

Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
Ames, Iowa

Jim Murdock, Pres. 233-3185  
Tom Davis, Vice-Pres. 292-1869  
Sherry Dragula, Sec. 292-4014  
Judy Shearer, Treas. 292-4430  
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450



# Bluestem Flyer

Volume 19, Number 1 September, 1984

## Monthly Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** 181-1 Jury Room, Design Center, ISU campus (Proceed north on Sheldon Ave. from West St. to the large Design Center parking lot on right. From the lot, enter the ground floor of the center and turn left. The meeting room is in the northeast corner of the ground floor.)

**WHO:** Andrew Paget, an Australian and an ISU student in landscape architecture

**TOPIC:** "Landscapes of Victoria (Australia)" -- a slide presentation on the area's native flowers and their ecology with respect to burning

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Board Meeting** -- The executive board will meet Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Cindy Hildebrand, 3323 Harcourt Dr. The board is composed of nine persons -- four chapter officers (see names above) and five at-large members; Cindy Hildebrand, Janet Graver, David Edwards, Mary Owings and Judy van der Linden. Anyone may attend a board meeting. Contact a board member for more information.

**Mall Booth** -- The Bluestem Society will have a booth at North Grand Mall in Ames on Saturday, Sept. 8, as part of the Hometown Fair for area nonprofit groups. The booth will be open 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and will feature new membership brochures for those who want to learn more about Audubon. We will also sell birdseed from Brekke's Town and Country Store (arranged by Jean Hempstead) and monarch butterfly chrysalids (raised by Cindy Hildebrand). If you've never seen a butterfly emerge from a chrysalid, this is your chance! Be sure to stop by, and if you would be willing

(cont. on p. 3)

CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT

Ames Reservoir

Iowa Congressman Neal Smith has resurrected an "Ames reservoir" proposal that was first recommended in 1951 but was stopped by local opposition. Smith this summer won a \$250,000 appropriation that will re-open research on construction of a dam on the Skunk River north of Ames.

Smith was quoted in the Des Moines Register on Aug. 8 as saying "The only people opposed ... are a few ... who mistakenly think they are protecting the environment.... You'd have millions more fish, millions more birds, millions more wildlife with a dam...." Smith's opponent in the upcoming election, Robert Lockhard of Des Moines, called the appropriation "A classic example of pork barrel .. . aimed at the people of Ames."

In a letter published Aug. 27 in the Register, Bluestem member Cindy Hildebrand quoted an impact study done in 1973 for the Corps of Engineers that estimated 2,000 acres of habitat and 200,000 birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians would be lost in addition to deterioration of wildlife habitat downstream from the dam.

Cindy has additional information for anyone interested.

Garrison Update

A 12-member commission was appointed this summer to study the Garrison Diversion Project and make recommendations before any further money can be allocated for project construction.

Congress created the commission in June as part of a compromise to gain passage of the 1985 appropriation for the controversial North Dakota irrigation project. National Audubon Society and its chapter members in the north midwest region, including Iowa, have fought the Garrison project since it began in the 1960's. Now about 25% complete, the \$1.2 billion project would divert Missouri

River water through a series of dams and canals to irrigate approximately 250,000 acres of North Dakota farmland.

The commission will hold public hearings and receive testimony from interested persons. Watch this newsletter for an announcement of the hearings so that you can attend one or submit written comments on the project.

The commission will work through Dec. 31. If it fails to come up with any recommendations, Garrison's 1985 appropriation of \$53.6 million will automatically be released and construction will proceed as previously designed.

List Changes

The state Conservation Commission is currently considering amending Iowa's lists of threatened and endangered plant and animal species. Proposed changes would add six bird species to the endangered list, including the Cooper's Hawk, now classified as a threatened species, and drop a total of six species from both lists; Upland Sandpiper, Broad-winged Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-winged Warbler and Eared Grebe. A number of changes in status for reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, mammals and all plants are also considered. A hearing on the changes was held Aug. 22 in Des Moines. Anyone interested further may contact Cindy Hildebrand (232-3807).

Acid Rain

Persons wishing to express their concern about acid rain pollution may fill out one of the information post-cards found opposite p.16 of the July Audubon. The cards will be distributed to Iowa's elected officials by National Audubon Society. Bring completed cards to the September 11 meeting for bulk mailing to NAS. Anyone needing additional cards may contact Cindy Hildebrand.

Upcoming Meetings and Events (...cont. from p. 1)

to work at the booth for an hour or two and haven't yet been contacted, please call Cindy at 232-3807.

