



# Big Bluestem Flyer

Newsletter of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Volume 36, Number 3

January/February 2001

## Upcoming Programs

**January 18**—*A Young Birder's Perspective: Camp Chiracahua, the World Series of Birding and Other Events and Opportunities*

Opportunities for young birders in the U.S. are often not well-known. Mike Freiberg will talk about some of the many wonderful opportunities that are available. In particular, he will describe his experience at Camp Chiracahua in Arizona, the World Series of Birding in New Jersey and several other events he has participated in throughout his birding career.

**February 15**—*Audubon in Iowa—Past and Future*

What did John James Audubon experience and write about when he visited Iowa in 1843? How did Audubon County get named? What are the more notable Audubon chapter activities in Iowa over the past 20 years? What will we be doing in 20 years? Come and find out the answers to these questions and more with Paul Zeph, executive director of Audubon Iowa.

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.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-19, 2001

Linda Thomas

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, along with their major sponsors, Ford and Wild Birds Unlimited, once again plan to take a snapshot of North American bird populations during the Fourth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) February 16-19, 2001. You can help!

You can spend as much or as little time as you want, counting birds in your backyard, local parks, or other locations. Make it a fun family outing or a school or scout project. Your participation can help answer such questions as:

- Where are the birds distributed during this time of year?
- Where are the finches?
- How has winter weather influenced bird populations compared to last year?
- How much snow is in your backyard and what impact does it have on bird populations?

It doesn't matter whether you identify and report the five species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge or park. The data you collect, combined with information nationwide, will help define bird ranges, populations, migration pathways, habitat needs, and ultimately benefit bird conservation.

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## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

### Officers:

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### Board Members:

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### Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zaletel 382-5427 [madowl@nevia.net](mailto:madowl@nevia.net)
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- Education Chair: Ida Johnson 233-4831 [lwindj@aol.com](mailto:lwindj@aol.com)
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### 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](mailto: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:  
February 16—2 p.m.**



## Beyond the Backyard

Karl Jungbluth,  
President

As I work on articles for this newsletter, I gaze outside at our record Iowa snowpack. Wow, how the landscape has been transformed! Being in the weather business, I hear a lot about the snow, the repeated shoveling, and how it inconveniences us and slows us down. But when I look out the window, I'm usually thinking about the birds; how they brighten the landscape and how this weather is a life and death struggle for them.

At the feeders, we have an abundance of Blue Jays, a few Harris' Sparrows and a lot less finches than in previous years. I've been out on my cross-country skis, exploring public lands near the Des Moines River. Where there is habitat, cover and food, there are still birds in this frigid weather. It's a joy to find them. My Christmas day was brightened by a dozen Red-headed Woodpeckers in Ledges State Park. They were scolding, hammering on acorns, and chasing each other about. Christmas Bird Counts were a challenge due to the cold and snow, but still great fun. My thanks to everyone who participated and coordinated the Ames, Saylorville, and Boone counts.

I'm always thinking too about what can Audubon do to help out birds, raise awareness and conserve habitat? This newsletter is full of answers! Your Big Bluestem Board of Directors has been making good use of dollars raised through Birdathon and the generosity of our members. We've selected three major projects for funding in early 2001—habitat conservation at Colo Ponds in Story County, the Osprey Introduction Project at Saylorville Reservoir, and Audubon's Upper Mississippi Campaign. During the quiet of winter, please take some time to consider adding your personal contribution to that of the chapter's. The combined impact can be tremendous!

Spring will be here before we know it, so don't miss the fine listing of field trips and programs for 2001. If you haven't seen the Sandhill Crane spectacular in Nebraska, the Mississippi River in southeast Iowa, or birding hotspots close to home, join us and bring a friend!





## Conservation Corner

### 2001 NON-GAME SUPPORT CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE

The 2001 Non-game Support Certificate, featuring a pretty Green Heron dressed up in breeding plumage is now available from the Department of Natural Resources. The Green Heron is a common but seldom seen bird found along wooded edges of rivers, lakes and ponds. It can be found in every county in Iowa. The photograph used on this year's certificate was taken by Jim Zohrer, the Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator for the Iowa DNR.

