— Nature Observations From the Bluebird Bed & Breakfast

*Karl and Carmen Jungbluth*

**March 1, 1999**— Today was a beautiful hint of spring. Only the most stubborn patches of snow remain. The first red-winged blackbirds of the season showed up in our front yard and began singing for their territories. To me, this is a true sign of spring, although we will still have plenty of wintery days. Later in the day, flocks of hundreds of red-wings were overhead and heading north. The sight and sound was wonderful!

Plenty of geese were milling around the Boone area, and one flock of Canada Geese flew right overhead. At the feeders, the birds looked smaller than usual, probably because the near 60 degree temperature didn't require any feather fluffing. Aside from the usual array of woodpeckers, Carmen saw 8 house finches at the feeder, our highest number this season. I've been observing a hawk nest directly across from Peas Creek. Although red-tailed hawks are seen daily overhead, they have not been seen on the nest. Finally, although I saw a pair of bluebirds a half-mile down the road in Ledges Park, we are still anxiously waiting for the first bluebirds to appear in our front yard.

**April 1, 1999**- No foolin' spring is early this year, at least up to this point. The soil seems dry and warm, and the grass and plants are springing to life sooner than in any of the past four years here. A pair of bluebirds has been visiting our front yard nest box since March 16th. The male seems to look more blue every day. Turkey vultures are back in the neighborhood, and a single fox sparrow shuffled under our feeders again today. Carmen saw two brown creepers scaling the oak tree, and there are numerous robins and flickers in the yard. Since the robins have been around all winter, it is tough to say when they "returned," but their numbers are up.

It's that time of year when wildflowers are blooming in the woods behind our house. And, a step outside on a sunny morning reveals a chorus of juncos, goldfinches, house finches, cardinals, robins, and frogs!

**News Flash**—On April 20, Kevin Healy and son spotted an American Bittern in the ditch, north side of road 1 mile west of Bjorkboda Marsh. Kevin says, "Best look at this bird I've ever had. Even my teenage son was impressed!"

## Board Happenings

*Mary Doud, Secretary*

Karl Jungbluth encouraged Board members to take a lead role in Bird-a-thon, especially in finding business sponsors. It is important to coordinate with each other so businesses are not asked twice. Amy Yoakum needs help with birding classes May 4, 5, 10, 12, and 17. Iowa Audubon Council meeting is April 17 in Cedar Rapids. Kay Niyo and Kevin Healy will lead the Warbler Walk in May. A new Field Trip chair will be needed next year. A total of \$1700 was raised for Kellerton Bird Conservation Area. Carol Berrier sent 34 letters to teachers receiving *Audubon Adventures* asking for feedback. Kevin Healy mentioned the Osprey re-introduction at Saylorville as a project we may wish to support.

## Prairie Seasonal Report 5 April 99

*Carl Kurtz*

### Pasque Flowers

On Easter Sunday we spent part of the afternoon on an old hay meadow just west of Sioux Falls in southeastern South Dakota. It is an undulating rocky landscape of dry morainal ridges and shallow prairie potholes. Glacial erratics are still present above soil the surface, while the evidence of their removal in adjoining farmland exists as huge piles of stones.

It is the pasque flowers that draws us to this still unplowed prairie landscape. Emerging plants are fuzzy-stemmed and present nearly everywhere as singles, groups of two and three or more, and bunches of up to a dozen flowers—still others are just emerging from the still cold earth. It is pleasant in the warm sun, there is little wind and tiny pollinators are at work in the pasque flower's bright yellow stamens. Many flowers are still closed and the pale blue undersides of the petals remind one of crocus blossoms, thus the common name of "wild crocus" among local folk.

The pasque flower is the state flower of South Dakota and is found all across the state, often in backyards. It has been called the Easter flower and is a most fitting symbol for the resurrection. Nothing seems so barren as the frozen earth of March, yet pasque flowers arise in spite of cold temperatures, rain, snow and wind to proclaim spring on the prairie.



