



# Big Bluestem Flyer

## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Newsletter

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.

Volume 32 Number 5

May/June 1997

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) 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. If you need directions, please call any of the BBAS officers or committee chairs. See you there!

## Featured Speaker—May 15 meeting: *Karl Jungbluth, “Migrating Birds on Weather Radar”*

National Weather Service Doppler radars not only detect severe weather, but migrating birds as well! Karl’s presentation will show you what migrating birds look like on weather radar, and reveal secrets of the migration that you might not have pondered before. . . . How high do the birds fly? What are those birds doing while you sleep? Which birds and which central Iowa locations are favored for detection? Can birds forecast the weather? Join us for some answers. Karl is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Johnston office, a BBAS member, and a bird enthusiast.

## Featured Activity—June 7: *Birders’ Breakfast at the Ledges State Park*

Don’t miss the annual birders’ breakfast at the Ledges State Park near Boone. See the *Coming Field Trips*. . . for more details. See you there!

*If you would like to meet and dine with the speaker and the BBAS board before the monthly meeting, there are a limited number of reservations available. Please call Kevin Healy at 233-5914 to confirm space and location.*

### Coming Field Trips: May & June

*Jon Bahrenfus, Field Trip Chair*

There are several good opportunities coming up to see lots of warblers and other birds, and to enjoy springtime in Iowa. Please join us on one of the exciting field trips.

#### May

**10—Warbler watching at the Ledges.** Join BBAS and the Des Moines Audubon group to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Bring a friend or beginning birder to meet 7:30-8 a.m. at the parking lot just west of the campground entrance. Between 10-

11 a.m., you are invited to Karl and Carmen Jungbluth’s house for refreshments. For those interested, backyard birding can continue along the northern edge of Ledges State Park. Remember, this is an

*(continued on page 8)*

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**Quote of the Month:** *It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which will affect its successful outcome.*—William James

# As the Crow Flies . . .

Stan Cyran, President

The equinox has passed, the waterfowl have arrived in great numbers, the passerines are trickling back, and so begins what must surely be the busiest and most satisfying season of the birding year. It won't be long until our beloved warblers arrive. This is the time for anyone who has been considering it to take a field trip. What excitement there is to be found! Not only birds, but wildflowers will soon be out in abundance.

Thanks to all who have made this year a memorable one, including our speakers, our officers and committee chairs, and all the other countless volunteers who make this club worth our while. Special thanks to our outgoing secretary and our field trip chair, Joyce and Jon Bahrenfus. Kudos to Kay Niyo for a once in a lifetime trip to see the sandhill cranes and special bonus— whooping crane! Thanks to our newsletter editor extraordinaire, Rebecca Shivvers. See you in the field!

*Newsletter Deadline: Friday, August 15, 1997 at 2 p.m.*

# Notes from the Field

Jon Bahrenfus, Field Trip Chair

## Platte River Crane Trip

On March 21-23, thirteen birders, ably led by Kay Niyo, participated in a field trip to Grand Island, Nebraska. Our group spent Friday night in Lincoln. We made our way to Grand Island via several wetlands (Waterfowl Production Areas). Skies were clear to partly cloudy, temperatures were in the fifties to sixties and there was a consistent northwest wind. En route, we saw thirteen species of ducks, three species of geese, and got to see northern harriers hunting over the wetlands. Excellent birdwatching intelligence reports, courtesy of Rebecca Shivvers and the Nebraska Rare Bird Alert, enabled us to quickly locate and observe an aberrant whooping crane among the thousands of sandhill cranes.

## Waterfowl trip

Fifteen people spent the morning of March 29 observing waterfowl. The weather was windy, cloudy to partly-cloudy with temperatures in the forties. We saw a total of fifty-two species of birds plus muskrat and mink. Members of the group visited Anderson Lake east of Jewell, Little Wall Lake, Teig's Marsh and a wetland restored and managed by senior BBAS member Glenn Mackey. Highlights of the trip were a Cooper's hawk, Harris' sparrow, eared grebe, horned grebe, and a mysterious grey goose.

.....  
● **Did you know**—young bluebirds hatched early  
● in the season help their parents feed, clean, and care for  
● late-season broods.  
● .....

# Ornithologists' Union Meeting

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, and the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union will jointly hold their meeting from May 16-18, 1997 at the Hilton Inn in Sioux City, Iowa.