These limited-edition certificates are individually numbered and available for a cost of only \$5 from the DNR. To order, call 515 281-5918 or by mail, send a check for five dollars made out to the Department of Natural Resources to the DNR, ATTN: Support Certificate, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

Also available are a limited number of the 2000 certificates featuring a Black-capped Chickadee sitting on a snow covered wooden fence.

Proceeds from these certificates help support the Wildlife Diversity Program in Iowa. This program works with non-hunted wildlife species, including Trumpeter Swans, Peregrine Falcons, eagles, frogs and toads and other Iowan wildlife.



Heather Freidhof testing the new binoculars and bird guide.

## Cyber Birdin – Surf'n the Net

Rebecca Shivers

Website—<http://www.enature.com/>

If you want to make your outside walk a real experience, use your hand held computer or laptop and log on to [enature.com](http://www.enature.com). This website has a variety of field guides that range from amphibians, birds, butterflies, fishes, insects, mammals, reptiles, . . . , spiders, trees, and wildflowers. It gives you locations of where to look for birds and where local Audubon chapters are located.

An example from this website's spot on birding gives guides to birding basics, identifying birds, rare bird, equipment, discussion groups, and ask an expert. Brian Cassie, naturalist, is ready to help you identify birds in your backyard or on your travels. The plethora of information found in this site will keep you busy for hours and can also help you identify wildlife on your walks through nature's wonders.



*Continued from page 1—GBBC*

To take part in this year's GBBC, just count the highest number of each bird species seen at one time (to ensure birds are not counted more than once) and keep track of the amount of time spent counting. Then log on to the BirdSource web site at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) or <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/gbbc/>, click on the appropriate state for a checklist of the most frequently reported birds in that region, and enter your results. Or bring your results to Wild Birds Unlimited for entry. Online results are updated hourly in the form of animated maps and colorful graphs so you can see how your observations fit into the continent-wide perspective.

Last year, the over 62,000 checklists submitted reported 419 species and over 4.7 million individual birds. Birds count, really they do! And, you can too!



## Audubon Society Donates Binoculars

Big Bluestem Audubon Society, with the help of the Bluebird Bed & Breakfast and the Boone County Conservation Foundation, recently donated 30 pairs of binoculars to Boone County Naturalist, Heather Freidhof. Thirty-five copies of *Stokes Beginner's Guide to Birds* were also donated by BBAS. The binoculars and bird books will be used to help people appreciate birds and the outdoors through Boone County Conservation's public and school programs.

Big Bluestem Audubon Society raised the funds primarily through its annual Birdathon, an all-day birding event held in the spring. Birdathon proceeds are used to help birds, and to fund nature education.

Freidhof was excited to receive the tools she needs to teach about nature, exclaiming, "This will truly help awaken both children and adults to the birding world."

