



Big Bluestem Flyer

Newsletter of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Volume 36, Number 4

March/April 2001

Upcoming Programs

March 22—*Shorebirds of NW Australia*

David Spreadbury will describe his experiences in October 1998, when he spent three weeks as a member of an expedition to capture and band shorebirds in NW Australia. This is a site of international importance for shorebirds that nest in Siberia and use the Asian flyway. The program will include plenty of shorebirds and a variety of other interesting species that inhabit that part of the world. Come see some fascinating slides.

April 19—*A Plant Inventory of Ames*

A team of five botanists, led by Deborah Q. Lewis, Curator, Ada Hayden Herbarium (ISC), has completed an inventory of the native and naturalized plants found in the Ames area. The study involved both a current search for the plants occurring here in the past decade, and also a search of the literature and the herbarium for species known from Ames over the past 140+ years. Come hear Dr. Lewis present her results.

Program 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, Ames, Iowa. If you need directions, please see the map on the back of the Events Calendar. If you would like to meet and dine with the speaker and the BBAS board before the monthly meeting. Please call John Snyder, 515-232-8824, to confirm space and location.

Birdathon 2001 News—

Karl Jungbluth and Rebecca Shivers

What's New- Audubon has big plans to make Birdathon more visible and successful. Our chapter is already leading the way with one of the top Birdathons in the country. Nationally, Audubon will increase advertising, sponsorships and visibility, making it easier for *our* Birdathon to be even more successful.

- New premiums—caps, t-shirts, umbrellas and tote bags—will be available to Birdathoners raising over \$100 and sponsors donating \$100 or more.
- Anyone raising or donating \$30 or more will be offered a complimentary one-year Audubon membership, a thanks for supporting the Audubon cause!
- New flyers, sporting *Mutts* comic illustrations, will publicize Birdathon and can be placed throughout town.
- *Mutts* will feature **Birdathon! Week** from May 12-19th, and will be seen by millions. Our Birdathon is May 12th.

The requirement to donate 50% of our Birdathon proceeds to a National Audubon office has been lifted. Big Bluestem has been donating to the Audubon IOWA state office, and as Board President, I hope this doesn't change. The thousands of dollars donated by BBAS to Audubon IOWA has and will continue to be critical funding as we build a statewide program.

Continued on page 5—Birdathon

In This Issue:

Page 2—*Beyond the Backyard*

Page 3—*Conservation Corner*

—*Iowa Executive Director's Column*

Page 4—*Cyber Birding*

—*Notes From the Field Trips*

Page 6—*Volunteers needed . . .*

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

Officers:

- President: Karl Jungbluth 432-5057
weatherbird@opencominc.com
- Vice-President: John Pohlman 232-6816
pohlman@city.ames.ia.us
- Secretary: Mary Doud 296-2178 mfdoud@uswest.net
- Treasurer: Donna Flanagan 268-0458
ddflana@iastate.edu

Board Members:

- Paul Bystrak 597-3926 pbystrak@pcpartner.net
- Bruce Ehresman 296-2995 behresma@opencominc.com
- Mike Freiberg 233-8213 trogon70@hotmail.com
- Al Ravenscroft 268-0294
- Linda Thomas 956-3145 wbuames@tebra.net

Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zaletel 382-5427 madowl@nevia.net
- Bird-a-thon Co-chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth
- Conservation Chair: Linda Bystrak 597-3926
pbystrak@pcpartner.net
- Education Chair: Ida Johnson 233-4831 lwindj@aol.com
- Field Trip Chair: Jeff Nichols 296-2178
jnichols1961@hotmail.com
- Membership Chair: Mark Widrechner 233-1532
mpwskd@aol.com
- Program Chair: John Snyder 232-8824
jesnyder@ix.netcom.com
- Publicity Co-Chairs: Flo and Craig Ditzler 232-1967
craig-flo@isunet.net
- Publications & Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivvers 292-0691 shivvers@ameslab.gov
- Special Publications Chair: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396

BBAS Web Site:

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

National Audubon Society Web Site:

<http://www.audubon.org>

Iowa Audubon State Director:

Paul Zeph 515-727-4271 pzeph@audubon.org

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

Wildlife Care Clinic—515-294-4900

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.