Registration—\$5.50, Saturday breakfast—\$6.75, Saturday banquet—\$12.95, Sunday breakfast—\$5.50, and Sunday lunch —\$7.95. Checks should be made payable to Loess Hills Audubon and mailed to Bill Huser, 401 East 14th, South Sioux City, NE 68776.

The banquet speaker is Kenn Kaufman. His talk is entitled "Bird study and natural history in the 21st century." Kenn is the author of *Advanced Birding* in the Peterson Field Guide Series and is a frequent contributor to *ABA's Birding* and *Birder's World*.

**Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees**

**Officers:**

- President: Stan Cyran 292-4876 scyran@mem.po.com
- Vice-President: Kay Niyo 233-8803 kniyo@aol.com
- Secretary: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396
- Treasurer: Paul Ovrom 292-8862 nc7ao@ars-grin.gov

**Board Members:**

- Carol Berrier 965-8242
- David Guy 292-8825
- Kevin Healy 233-5914 khealy@ames.net
- Karl Jungbluth 432-5057 karl.a.jungbluth@noaa.gov
- Rebecca Shivvers 292-0691 shivvers@ameslab.gov

**Committee Chairs:**

- Archivist: Hank Zaletel 382-5427 madowl@nevia.net
- Awards Chair: Stan Cyran
- Conservation Chair: Sherry Dragula 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Education Co-Chairs: Carol and Galin Berrier
- Field Trip Chair: Jon Bahrenfus
- Fund Raising Co-Chairs: Kay Niyo and Stan Cyran
- Membership Chair: Mark Widrlechner 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Program Co-Chairs: Kevin and Roseann Healy
- Publicity Chair: Mary Doud 296-2178
- Publications and Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivvers
- Service & Special Projects Co-Chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth

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

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



## Birder of the Month

*(This is another in an on-going series profiling the birders in our midst. Why are they birders? How do they spend their time? How do they contribute their talents to society at large?)*

At an age when many of us might have been riding bicycles and playing in the backyard, Karl Jungbluth was already contributing original research on bird behavior. Karl had always been interested in nature, but when he was in junior high, he embarked upon a nesting survey in the woods behind his home. "I listened for birds and looked for the nests; I did it all on a grid system," he states matter-of-factly. He ended up writing it up for a school project. His interest in birding has never flagged.

Karl grew up in northern Ohio and came from a family who enjoyed nature. "We were an early nature family," he admits, "before it became fashionable." He attended college in Madison, Wisconsin, where he first became involved with the National Audubon Society. "I sold a lot of bird seed," he remembers, "but I also had a chance to visit the famous Horicon Marsh, and to learn warblers, which I had never really identified until then."

While finishing his master's degree in meteorology, Karl moved to Alaska to begin work as a weather forecaster. He was able to combine business with the pursuit of nature, and did quite a bit of backpacking in the summer. Karl realized he had literally stumbled into a birder's paradise. "So many things you saw there were exotic by many people's standards." One memorable experience involved hiking up Tattler Creek to find a wandering tattler. They eventually found their bird. Another not so memorable experience attests to the unpredictability in the weather that everyone who visits Alaska experiences. "I travelled out to Cold Bay at the end of May, way out on the Alaskan Peninsula," he recalls, "but it was 28 degrees and snowing the whole time." Even meteorologists can be fooled by the weather.

While in Kansas City, Karl first developed an interest in the effects that bird migrations have on weather radar. "I was one of the first to get interested in this," he thinks. "Several of us were trying to convince others that birds were actually contaminating Doppler radar," he adds. "We wrote some papers on it, and it is now part of a standard weather forecasting algorithm." Karl moved to Iowa three years ago, and is the chief scientist at the National Weather Service office in Johnston. Karl runs over to the Ledges State Park, which is literally right out his back door, with his wife Carmen whenever he can. He also continues to watch his radar for birds. "The past few nights I could see them taking off from the reservoirs south of here," he says. He looks forward to the presentation that he will be giving in May on birding by radar.

From those earliest days of backyard birding, Karl Jungbluth has always been a true original.

## Board Happenings

*Joyce Bahrenfus, Secretary*

Since the last newsletter, there have been two board meetings, March 2 and April 6. The next board meeting will be in the summer. Excerpts from each follow.