## Thank You From Heather Freidhof

Dear Big Bluestem Society,

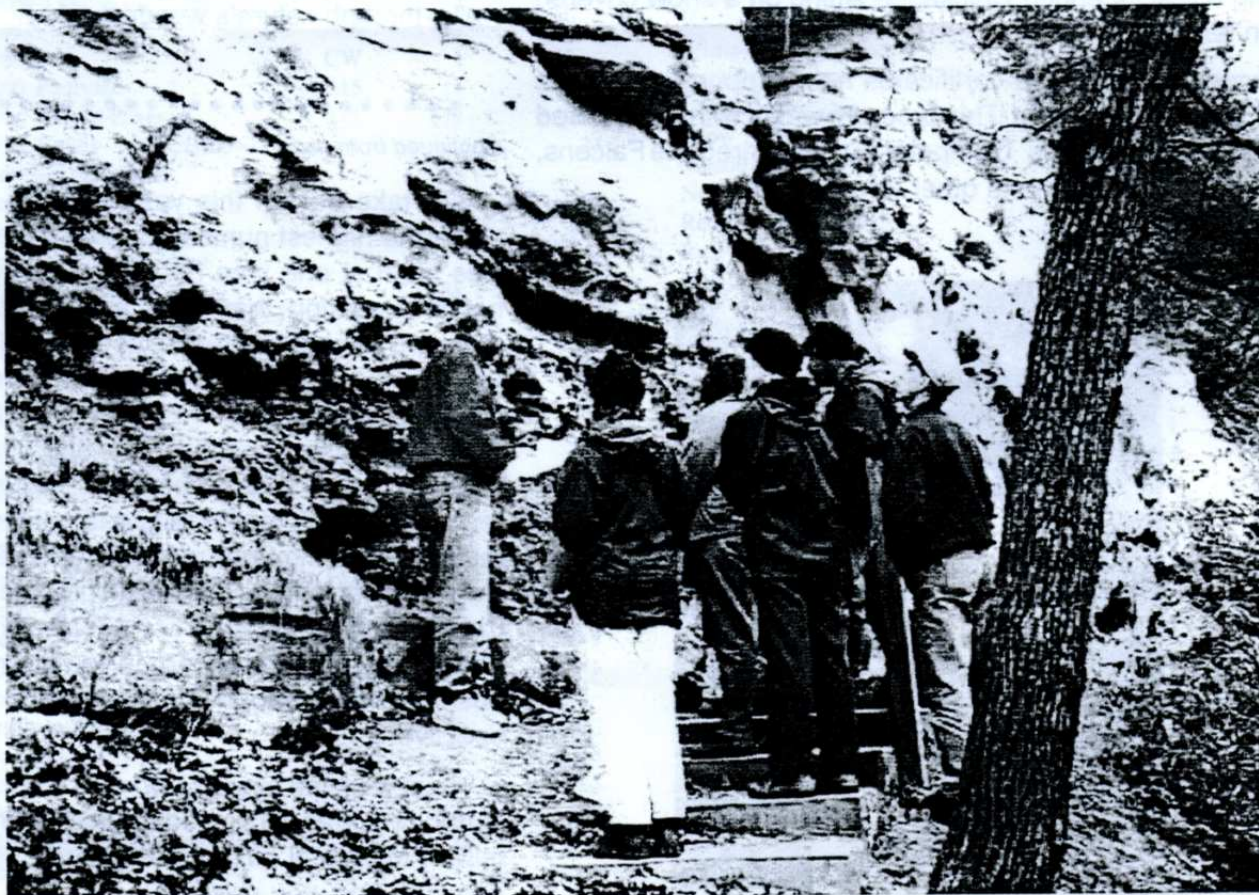
I would like to thank you and your members for the generous donation of 30 binoculars and 35 bird identification books. This will help me in my bird programming. I look forward to taking a group out with these aids and allowing them to experience Iowa's birds.

I have two programs already developed that teachers can choose to do on birds. One is on birds in general and the other is on migration. I also hope to do some public programs on birds in the spring.

I do have a special group already scheduled to do a Birdathon activity in early May. I will need some extra hands on this day. It is the Saturday before the actual Birdathon, May 5. I will contact the group again closer to this time.

Thank you again for your significant donation. It will truly help awaken both children and adults to the birding world.

Sincerely,  
Heather Freidhof  
Boone County Conservation  
Park Ranger/Naturalist



A recent road trip to Dolliver State Park by BBAS members led by Tim Grotheer. (Photo by Dave Edwards)





## Notes From the Field Trips

*(Reports submitted by trip leaders)*

**Road Trip to Dolliver State Park**—Big Bluestem's first geology field trip led by Tim Grotheer included 15 people on October 28. The damp overcast morning with a cold wind was in sharp contrast to the many warm dry days we enjoyed earlier in the fall. We looked over copies of aerial photos and maps, and then discussed the plan of stopping to look at several landscape features between Ames and our main destination, Dolliver State Park. Iowa geology is subtle, not spectacular. Here on the Stable Interior Craton, there has been no mountain building, volcanoes, large scale faulting or earthquakes, etc. for at least a billion years. Due to repeated glaciation over the last 2.5 million years, exposed bedrock is so scarce that where it does outcrop, "it is such an event it is likely to have been named a state park". However, since the end of the last glaciation was so recent (the melting of the Des Moines lobe of the Wisconsin Ice sheet less than 14,000 years ago), interesting landscape features caused by the glacier are still evident, if you know what to look for.

