



Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
Ames, Iowa

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For membership information,  
contact one of the officers  
listed above.

# Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 20, No. 3      November, 1985

## Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Room 181-1 (Jury Room), College of Design, ISU campus  
WHO: David Edwards of Ames, Bluestem chapter member  
TOPIC: "Birding in Florida"

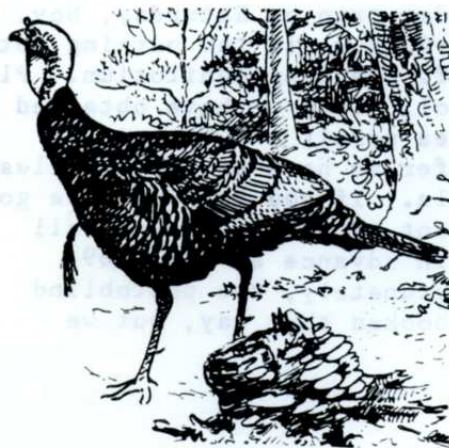
## Upcoming Meetings and Events

November Field Trip -- Saturday, Nov. 16, to DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in western Iowa to see migrating waterfowl. See details on page 2.

Prairie Restoration -- Saturday, Nov. 9, sponsored by the Cary Lobe Group of the Sierra Club. A hill prairie at Ledges State Park, Boone, will be cleared of invading woody plants. To volunteer for either the 9 a.m.-noon shift or the 1-4 p.m. shift, please call Kevin Pape (432-3190) or Marilyn Vaughan (292-4452). Equipment will be provided and volunteers may work at their own paces.

Newsletter Deadline -- Monday, Nov. 25, is the deadline for submitting articles or artwork for the December issue. Please send items to Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St.

Public Star Party -- Saturday, Nov. 9 at 8 p.m. at McFarland Park. Telescopes will be set up to see Halley's Comet. Call Dave Oesper (232-8705) for more information.



Wild Turkey

New Meeting Day -- Bluestem members have decided to change the chapter's monthly meeting day from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday of each month, beginning in January. The second Tuesday conflicted with meetings of at least one other conservation organization that some Bluestem members wanted to attend.

The tentative schedule of programs for 1986 is: Jan. 21 -- The Upper Mississippi - River in Turmoil; Feb. 18 -- Backyard Wildlife Habitat; March 18 -- Outdoor Sketching and Photography; April 15 -- Ferns in Iowa; May 20 -- An Interpretive Nature Walk along Montgomery Creek, and June 17 -- a potluck dinner.

Brochure Finished! -- A brochure to interpret features of the Audubon Trail in Brookside Park has now been completed. The guide, which folds out to legal size, describes features at 24 numbered posts along the trail, allowing individuals or families to tour the trail at their own paces. Some 400 brochures were printed; they will be placed in a box at the entrance to the trail.

Maintenance of the trail, placement of new posts and production of the brochure have all been projects of the chapter's Education Committee, chaired by Tom Davis. The committee wants to thank other volunteers who helped with trail clean-up and planning the brochure.

DeSoto Field Trip -- Field Trip Committee chair Marianna Loy will lead this one-day trip on Saturday, Nov. 16. Meet at 5:45 a.m. in the parking lot behind C.Y. Stephens Auditorium. Plan to car pool, since we have obtained a closed-area permit and the refuge would prefer we have as few vehicles as possible. If you know you are going and want to drive, please call Marianna in advance at 292-0769.

Unfortunately, the photoblind has been booked that day, but we

still will be able to tour the auto route, nature trails, visitor center and overlook. There should be plenty of wildlife to see, especially Snow Geese. Bring binoculars, cameras, bird books, a brown bag lunch (chilly weather may drive us into a restaurant) and dress warmly. The trip is on, rain or shine, but cancelled if it's sleeting or snowing heavily. We should be back in Ames by late afternoon.

"Fast Food" Displaces Birds -- Have you noticed that each year there are fewer songbirds in your garden? The Smithsonian Institution reports that the populations of many species are declining at rates of 1% to 4% a year. A number of scientists say this has just one cause: the American appetite for "fast food" hamburgers, frankfurters, etc.

Since the U.S. government authorized imports of cheap beef from Central and South America, vast areas of forests -- over 11 million acres a year -- have been felled to make cattle pastures. The billions of birds of more than 150 species that migrate each fall to these forests find their habitats gone. Over 60% of the tropical forests have disappeared in the last 30 years, and fewer and fewer warblers, tanagers, peewees, vireos, kingbirds and others are returning to North America each spring. At the present rate of destruction, no forests will be left in ten years.