**March 2.** Committee reports to the board included, Conservation—the Polk County Conservation Board gave an OK to the DOT Plan to widen Highway 65 through Engeldinger Marsh. Mitigation will be required. Acres of land will be added to the marsh complex on the north and west to help stop erosion into the marsh. A Corps permit is still necessary before widening can begin. Membership—our Chapter was awarded a \$25 certificate to be used for Audubon merchandise for our membership efforts. Special Projects—Karl reported on the site location for a bird feeding station at the Y Camp. The new Visitor Center will be east of the tracks. The Conservation Board is planning to help with prairie plantings. Plans to possibly burn the Mortensen Mound were discussed. Nominations Committee—Sherry Dragula, Kevin Healy, and Karl Jungbluth was appointed. Joyce will be stepping down as Secretary and Rebecca will be leaving the Board. Budget Committee—Paul Ovrom, Mark Widrechner, and Mary Doud.

**April 6.** Nominations for the new board were taken and the budget was proposed for the 1997-1998 year. They are found elsewhere in the newsletter. A draft of a Participation Survey was passed around for suggestions. It will be filled out at the April and May meetings as an assessment tool. This is the last board meeting for the 1996-1997 year.

**Did you know**—suet won't go "bad" in the summer. In the winter, raw beef fat from the local butcher is all you need for your suet feeder. When the temperatures rise, raw fat can melt, and get rancid. It's safer to use commercially rendered suet cakes in the spring and summer months. Rendering, boiling the fat, kills bacteria. And yes, it's okay to feed your woodpeckers year-round. They will visit your feeders all summer long, and they'll bring their babies.

## Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee submits the following slate of candidates for election at the May meeting of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society: President—Stan Cyran, Vice-President—Kay Niyo, Secretary—Mary Doud, Treasurer—Paul Ovrom, for a two-year Board term: Carol Berrier and Jon Pohlman. Thanks to Sherry Dragula, Kevin Healey, and Karl Jungbluth. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## Conservation Corner

Sherry Dragula, Conservation Chair

At the March general meeting of the BBAS, an Iowa bill to allow multipurpose trail building by private groups on Corps of Engineers' land managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was discussed. This bill would have subjected some environmentally sensitive lands to erosion and made no provisions for environmental impact. Fortunately, the bill has been withdrawn by its sponsor after a meeting with DNR staff and public input, including members from the BBAS.

The Prairie Learning Center at Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge will celebrate its dedication on Saturday, April 12, 1997 from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. "Teddy Roosevelt" will host the dedication program at noon. The Learning Center includes the "Return to Wildness" theater, a 13,000 square foot exhibit hall and the Prairie Point Gift Shop. Music, poetry, talks, hikes, and games are scheduled. To reach the Prairie Learning Center—coming from the west at the junction of I-35 and 80, go east on I-80 about 3 miles to Highway 65 exit. Take Highway 65 south to Highway 163. At Highway 163, turn east and go about 15 miles to Prairie City. On the east side of Prairie City, turn south on County S6G. Continue south 2 miles and turn west at 96th Avenue. Take 96th Avenue about 1.5 miles to Pacific Street and continue about 1.5 miles to the Prairie Learning Center.

Speaking of wildlife refuges, the "Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Legacy Act" (H.R. 952) has been introduced in the U.S. Congress by Representative George Miller (D-CA). Please write your Congressperson and ask him/her to cosponsor H.R. 952. The bill would:

- reaffirm that the purpose of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to conserve the nation's diversity of fish and wildlife and related habitats,

- recognize that wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, and environmental education are appropriate public uses on many of the refuges and direct that such uses should take priority over other activities,

- codify policies put in place several years ago to make "compatibility" decisions on which particular uses will be allowed on individual refuges, to base such decisions on sound science, and to ensure the public has an opportunity to review and comment, and

- requires the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Refuge System in a manner that fulfills its wildlife conservation purposes and its potential to monitor the status and trends of the nations' fish and wildlife populations.

Your Congressperson can be reached at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

## Iowa Audubon Council Approves State Audubon Office Plan

On April 5, 1997, the Council approved a Strategic Plan for Audubon in Iowa. It states the mission of Iowa Audubon is to promote enjoyment, protection and restoration of Iowa's natural ecosystems with a focus on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. The Plan goes on to state that attention to the goals of advocacy, education, chapter/membership services, and communication/outreach is critical to the accomplishment of this mission. Accordingly, a state field office will be established and an Executive Director hired. The plan also calls for the hiring of an Office Manager and a Development Director. The hiring process and finding a suitable location for the office will begin immediately.