With this in mind, we drove toward Boone (on E26), through an area of swell and swale topography. The low swells or ridges, formed by the glacier, are about 300 feet apart with the crests running NE/SW. Although barely noticeable from ground level, they are quite clear on aerial photos. We stopped a few miles north of Boone (on R27) at a tributary of Squaw Creek. This area drains toward the east, even though the Des Moines River is less than 3 miles to the west. The lack of tributaries is due to the youthfulness of the river, which cut its deep valley shortly after being superimposed on the land surface from the glacier. Next, we drove a few miles on gravel roads through the Kame and Kettle topography (knobby hills and closed depressions) of the Altamont Moraine to Bjorkboda Marsh in southern Hamilton County. The display at the parking lot describes these features, and how the formerly abundant wetlands in the county have nearly all been drained.

The aerial photo of the Stratford area (a few miles to the NW) shows a concentration of these drained glacial potholes. We crossed the river into Webster County and stopped at a gravel pit in the valley (on D54). The waters of the melting ice sheet left these

level terraces with large sand and gravel deposits along the river. While talking about this, the group's eyes were often on the sky as ducks, hawks, and an eagle or two passed overhead.

At Dolliver Park, the river has exposed the sandstone bedrock (Pennsylvanian age, about 300 million years old). The sands were deposited in an environment similar to today's Mississippi delta. The sandstones occur in the former channels of rivers that flowed toward a shallow sea to the SW. The shoreline repeatedly advanced and retreated over the area in a NE/SW direction, shifting up to 500 miles in response to changes in sea level. Along the river outside the park, bedrock comprised mostly of shales, with some sandstone, limestone, and coal is exposed. These were also deposited in delta and shallow sea environments, but outside the river channels. At the park, we looked at the "copperas beds," where iron and sulfur compounds (coppery, yellow, or white in color) accumulate as groundwater reaching the face of the sandstone and conglomerate cliff evaporates. We also hiked up "boneyard hollow" where cross-bedding in the sandstone, including areas of distorted cross-beds, were discussed.

We also drove north of the park along the river past cliffs of shale known as the "Kalo bluffs," opposite the town of Coalville, and north of highway 20 along the river toward Fort Dodge. In this area, old coal mines, clay pits, kilns, railroads, etc. are visible signs that as one participant put it, "Iowa has been used hard." Part of the group had lunch in Fort Dodge and hiked in Woodman Hollow State Preserve before heading back to Ames. In addition to the geology, about 30 bird species were seen.

**Saylorville Lake**—Saturday morning, 11 November was a foggy, cold morning with temperatures in the mid-twenties. Eight hardy souls led by Hank Zaletel ventured out to Big Creek State Park, Sandpiper Beach at Saylorville Reservoir, the visitor center there, and the Polk City Wildlife Area north of the marina. The birdfeeders at the visitor center and the Polk City Wildlife Area were the most productive. Thirty-nine species of birds were seen with the eight species of ducks predominating. Birds seen were P.B. Grebe, A.W.

*continued on page 6*



Pelican, D.C. Cormorant, G. Blue Heron, Canada G., G.W. Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Gadwall, Canvasback, R.N. Duck, L. Scaup, H. Merganser, R.T.Hawk, A.Kestrel, A. Coot, Franklin G., Boneparte G., Ring-billed G., Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied W.P., Downey W.P., N. Flicker, Blue Jay, A. Crow, B.C. Chickadee, T. Titmouse, W.B. Nuthatch, R.C. Kinglet, A. Robin, Star-ling, N. Cardinal, Tree Sparrow, W.T. Sparrow, Junco, Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge**—Four brave souls led by Wolf Oesterreich and Jeff Nichols left Ames early Saturday morning, 2 December, headed DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The further west we got, the less snow we encountered. Once we dropped out of the Loess Hills, there was virtually no snow on the ground. Near the refuge, we saw streams of Snow Geese in the air, heading out for their morning feeding. At the refuge, we were told that the Snow Goose count was at 70,000 birds. Jeff wanted a recount. A week ago there were 500,000 birds. None of the refuges to the north, nor SquawCreek NWR (MO) to the south, were reporting the presence of any Snow Geese.

