



Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 19, No. 2

October, 1984

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

Monthly Meeting

- WHEN:** Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Room 181 (Jury Room), Design Center, ISU campus (Room 181 is in the northeast corner of the ground floor.)
- WHO:** Charles Patterson of Sioux City, a member of the Sierra Club
- TOPIC:** "The Loess Hills of Iowa" (see article on page 3)
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Upcoming Meetings and Events

Audubon Trail Work Day at Brookside Park -- Meet Saturday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. at the entrance of Audubon Trail to help relocate part of the trail along the river, pull out existing orange trail markers and begin to install new markers. We will need the following tools; several shovels, several long prying bars, two wheelbarrows, pruning shears, several paint brushes, two post hole diggers. Please come and work for 1-2 hours -- work will continue until 3 p.m. If someone would like to design a heavy duty, rainproof holder for our pamphlets that will be placed at the beginning of the trail, they are invited to bring it along. Bring a lunch. Cider will be provided. Call Tom Davis (292-1869) with any questions. Raindate will be Sunday, Oct. 14.

Iowa Audubon Council -- The council will meet Oct. 27 at the Iowa Arboretum near Boone for a business meeting and talk by Dennis Black of Grinnell at 1 p.m. Black is a major advocate of wildlife habitat and conservation legislation in the Iowa House of Representatives. Other events include a tour of the arboretum at 11:30 a.m. and a showing of The Nature Conservancy film "The Garden of Eden" at 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m. Any Bluestem society members who wish to attend should call Cindy Hildebrand (232-3807) in advance. Those wishing to contribute food to the lunch should also contact Cindy.

("Upcoming Meetings.... cont. on p. 3)

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

The Bluestem society meeting on Sept. 11 included introductions of this year's committee chairpersons and the announcement of programs scheduled for the coming months.

1984-85 chairpersons are Cindy Hildebrand, publicity; Sherry Dragula, conservation; Tom Davis, education; Janet Graver, membership, and Judy

van der Linden, publications. President Jim Murdock is still seeking a field trip committee chairperson.

The list of programs follows. All will be held following a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 181, Design Center, ISU campus, unless otherwise noted. Please note the January meeting falls on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

- Nov. 13 -- "Winter Bird Identification" by Dr. Jim Dinsmore, ISU
- Dec. 11 -- Annual Society Christmas Party, place to be announced
- Jan. 15 -- "Amphibians and Reptiles of Iowa" by Dr. James Christiansen, Drake University, Des Moines
- Feb. 12 -- "Politics and Science of Acid Rain" by Dr. Thomas Squires, Ames Lab, ISU
- March 12 -- "Bird Eggs: They are just not for Breakfast Any More" by Tom Davis, Department of Zoology, ISU
- April 9 -- "Spring Flora -- The Color Returns" by Bill Horine, Nevada
- May 14 -- "Hiking in Nepal" by Lawrence Ladin, Des Moines
- June 11 -- Potluck dinner and tour of the Iowa Arboretum by director Peter van der Linden. Held at the arboretum, time to be announced.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP/BIRDING NEWS

Hawks were the highlights of a field trip to the Saylorville Lake area led by Jim Murdock on Sept. 22. Jim reported the group saw a Peregrine Falcon, 2 Ospreys and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, in addition to many Broad-winged and Red-tailed hawks. Although they missed the pelicans and cormorants that had been present earlier, Jim said they did see six Great Egrets

and innumerable Great Blue Herons.

Hank Zaletel reported a large sparrow migration last week through Hendrickson's Marsh, including Sharp-tailed and LeConte's sparrows. There also have been cormorants and Water Pipits recently at Hendrickson's, and on Sept. 15 a Red Knot was seen there, only the third documented sighting of this species in Iowa.

MALL BOOTH NETS \$117

The Bluestem society's booth at the Ames North Grand Mall Hometown Fair on Sept. 8 made \$117 through the sale of birdseed, feeders, homemade bread and monarch chrysalids. Many people stopped to take information on Audubon activities and membership. A society information booth was also set up on the ISU campus on Sept. 18-19 as part of ISU Club Days. Thank you to

members who worked at the booths or contributed to them; Jean Hempstead, Sherry Dragula, Janet Graver, Marilyn Sealine, Mary Cowan, Jim Murdock, John Stampe, Nancy Brown and Cindy Hildebrand. Special thanks to Brekke's Town and Country Store for supplying seed and feeders at cost and to Dick Schoenberger for contributing his bread.

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

Field Trips -- Jim Murdock is considering leading a half-day field trip on Saturday, Oct. 20. Details will be announced at the Oct. 9 meeting, or interested persons may contact Jim at 233-3185.

The field trip planned in conjunction with the October program on the Loess Hills has been tentatively set for Nov. 3-4. Participants will leave Saturday at 9 a.m. and visit DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge and portions of the Loess Hills in western Iowa before returning late Sunday afternoon. If you wish to make the trip, contact Jim Murdock several days beforehand to insure motel accommodations and transportation.

"The World of Audubon" on TV -- The first in a series of programs put together by National Audubon Society will be broadcast Sunday, Oct. 22 at 7:05 p.m. on cable TV. Rebroadcast times will be Oct. 28 at 4:35 p.m., Nov. 4 at 5:05 p.m. and Nov. 5 at 11:05 p.m.