## Conservation Corner

Sherry Dragula,  
Conservation Chair

### Mitigation Banking Bill Threatens Wetlands Protections

A wetlands mitigation banking bill, deceptively titled the "American Wetlands Restoration Act," will soon be considered by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's, Subcommittee on Water Resources. H.R. 1290, introduced by Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), amends the Clean Water Act for the purpose of promoting wetlands mitigation banking. The bill lacks many critical safeguards needed to ensure that wetlands are protected from unnecessary destruction and that mitigation banks successfully compensate for wetlands destruction. Your help is needed to defeat this bad bill.

H. R. 1290 would amend the Clean Water Act to state that it is the national policy to "foster wetlands mitigation banking..." and "to do so by providing a regulatory framework for the establishment, operation, and use of mitigation banks." The bill requires some financial assurances to be set aside to ensure that a bank operates according to its charter. It also requires that a bank show that it has secured permanent water rights for a site and that the site will be protected in perpetuity. Its language and requirements are generally vague and very flexible.

A major problem with the bill is that it does not include adequate safeguards to ensure that mitigation banks produce fully functioning wetlands that adequately compensate for the wetlands that have been destroyed.

In addition to inadequate safeguards, the bill fails to address two large problems:

#### Sequencing:

The bill fails to require sequencing (avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts) where mitigation banks are used. Without a clear sequencing requirement, mitigation banks can easily be used as an excuse for permitting unnecessary wetland destruction.

#### Failure to Close Drainage Loophole:

While H.R. 1290 would make it easier to destroy wetlands, it does nothing to fix a recently created loophole in the law that has allowed over 20,000 acres of wetlands to be drained in North Carolina alone (Rep. Jones' home state). This "Tulloch rule" loophole which came about as a result of a lawsuit by developers, is the biggest threat facing wetlands. Congress should focus first on fixing this problem which seriously undermines efforts to halt net losses of wetlands.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Passage of H.R. 1290 would undermine responsible stewardship of our nation's wetlands. Your help is needed to ensure that this bad bill does not "open the floodgates" to allow further wetlands destruction.

Representative Boswell is on the Water Resources Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Please take a minute today to call, write or E-mail him asking him to defend America's wetlands by opposing H.R. 1290.

You can reach Representative Boswell through the Capital Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or write him at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. His E-mail is: rep.boswell.ia03@mail.house.gov

## Out and About in Boone County —Don Williams Park

Joyce and Jon Bahrenfus

Location: about six miles north of Ogden on County Road P70.

During spring warbler migration is a great time to visit Don Williams Park. Its 598 acres of mixed habitat, including a 160-acre, man-made lake, attract a rewarding variety of birds. Fingers of the lake extend into wooded coves that are often alive with warblers at the height of the migration. In fact, one of our favorite ways to bird this park is from a canoe.

At the entrance to the park, the relatively open terrain with mixed pines and deciduous trees provide good habitat for bluebirds and other songbirds. Just after the entrance road turns to the right, a blacktop road to the left will take you back to a small restaurant next to a boat launch. From this blacktop is a gravel road leading to the Hickory Hills picnic area, a wooded area overlooking the lake where you might spot Canada geese, ducks, and some terns and gulls. Lurking in the underbrush, we've seen thrushes and sparrows, and in the trees above you can see woodpeckers, warblers, and a variety of songbirds.

Going back to the main road in the park, continue on around the lake to several other good birding areas. About 3/4 mile from the entrance is a boat ramp; a short hike up the gravel road on the right just beyond it is a good spot to see forest species. At the dam just down the road, check for kingfishers and herons.

Continue past the campground and then on to the picnic area. When the blacktop road curves to the left around the picnic area, go straight ahead on the gravel road. A short distance back you'll come to a gate which is closed when the road is soft, but you can walk back in on the road (stay on the paths to avoid the plentiful patches of poison ivy). It's a good area to bird, with a mix of timber and open brushy areas. Back at the gate, the gravel road curves left to a beach area where you might see osprey, vultures, or cormorants.