The Visitor Center is one of the best in the system—well worth a stop. There are displays on natural history, life along the Missouri River, and recovered artifacts from the sunken steamboat Bertrand. There are several viewing areas within the comforts of the Center. One overlooks bird feeders, and another overlooks the lake. When we first arrived, we could only find 2 Snow Geese. Also present were many Canada Geese, Common Goldeneyes, Mallards, and a few Common Mergansers, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, and Bald Eagles. By the time we finished looking at the displays, several hundred Snow Geese had returned. To get closer to the geese, we took the Wildlife Loop to the blind on the Nebraska side. Now we were within 100 feet of the geese.

We also made a stop at the well-known hawk watch site in Iowa, Hitchcock Nature Area. We were greeted at the entrance by a Barred Owl perched on a fence post. As we arrived at the lodge, the day's three hawk-watchers were leaving. They told us of their findings, which included a Northern Goshawk and a Golden Eagle. From the deck of the lodge, one has a fantastic view of the Loess Hills. We were able to add 3 Red-tailed Hawks to their list. This park deserves another visit, especially during peak migration times.

Our last stop was at the nearly completely frozen Lake Manawa State Park. We found more waterfowl and a Bald Eagle and ended the day with 34 avian species and 2 mammal species.

## Bird Drop-ins

*Sightings by  
BBAS Members*



Stephen Dinsmore reported at 3 p.m., December 21, 2000, he saw an immature gray morph **Gyr Falcon** in eastern Boone County. The bird initially flew into the cedar trees at the abandoned farmstead just northwest of this intersection, and later flew out of sight to the northeast.

The bird had been spotted as recent as Sunday, December 24. Maridel Jackson and her son saw it about noon as it came down in the field for what they presumed was lunch. It was near Highway 30, fairly close to the road, and east of the house and buildings. However, it was not to be found on the Boone County Bird Christmas Countday, December 30.

**Newsbreak**—Thursday, January 4, 2001 around 10:00 a.m., Eugene and Eloise Armstrong saw the **Gyr Falcon** at approximately 240th and T avenue. It came out of the conifer grove where it has been seen by several observers. It flew to a stand of cottonwood trees about a half mile further away on T Avenue. This location is east of Boone, reached easily by traveling west from Ames on Highway 30 to the area by the ISU Research farm.

January 7, Karl Jungbluth noticed a **Northern Shrike** in his front yard this afternoon. It was there long enough for him to watch it with his binoculars. As I watched it briefly, it was jumping from branch to branch about 15 feet off the ground and flicking its wings a lot. Then it dove straight down and attempted to bomb a junco, which got away. So, as it was agitating, it was sizing up the junco! It flew off to the south shortly thereafter. The chickadees knew what was going on all along, and were scolding. He also had 10 Purple Finches at the feeders today, the most so far this season. On Friday, he saw a robin, which is a pretty rare event this winter.



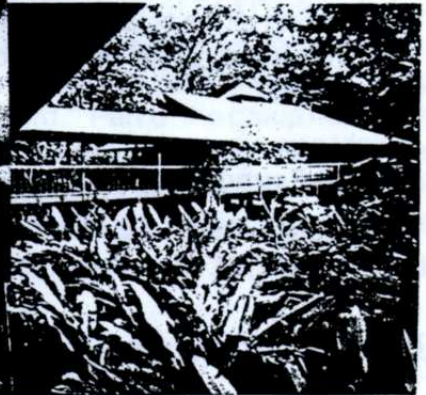


# Costa Rica Vacation Opportunity

As a BIRDATHON Grand Prize, our chapter won a 4-night retreat at the Selva Verde Lodge and Rainforest Reserve in Costa Rica! The package includes lodging, meals and taxes for two people, but *does not include airfare*. Interested? Travel is good through 2001. A drawing will be held at our February 15 chapter meeting. The drawing is open to all interested Big Bluestem members, BIRDATHON participants and BIRDATHON sponsors. You need not be present to win, but *you must call, write or email to enter*, and you must be willing to pay the airfare. To enter, contact Karl & Carmen Jungbluth, Birdathon Chairs, 1372 Peony Lane, Boone, Iowa 50036, 515-432-5057, [bluebird@opencominc.com](mailto:bluebird@opencominc.com)

## Highlights

- 500 acre forest preserve
- EcoLodge with private rooms & private baths
- Jungle and river habitats
- Guided rafting, riding and hikes available
- Thatched covered walkways
- Birder's paradise!



