

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 28, No. 1

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

September 1992

MONTHLY MEETING

BIRDING THE FOUR CORNERS OF IOWA

Eugene and Eloise Armstrong

Thursday, September 17, 1992, 7:30 PM

Room 181 Design Center, ISU Campus

We will explore the different habitats in Iowa's diverse four corners for the birds found there which are not common to central Iowa. Eugene and Eloise Armstrong are well known birders from Booneville. Eugene is past president of the Des Moines Audubon Society and is currently on the Records Committee for the Iowa Ornithologists Union. Eloise is on the IOU Board and is also a valued member of Des Moines Audubon. Eugene has been interested in birds since he was a young boy, and 15 years ago, after their family had grown, Eloise joined him. They have driven over 20,000 miles in Iowa, in one year, to pursue their birding interest.

FIELD TRIP

BIRDING POTHOLES, PRAIRIES, AND WOODLANDS

Areas near Minburn, and possibly Bays Branch.

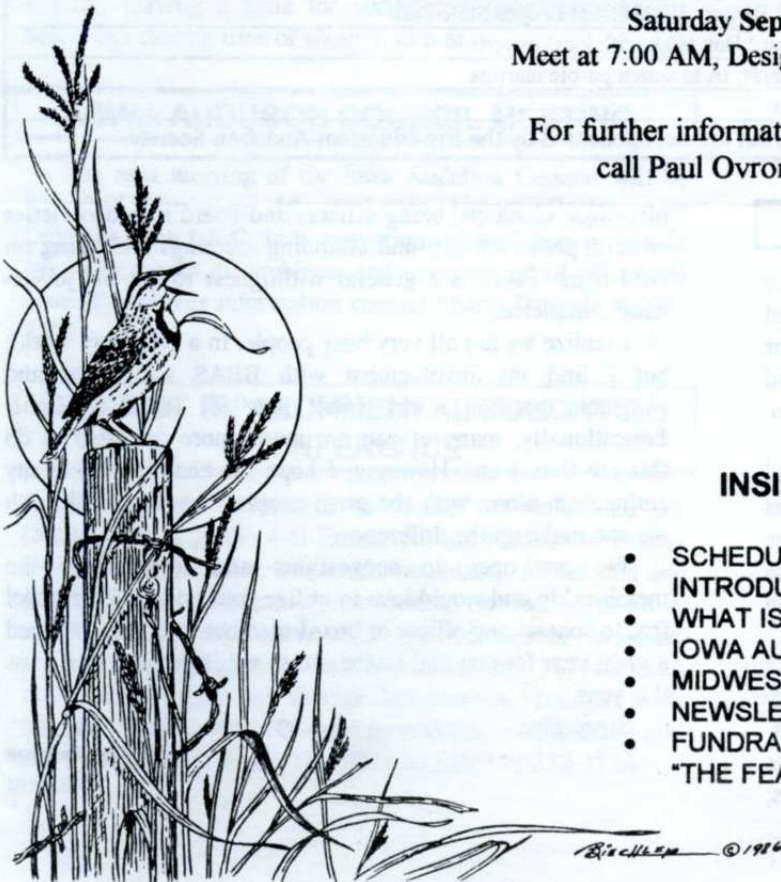
Saturday September 19

Meet at 7:00 AM, Design Center parking lot

For further information on Field Trips
call Paul Ovrom, 292-8862

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- SCHEDULES OF INTERESTING EVENTS
- INTRODUCTION FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT
- WHAT IS THE BBAS AND WHY DO I GET THIS NEWSLETTER
- IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL
- MIDWEST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
- NEWSLETTER INFORMATION
- FUNDRAISING NEWS
- "THE FEATHER QUEST" - A BOOK REVIEW



BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY – SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1992-1993