A trip to Don Williams Park is not complete without a stop at Harrier Marsh, just south of Ogden, before you head home.

**News Flash**—On April 21, Kevin Healy stopped one-fourth mile west of Bob Pyle Marsh in Story County. He saw a very interesting drake Cinnamon Teal. This is a new bird for him. The head and breast were as expected, i.e., a dark red head with red eye and dark crown, the breast was more grayish red, although the light was not the best as rain was approaching. The bird had a distinct white area anterior to the tail, like that of a Blue-wing Teal. The flanks were a copper color, intermediate between the cinnamon color of the flanks of a Cinnamon Teal and the brown of a Blue-wing Teal. He hopes the bird hangs around for a little while longer so others may see it.

## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Budget

Income	Estimated 98-99	Proposed 99-00
National Audubon Society Rebate	1890.99	1900.00
Donations	90.00	80.00
Newsletters	82.50	50.00
Projects:	6697.92	2657.19
Brekke's Coupons	150.00	150.00
<i>Birds of Story County</i> *	230.50	105.00
Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting	2063.00	0.00
Crossbill Carving Raffle	130.00	0.00
T-shirt Sales	236.87	352.19
Raffles, Buttons	51.00	50.00
Kellerton Land Acquisition Project	1700.00	0.00
Audubon Coffee Sales	183.80	0.00
Bird-a-thon	1902.75	2000.00
Miscellaneous Project Income for '98-99	50.00	0.00
Other (Acct Interest; Insurance Adjustment)	<u>88.03</u>	<u>30.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8849.44</b>	<b>4717.19</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Newsletter (includes April/May)</b>	<b>1319.47</b>	<b>1435.00*</b>
<b>Projects:</b>	<b>4143.47</b>	<b>1100.00</b>
Iowa Ornithologists Union Meeting	2027.81	0.00
Bird-a-thon	1019.62	1100.00
T-shirt Purchases (\$208+259.81)**	467.81	0.00
Audubon Coffee Purchases***	221.23	0.00
Tiffany Book Purchase (for raffle)	20.00	0.00
<i>Birds of Story County</i> Book Purchase	387.00	0.00
<b>Donations/Dues</b>	<b>2048.00</b>	<b>242.00</b>
Kellerton Land Acquisition	1700.00	0.00
Iowa Ornithologist Union Iowa Birdlife	41.00	0.00
Iowa Audubon Council	75.00	0.00
Boone YMCA Camp	40.00	50.00
Projected IA Audubon dues	0.00	192.00
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>195.00</b>	<b>195.00</b>
<b>Field Trips &amp; Programs (includes April/May)</b>	<b>170.64</b>	<b>170.00</b>
<b><i>Audubon Adventures</i></b>	<b>1174.95</b>	<b>1175.00</b>
<b>Other (account deposit fees, brochures)</b>	<b>132.48</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8992.01</b>	<b>4417.00</b>

\*includes \$30.00 in sales from previous edition.

\*\*T-shirt purchases \$208 for shirts sold in 1998-99 + \$259.81 for shirts to be sold in 1999-2000.

\*\*\*Coffee project was not intended to make a profit. Income being less than expenses in this category is likely due to incoming cash with no designation and placed under "Income/donations."

We should be going into next fiscal year with approximately \$1400.00

## Notes from the Field

*Kevin Healy, Field Trip Chair*

### Waterfowl Trip

Ten birders made a blustery March trip to Bay's Branch, Lakin Slough, and Harrier Marsh. We saw 53 species, including Great Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, a variety of ducks, several Common Snipe at Lakin Slough, Eastern Phoebe, and Fox Sparrow. The highlight of the trip was the discovery of a Great Horned Owl brooding on a nest on the east end of Lakin Slough (south entrance). Lakin Slough was the most productive location we visited.

### Brookside Park

A forty-five minute walk through Brookside Park in Ames on March 28 yielded the following: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Northern Cardinal, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (displaying and singing), Fox Sparrow, and others.