**Newsletter deadline:
April 13—2 p.m.**



Beyond the Backyard

Karl Jungbluth,
President

Winter is wearing thin about now, but unfortunately the ice isn't. The icepack under the snow must make it difficult for turkey and deer to find food, so they visit our yard. The turkeys are welcome of course, and four of them have been cautiously pecking under the feeders. They have beautiful feathers, but quite an ugly head. Carmen saw them perched halfway up in the cranberry bushes, eating cranberries! We also enjoy seeing the deer, but when they browse the foundation plantings and the shrubs that were planted for the birds, the meaning of "wildlife planting" takes on a new dimension.

Yesterday, I watched 20 Cedar Waxwings and 40 Robins eating berries from a cedar tree. The filtered sunshine highlighted the black mask and yellow tail-tip feathers of the waxwings, but what really stood out were the brake-light red wing tips. There is no bird like the waxwing! One has to wonder how long the berry supply can hold out. It's time to think spring.

Spring is a great time to show others what Audubon is all about. As the ducks return to the marsh, bluebirds to their nesting boxes and warblers to the woods, we get excited. Why not make a commitment this spring to share that excitement with someone new? A personal invitation is always best. We have excellent field trips lined up throughout the spring, both close to home and longer road trips like the Crane Odyssey and a southeast Iowa trip.

And then there's Birdathon, May 12th. You can't have more fun birdwatching, for an hour or for a day. Highlight your calendar for the following weekend as well. Audubon Iowa will be hosting a Wetland Workshop in Ogden on May 19th. We'll be experiencing and describing what makes a wetland special, and providing some tools to help Iowans protect their wetlands. Jim Dinsmore will provide an overview of Iowa's wetland history, and we'll spend some time in Harrier Marsh. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

So, share your spring fever out of doors with a friend. Nature has a big impact on people who experience it with someone they know, and that someone could be you!



Conservation Corner

Linda Bystrak

BBAS Supports Two Major Conservation Issues

BBAS signed on two major conservation issues this winter, one to stop an activity and the other to start an activity.

BBAS wrote letters to stop the dove-hunting bill. There were many reasons to not support this effort, so we sent e-mails to both legislators and the Governor. Thanks to all the BBAS members who wrote letters and e-mails opposing this bill. We hope that you will follow up by sending a thank-you note to the Governor.

BBAS wrote letters to initiate the partial restoration of the Missouri River. BBAS signed onto a support letter written by American Rivers and signed by 23 other conservation groups. The letter was written to the Army Corps of Engineers in support of the FWS proposal to change the flow of the river to be more natural, as soon as possible. Except in high flow years, FWS has suggested that more water be released from several dams to better simulate the natural high water in March and June. This higher water also creates sandbars for endangered Least Terns and threatened Piping Plovers to nest upon. When the water levels begin to fall the birds and the Pallid Sturgeon (endangered species) take this as a cue to begin nesting. During the fall the flow should be lower than the Corps has been keeping it, to allow the young of these 3 species (plus dozens of other species waiting to be listed) to live in the slower moving water.

In the process of channelizing it from Sioux City to St. Louis, the river was shortened by 125 km and lost 64% of its wetlands. With the dam construction came changes in hydrology, faster moving water, a removal of channel bottom, cover and changes in water temperatures. By 1994, the river's commercial fish harvest had been reduced by 80%.

The 1993 flood created over 3,000 acres of lakes and wetlands in the lower portions of the Missouri River near Kansas City. Those still connected with the river have a productive fishery. The FWS and NRCS are working to keep those areas connected. Thousands of acres have already been purchased and the levees that used to separate them from the river will not be repaired. The FWS is using money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy as many wetland sites as possible. The Big Muddy Fish and Wildlife Refuge located between Kansas City and St. Louis is authorized to acquire 60,000 acres of land. It may take as long as 50 years to acquire that much land, but efforts have already begun with willing land owners.

We believe that it is in the best long-term interests of the residents and wildlife to promote as many restoration efforts as possible on the river. Flood control can be attained by a more natural means than levees, and restoring the connectivity of the river to its former wetlands is one way to accomplish that goal. And if restoring a more natural flow pattern to the river will help restore it's fisheries and wildlife, then we also support that action!