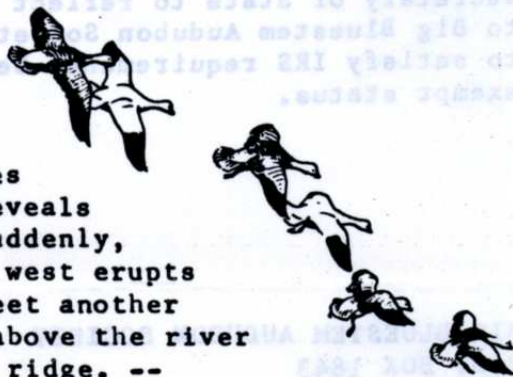
Conservation Committee -- The Conservation Committee will meet Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. Call Sherry Dragula (292-4014) for the location.

Board Meeting -- The society's executive board will meet Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Location will be announced. Anyone interested may attend.

Newsletter Deadline -- Deadline for submitting articles or artwork for the November newsletter will be Sunday, Oct. 28, at 5 p.m. Send all items to Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St., Ames.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LOESS HILLS

--The dense morning mist is split by a ghostly hoot from a barred owl across the wooded valley. A resounding gobble echoes along the hillside as a wild turkey announces his presence. The rustling of oak leaves reveals the approach of a sleek, fork-horn buck. Suddenly, the air above the distant floodplain to the west erupts into a flurry of wings as the snow geese greet another morning. A bald eagle floats effortlessly above the river as the autumn sun rises over the tree-lined ridge. --



Another day has dawned in the Loess Hills along the Missouri River in western Iowa. You are invited to enjoy these sights and sounds and to learn about the geology and wildlife of this area this month as the Big Bluestem Audubon Society sponsors October - Loess Hills Month.

We have arranged a program on Oct. 9 to introduce you to the area and we will offer a field trip complete with expert guides, interesting tours and overnight motel accommodations. Please see above for details on the field trip. Please come to our meeting this month, learn about this interesting area, join us on our field trip or plan your own trip this fall to visit the Loess Hills and the Missouri River.

--Tom Davis--

ETCETERA

Conservation Committee Discusses Issues -- The Bluestem society's Conservation Committee met Sept. 25 to discuss local and state conservation issues. Cindy Hildebrand submitted a list of some 12 bills that may be considered at the state level in the Iowa legislature this session. Committee members decided to recommend the following four items as priority issues to the Iowa Audubon Council at its meeting Oct. 27.

- 1) Drainage district exemption bill -- could lead to uncontrolled channelization of streams in Iowa. (A legislative committee meeting on this bill will be Oct. 9 at 9 a.m. in room 22 of the state capitol building. Call Cindy if you need a ride.)
- 2) Steel shot bill -- the statewide rule mandating steel shot in 1985 could be weakened by a bill.
- 3) Park user fee bill -- would require a \$10 annual or \$2 daily permit per vehicle visiting a state park. Money would be used to improve state parks.
- 4) Leaking underground storage tanks bill -- would require monitoring wells to be placed near new underground petroleum storage tanks.

If anyone would like further information on these bills or the complete list of probable Iowa environmental bills, contact Sherry Dragula.

Also discussed at the conservation committee meeting was the proposed Ames Reservoir. Committee members agreed to write for a copy of Rep. Neal Smith's recently-passed appropriation bill and specifics of the study that the appropriation will fund. Any Ames residents active in opposing the reservoir in the early 1970's will be invited to attend and speak up at the next conservation committee meeting.

Name Change Vote -- Bluestem members will be asked at the October 9 meeting to formally approve amending legal documents filed with the Secretary of State to reflect our name change from Ames Audubon Society to Big Bluestem Audubon Society. The change must be approved in this way to satisfy IRS requirements before the chapter can be considered for tax-exempt status.

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AMES, IOWA 50010



S. Dragula/M. Widrlechner
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BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society is a National Audubon Society chapter serving Ames and surrounding towns. Our activities include educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, and work on environmental issues. We welcome new members, and all programs are free and open to the public.

For more information on the Big Bluestem Audubon Society and how to join, please call Cindy Hildebrand (publicity chair) at 232-3807.

field trips & projects

Field trips and conservation projects are announced at meetings and in our newsletters. To find out about currently-scheduled events, call 232-3807.

programs

Programs are part of our regular meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Room 181 of the College of Design, Iowa State University, Ames.

- Oct. 9 -- "The Loess Hills of Iowa" by Charles Patterson of Sioux City.
- Nov. 13-- "Winter Bird Identification" by Dr. James Dinsmore of Iowa State University.
- Dec. 11-- Big Bluestem Audubon Society Christmas Party with "Unknown Bird Slide Contest" and members' slides. Location to be announced.
- Jan. 15-- "Amphibians and Reptiles of Iowa" by Dr. James Christiansen of Drake University. Note change to 3rd Tuesday for this month only.
- Feb. 12-- "Politics and Science of Acid Rain" by Dr. Thomas Squires of the Ames Laboratory.
- Mar. 12-- "Bird Eggs: They Are Not Just for Breakfast Anymore." Biology and adaptations of bird eggs will be discussed by Tom Davis of the Department of Zoology, Iowa State University.
- Apr. 9 -- "Spring Flora" by Bill Horine of Nevada.
- May 14 -- "Hiking in Nepal" by Lawrence Ladin of Des Moines.
- Jun. 11-- Potluck dinner and tour of the Iowa Arboretum guided by Peter van der Linden, Director of the Arboretum. Meeting will be held at the Arboretum headquarters.