



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 33 Number 2

November/December 1997

Featured Speaker—November 20 meeting: *Ty Smedes, "The Best of Brazil Photo Tour"*

Ty will be presenting the results of a Nature Photo Tour that he co-led last August to some of the very best natural areas of Brazil; the Pantanal, largest wetland in the world, with birds ranging in size from the ostrich-sized rhea to the tiny pigmy kingfisher, and including endangered macaws; Caraca Natural Park, a jungle area with many exotic birds and unusual maned wolves; Caratinga Biological Station, one of the last remaining biological islands in the Atlantic Rain Forest, which features rare primates, including brown howlers and the muriqui, of which only 600 remain in the wild; and, Iguaca Falls, widest in the world (1.8 miles), with a wide array of exotic butterflies and birds, including toucans, plush-crested jays, and great dusky swifts.

Ty Smedes is a freelance nature photographer, who also teaches photography and leads photo tours. He has done extensive work for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Iowa DNR, and the *Iowa Magazine*. His photos have been featured in the *Iowa Sesquicentennial* and *Song of Iowa Books*.

BBAS Holiday for the Birds—December 18 meeting

This is the annual Audubon Holiday for people and birds. John Snyder will moderate the evening which begins at 7:00 p.m. The BBAS Bird Holiday will be held at the Story County Conservation Center in McFarland Park. Bring 5-10 slides, a treat to share, and a contribution of money or seed for the Center's feeders. We'll make plans for the Ames, Boone, and Saylorville Christmas Bird Counts, which follow in the next two weeks. Check the calendar for the exact dates. If you need directions to the Story County Conservation Center, please call John or any of the BBAS board members. See you there!!

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!

If you would like to meet and dine with the speaker and the BBAS board before the monthly meeting, there is a limited number of reservations available. Please call John Snyder at 232-8824 to confirm space and location.

Coming Field Trips: November & December

Kevin Healy, Field Trip Chair

November

8—Kay Niyo will lead a trip to the Runnells wildlife area. Meet Kay at the ISU Design Center at 0800. Call her at 233-8803 for more information. kniyo@aol.com

21—Saylorville Christmas Bird Count.

January

1—Boone Christmas Bird Count.

December

20—Ames Christmas Bird Count.

See page 2 for more details on all Christmas Bird Counts.

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Bird Term of the Month: Allen's Rule: *The observation that within a species, protruding parts such as tails, ears, and bills all tend to be shorter in colder climates, and longer in warm climates, an adaptation that allows animals in cold climates to lose heat less rapidly.*

As the Crow Flies . . .

Stan Cyran, President

As the leaves turn to red and orange and yellow, and night air begins to chill, many of us are preparing to feed our feathered visitors over the long cold winter. Those who purchase bird seed and other bird products will be able to contribute to BBAS activities, including the award winning *Audubon Adventures*, simply by clipping the coupons included in this newsletter and presenting them to Brekke's Town & Country Store when making their purchase. Brekke's has again agreed to donate to BBAS when bird seed and bird products are purchased. Last year we were able to fund 14 *Audubon Adventures* classrooms! Please help us to make this program a continued success.

Newsletter readers will notice that the "Birder of the Month" in this newsletter has been replaced by "Birder of the Year." This is a one time change which was decided upon by the board of directors to honor Florence Olyphant, a former member of BBAS who recently passed away. Florence is remembered not only for the enthusiasm that she brought to birding and to BBAS, but also for her decision to have memorial gifts directed to Big Bluestem Audubon Society. This unprecedented act is a great honor for our organization, and funds will be used to purchase a new spotting scope and tripod, which the club badly needs. Donations to BBAS, as always, are fully tax deductible, to the extent allowable by law. We welcome any others who want to remember Florence or simply contribute to this worthy cause. And speaking of worthy causes, we will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful numbered print of a peregrine falcon at the next two general meetings. We hope to announce the winner at the holiday party. Proceeds will support peregrine falcon efforts in Iowa.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

Officers:

- President: Stan Cyran 292-4876 scyran@pol.net
- Vice-President: Kay Niyo 233-8803 kniyo@aol.com
- Secretary: Mary Doud 296-2178
- 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
- John Pohlman 232-6816

Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zalatel 382-5427 birdhank@aol.com
- Awards Chair: Stan Cyran
- Conservation Chair: Sherry Dragula 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Education Co-Chairs: Carol and Galin Berrier
- Field Trip Chair: Kevin Healy
- Fund Raising Co-Chairs: Kay Niyo and Stan Cyran
- Membership Chair: Mark Widriechner 233-1532 mpwskd@aol.com
- Program Chair: John Snyder 232-8824 JESnyder@ix.netcom.com
- Publicity Chair: Mary Doud 296-2178
- Publications and Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivvers 292-0691 shivvers@amewslab.gov
- Special Publications Chair: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396
- 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

Christmas Bird Counts

Dave Edwards

The Ames, Saylorville, and Boone Christmas Bird Counts are among the 1700 sponsored by the National Audubon Society each year. Volunteers from all states, Canadian provinces, and other international sites will record every individual bird and bird species encountered during one calendar day. Each count has a designated circle area 15 miles in diameter.

The data collected by each count group are sent to National Audubon where they are compiled in a special book-sized edition of *National Audubon Society Field Notes* magazine. This provides useful information on the changes in distribution of the bird species for researchers and is part of the National Biological Service's database. It provides valuable insights into the past and present status and health of bird populations and their environments.

We need your help. Persons of all skill levels are invited to participate. In our local counts, groups of 2 to 5 are assigned to areas, including an experienced leader in each. Other volunteers are asked to keep a watch at their feeders periodically during that day and report their totals as well. There is a fee of \$5 for being a part of a field count (but not for feederwatchers) used to underwrite the costs of the national compilation and publication.

The Ames Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 20, 1997. Organizers are David Edwards (292-3790) and Michael Meetz (382-2534). At the end of the count day we will meet at David and Jeanne Edwards' home, 2308 State Avenue, for a tally and chili supper. The Saylorville Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, December 21, 1997. The contact is Jim Dinsmore (292-3152). The Boone Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for January 1, 1998, organized by Mark Widriechner (233-1532). The Boone territory includes such interesting birding areas as Holst State Forest, the Iowa Arboretum, and Ledges State Park.

Feederwatchers for any count are asked to call count organizers for materials and instructions. We often get several species of birds at feeders that are not seen in the field. We need your help.

Hawks at McFarland Park

Kevin Healy

I sat on the grassy hill overlooking the Skunk River valley from 1230 to 1600 on September 28. Clear to partly cloudy, temperature in low 70s, WNW wind 10-20 mph.

Northern Harrier	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	32
Red-tailed Hawk	10	Broad-winged Hawk	4
Osprey	1	American Kestrel	1
Cooper's Hawk	2	Turkey Vulture	3
Merlin	1		

I'm not sure how the numbers compare with a similar afternoon at Grammer Grove, but I felt like it was a good 3 1/2 hours close to home.



Birder of the Year Conservation Corner

Sherry Dragula, Conservation Chair

by Stan Cyran

This is a special column this month dedicated to the memory of a longtime BBAS member and supporter.

Members of Big Bluestem Audubon Society, as well as members of the Ames community noted the recent passing of Florence Olyphant. Florence was a rare individual of great capacity who is remembered by many of us for the time she spent with BBAS. Born and raised in Elmira, New York, Florence became interested in birding and nature at a very early age, and her interest never waned. Judy Hughes remembers that her mother was always teaching her and her brother about nature and birding. When she was in her fifties, and finished with the rigors of child rearing, Florence moved from Bucks County, Pennsylvania back to Elmira, where she joined the local chapter of the Audubon Society. Judy remembers that her mother "did everything," from Christmas counts to projects monitoring bird populations. Florence travelled extensively, including Europe several times, Alaska, Egypt, and Kenya, and in each place that she travelled, she compiled a bird list. From her travels in Africa alone, Judy remembers that Florence added several hundred more birds to her life list. Florence moved to Ames eleven years ago, to be closer to her daughter. She joined Big Bluestem Audubon Society right away and again became quite active in local birding and conservation activities.