North Midwest Conference -- There is still time to register for the Audubon regional conference being held Oct. 12-14 at YMCA Camp Miller, Sturgeon Lake, Minn. A large choice of field trips and special events will be offered, including a canoe trip and an Indian crafts workshop. Conference registration is \$10 per person and is due by Oct. 1. For more information about registration and available lodging contact Judy van der Linden or Cindy Hildebrand.

Newsletter Deadline -- Articles, artwork or calendar notices for the October newsletter should be sent to Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St., Ames, before Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 5 p.m.

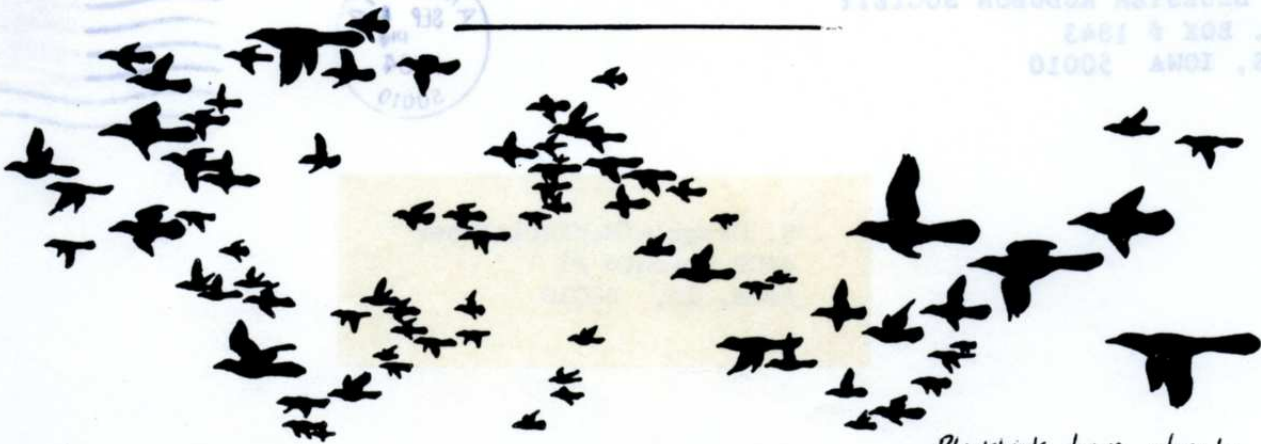
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BLUESTEM SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the twenty-nine surveys turned in by Bluestem members have contained a variety of suggestions and comments. Complete results are too long to print in the Flyer, but some are described below, and interested members can ask (guess who?) Cindy Hildebrand for details. Anyone who wants to fill out a survey can still get one from Cindy -- your comments are very helpful.

On the whole, members say they belong to this chapter because of their interest in wildlife, a desire to learn more about nature, and a belief in the Audubon purpose. The main attraction of the meetings is a chance to interact with people who have similar interests and an opportunity to see the programs. But several respondents expressed a desire for shorter, better-planned business meetings and a better meeting room.

Most respondents like the newsletter, especially the information on upcoming activities, environmental issues, and bird sightings. Most people said "maybe" when asked about spending more money on the newsletter. A phone tree does not seem to be a popular idea. (cont. on p.4)



*Blackbirds have already begun to flock*

Bluestem Survey Results (...cont. from p. 3)

Hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and guided tours seem to be popular program ideas. The "issues" field trip was the most popular field trip idea. As for issues themselves, the most important to respondents was "wildlife," followed by the Ames Reservoir, with strong interest in Garrison, wilderness, and water projects. The least important was "energy/transportation," but on the whole, all issues were considered important.

Thank you to the members who turned in your surveys!

ETCETERA

*Mark*

Iowa Trails -- A group was recently formed in Iowa to set up a bank of information pertaining to trails within the state. The Iowa Trails Council is requesting data on the history of existing trails, information on potential trails, testimony of landowners and others involved in trail establishment and the effects of trails (i.e. on land values), primarily with the goal of fostering greater support of trails among public agencies and the general public. Chairman of the council is Tom Neenan. Anyone having data or seeking help in establishing a trail may contact Neenan at 1201 Central Ave., Center Point, Ia., 52213.

Northwoods Programs -- Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone, Minn., is offering a boundary waters canoe trip for senior citizens and beginning canoeists Sept. 24-28. Other fall activities include a map and compass skills workshop, Sept. 22-23, wild foods and crafts workshop, Oct. 14, and a winter cross country ski trip in the Rocky Mountains, Dec. 27-Jan. 8. For more information about any of these programs, contact Judy van der Linden.

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