Iowa Executive Director's Corner



*Paul Zeph
Executive Director,
Audubon Iowa*

Join the Statewide Prairie Rescue

Mark your calendar and start making plans! Audubon Iowa is spearheading a coalition of conservation groups in planning a statewide Prairie Rescue event on Saturday, April 21 in celebration of Earth Day 2001. Our goal is to have 20 prairie rescue sites across the state where people can go to do something meaningful to help Iowa's remnant prairies.

The event has multiple goals: protection for Iowa prairies, hands-on education for volunteers of all ages, wider public education through media releases, and recognition for local prairie remnants.

During the Prairie Rescue event, volunteers clear invading brush and trees from our prairie remnants, or conduct other protection activities. On-site experts provide guidance and prairie education. Volunteers include families, school classes, seasoned conservationists, community service organizations, Scouts and other youth groups. Organizations and individuals can also participate by organizing a non-official Prairie Rescue event at their own site.

Statewide organizers hope to have at least 20 official sites. Two sites being planned for the Big Bluestem chapter area are Brushy Creek State Park (Webster County), and Polk City Cemetery, (NW Polk County). The event will take place from 10 AM - 1 PM. Bring your gloves, clippers, bow saw and your prairie rescue spirit!

Working together we can make a big difference, help protect the prairies, and show our elected officials how much Iowans care about native habitat!

Cyber Birdin – Surf'n the Net

By Paul Bystrak and Kevin Healy

By the time you read this, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will have ended, but that doesn't mean that you can't continue contributing to science by watching birds in your yard. Project FeederWatch (<http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>) is a long term monitoring program that focuses on the birds at your feeders, instead of the yard as a whole. Participants are invited to submit lists of birds seen at their feeders from November through April, instead of a single weekend. Unlike the GBBC, this is more intensive and scientific, and involves paying a slight fee, for which you receive newsletters and other mailings in addition to access to some the site's features. One of the fascinating features of this site is the animated maps. You can choose a species, such as Mourning Dove, and a region, such as North America, and watch the population shift southward and eastward as the winter goes on, in biweekly steps. Or you can choose a previous year, and use monthly steps. Other features on the site include tips for identifying various feeder birds, a photo gallery of various feeder oddities, and a list of the most commonly reported species for the various regions. What do you think is the most abundant species reported at feeders in Iowa? To find out, you'll have to visit the site! Project FeederWatch seems like a worthwhile site if you wish to make an easy but meaningful contribution to science from the warmth of your own home.



Notes From the Field Trips

(Reports submitted by Trip Leaders)

State Forest Nursery – January 20, Big Bluestem's first field trip of the new millennium led by Jeff Nichols was attended by twelve participants. Between 8:30 and 10:30, we hiked the Nursery. We saw a solitary Pine Siskin, numerous Harris and White-throated Sparrows and the usual (bird) suspects. After a short coffee/hot chocolate break at Burgie's Espresso Café, we headed west in search of the immature Gyrfalcon that had been seen near the ISU Agronomy Farm. After several hours of looking, we temporarily abandoned the search for the elusive Gyrfalcon, and four of us headed south to Perry to hunt for the Lark Bunting reported at the feeders of Bob Meyer. Within 30 seconds of our arrival at the feeders, we saw the bunting, but it disappeared a few minutes later and never reappeared. Heading back to Ames, we made another valiant attempt to find the Gyrfalcon, but, alas, without success. During our thorough criss-crossing of eastern Boone Co., we saw a Rough-Legged Hawk, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, a Gray Partridge, and several Wild Turkeys. The species count for the day was twenty-four.

Tour de Feeders – February 3, thanks to the generous hospitality of Lesia and Wolf Oesterreich, Jeanne and Dave Edwards, and Rebecca Shivers, sixteen birding addicts were able to get their Saturday birding "fix" without risking frostbite. The Oesterreich home was the first stop on the Tour. There we saw ten species and got an excellent look at a Northern Shrike. Next, we drove across town to the Edwards'. In addition to ten well-fed squirrels, we saw four woodpecker species (Hairy, Downy, Red-Bellied, and Northern Flicker). We also saw American Tree Sparrows, Harris Sparrows, and a White-Throated Sparrow (Donna Flanagan spotted it first!). We ended the Tour at the Shivers Nature Sanctuary, where we observed twelve bird species. Especially noteworthy was a tailless Red-Winged Blackbird. For the day, we had twenty-four species. Thanks once again to all of the host families for inviting us into their homes and making the Tour de Feeders such an enjoyable experience.