Florence had many other interests as well, and to each one she added that same special blend of energy, intellect, and love. She was a superb quilter and exhibited her work at the local senior citizen's center, where her talents apparently spread far and wide (the publisher of the *Iowan* purchased several of her works). She loved baseball and tennis, and volunteered at McFarland Park teaching children, as well as at Mary Greeley Medical Center, the Ames Public Library, and Roosevelt and Northwood elementary schools. Although birding was just one of Florence's interests, it was also something quite special for her. Several years ago she decided that she wished to have memorial gifts directed to the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. She never changed her mind. Members of BBAS have decided that a particularly appropriate use of the memorial funds would be to purchase a new spotting scope and tripod. Experienced birders will appreciate it, to be sure, but perhaps more importantly, there will be no better way to introduce new birders to the beauty of our feathered friends.

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society has never before celebrated a Birder of the Year, but then there has never before been an individual quite like Florence Olyphant.

Senate Bill Will Weaken the Endangered Species Act

Senate 1180, a bill to Reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, would weaken key protections for wildlife. Unless changes are made to this legislation, and funding for new programs guaranteed, it will undermine our nation's key wildlife law.

S. 1180 by Senators Kempthorne, Chafee, Baucus, and Reid would add complicated, speculative, and costly requirements to both listing of species and recovery planning. The bill includes provisions that will severely curtail Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service oversight of federal agency activities that impact endangered and threatened species. It will also codify the scientifically controversial "no surprises" policy that allows landowners to enter into long-term agreements to use or develop species habitat.

A number of positive, proactive incentive programs that would encourage landowners to conserve species are included in S. 1180. However, these programs do not come with assured sources of funding.

A better approach to reauthorization of the E.S.A. is embodied in the House bill, H.R. 2351. The House bill will help landowners by providing tax incentives and includes creative and proactive programs to encourage species conservation on private lands. It will strengthen approval standards for activities that take species or their habitats to ensure they are consistent with that species' recovery.

Please call or write your Senators and urge them to work for changes to S. 1180 that will strengthen the Endangered Species Act. You can call them toll free at 1-800-723-5246 or write them at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

(Excerpted from An Action Alert from the National Audubon Society.)

Did you know?

The Gray Catbird is on the WatchList. Its habitat is deciduous forests and riparian woodlands, and is often near human habitation. Its threats are large numbers killed by colliding with towers during migration, frequently hit by vehicles along roadways, loss of breeding habitat due to elimination of hedgerows surrounding agricultural fields, and exploding human population growth and development on wintering grounds leading to loss of wintering habitat.

Hanging Pop Bottle Feeder

(Adapted from *Wild About Birds, Minnesota DNR*)

This bird feeder was tested last summer in Marion County with super success. In fact, the goldfinches ignored the \$16 store-bought cedar Niger feeder to fight over two of these pop bottle feeders. Subsequent testing in Boone County with larger opening for black sunflower seeds has also been successful.

To build these feeders, you need a plastic pop bottle, a stick or 3/8-inch dowel, a hook or swaggle for the holder, a sharp knife, and a drill with a 3/8-inch bit. These feeders are very economical and can help recycle the plastic pop bottles found along the roadsides. A simple refilling funnel can be made from another bottle by cutting it in half.

The bottle feeders can be made by drilling a 3/8-inch diameter hole about 1-1/2" from the bottom through opposite sides of the pop bottle. Using either a dowel or a straight stick, insert it through the holes so about 3 inches extend on both sides of the bottle. Approximately 1-1/2 to 2 inches above the perches, drill a hole or cut a hole with a knife about 3/16 in diameter for Niger seed. For sunflower seeds, the hole should be large enough for the bird to get the seed out, approximately 3/8 inch. To attach the bottle to a tree or other place, drill a hole in the cap large enough for a hook or swaggle bolt. The holder can be placed either on the bottom or the top. However, placing it on the top makes the feeder easier to remove and fill, by unscrewing the lid from the bottle, while it is hanging from the tree. The above instructions for the perch are for the lid hanging feeder. Reverse the instructions for a bottom hanging feeder. When refilling the bottle, it is best to fill about half full and shake the bird seed. This allows the older seed to mix with the newer. Then fill to the top and rehang the feeder.