### Story County Prairies

On April 18, about 15 people met at noon for a field trip to the Story County Prairies under the able leadership of Hank Zalatel. Our first stop was the Greenwing Prairie, where we had our first big surprise of the day—a Northern Mockingbird. This was followed in very short order by a cooperative LeConte's Sparrow, which everyone got to see at very close range. While watching it, we saw a Vesper Sparrow land in a nearby bush. The grass was alive with Great Plains Garter Snakes, and the wetlands area had the usual sorts of waterfowl on it, mostly (despite the name-sake) Blue-winged Teal. From there we went to Kettleton Marsh where we saw many of the same species. After that, we drove to Larson Marsh, which has been burned recently and had quite a bit of water. There were lots of Lesser Yellowlegs, Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Killdeer, plus Yellow-headed Blackbirds and the usual suspects. At Colo Ponds, a parliament of seven Short-eared Owls was seen. One of the owls was robbed of prey by a Northern Harrier as we watched. There were lots of sparrows, including dozens of Tree Sparrows, and Savannah, Swamp, and Song Sparrows. The waterfowl list included about 50 Snow/Blue Geese, an immature Bald Eagle, Red-Tail and Rough-legged Hawks, Kestrel, and Harrier. We flushed about 40 Lapland Longspurs there as well and ended up with about 50 species for a 3-hour afternoon bird trip, proving that the early birder doesn't always get the bird. . .

Welcome to Tyler Crandell, a second-grade student from Ames, on his first field trip!

## Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee submits the following slate of candidates for election at the May meeting of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society: President—Kay Niyo, Vice-President—Karl Jungbluth, Secretary—Mary Doud, Treasurer—Donna Flanagan. Board Members: Carol Berrier and John Pohlman. Thanks to Joyce Bahrenfus, who was in charge of the committee, for providing a slate. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## Iowa Audubon Council Meeting

*Karl Jungbluth*

Iowa Audubon reached another milestone on April 17th as the Board of Directors approved Bylaws and became the official governing body for the Iowa Office of the National Audubon Society. Later in the afternoon, the Iowa Audubon Council voted unanimously to disband, after a run of almost 20 years. Everyone expressed a hearty thanks to past presidents and delegates to the Council. They led us to the exciting times we experience today.

Executive Director Paul Zeph presented fresh copies of the new "Iowa Audubon" newsletter. It will be in your mailbox soon! And, with any luck, the State Office will be moving into its new headquarters near Saylorville Dam in May. Paul also convened a meeting of "bird educators" in April and reported that they were "wild" with ideas on how to provide bird and nature related education in Iowa. Several of our own Big Bluestem members were part of this esteemed group.

Education and identification of Important Bird Areas will be the focus of Iowa Audubon in the next year. We need YOUR participation on these committees: Education, Issues, Habitat, Nominations and Fundraising. Contact Karl Jungbluth, Board President, to get involved.

Mark your calendars. October 22-23, 1999 will be the first ever Iowa Audubon Statewide Meeting! We'll have birding trips, workshops and interesting seminars all at the Des Moines YMCA Camp near Boone.

## Bird Drop-Ins

Paul and Linda Bystrak, plus Kay Niyo, drove to Desoto April 10 and found the six whooping cranes right where they were reported to be. It was a nice day, although a bit windy, and they had great looks at them through Kay's new Leica scope. All are adults, and one is banded. They were there when they left about 4:30 p.m., and the local people said the whooping cranes spend the night in the field.

# BIRD-A-THON is May 8th— Join up Now!!!

Big Bluestem Birdathoners will be counting as many local species as they can on May 8, 1999. You can join a team in the field, or be a sponsor to raise money for Audubon's education and conservation programs. One half of the money will supply *Audubon Adventures* classroom materials and education programs in Story, Boone and Hamilton counties. The other half will help to fund the Iowa Audubon Field Office, which is gaining excellent visibility in the state.

