

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 29, No. 2

Newsletter of the Mid-Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society

October 1993

## MONTHLY MEETING

### RAPTORS

#### JON STRAVERS

Thursday, October 21, 7:30 PM

Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I. S. U., Ames

Jon Stravers is the Director of the Midwest Raptor Research Fund, the Research Coordinator for the Iowa Raptor Foundation and a Research Associate with Hawk Watch International. He is from Pella, Iowa. His program will be on Red-Shouldered Hawks and other endangered hawks in the Midwest.

## FIELD TRIP

### NORTHEAST IOWA

Saturday and Sunday, October 16 and 17

Stay at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point. Hike in Backbone State Park. We have reserved a sleeping cabin and a small lodge with kitchenette. We plan to arrive about noon on Saturday and leave Sunday afternoon. Lodging cost is \$9. We will eat out at a local restaurant Saturday nite, and bring our own breakfast. Please call Sherry Dragula, 233-1532 if you would like to go on this trip.



## GROVE FIELD TRIP REPORT

Once again, we had a very foggy morning for the start of our field trip on September 18. The fog and light rain lifted slightly for parts of the morning but it was not a day to see hawks. Still, eight members of our Chapter walked the low trails and parking area of Grammer Grove Park, delighting in good views of numerous species of warblers (approximately 8).

## PRAIRIE STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Three good opportunities to help restore central Iowa prairies are available this month. First, at the Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge, south of Prairie City, there will be seed collecting "Stewardship Saturdays" on October 9 and 23. The collecting will be done from 10 AM until 3 PM, but come for part of the day if you wish. You may want to bring gloves and pruning shears, if you have them. Also, bring a sack lunch and a beverage. The refuge staff will help you identify seed heads to be collected. The Refuge also needs help in collecting Canada Wild Rye in central Iowa. Their goal is 1000 lb. of it! If you can help by collecting seed heads along roadside right-of-way, please give Dave Aplin a call at 994-2415. Dave will give you further instructions on what and how to collect and how to send it. The Walnut Creek Refuge is located by going two miles south of Prairie City on Hwy. S6G, then one mile west on S. 96th Ave. W. then 3/4 mile south on W. 109th St. S.

The second opportunity is a little closer to Ames. On Saturday October 23, from 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM, the Central Iowa Prairie Network will be removing trees (mostly eastern red cedar) from the Raymond/Rolling property along the Skunk River north of Ames. They especially need anyone with a chain saw who could help out. Contact Tom Rosburg at 377-2930. Rain date is Sunday, October 24. Directions to work site: Go north on Hwy. 69 to the Peterson Pits turnoff. Go east to the first gravel road south, then south to the first mailbox and lane on the east side of the road. Follow the lane back to the Rolling home.

## HOLIDAY CARDS FOR SALE

To help raise funds for our Chapter, we are selling Audubon holiday cards. They are available at our meetings and by phone order. There are 16 cards & envelopes in a package, and each package contains a variety of color photographs of nature. They sell for \$8. To purchase by phone, call Sherry at 233-1532.

# IMPORTANT AUDUBON ELECTION UNDER WAY

## in the WEST CENTRAL REGION

Nominations are now open for the chapter-selected candidate from the West Central Region to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. Any chapter in the West Central Region may nominate one candidate for the Board this fall and winter. The election to choose the candidate will be held in the spring.

**Nominees should be willing and able to:**

- \* Help set overall national policies
- \* Articulate the issues and concerns of our region
- \* Participate in fund raising, and maintain the fiscal integrity of National Audubon
  - \* Fill the position for the next three years, beginning December, 1994
- \* Attend 4 Board meetings per year, each 3 days in length.

Contact a chapter officer with your suggestions.

The nomination from your chapter should be sent to the regional office by January 31, 1994.

**IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL TO MEET  
OCTOBER 9 & 10**

The Iowa Audubon Council, made up of representatives from each Audubon Chapter in the state, will meet jointly with the Nebraska Audubon Council on October 9 & 10, in Blair, Nebraska. Blair is just west of DeSoto Bend Wildlife Refuge where a joint field trip is planned for Sunday morning from 8 - 10 AM. Meetings will be held from 1-5 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM on Saturday. Topics include a regional report from Ron Klataske, our Regional V.P. for National Audubon. Ron will give us an update on sandhill crane hunting in the west central region. There will be sessions on the Missouri river, protection of prairies and wetlands, and a session to share information on Chapter activities. The meetings will take place at the Hunt Center at Dana College. For further information, call Sherry Dragula at 233-1532 if you would like to attend. All members are welcome.

**SOME NEWS ON MEMBERSHIP FROM  
PETER BERLE**

Peter Berle, President of the National Audubon Society, reports in his last letter to Chapter leaders some interesting information on membership. Over the summer, a Roper survey was completed to answer some questions regarding a decline in Audubon membership. Among Roper's findings were a strong and steady support for environmental causes. Also, the membership decline pointed to a need for more aggressive renewal efforts, a need for more targeted membership acquisition, and a need to retain current support while attracting younger members. The AUDUBON magazine was identified as the key vehicle for education of members. The top six reasons given by members for joining Audubon were:

- Protecting birds and other wildlife
- Knowing membership fee will help to protect environment
- Furthering knowledge of the natural world
- Keeping informed on environmental issues
- Receiving AUDUBON magazine
- Influencing the nation's environmental policy

To arrest the membership decline, Audubon will be stepping up its efforts to renew members.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

I'd like to join as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Chapter H-57. Please send me Audubon magazine, the Big Bluestem Flyer and my membership card. Introductory membership is \$23.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **National Audubon Society** and include chapter code **H-57** on the check.

Send to: Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
c/o Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair  
2121 Burnett  
Ames, IA 50010.

## CURRENTLY PLANNED EVENTS

November 6, Sat, 7:30 AM	Field Trip, Three Bridges Co. Park, LeGrand, IA, Fossils and Birding
November 18, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Meeting: Hank Zaletel
December 16, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Holiday Meeting at the Story County Consvr Center, Members Slides and Treats
December 18, Sat	Ames Christmas Bird Count
December 19, Sun	Saylorville Christmas Bird Count
January 1, Sat	Boone Christmas Bird Count
January 20, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "The Landforms of Marshall County", Garry Brandenburg
February 17, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Environmental Education Programs", Cele Burnett
March 17, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Meeting: Dr. Jim Dinsmore, Ornithologist
April 21, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge"(tentative)
May 19, Thurs, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Photographers View of Trees", Betty Stanley (tentative)
*May 20-22, Fri-Sun	Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting, Ames
June 11, Sat	Birder's Breakfast and Hike (plus bluebird trail), Ledges State Park

Unless otherwise specified, the location for meetings is Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

\* These are events of interest to Audubon members but are not sponsored by the Big Bluestem Audubon Society



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### BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY 1992-1993 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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**VICE-PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** *Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532*

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*Kay Niyo, 292-5130*

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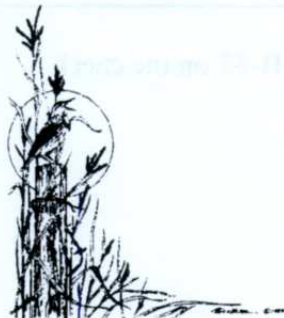
*Paul Ovrom, 292-8862*

*Rebecca Shivvers, 233-2733*

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October 1993  
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