If any of you build these, I am interested in knowing what type of feeder and the types of birds you have coming to these feeders.

Hardware Cloth Pheasant Feeder

Since a heavy snow storm has come and gone and pheasant hunting season is here until January 10, 1998, some of you may want to help the pheasants. Another simple feeder that works well to feed pheasants and wild turkeys during the winter is a cylinder of 1/2-inch mesh hardware cloth rolled to create a double thickness of wire. A single layer of this wire mesh allows the corn kernels to flow out too freely.

To make this feeder, purchase a piece of 1/2-inch mesh hardware cloth that is 65 to 75 inches long and 3 feet wide. Roll the wire into a cylinder that is approximately 10 to 12 inches in diameter. Keep rolling the wire to create a double thickness, and then fasten the role with small wire fasteners or hog rings. Attach this to a square piece of exterior scrap wood that is at least 24 inches on a side to make a base for the feeder. Place the cylinder in the center of the board and draw an outline of the circle created by the wire. After removing the wire, drill several pairs of holes about 1/2-inch apart. Next, attach the cylinder with wire through these holes. Place the plywood on four bricks to discourage mice and voles from living underneath. (*Wild About Birds, Minnesota DNR, p. 207*)

Notes From the Field

Kevin Healy, *Field Trip Chair*

Grammer Grove

Eleven birders joined Beth and Mark Proescholdt at Grammer Grove for a satisfying day of birding. Mark began our day with a brief talk covering field marks for hawks in flight. Beth let us look through her library on raptor identification. The sky was overcast with a variable south wind. The temperature rose from 60F at 0900 to well over 70F by 1330. Hawk traffic was slow initially, leading Mark to suggest a walk down to the Iowa River. Highlights of the walk—a hunting sharp-shinned hawk; a winter wren and an immature house wren side-by-side in the same bush; a Philadelphia vireo and a black-throated blue warbler. Those who stayed topside with Beth were rewarded with a peregrine falcon. The party from Ames departed at 1400. We saw an osprey hunting over Hallet's Quarry on our way back to town.

NE Iowa Trip

Eight BBAS birders participated in the weekend trip to NE Iowa. Following a more or less healthy breakfast in Garnavillo, we set up scopes at Pike's Peak State Park, overlooking the intersection of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. Raptor activity was low, but short walks through the woods yielded Swainson's thrush and ruffed grouse. We broke for lunch at 1100 and reassembled in Bluffton. After a brief slapstick comedy routine (the Healy's erecting their tent, Kay Niyo playing straight person) we marched around the bluffs of Bluffton, hoping for a look at a peregrine falcon. A few of us got a brief look at one coursing down the Upper Iowa River.

The next morning an early rising camper in Bluffton was rewarded with a look at the peregrine falcon perched in a cottonwood tree on the west bank of the Upper Iowa River. After this brief glimpse came a longer look at a sharp-shinned hawk interacting with a flock of blue jays in some scrubby woods along the river. Our trip concluded with a visit to Bob Anderson's Raptor Resource Project. Bob has a dozen breeding peregrine falcons. He has been a key player in reintroducing the birds to the upper Midwest and is now working on establishing a breeding population on the river bluffs near Bluffton. His hope is that hatchery-raised birds that fledge from the bluffs will imprint on this habitat as an appropriate nesting area. Bob is a gracious host and has dedicated years of work to the welfare of the peregrine falcon.

Chichaqua Wildlife Area

Loren Lown led ten birders on a walk through the sand hill area of Chichaqua. We got some fabulous looks at Le Conte's Sparrows and saw a total of nine sparrow species. Loren talked about the geology and history of the Chichaqua Wildlife Area and told us of his plans for land aquisition. Chichaqua is only a 35-minute drive from Ames and a valuable resource for all of central Iowa.