*September 11-13, Friday - Sunday	I.O.U. Fall Meeting, Lansing, IA
September 17, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong, "Birding the Four Corners of Iowa"
September 19, Saturday	7:00 AM, BBAS Field Trip to potholes, prairie area, woodlands near Minburn and Bays Branch
*September 26, Saturday	I.O.U. BBAS Field Trip to Snake Creek Marsh, Rippey, IA
October 3, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Hawk Watching on the Luther Bridge and a hike through the 4-H camp and possibly Ledges State Park
October 15, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Bob Myers, "Accidental Birds in Iowa"
October 17, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Hike along the Kate Shelley Trail, Boone County
November 7, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Waterfowl migration, Union Slough, Kossuth County
November 19, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, To be announced
November 21-22, Saturday and Sunday	BBAS Field Trip to DeSoto Bend or Squaw Creek Refuge on the Missouri River to view waterfowl
December 10, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Story County Conservation Center, Members' Slides and Treats, also Treats for the Birds (seeds, suet, and donations) will be collected and given to the Center.
December 19, Saturday	Ames Christmas Bird Count with Chili supper following
December 20, Sunday	Saylorville Christmas Bird Count
January 1 or 2, Friday or Saturday	Boone Christmas Bird Count
January 16, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Omaha Zoo- Lied Jungle (January 23 is backup date if bad weather)
January 21, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Pat Schlarbaum, Otter Re-introduction in Iowa
January 23, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip to local bird feeders (will be January 16 if no Omaha trip)
February 18, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, To be announced
February 20, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Owl Prowl at local hot sites
*February 26-28, Friday-Sunday	DNR Eagle Days at Red Rock Lake
March 6, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip to watch Eagles at Red Rock Lake
March 18, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Dick Trump, Woodchucks
*March 19-21, Friday-Sunday	National Audubon's Spring River Conference in Kearney, NE, includes trips to see migrating sandhill cranes and waterfowl
March 27, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Hendrickson Marsh and possibly Saylorville, Bear Creek and Bays Branch
April 15, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Jean Prior, Geology of NE Iowa
April 17, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Local marshes north of Ames including Tieg's and Little Wall Lake
May 9, Sunday	BBAS Field Trip, Warbler Wander at Brookside Park and newly protected Ann Munn Woods
May 15 and 16	Saturday and Sunday, Overnight BBAS Field Trip to NE Iowa with camping at Yellow River State Forest or Pike's Peak State Park
*May 15 and 16	Saturday and Sunday, IOU Spring Meeting, Keosauqua, IA
May 20, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, To be announced
*June 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday	Loess Hills Seminar
June 12, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip Annual Birder's Breakfast at Ledges State Park
June 26, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Bluebird Box Hike with local experts
July 10, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip to Elkhart, IA to watch purple martins
August 14, Saturday	BBAS Prairie Field Trip

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

AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION

As your new President of BBAS for 1992-3, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I have been a board member of BBAS for the past two years and a member for four years. I am also active in the Des Moines Audubon and Iowa Ornithologists Union. I am a volunteer for the Story Co. Conservation Board and also for several other groups.

I have always been involved in nature related groups and have a deep concern for the environment. This concern has grown more urgent the past 10 years as I have realized the imminent end to the enjoyment of birds and other wildlife as we have known it, within this decade, if habitat destruction continues at the present rate.

Our family moved to Iowa from Ohio 14 years ago and I have developed a deep love for this state. I have been very impressed with the active involvement of BBAS members. They work very hard to accomplish preservation before it is too late. This has included: helping with prairie burns,

plantings, cleanups, being officers and board members, letter writers, phone callers, and attending meetings and going on field trips. There is a general willingness to get the job-at-hand completed.

I realize we are all very busy people, in a very busy world, but I find my involvement with BBAS an urgent and enjoyable position - my small part for those to come. Educationally, many of you are much more qualified to do this job than I am. However, I hope the combination of my enthusiasm along with the great people I have to work with me can make up the difference.

We are open to suggestions and ideas from the membership and would love to utilize your talents. Please feel free to contact any officer or board member. We have planned a great year for you and invite you to set aside time to join us this year.

Sincerely,

Maridel Jackson
President

WHAT IS THE BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY?

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society is the latest form of a group of long standing. It began as an Ames birding group many decades ago changing, its name at least once. In 1983 the group applied for and received formal chapter status with the National Audubon Society. The chapter is incorporated and has the requisite formal documents and obligations. One tie with the national group is a mutually beneficial one: Members of the N.A.S. in a defined area are automatically members of the local chapter. That means the N.A.S. returns a part (\$5.50) of those members fees. These funds are for our use in the aid of Audubon causes as defined in our documents. We supply a local effort in conservation causes including education, service projects, and membership recruitment. The N.A.S. gives \$15.50 in the first year for new members the chapter recruits, so it is very important that those you encourage to join use **our** application materials or place the chapter's designator code **H57** on them.

The chapter holds monthly meetings from September through May. Field trips are planned to meet the interests of the members and to be attractive to potential members. All meetings and field trips are open to the public, and there are no fees charged for any event.

What do we do at meetings? Each meeting typically begins with a short period of announcements and reports regarding different activities of the chapter. This is followed by a period in which members are encouraged to report interesting natural sightings and experiences -- the primary focus is usually on birding. One of the experienced members sometimes presents a short identification lesson called "Bird of the Month." The major time is given to the scheduled speaker or program. That presentation usually finishes before 9 p.m., leaving a time for socializing over refreshments before our closing time of about 9:30 p.m.

IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Iowa Audubon Council will be Saturday September 19 at Lyons Nature Center near Dubuque. The I.A.C. is a consortium of Audubon groups in Iowa that works on problems and concerns of all of natural Iowa. For further information contact Sherry Dragula at 233-1532.

MIDWEST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

"EcoDreams: Awareness to Action" is scheduled for October 1 to 4 at the 4-H Education and Natural Resources Center in central Iowa. Educators, naturalists, formal and non formal teachers and learners are invited. The focus will be on grades K-12, and there will be concurrent sessions, presentations, field trips and entertainment. To receive a registration packet or further information, contact: Cele Burnett, Story County Conservation Board, McFarland Park, RR 2, Box 272 V, Ames, IA 50010, or call 515-232-2516.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The deadline for each newsletter is the 20th of the month preceding each meeting. We need that time for editing, layout, printing, mailing, and (especially) time to reach homes outside of the Ames postal area. We would like all members to receive their newsletter at least a week before the meeting.

Material of appropriate content is welcome. We especially want to know of meetings, trips, and interesting places within the range of our central Iowa members. The BBAS board sets editorial policy but the only kinds of items that clearly are not appropriate are commercial advertisements and partisan political rhetoric.

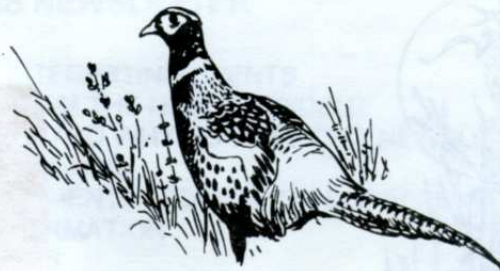
Editorial duties are shared this year by Sherry Dragula and David Edwards. Sherry is the acquisitions editor and does the primary writing. David does the layout and final fitting together of it all for the printer. Send or call items to Sherry at 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, IA 50010 or 233-1532.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

The T-shirt Sales table we set up at the June meeting of the American Ornithologists Union here in Ames was a success. The Chapter raised \$460 from these sales. We still have a few AOU shirts left (L and XL). Call Sherry at 233-1532 or buy one at the September meeting. Thanks to all those who helped staff the table, your efforts really boosted our fundraising program. ☺

We have two other fundraising projects going now. First, we are collecting candy bar wrappers from any regular or large size bar of M&M/Mars candy (including: M&M's, Snickers, Milky Way, 3 Musketeers, Twix, Mars, etc.). For every wrapper we collect, M&M/Mars will give us 5 cents. Save your wrappers; and better yet, how about putting out a collection box near a vending machine at your workplace? You can bring your wrappers to our September 17 meeting or send them by October 7 to: Jon Bahrenfus, 1306 U Ave., Boone, IA 50036.

Second, we are asking our members to consider donating their refunded can and bottle deposits to BBAS. If you are out hiking and find cans and bottles we suggest you pick them up and donate the proceeds to BBAS, thus benefiting the environment twice. We will have a box for your donations at our meetings or you can send donations to our Treasurer, Barb Bettis, 115 Peach Lane., Ames, IA 50010. These two projects may seem small but every little bit does help.



"THE FEATHER QUEST"

Peter Dunne, Director of Natural History Information for the New Jersey Audubon Society and columnist for the Sunday *New York Times*, and Linda Dunne set out to find the good birds and great birding locations of North America. Each chapter is an exciting trip in search of another life bird or just to experience the wonder of birds and wild America. Their conversations and joys experienced in the quest will be familiar to every birder. Their journeys take them to places that are on the fringes of North American birding such as

Attu and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and Churchill in Manitoba as well as more familiar places like Cape May in New Jersey, Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, and Point Pelee in Ontario. Readers are treated to a visit in the living room of the Dunnes' friend and grand master of birding, Roger Tory Peterson. This is a delightful travel book for all those who love wild North America and birding.

Dunne, P. (1992). *The feather quest: A North American Birder's Year*. New York: Penguin

Kay Niyo

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

1992-1993

PRESIDENT: *Maridel Jackson, 964-0140*

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

SECRETARY: *Carrie Dixon, 233-6196*

TREASURER: *Barb Bettis 232-4863*

OTHER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

FIELD TRIP CO-CHAIR: *Paul Ovrom, 292-8862*

FIELD TRIP CO-CHAIR: *Mark Dobbe, 233-2845*

Kay Niyo: 292-5130

Jon Bahrenfus: 432-3396

Hank Zaletel: 377-2889

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: *Sherry Dragula, 233-1532; David Edwards, 292-3790*

September 1992

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

2308 STATE AVE

AMES IA 50010



BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 131
AMES, IA

HANK ZALETEL
715 WEST ST
COLO IA 50056