Continued page 5

BIRDATHON!

Bringing people
together to help
birds

May 12, 2001

Dawn to Dusk

*Birders will be visiting parks
and natural areas throughout
Story and Boone Counties*

Contacts:

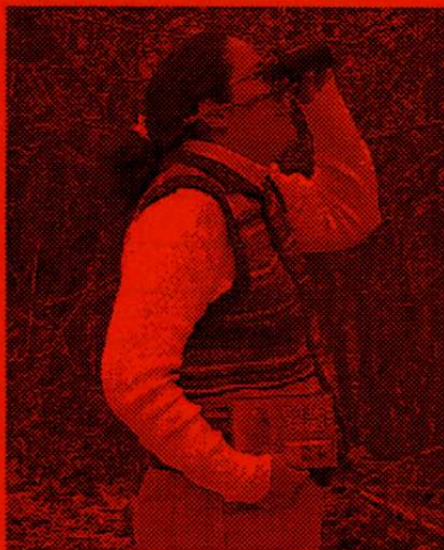
Karl & Carmen Jungbluth
Birdathon Coordinators
515-432-5057
1372 Peony Lane
Boone, Iowa 50036

bluebird@opencominc.com

Big Bluestem Audubon Society

The only way to improve on last year's Birdathon is to include more people—like you! Celebrate spring migration. Join a birdwatching team. Make a donation. Win prizes.


Birdathon is the world's largest competitive birdwatching event, and birders raise over a million dollars nationwide. Local teams identify as many birds species as possible in one day, and over 150 species may be sighted in our area. Every penny raised will stay in Iowa.



Birdathon 2000 participants raised over \$4800. We bought binoculars for Boone County's naturalist, delivered Audubon Adventures educational materials to 22 classrooms and supported the Audubon Iowa State Office.

This year's goal is to raise over \$5000 for local Audubon efforts and wild bird habitat.

How can you help? Contact the Birdathon Coordinators to join a team or help sponsor a team on May 12th. More than one in five Iowans are birdwatchers. Let's join together to highlight the birds we see locally, and make Birdathon a premier event!


Audubon



Birdathon!

1-800-647-BIRD

OFFICIAL SPONSOR SHEET

100% of all donations go directly to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitat!

Name: _____	Likely Species Count: _____
Street Address: _____	_____
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone, Day: _____	My Goal: \$ _____
Chapter: <u>Big Bluestem Audubon Society</u>	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY — MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Big Bluestem Audubon

Sponsor's Name	Address	Phone Number	Pledge Per Species	Gift	Corp Match?	Date Paid
			Total Pledged			Total Paid

Birdathon . . .—Continued page 1

Results from 2001—The *Audubon Birdathon! Newsletter* (Winter 2000/2001) was pleased to announce that the “Winner of the Birdathon! 2000 Grand Prize Drawing is Big Bluestem Audubon Society of Ames, Iowa. Big Bluestem A.S. has steadily increased its Birdathon proceeds each year. Last year the chapter won national awards in the categories of “Most Improved,” “Outreach,” and “Most Species Seen by Region.” This year they have been chosen again for “Most Successful Publicity” and “Best Report Letter.” Congratulations, Big Bluestem!!”

BBAS is listed in Audubon’s donation categories as the Great Egrets. With a few more dollars, we can go up to the next level—the Roseate Spoonbills. There is also a category for “best team names.” Last year’s winning team names were “Towhee or not Towhee” (NY), “Three Shrikes and You’re Out” (MT), and “White-bellied Beer Suckers” (NC). Let’s get creative and see if we can put a win for the BBAS in this column for Birdathon! 2001.

“Birdathon is the National Audubon Society’s largest annual fundraiser and the world’s biggest competitive birdwatching event. Each year, participants nationwide count birds and collect pledged donations from sponsors, helping to fund our mission of environmental conservation, education, and advocacy” *Audubon Birdathon! Newsletter*.

