



# Big Bluestem Flyer

Newsletter of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Volume 36, Number 1

September/October 2000

## Upcoming Programs

### September 21—North to Alaska: *Birding in the 49th state*

Jim Dinsmore will lead off the 2000/2001 program year with an overview of his trip, covering some of the birds and other wildlife on his travels in Alaska this summer. This past June, Jim spent 12 days birding in Alaska, visiting Nome, Denali National Park (location of Mt. McKinley), and the Kenai Peninsula.

### October 19—Ospreys in Iowa

Pat Schlarbaum will show how the DNR is working with conservation organizations, other agencies and citizens to bring the Osprey to Iowa as a nesting bird. Since 1985, he has had the privilege of assisting barn owls, otters, prairie chickens, peregrin falcons, neotropical migrants, trumpeter swans, and most recently ospreys, and their habitats.

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.

## Osprey Introduction Project

On July 19, five young ospreys were placed in a hack tower in Jester Park as part of the osprey introduction project. "Hacking" is a process of holding young birds in an enclosure prior to fledging so they will bond or imprint with the area and return as breeding adults. The ultimate goal is to establish a breeding population of ospreys in Central Iowa. The osprey introduction program, a joint effort by the Boone

and Polk County Conservation Boards, the Iowa DNR, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, acquired the birds from the Minnesota DNR. As of August 6, three of the birds have fledged but are not yet catching fish, one bird died just after fledging (probably hit something when trying to



fly or land), and one has not yet fledged. Several nesting platforms will be placed along the western shore of Saylorville, one at Big Creek State Park, and another at the wildlife refuge near Polk City. Volunteers (including a number of BBAS members) have assisted with feeding the birds in the hack tower and in taking shifts to observe the birds. In late September, the ospreys should migrate to Central or northern South America where they will spend approximately 18 months before returning to the US to breed.

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## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Officers and Committees

### Officers:

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

### Board Members:

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

### Committee Chairs:

- Archivist: Hank Zalatel 382-5427 [madowl@nevia.net](mailto:madowl@nevia.net)
- Bird-a-thon Co-chairs: Karl and Carmen Jungbluth
- Conservation Chair: Linda Bystrak 597-3926  
[pbystrak@pcpartner.net](mailto:pbystrak@pcpartner.net)
- Education Chair: Open
- Field Trip Chair: Jeff Nichols 292-7521  
[jnichols1961@hotmail.com](mailto:jnichols1961@hotmail.com)
- Membership Chair: Mark Widrechner 233-1532  
[mpwskd@aol.com](mailto:mpwskd@aol.com)
- Program Chair: John Snyder 232-8824  
[jesnyder@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jesnyder@ix.netcom.com)
- Publicity Co-Chairs: Flo and Craig Ditzler 232-1967  
[craig-flo@isunet.net](mailto:craig-flo@isunet.net)
- Publications & Electronic Media Chair: Rebecca Shivvers 292-0691 [shivvers@ameslab.gov](mailto:shivvers@ameslab.gov)
- Special Publications Chair: Joyce Bahrenfus 432-3396

### BBAS Web Site:

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

### National Audubon Society Web Site:

<http://www.audubon.org>

### Iowa Audubon State Director:

Paul Zeph 515-727-4271 [pzeph@audubon.org](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:  
October 13—2 p.m.**



## Beyond the Backyard

Karl Jungbluth,  
President

It's mid-August as I write this, and the aerial jostling by the hummingbirds has become a constant of the backyard. A young male fans his tail and chases any other hummer that gets close to his favorite feeder. It's hot and dry, and soon my attention turns to the birdbath, where first one, then two, now four bluebirds stop by for a bath. They're joined by a female Baltimore Oriole, and an immature Eastern Phoebe bobs its tail and watches from a nearby shrub.

It's a lazy time of year to enjoy the backyard. But as I watch butterflies visit the flower beds, my mind wanders...beyond the backyard. What would my backyard be if the open space and habitat provided by my neighbor's property wasn't there? What if a business park was sprouting next door instead of trees, shrubs, vines and some weeds? What can I do to "Help a Habitat?"