[www.selvaverde.com](http://www.selvaverde.com)

**BIRDATHONERS:** Invite your sponsors to enter the drawing.

**You must enter to win !!!**

  
**Audubon  
Birdathon!**

Airfare is NOT INCLUDED. Estimated airfare from Kansas City to San Jose, Costa Rica is \$400-600. Prize includes accommodations for two, all meals, service charges and taxes. Entries must be received by February 15, 2001.



## Step Forward With Your Support

The Big Bluestem Board of Directors recently approved funding for the Saylorville Reservoir Osprey Introduction Project (\$1000) and Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign (\$500) and is considering a \$2000-3000 donation toward a wetland purchase at Colo Ponds in eastern Story County. We can't do it without your support!

The Board is looking for individual contributions, big and small, to match the chapter's funding. Can you help out? Our members were extremely generous over the past few years with the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area and the Osprey Introduction. Pitch in and make a difference for birds and habitat! If you'd like to make a contribution, make your check payable to: *Big Bluestem Audubon Society*, and send it to: Donna Flanagan, Treasure, 2511 Aspen Road, #1, Ames, Iowa, 50014. You may designate "Osprey," "Upper Mississippi," or "Colo Ponds" as your project. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. Read below for more information on these exciting projects.

### **Colo Wetland Reserve**

Here is your chance to help preserve habitat close to home. This is your chance! A 67-acre parcel, three miles east of Colo, will be enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program early this year. Up to \$250/acre is needed for transfer of the "Fee Title" to the DNR, a step that would *permanently preserve the wetland for birds and wildlife*. Big Bluestem Audubon would like to make a large donation alongside other such likely partners as Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

This is superb habitat right in Story County. Hank Zaletel notes, "the shorebird migration is phenomenal, and the wetland connects with other quality water habitat nearby." Your contribution can help make this project a reality.

### **Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign**

Audubon's campaign goals for the Upper Mississippi River are:

- Informing people about the ecological significance of the river and its watershed
- Taking direct action to protect existing habitat and restore critical habitat that has been lost.
- Influencing public policy decisions that affect the quality of the water, soil, and ecological values of habitat.

Right now, your contribution and the BBAS \$500 contribution **will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the McKnight Foundation**, adding even more impact!

Campaign include a permanent "Audubon Ark" educational riverboat, and development of the Great River Birding Trail. For more information contact Dan McGuiness, at [dmcguiness@audubon.org](mailto:dmcguiness@audubon.org)

### **Osprey Introduction**

In 2000, the Boone and Polk County Conservation Boards, the Iowa DNR, and the US Army Corps of Engineers introduced 5 Osprey at Saylorville Lake. BBAS donated funds and members volunteered their time. The project was a great success. Many new birders, young and old, were introduced to the excitement of bird and wildlife watching. In September, Iowa Audubon and BBAS members held a Pelican Festival near the Osprey's "hack tower." It was a smashing hit with nearly 1000 attendees.

More Osprey will be introduced over the next 3 years. After seeing the excitement generated by the Osprey Introduction in 2000, and the educational potential of the project, the Big Bluestem Board of Directors voted to donate \$1000 to the project in 2001. Bruce Ehresman, DNR Wildlife Specialist and BBAS Board member, says that more than 5 birds could be introduced in 2001, increasing the chances that Osprey will return to Saylorville to breed. Your contribution will increase the BBAS donation, and could allow more birds introduced in 2001.



# The Dawning of a New Conservation Vision for Iowa

Paul Zeph  
Executive Director, Audubon Iowa

If you could wave a magic wand and change the Iowa landscape, what changes would you make? What else would you need to change to support more habitat and species protection? What public attitudes, leadership, and resources are needed to make this vision a reality?