If you would like further information, contact Karl Jungbluth (515-432-5057, e-mail: karl.a.jungbluth@noaa.gov) or Sherry Dragula (515-233-1532, E-mail: mpwskd@aol.com).

## Bird Chat

Dear B.C.:

I hope the zookeeper sends this and you respond, 'cause I'm getting very concerned. You see, spring is the prime time to find babes. Me being down in Florida and spring break and all that, I'm finding I'm not as attractive as the guys outside the zoo. I'm doing this molt'n thing and my new threads, I mean feathers, are not as pink as before. The guys on the outside told me this is a food thing. Is this true and what can I tell my zookeeper so I don't lose my spring fling? *No longer P. Flamingo.*

Dear No longer P.:

Your friends on the outside are right—it is a "food thing." The pinkness of flamingos is determined by food, but not by pink shellfish. The factors in the flamingo diet that insure pinkness are carotenoid pigments which are found in plankton, diatoms, and blue-green algae the birds strain out of the muck in which they feed. The birds process yellow carotene into a red compound, canthaxanthin, which is stored in their legs and feathers.

If flamingos do not get enough of the right pigment, they lose their color when they molt. The color is important, because flamingos do not seem to breed successfully without it. In captivity, they were once fed ground-up carrots and red pepper to keep them in the pink, but now zookeepers try to reproduce their natural diet or give them synthetic canthaxanthin, according to *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology*. I suggest you show this letter to your zookeeper and wish you a successful spring. *B.C.*

## Kitchen Goodies for Your Birds

Ready your summer birdfeeders—spring and summer's visitors are in flight! Many birds eat the same thing humans. Different birds eat different foods and some birds don't like to eat with other birds. If your yard is large enough, I suggest placing feeders in certain areas to discourage fighting and to encourage more birds. Thistle feeders can be placed on one side of the yard, a flythrough feeder in the middle, with some nectar feeders on the other side. Suet feeders should be placed where they won't be in the sunshine or be bothersome is the suet drips. The basic staples in the spring and summer are niger thistle, canary seed, cracked corn, sunflower seeds, and kitchen foods.

### Kitchen foods

Slices of *apple*, impaled on a nail, will attract a variety of birds, including gray catbirds, blue jays, and American robins. If you get the birds started in spring, they will visit your apple feeding station all summer, and they may bring their young to the feeder after they fledge.

*Orange* halves are attractive to northern orioles, red-headed woodpeckers, and red-bellied woodpeckers. Cut the orange in half and impale each piece on a nail so the birds can feed on the orange juice. Orioles eat orange halves primarily during the first two weeks after they return in May. After that, they strongly prefer *grape jelly*.

During the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May, *bananas* in your feeders during the spring migration along with *apple* slices, *orange* halves, day-old *bread*, broken

*cookies*, *biscuits*, *cornbread*, crushed *egg shells*, and a meal-worm dish will be irresistible to the many Neotropical migrants passing through. Try a slice of *watermelon*, you might be surprised!

*Raisins* and dried *currants* are eaten by eastern bluebirds, gray catbirds, northern mockingbirds, American robins, summer tanagers, brown thrashers, northern cardinals, and white-crowned sparrows.

Don't throw away your *egg shells*. Dried out and crushed, egg shells offer calcium. Purple martins like them.

### Nectar or sugar water

Sugar water can be used in nectar feeders to attract ruby-throated hummingbirds, northern orioles, white-breasted nuthatches, and downy woodpeckers. This solution simulates the nectar that birds obtain from flowers. Hummingbird nectar is easy to make.

Boil four parts water with one part cane sugar. Let the mixture cool. Then, fill your nectar feeder and place the rest of the solution in the refrigerator. In extremely hot weather, the nectar can spoil in two or three days. The water will be cloudy and a black fungus will develop. Red food coloring is unnecessary and may not be good for the birds.

NOTE: This information and the chick water oriole feeder (p. 7) have been taken from *Wild About Birds. The DNR Bird Feeding Guide*. (1995) Minnesota DNR. It can be purchased from Brekke's Town & Country.]

## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Budget

Income	Estimated 96-97	Proposed 97-98
National Audubon Rebate	1455	1740
Newsletter/Donations	207	110
Audubon Adventures Donations	55	100
Brekke's Coupons	155	150
Bird's of Story County	287	100
Birding Class	41	50
Interest Earned on Checking Account	10	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>2210</b>	<b>2265</b>
Expenses		
Newsletter	1333	1050
Audubon Adventures Subscriptions (14)	420	490
Iowa Audubon Council	100	175
IRS Tax Exemption Fee	150	0
Programs (Speaker's Dinner)	25	35
Insurance	226	226
Administration (copies, postage)	15	50
Conservation Committee (copies for meetings)	0	30
30th Anniversary Celebration	0	100
Story County Conservation Board	41	50
Miscellaneous	0	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>2310</b>	<b>2240</b>

## Audubon Celebrates American Wetlands Month!

May has been designated American Wetlands Month by the Environmental Protection Agency. To celebrate this time, chapter and local wetlands leaders are reaching out to their congressional members to make sure they know the value of wetlands. We have been invited to participate in this exciting new project!

Based on the early efforts of several Audubon chapters to educate public officials about the importance of wetlands, the Audubon Wetlands Campaign is setting a goal of getting 100 members of Congress to visit wetlands with their constituents.

In the 104th Congress, vital legal protections for our nation's wetlands were threatened by the infamous "dirty water bill," passed by the House of Representatives, which would have reduced protections for 70% of our nation's wetlands. The new 105th Congress will likely be taking up Clean Water Act reauthorization again and Audubon must ensure that Congress now focuses on *improving*, not *weakening*, this keystone environmental law.

Congressional members are currently under pressure from developers and agricultural interests to weaken the Clean Water Act. Many are under the impression that wetlands protection is burdensome to landowners and is not an issue of concern to the public. The other side of the story needs to be told, and it is best told locally! If you know of any wetlands that need protecting or wetlands projects for the BBAS to consider, please contact our Conservation Chairperson, Sherry Dragula. More information will be available at the April and May meetings.

Let's make this spring a time to remember for wetlands conservation! Celebrate American Wetlands Month!

## Boone County Birders—Attention!

It was announced at the March BBAS meeting that possibly in 2-3 years there will begin compilation of a book, similar to the *Birds of Polk County* and the *Birds of Story County* for Boone County. Now is the time to start a journal if you haven't and collect information for this very important document.

## Master Conservationist Program

The Master Conservationist Program is designed for individuals who are interested in conservation but have had little training in the conservation field. Participants in the program are required to attend 30 hours of classes in various disciplines of conservation and satisfactorily complete a community service project requiring a minimum of 32 hours of research, planning, design, and/or implementation. It will be held on Tuesday nights for eight weeks. Sessions begin at 6 p.m. and end at 10 p.m., including a meal break provided by local sponsors. Sessions will include lecture and discussion, and involve hands-on experiences in the field.

Participants will receive detailed Iowa-specific background information, helpful application and management techniques, and various perspectives on human impacts and implications.

Registration by mail or in person is on a first-come, first-served basis. Class size is limited to 30 participants. Registration fee is \$25. Deadline for registration is May 9, 1997. Graduate and undergraduate credits are offered through ISU. CEUs are offered through ISU. Staff development credit for teachers is offered through Heartland AEA.

For more information, contact Mary Born at the Story County Conservation Center at (515) 232-2516.



The Big Bluestem Audubon Society has volunteered to sponsor a potluck for the participants and the BBAS servers, about 40 people, on June 17. We need your help for this endeavor. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Stan Cyran (515) 292-4876.

## *Birds of Story County*

There are still a few *Birds of Story County* available for purchase and will be available at the April and May BBAS meetings. The book is also available for purchase at Brekke's Town and Country.

## Position Available

Wichita Audubon Society has an opening for a full time naturalist. The naturalist will act as manager of the Chaplin Nature Center, initiate and conduct nature and environmental education programs, provide tours, encourage visitation, and engage in activities to increase the public awareness, appreciation, and activities at the center. *Residence at the nature center is required.* For more information contact Gerald Wiens, Chaplin Nature Center, Rt. 1; Box 216, Arkansas City, KS 67005 (316) 442-4133.



## New Toll-free Number for Reporting Bird Bands

Anyone identifying or recovering a bird band can now call a toll-free number to report it. The number, 800-327-BAND, can be called from anywhere in the U.S., Canada, and most parts of the Caribbean. The number was developed by the National Biological Survey, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

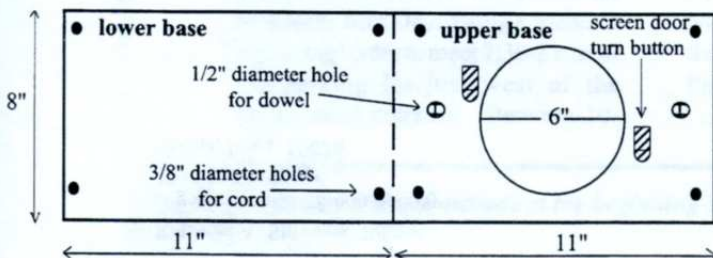
[Source: *Chesapeake Bay Journal*, 12/96.]