Notes From the Field Trips—Continued page 4

Eagle Watch at Red Rock Lake—February 17, Wolf Oesterreich led thirteen people, including two 3rd-graders, to the annual Eagle Watch at Red Rock Lake. Our first Bald Eagle was spotted along G-28, on the north side of the lake. We also found a small flock of Wild Turkeys feeding on a road embankment. At Howell Station, the main eagle watching site, we found at least 23 Bald Eagles, many Canada Geese and Mallards, plus 1 Lesser Scaup. The number of eagles was down from last year’s watch. Very low temperatures and the blustery wind made viewing a challenge. Below the dam, at North Tailwater, we found a few more eagles, 2 Mute Swans, 3 American White Pelicans, 2 female Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and Common Mergansers. We ended up with at least 26 avian and 2 mammalian species. We were treated to a slide show at the lake’s Visitor Center and a movie (filmed along the Des Moines River below the Red Rock dam) at the Pella Community Center. The Minnesota Raptor Center brought 3 of their birds (Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, & Great Horned Owl) for a live demonstration. We’d like to thank the Iowa DNR, Marion County Conservation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Pella for having this wonderful event.

A Note From Rick Hollis— January 23, 2001

This evening when I came home, I noticed a Downy perched on the pole, very close to the pole—like they do when a hawk is near. It was a bit late for Downies to be out, as it was the time that Cardinals flock to the feeders. As I walked toward the house, after taking the dog for a short walk, the problem became evident. The Downy Woodpecker was dangling from the suet feeder, flapping its wings, but not going anywhere.

I walked up and realized she was hanging from a bit of frayed onion bag. For years I have put my suet in onion bags, to keep the small pieces from falling on the ground. But this time, somehow the woodpecker had somehow got caught in a loop of plastic netting. I walked up and caught the bird and assessed the problem. Fortunately, I have a small knife on my keychain and used that to clip the piece free from the feeder. Then, I started to untangle the bird from the netting, freeing the wing, and allowing me to cup the bird in my hand. At that point, I realized that the small piece of nylon was twisted around the bird’s neck. My wife came out with a fine pair of scissors. We clipped the nylon next to the neck and were able to completely free the bird and allow it to fly off.

Needless to say, the Downy would not have survived the night. For my thanks, I received several pretty good pecks to my hand.

Editor’s note: Rick lives in North Liberty, IA and posted this on the IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG. I hope you all who use plastic, orange, grapefruit, and onion bags, reconsider. I had a Northern Flicker die about 5 years ago in my bird box and I don’t even use these bags.

Volunteers Needed for Earth Day Activity

Hello Audubon Members,

I just wanted to invite you to help with an Earth Day opportunity. The Boone Soil and Water Conservation District and Boone County Conservation have teamed up to offer 4th graders an outdoor day on April 24 and 26. Each school would have the option of picking one of the days. This event would involve 8 different stations. These stations would be on topics such as mammals, pheasants and their habitat, woodlands, soils, SONGBIRDS and some water related stations. DNR personnel, NRCS staff and Boone County's Naturalist will all be presenting. I hope that you might join us to teach children about bird identification. The outdoor day would begin between 9:00 and 9:30. It would end by 2:00 to allow enough travel time to respective schools. We would like to have groups of approximately 10 students. This will depend on how many teachers are interested of course. Students would be required to bring their own lunches. This could be a very interactive day for everyone. More details will come as everything falls together. Right now I need some volunteers. Can you help me? You can reply to me at natural@iowatelecom.net. Please note this is a new email address for me.

I would also like to have bird ID assistance on November 9 for a guided hike through Ledges. This hike will be part of the National Association for Interpretation conference held in Des Moines. I know this is a long time away but it never hurts to plan ahead.

Sincerely,
Heather Freidhof
Boone County Naturalist

**Think Spring! Photo by Nancy Fran.
Canada Goose with babies.**



Bird Drop-ins

Sightings by
BBAS Members



At 10:30 am Saturday, January 13th, Mike & Dixie Overton saw a Northern Shrike along R23 about 1 mile S of Boone.

January 2000, Rebecca Shivvers noticed two different looking mourning doves in her backyard. They have returned this year with two more and have been identified as the Eurasian Collared-Dove. At least one appears to be an offspring of the pair.

Nominations Sought for Board of Directors

BBAS is looking for candidates for election to its Board of Directors. Directors serve for two years and set the direction of the chapter. Nominees should have a desire to become involved in choosing funding and carrying out projects in accordance with the chapter mission (see p. 2). Please contact a member of the nominating Committee with your nominations. Self-nominations are accepted.