In the beginning . . .

Since we will be celebrating our first thirty years, I think it is appropriate to recall the first year through the minutes of the meetings. The first minutes begin . . .

On June 18, 1968, in room 124 Kildee Hall, President Ben Bereskin opened the Ames Audubon Society meeting with 15 people present. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was received and placed on the blackboard for later reference.

A letter [from] Louise Whitcombe of the Ames City Council was read; also a letter from our member Mrs. McConnell stating that she would be available later to present a program. Two more letters were noted: one from the National Society and one from our member Mrs. Elwell concerning an Ames Conservation Council. Mrs. Elwell was appointed to represent our Society at the Ames Conservation Council's meeting of various local groups.

The purchasing of membership cards was discussed. Dr. Morgan's motion that we have 500 cards printed on light green, heavy weight paper from the Art Press, at the cost of \$6.00 was unanimously passed. It was also agreed to purchase a stamp of the club's name and city for \$1.00.

The proposed constitution was discussed in part. Some of the topics under consideration were the use of the word 'corporation', the number of officers, the date of meetings, the process of becoming a member and the number of people on the board of directors. It was moved, seconded, and passed that a board of directors of four be chosen to meet with the officers to go over the constitution in more detail, and make what changes they considered helpful. The purchasing of a mimeograph [sic] machine was mentioned.

Nominations for two two-year board members and two one-year board members were taken. Elected for the two-year terms were Dr. Alftine and Dr. Miller, for the one-year terms Dr. Morgan and Mrs. Miller. It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn.

A program consisting of a recording of James Audubon's biography was presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Gerald Robinson



Bobolink

S.J. Lang/MREO

Board Happenings

Mary Doud, Secretary

On October 5, Board members met at Kay Niyo's house. The August 3 meeting minutes were approved. *Old Business*—Upcoming programs and field trips were discussed. There was some discussion about ways *Audubon Adventures* can be better publicized to raise awareness and also generate more donations. The National Resource Conservation Services may be interested in acquiring some *Audubon Adventures* materials for educational purposes. Karl Jungbluth will get more details regarding this inquiry. The details of our permit will change with our "not for profit/tax exempt" status.

The IOU Spring Meeting was discussed. We are planning a Friday night reception that would include exhibits about our organization and its history. We plan to serve refreshments and possibly provide some background music. We hope to invite past founders, board members, and other supporters of BBAS. Our group may be providing field trip leaders. We would like to do a press release announcing the IOU spring meeting and our 30th anniversary celebration.

Sherry informed the board about the recent happenings of the Iowa Audubon Council meeting held October 4. Kevin Healy reported that AmesNet does not have the facilities to provide a listserv for birding by computer. He will contact Anne Johnson regarding a bulletin board for birders and a birding page. There was also discussion of putting the Christmas bird count data up on the web.

Special projects include the Brookside Park Trail. A field trip is needed in the future to determine the routing of the trail. A guide has already been developed by an Eagle Scout and markers placed by a scout troop. Support for the Raptor Resource Project ideas involve raffling the print obtained from Bob Anderson at \$5/ticket to generate funds for this project. In addition, a possible chapter project that could evolve from the Raptor Project would be to provide nesting poles in the area for ospreys.

The next meeting will be December 14, at Kay Niyo's home.

If you would like to help on any committee, contact the chairperson, or if you have any concerns, issues, or information you would like brought before the board, please give it to any board member at least one week before the next meeting so it will get on the agenda. Thanks.

Did you know?

The Bobolink is on the WatchList. Its habitat is grassy meadows, fields, and prairies. Its threats are habitat loss due to changing land-use practices, especially the decline of meadows and prairies, and the cutting of hayfields during peak nesting periods; predation on eggs and nest exposure due to flooding; and nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds.

Project FeederWatch

Now that winter is fast approaching [5 inches of snow on October 26] and we all have the Brekke's Town & Country coupons to splurge on bird feed and bird products to help support the BBAS, we can help out with Project FeederWatch. We'll be watching our backyards and feeders anyway and hopefully spring will come sooner.