*The nest of the American goldfinch is so thick-walled, it will hold water. Untended nestlings have been known to drown in the nest during rainstorms.*

## Build a Chick-waterer Oriole Feeder

Have fun with the kids or a friend building this easy to make chick-waterer oriole feeder and try out the nectar recipe on page 5. Materials you will need—one board 1"x8"x22"; 1/2" diameter dowel 6" long, "S" hook to suspend feeder, chick waterer, 2 turn screen door turn buttons to hold waterer in place, and 2 nylon or poly cords 45" long each. Tools you need are a jigsaw, a drill with 1/2" and 3/8" bits, glue, 6 screws, pencil, and ruler.

Set your jigsaw blade to the same angle as that on the plastic feeder base, so the feeder will fit snugly into the base. Trace the feeder base outline onto the upper base. Drill a half-inch starter hole so you can insert the saw blade. Cut out the hole. Put the lower base under the portion with the hole and fasten them together with glue and screws. Place screen door turn buttons on the top to hold the feeder base in place. Drill holes one inch from the corners to attach the ropes. Add dowels, sharpened at the ends, to hold orange halves.



## Book Review

*National Audubon Society Interactive CD-ROM Guide to North American Birds*, 1996. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

This issue's book includes a CD-ROM which is the most important aspect. This richly visual, multimedia experience provides all the resources you will need to familiarize yourself with North American birds. See 723 birds and 62 habitats in 2,100 color photographs and 700 range maps. Hear 700 vocalizations provided by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Read the text of the *National Audubon Society Field Guides to North American Birds*, *Nature Guides*, and *Master Guides to Birding*. View 5 QuickTime™ video essays on bird behavior—all on 6,000 screens. The CD runs on PC: Windows™ 3.1 or 95, and Macintosh.



## Clip and Join

Do you have a friend who has a burning desire to learn about birds and the natural world, and wants to meet other like-minded individuals? Or, are you looking for that unique and special gift? Don't wait any longer, just clip the membership application form below and send it in.



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

**Continued page 1—Coming Field Trips**

opportunity to introduce someone new to the joys of birding! This will be a trip to the Ledges State Park near Boone and it will be a joint venture with the Des Moines Audubon group. Trip leader, Karl Jungbluth (515-432-5057).

11- Warbler and wildflower walk at McFarland Park. Celebrate Mother's Day with a walk to enjoy the migrating warblers and the many wildflowers. Meet at McFarland Park parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Trip leader, Stan Cyran (515-292-4876).

17- Canoe and birding trip to Don Williams Lake near Ogden. Everyone will be responsible for providing the canoe and canoe partner. No rental canoes are available at the lake. There are rental canoes available in the Ames area. Call Jon Bahrenfus (515-432-3396) for more information on canoe rentals. This trip will leave from the ISU Design Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Trip leader, Mike Meetz (515-382-2534).

**June**

7- The annual birders' breakfast will be held at the Ledges State Park near Boone. We will meet at the upper part of the park near the shelter houses at 7:30 a.m. (Drive past the campground at the northeast entrance and stop before the road heads down hill.)

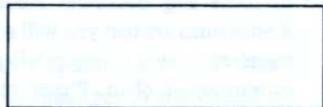
Don't forget to bring your breakfast. We will bird for about an hour and then we will eat. Trip leader, Jon Bahrenfus (515-432-3396).

**International Migratory Bird Day**

Saturday, May 10, 1997 is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). It is always the second Saturday of May. It's never too early to begin planning a welcome back to the migratory birds in the spring. This year the BBAS will have a field trip. (See page 1 of this newsletter for details.)

IMBD celebrates spring and the return of millions of migratory birds to their breeding areas. This is a chance to share your passion for birds and renew your commitment to conserving birds and their habitat. Although most migratory birds are still abundant, many species are at risk due to loss of habitat throughout the Western Hemisphere. IMBD is your opportunity to herald these fearless fliers as they return and raise awareness about birds. We encourage you to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day and join Karl Jungbluth and others.

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



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