In January of this year, 45 staff from the Department of Natural Resources and 15 conservation group leaders spent a weekend thinking about these and other questions. This is a first step toward developing a comprehensive new conservation vision and action plan for Iowa.

Like other states, Iowa has many interest groups focused on their personal conservation interests, and no one responsible for working on the big picture. This was a chance to set aside our individual agendas, think big together, and develop a vision for a better environment.

I'm not sure where this will lead as it was only a beginning, but this much is clear: there are a lot of conservation professionals and volunteers who care deeply about Iowa's natural resources, and who think we can do better and do more for conservation in the state.

Perhaps 2001 will usher in the dawning of a new conservation movement in Iowa. Stay tuned!

## In Memoriam: Jim Rod

*Hank Zaletel*

Jim Rod, educator and advocate, who led a life in the exaltation and defense of nature, died 4 July 1998 in New York City from cancer. Jim was born 6 November 1944 in Ames, Iowa to Paul and Pauline Rod. Following his graduation from Ames High in 1962, he served in the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne during the Vietnam War from 1967-69 and was awarded the Bronze Star and several Air Medals.

Returning to Ames, he enrolled at Iowa State University and studied wildlife biology. During this time, he helped found the Ames Audubon Society. He served as program chair, field trip coordinator, Christmas Bird Count compiler, and president. From 1971-73 he served as vice president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. He also served as vice-chair of the Committee to Save the Ledges.

In 1973, outdoor writer John Madsen recommended to National Audubon Society President Elvis Stahr that he hire Jim as his personnel assistant. Jim quit school and moved to the east coast where he completed a B.S. in Journalism from Iona College. In 1977, he married Dee Hughes. In 1982, he assumed the post of manager and warden of the National Audubon Society's Constitution Marsh Sanctuary on the Hudson River in Garrison, New York. His studies of cadmium contamination in the marsh's muskrat population helped prompt the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to order a \$100 million superfund cleanup at a defunct battery factory abutting the preserve.

In 1998, Jim was awarded Audubon's Golden Egret Award for an employee who, through continuous and consistent effort and thoughtfulness, furthered Audubon's mission.

At Jim's memorial service, New York Governor George Pataki, a close friend and neighbor, noted, "there are a lot more high-profile figures in conservation but there was no more knowledgeable or caring a figure than Jim Rod. He taught me an awful lot. Jim was one of the figures in my life who I believe is irreplaceable." (*New York Times*)



### The Results of the Ames, Saylorville Reservoir, and Boone Christmas Bird Counts

The Ames Count was held on Saturday, December 16, Saylorville Count was Sunday, December 17 and the Boone Count was Saturday, December 30, 2000. The organizers were Dave Edwards, Steve Dinsmore, and Mark Widrechner, respectively. The results were as follows:

	Ames	Saylorville	Boone		Ames	Saylorville	Boone
Great Blue Heron	1	2		Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		1
Gr. Wh.-front. Goose			1	White-breasted Nuthatch	112	67	199
Canada Goose	423	261		Brown Creeper	12	1	5
Swan sp.		2		Carolina Wren	1	1	
Wood Duck		1		Winter Wren		1	
Mallard	70	1293	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	6	
Gadwall	1	5		Hermit Thrush	3	2	1
American Wigeon	CW	2		Eastern Bluebird		4	2
American Black Duck		2		American Robin	13	9	3
Northern Pintail		1		Brown Thrasher	1		
Green-winged Teal		4		European Starling	632	3140	1142
Redhead	1			Cedar Waxwing	10	63	21
Ring-necked Duck	CW			Eastern-rumped Warbler	1	1	
Lesser Scaup	1			Spotted Towhee			1
Common Merganser	1	5	1	Eastern Towhee		1	2
Bald Eagle	3	33	18	American Tree Sparrow	291	613	348
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	8	Chipping Sparrow		1	
Cooper's Hawk	2	4	5	Savannah Sparrow		2	
Northern Goshawk			1	Fox Sparrow	1	2	3
Red-shouldered Hawk			1	Song Sparrow	24	87	76
Red-tailed Hawk	25	81	65	Swamp Sparrow		8	
Rough-legged Hawk	2	7	3	White-throated Sparrow	10	6	4
Golden Eagle		1		Harris' Sparrow	33	57	89
American Kestrel	6	19	8	White-crowned Sparrow		4	5
Merlin	CW	1		Dark-eyed Junco	567	854	856
Gray Partridge	15	14	6	Lapland Longspur		158	41
Ring-necked Pheasant	121	177	120	Snow Bunting	25	71	14
Wild Turkey			27	Meadowlark sp.	3	68	8
Northern Bobwhite		15		Northern Cardinal	170	485	390
Common Snipe		9	CW	Red-winged Blackbird		39	2
Rock Dove	117	455	179	Rusty Blackbird	8	38	
Eurasian Collared-Dove			3	Common Grackle			10
Mourning Dove	75	88	80	Brown-headed Cowbird	1	31	
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1	7	Purple Finch	12	14	24
Great Horned Owl	5	5	18	House Finch	85	58	46
Barred Owl	4	2	4	Pine Siskin	CW	3	5
Long-eared Owl		3	1	Common Redpoll		1	
Short-eared Owl		2	CW	American Goldfinch	147	174	323
Northern Saw-shet Owl		2	1	House Sparrow	821	1079	1431
Belted Kingfisher	4	4	3				
Red-headed Woodpecker		5	37	<b>NUMBER OF SPECIES</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>63</b>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	70	92	136				
Downy Woodpecker	134	114	181				
Hairy Woodpecker	25	28	59				
Northern Flicker	3	35	9				
Pileated Woodpecker		1	1				
Loggerhead Shrike		1					
Northern Shrike	1	2	2				
Horned Lark	364	1472	332				
Blue Jay	104	287	364				
American Crow	7100	741	797				
Black-capped Chickadee	325	386	697				
Tufted Titmouse	5	17	64				





A couple of birds you might see on your Great Backyard Bird Count (Northern Cardinal and Red-bellied Woodpecker).

Thank You From Joe Boyles


Big Bluestem Audubon Group,

Please accept this Thank You photo. Without your help and support, the Osprey 2000 Project would have never gotten off the ground.

Sincerely,  
Joe Boyles  
Polk County Conservation  
Naturalist

(Editor's Note: The photo will be available for viewing at our meetings and says "Osprey 2000- Giving Flight to Iowa's Raptors. Thanks to you, Osprey will now find a home at Saylorville Lake.")

Wild Birds Unlimited



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## 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 Widrechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010.

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*NOTE: Please do not use this form for renewals to the National Audubon Society.*

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Brekke's Town & Country Store generously offers Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) a donation when bird seed and other bird products are purchased. Present this coupon with your purchase and a donation will be given to BBAS.

Offer good until February 28, 2001



## Field Trips

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

### January

- 20 **Ledges State Park.** Take a winter walk in the woods to look for Red-headed Woodpeckers and the giant Pileated Woodpecker. Trip Leader: Karl Jungbluth (515-432-5057).

### February

- 3 **Tour de Feeders** at the homes of Leisa and Wolf Oesterreich, Jeanne and Dave Edwards, and Shivvers Nature Sanctuary. Trip Leader: Mary Doud (515-296-2178).

- 17 **Bald Eagles Day** at Lake Red Rock. Look for Bald Eagles, waterfowl, and gulls. Watch the Eagle Program at the Pella Community Center. Trip Leader: Wolf Oesterreich (515-232-3285).

## Welcome New Members

Art Abel, Linda Anderson, Linda Bevins, Norma Bridgewater, Ruth Brockman, Ruth Callaway, Sarah Gross, Laura Hart, Sara Havig, M. J. Hatfield, Diane Lowry, Robin McElroy, Kemp Miller, Carl Moen, Chris Olson, Jonnie & Clarke Pasley, Joyce Ramsey, Lisa Raphaelson, Andrew Swanson, Wanda Taylor, Mrs. Lyle Vandecar, Eleanor West, Myrna Whitehead, and Linda Zaletel

*Big Bluestem Flyer*  
Rebecca A. Shivvers, Editor  
*Big Bluestem Audubon Society*  
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