The consequences could be more terrible than simply a silent countryside. The loss of this many birds could well result in population explosions of harmful insects, with devastating effects on agriculture. Market forces are apt to be the deciding factor: we should all eat less beef. Another way to help is to make sure water is available in your yard at all times -- drought is devastating to small birds.

From The Avant Gardener





## BIRDER'S NOTES

The Saylorville Reservoir-Big Creek State Park area has attracted several unusual and exciting birds this past month. A jaeger, a large, gull-like bird that harasses and eats gulls and terns, was seen at the reservoir Oct. 13-19. The last reported sighting of a jaeger in Iowa was in 1966. Western Grebes were reported later in October from both the re-

servoir and park, and currently, all three types of scoters may be seen near the Saylorville marina and/or dam. The last week of October, a Long-eared Owl and two Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Big Creek and a Redpoll was seen at Saylorville. On Oct. 19, four Red-necked Grebes visited Hallet's Quarry near Ames.

To report unusual sightings or get up-to-date information on rare bird sightings in this state, call the Iowa Bird Hotline - 319-622-3353.

Now is the time to begin putting out bird seed if you plan to feed birds this winter. But remember, if you start feeding, don't let the feeder run dry. The birds will depend on you!

### CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT

Sherry Dragula (292-4014), Cindy Hildebrand (232-3807)

Members Needed -- Members are needed for the society's Conservation Committee. In the past, the committee's work on local, state and national issues has included preserving East River Valley Park in Ames, helping pass a rule to mandate steel shot use for waterfowl hunting in Iowa and writing letters on the nation's Clean Water Act and Superfund. The committee's service projects have included planting trees along Highway 30. Please contact Sherry if you wish to join. Committee meetings are held approximately every month, but there are many opportunities for involvement if you don't wish to attend the meetings.

Want to Have a Say? -- If you are concerned about policy decisions affecting Ames parks, you might want to apply for a position on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. Two members terms will expire next spring. Meetings are held once a month. Ames residency is all that is required to apply. Contact Sherry for more information.

Drainage Rules Report -- On Oct. 21, the Iowa Department of Water, Air and Waste Management (WAWM) approved new drainage rules which loosen state permit requirements. The new rules will allow the restraughtening of some streams without permits, which could lead to increased soil erosion, habitat loss, water pollution and flooding. However, the adopted rules were better than those originally proposed, thanks to the comments of the Audubon Society and other conservation groups. Permits will still be required for drainage district "improvements" and for the repair and maintenance of channels that drain more than 100 square miles. Thanks to those who contacted WAWM commissioners and helped to achieve these significant improvements.

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Superfund Update -- The Superfund bill is now scheduled for a vote by the full House of Representatives on Nov. 11. Last minute phone calls are still needed. Call the Capitol (202-225-3121) and ask for Rep. Neal Smith's office. Tell his staff that you support the strongest possible Superfund provisions (the House Public Works Committee version). Thank you!

East River Valley Park Plans -- The Bluestem society, in cooperation with the Sierra Club and Izaak Walton League, is planning a spring service project to help preserve the natural character of the park. Volunteers will be needed. Watch upcoming newsletters for further information and let Sherry know if you'd like to help.

IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Officers were elected and legislative priorities set at the fall meeting of the Iowa Audubon Council on Oct. 26 at the Iowa Arboretum. Carol Beim Nulsen, our Audubon regional representative, attended the event, meeting first with representatives of four Iowa Audubon chapters, and later with all council participants for a Garrison Diversion project update. (She asked members to write legislators, urging that the 130,000 acre project alternative be authorized, rather than a larger version.) Officers elected were: President, Duane Carr; Vice-president, Sherry Dragula; Secretary, Gene Goellner, and Treasurer, Francis Moore. Council members decided to have Legislative Chair Cindy Hildebrand work primarily on water quality, drainage districts and state preserves/endangered species for the coming year. The next meeting of the council will be held next spring in Grinnell.

November Bird Puzzles -- Which birds are described by the short phrases below? Answers will be given at the November meeting.

1. Furbearer of the weasel family
2. Fast
3. Lame cousins
4. Happy puppy
5. Where a gardener plants extra seeds



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