Members of the Nominating Committee are Mary Doud (296-2178) mfdoud@qwest.net, Linda Thomas (956-3145) wbuames@tebra.net, Wolf Oesterreich (232-3285).

Spring 2001 IOU

The Spring 2001 IOU meeting will be on May 4, 5, 6 at Keosauqua in southeast Iowa. This corner of the state is noted for such specialties as Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Yellow throated, Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Henslow's Sparrows, etc. Field trips will include Lacey-Keosauqua State Park and the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest among other locations.

The meeting will be held in the historic Hotel Manning in Keosauqua. Both historic rooms in the hotel and modern rooms in the adjacent motel are available. Room rates range from \$35 to \$60 in the hotel (double occupancy) and from \$34 to \$44 in the motel. Single rooms are also available, and breakfast is included in the price. Since there are a limited number of rooms, and rooms will only be held through the beginning of April, early reservations are encouraged. Make sure you indicate you are with the birding meeting. Rooms may be viewed on the hotel's website at www.netins.net/showcase/manning. Their e-mail is

hotelman@netins.net.

Additional information will be made available in the IOU newsletter. Please contact Bob Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com, if you have questions.

1st Annual Water Monitoring Conference

Update on Iowa's Ambient Monitoring Program
Thursday, March 29, 2001

Hosted by Iowa DNR-Geological Survey Bureau
Benton Auditorium, Scheman Building, Iowa
State University, Ames, Iowa

Attend on Thursday, March 29 and discover first-hand about Iowa's Ambient Water Monitoring Program. You'll learn the history of water monitoring in Iowa, new directions, and recent conclusions. To learn more about the conditions of Iowa's water, submit your registration form today. Conference registration deadline is Friday, March 16, 2001. For more information about the conference, contact Stefanie Forret at (515) 281-3150 or stefanie.forret@dnr.state.ia.us

or visit the conference web site at

www.igsb.uiowa.edu/water2001.htm.



Clip and Join

Don't forget gift memberships!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

New member of the National Audubon Society (receive the *Audubon* magazine, the *Big Bluestem Flyer*, membership card)—\$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.



**213 DUFF AVE.
AMES, IA 50010
(515) 956-3145**

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

**Donate 10% of your
NEXT PURCHASE
To Big Bluestem Audubon Society**

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase
May not be combined with any other offer
Not valid on specially-priced merchandise

Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5:30pm
Saturday 9am – 5pm
Sunday Noon – 4pm

Offer Expires: 04/30/01

We Bring People and Nature Together®

BIRDSEED • FEEDERS • HOUSES • BIRDBATHS
HARDWARE • BINOCs • BOOKS • NATURE GIFTS

Field Trips

Meet at the parking lot behind the Wild Birds Unlimited at 8:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

March

16-18 **2001—A Crane Odyssey** presented by Audubon Nebraska and Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary. Three days of crane viewing and other field trips. Talks by world-famous birders at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska. Make your own carpooling and accommodation arrangements. Contact Jeff Nichols (515-296-2178) or Karl Jungbluth (515-432-5057).

24 **Bays Branch and Lakin Slough** to look for waterfowl and shorebirds. Trip Leader: Jon Bahrenfus (515-432-3396).

April

6-7 Road trip to **Mark Twain NWR and Cone Marsh**. Great locations along the Mississippi River for finding marsh birds, waterfowl, and Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Make

your own arrangements for accommodations and carpooling. Contact Paul Bystrak (515-5).

21 **Marsh Tour** of Harrier Marsh, Dunbar Slough, and Snake Creek. We'll look for waterfowl and shorebirds. Trip Leader: Wolf Oesterreich (515-232-3285).

Welcome New Members

Kathryn Andre, Mary Barton, Martha Bloom, Athea Bowen, Jim Dinsmore, Robert Girvorn, Emil Grulke, Nicole Hollands, Mr & Mrs. Michael Hughes, Jaclyn Hill, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lewis, Danny Newman, Jason O'Brien, Tony Patterson, Harlan Ratcliff, Rollie & Willie Struss, and Diane Twedt.

Big Bluestem Flyer

Rebecca A. Shivers, Editor
Big Bluestem Audubon Society
2380 220th Street
Boone, Iowa 50036

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 131
Ames, Iowa

We welcome new members!



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