What is Project FeederWatch?

It is a survey of birds at backyard feeders conducted by thousands of volunteers throughout North America. The project runs from November through March, when participants use a set protocol to count the kinds and numbers of birds that visit their feeders on one or two days every two weeks. FeederWatch data show how populations of winter birds are growing or shrinking, and how their continent-wide distributions are changing. Most participants are individual bird watchers. Participants pay an annual fee that covers project costs; they receive a "research packet" that includes an instruction booklet, data form booklet, bird identification poster, and tips for feedings and watching birds. Project reports are published in the quarterly newsletter, *Birdscope*, which all participants receive.

Project FeederWatch Details

Location: any bird feeder in the U.S. or Canada. **Commitments:** a few minutes to a few hours or even more—your choice. One or two-count period days every two weeks for as little or as much time as you want. **Skills:** the ability to identify feeder birds by sight. **Fees:** annual participation fee—\$15 U.S. funds. **Equipment:** the participant supplies bird feeder and food, binoculars are helpful. **Contact in the U.S. is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 148; 800/843-2473.**

Why are the FeederWatch data you collect important?

As our environment changes because of climatic shifts or human alterations to the landscape, bird populations may provide one of the best indicators of environmental health. But bird populations are dynamic—they change rapidly from place to place and from year to year. Data from a single location or a short-term study can be misleading unless we have comparable data from other areas and other years.

One comment that FeederWatchers often make is, "There were no birds at my feeders this winter; where did they all go? Did they decline everywhere? Or did observers in other states notice more birds than usual at their feeders?" As a Project FeederWatch participant, you contribute to a continent-wide perspective; this allows researchers to sort through the variability to detect true population changes. Researchers already detected a variety of changes. Some species are expanding their geographic ranges—for example, house finches are spreading in the East (where they were introduced in 1940), but not in the West. Certain southern species, such as the Carolina Wren, are steadily pushing northward, perhaps in response to climatic warming. A few other species, such as the introduced House Sparrow, are showing steady population declines. For many other species, such as the irruptive (wandering) winter finches, populations are so variable that it's too early to determine the long-term trends. Will redpoll invasions be as large 20 years from now as they were in the winter of 1994? Only time (and continued FeederWatching) will tell.

Addendum

I found this information on the web at <http://www.tc.cornell.edu/Birds/index.howto.html>. This site has much more information, including Tips for New FeederWatchers, Keeping a Birder's Journal, Alphabetical Index to Birds, Database Queries, and five Data Entry forms. For those who are interested, but do not have access to the internet, contact me and I will bring the information to the next program meeting.

Bird Chat

Dear B.C.:

I've been having a great first summer here in Iowa, especially the eighty plus weather in October. But I've heard the weather can change fast in Iowa. Since I don't want to get stuck in cold weather and snow, how will I know when to go south? I'm getting nervous.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

After the snowstorm we had today, I hope you didn't stick around waiting for this reply. However, in case you are waiting, you should be aware there are several ways birds know when to fly south in the winter or migration. Migration is a regular, periodic movement between two regions, usually a breeding area and a wintering area. The winds change with the seasons, one of the causes for birds to leave unsuitable areas to suitable areas. For many birds at the higher latitudes, migration is the rule. You may be aided by the moon, sun, stars, and the terrain as you fly down waterways and geographic landmarks in the corridor. I suggest next year you take this late start as experience and follow the others in a timely fashion or you may not make it.

B.C.

Source: *The National Audubon Society Interactive CD-ROM Guide to North American Birds.*



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.

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
e-mail _____ fax _____

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

Iowa Audubon Council Report

Sherry Dragula

On October 4, 1997, the Iowa Audubon Council met in Dubuque, Iowa. The Council's application for a state office has been completed and sent to National Audubon. National will be reviewing the application and at the same time a newly-formed Council Fundraising Committee will be looking into sources of funding for the Iowa Audubon state match of \$75,000. National will be funding the state office with \$75,000 per year for the first two years. It is likely that a state director will be hired before the state match is actually raised and the director will be responsible, in part, for securing funding for the state office.