Our goal is to beat last year's numbers! Birdathon teams will try to see more than 134 species in a single day. We'd like to field more than 10 Birdathon teams, and join forces with over 100 sponsors. When the fun is over, we hope to raise \$2500. We want more kids out birding this year, too!

Anyone who joins a Birdathon team or pledges to our Birdathon will be eligible to win prizes, and the prizes are still rolling in. We'll have T-shirts, bird books, bird feeders, binoculars, gift certificates and more!

If you have not participated in Birdathon before, don't be shy. We can help you join a team and provide advice on how to find sponsors. People you know who also enjoy birds will be HAPPY to sponsor your Birdathon effort. If each chapter member gets only 5 pledges, our Birdathon will be a great success! Clip the coupon below and send it to the: Birdathon Coordinators, Karl & Carmen Jungbluth, 1372 Peony Lane, Boone, Iowa 50036. Or phone them at 515-432-5057.

### Coupon: 1999 BIRDATHON Clip and Mail form

- Yes! I'll form a Birdathon Team
- I'm in! Find me a Team
- I'll pledge \$. \_\_\_\_\_ per species on the Chapter Total
- I'll pledge this fixed amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: *Big Bluestem Audubon* Send to: Karl & Carmen Jungbluth, Birdathon Coordinators, 1372 Peony Ln, Boone, IA, 50036

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Birdathon Coordinators will contact you immediately upon receipt of this form.

## Spring Bird Count—May 8

The seventh annual Iowa Spring Bird Count will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1999. It is held on the same day, and according to the same rules as the North American Migration Count, so that totals may be submitted to both counts.

Each county is a count territory, and in the interest of expanding our knowledge of spring migration in the state, we would like to have participation from as many counties as possible.

I am the compiler for Story County. I organize the count within the county. I assign territories to be covered and I compile the results. They are then submitted to the state compiler who tabulates the data. This information is published in *Iowa Bird Life*.

This count is fashioned after the Christmas Bird Count except that the whole county is the base. The count can be done as a county Big Day or as a part of our local birdathon. Contact Hank Zaletel at 382-5427 if you would like to participate. Counts can be started for Boone or Hamilton Counties if there is interest.



## 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.

# Around Hamilton & Polk Counties—Two New Wildlife Areas

Hank Zaletel

Two new wildlife areas have been developed in surrounding counties in the past months which should prove to be great areas as they develop.

The first is located one mile north of Goose Lake or Anderson Lake in Hamilton County. Proceed east out of Jewell on Highway 175. Turn north or left on the first gravel road. This 100-acre tract is named the Richardson Wildlife Management Area and is owned by the Hamilton County Conservation Board. A low-head dam has been constructed, resulting in a ten to fifteen-acre wetland. The remaining land is in prairie and uplands.

The second new wildlife area is a 100-acre addition to Errington Marsh in Polk County. Take state highway 931 east out of Ankeny. Just beyond the small town of Enterprise turn left or north on the Elkhart blacktop R-70. Go one mile and then turn right or east for just under a mile. The restored wetland is on the north side of the gravel road. A large, low-head dam has been constructed resulting in a large wetland.

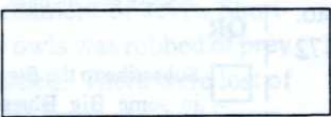
The remainder of the Errington wetland complex can be found by continuing east to the next intersection. Turn left or north. The complex continues along the west or left side of the road for the next mile.

These areas provide excellent habitat for shore birds such as Yellowlegs, Snipe, and Pectoral, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers could nest as the sites develop.

Migrating Snow Geese and dabbling ducks such as Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Shovelers, Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes should feel at home here. Depending on water levels, nesting is always a possibility.

**Bird-A-thon—May 8—mark your calendar. Plan to participate! All donations go to Audubon Adventures, protection of wildlife habitat, and other nature projects.**

**If you have an "X" after your name on your mailing label, this will be your last issue of the Flyer unless you renew.**



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