The Fundraising Committee would very much appreciate each chapter's help in identifying local firms that might be approached by the committee for funding for a state Audubon office. Names of individuals from the chapter area who might be interested in hearing more about the state office and possibly contributing to it are also needed. If you have any ideas, please convey them to Sherry Dragula.

The Council is in the process of setting up a Board of Directors for the state office of Audubon in Iowa. Each Chapter will have one Chapter Representative to the Board of Directors. There will be an additional three Board members for At-large members of Audubon in Iowa and then up to eleven more Board members chosen on the basis of the expertise they bring to the Board. The Board will consider items brought to them by the

new state director and the Iowa Audubon Council. The board will be expected to assist in fundraising for the state office. Chapters should try to select their Representative to the Iowa Audubon Board of Directors by December 1, 1997.

A job announcement for the Iowa State Office Executive Director has been prepared (see page 8). Chapters should feel free to circulate the announcement to potential candidates, or inform your council representative about potential candidates.



Gray Catbird

Donate Dollars to Your Big Bluestem Audubon Society by Buying Bird Products

Brekke's Town & Country Store generously offers Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) a donation when bird seed and other bird products are purchased. Present these coupons with your purchase and a donation will be given to BBAS. Donations will fund habitat restoration; wilderness education; and *Audubon Adventures*, a bimonthly elementary classroom teaching program used in central Iowa schools.

Brekke's Town & Country Store, Inc.		Brekke's Town & Country Store, Inc.	
1 1/2 miles east of I-35 on new U.S. 30 and 1/4 mile north		1 1/2 miles east of I-35 on new U.S. 30 and 1/4 mile north	
Hours: 8-6 M-F, 8-4 Sat. (515) 232-7906		Hours: 8-6 M-F, 8-4 Sat. (515) 232-7906	
<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Donation</u>
up to \$15	\$1.50	up to \$15	\$1.50
\$15 and over	\$3.00	\$15 and over	\$3.00
\$35 and over	\$5.00	\$35 and over	\$5.00
over \$70	\$7.50	over \$70	\$7.50
<i>Offer good until February 28, 1998</i>		<i>Offer good until February 28, 1998</i>	

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IOWA STATE OFFICE, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

National Audubon Society seeks candidates for the position of Executive Director of its Iowa State Office. The Executive Director will be the chief executive officer for Audubon within Iowa responsible for the organization's overall performance in the state. The position will be based in or near Des Moines, Iowa and requires substantial travel throughout the state as well as occasional travel to other states to attend national meetings and events, and for fundraising.

This is a new position that follows the recommendations of the National Audubon Society Strategic Plan to strengthen our commitment to the conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats at the grassroots level. The Executive Director will be responsible for the growth, management, and integration of all Audubon programs within Iowa including communications, media relations, government affairs, environmental education, campaigns, wildlife policy, habitat restoration, science, sanctuaries, Audubon centers, private landowner outreach, and fundraising. The Executive Director should have extensive fundraising experience and the capacity to raise funds to sustain

and grow the state program.

The Executive Director must be able to work effectively with the Iowa Audubon Council, Audubon chapters, and volunteers to "create a culture of conservation at the community level." The Executive Director will develop opportunities for education, training, and support for volunteers to enable chapters to promote membership and achieve their conservation goals.

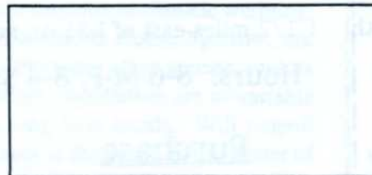
The Executive Director will also contribute to the Audubon mission and national agenda as a member of a team of state office executive directors throughout the country.

Please send inquiries to:

Glenn Olson, Field Director, National Audubon Society, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825. Telephone (916) 481-5332.

Newsletter Deadline: Friday, December 19, 1997 at 2 p.m.

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Rebecca A. Shivers, Editor
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