Big Bluestem Audubon's goals are to educate people about our natural world, and to get outside to explore its wonders. Thanks to the contributions of Audubon volunteers, we have many interesting programs and field trips planned to do just that. People who experience nature will join with us to preserve it.

The success of our Birdathon has enabled us to assist and partner with other groups sharing our goals. We're helping the Y-camp and county conservationists with outdoor education, we're helping to bring Osprey to Saylorville Reservoir, we helped buy grassland near Kellerton for Iowa's first Bird Conservation Area, and our chapter and members are instrumental in building the Iowa Audubon State Office.

With the dollars we've raised comes the responsibility to put them to work effectively. I'd like to hear your ideas. There is a form in this newsletter to formally submit proposals for funding. My dream is to see our chapter enhance or preserve quality habitat right here in Story or Boone County. If we had more wetlands and woodlands, we'd have more birds and more places to excite the next generation of Audubon members.

Our Board of Directors recently did some brainstorming about goals for the future. I'd summarize their thoughts like this: "Through education and experiences, Big Bluestem Audubon Society wants to excite more people about birds and nature than ever before." Now that's thinking beyond the backyard. Won't you come along?



## Conservation Corner

Linda Bystrak  
Conservation Chair

Two interesting items came over the Audubon Advisory net server this summer. One is good news while the other is not so good. The bad news is that double-crested cormorants are receiving a bad reputation among fishermen for stealing fish, sometimes done right out of their nets, and for eating fish at aquaculture facilities. The fishermen want to have a hunting season for these birds, as soon as possible. They are in such a hurry that they have pushed legislators to introduce a hunting season bill, before the environmental impact study (EIS) is complete. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is studying the biological feasibility of a hunting season, and if necessary, where and when a season should occur. The National Audubon Society and the FWS believe this hunting bill is "premature" since the EIS is incomplete. However, the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans has already approved the bill (H. R. 3118). It will now go to the House Resources Committee, which could vote on it as soon as the congressional recess is over in September. Anyone concerned about this legislation passing before the EIS is completed should contact his or her Congressman.

The good news is that the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act was signed into law on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. This law will provide funding for partnerships that enhance and conserve the habitat of neotropical migratory birds. Senator Daschle (D-SD) and the late Senator Chafee (R-RI) were the original co-sponsors, and Senator Abraham (R-MI) helped push this bill through the Senate. Most of the funding will go to Latin America and the Caribbean, the over-wintering grounds for most of these birds. Five million dollars a year for five years will be used to promote these partnership programs. The U.S. share for each program can only be 25% of the total cost, with other non-government organizations, countries or businesses contributing the other 75%.

Each year approximately 500 different species of birds migrate from Latin America and the Caribbean to North America. Their population is estimated to be about five billion individual birds. Chances are good that at least one of them is going to spend the summer in your back yard!

## Cyber Birding

Paul Bystrak and  
Kevin Healy

Web site: Iowa Birds & Birding: Sponsored  
by the Iowa Ornithologists Union  
URL: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

This is the official website of the Iowa Ornithologists Union and has been upgraded since I last visited. The home page offers a starting point leading to photo quizzes: identifying nests from pen sketches and a photo ID quiz featuring view of birds that we commonly get from our automobile or kitchen window. You must submit your answers to get the key for the test, so go into it willing to put your money where your mouth is. The section devoted to birding sites in Iowa is very helpful, with maps showing road numbers and text descriptions of how to get to some otherwise hard-to-find areas, i.e. the Red Feather prairie in Saylorville. The search engine for the site functions poorly with numerous dead ends when looking for documents pertaining to a particular species. A request to download the 1998 checklist caused the site to skid to a halt, giving me an error message which did not include an opportunity to return to the home page. All in all, a useful website that should be on any Iowa birder's favorite list. It has some flaws which we hope will be addressed as time passes.

Osprey release at Jester County Park  
Campground #4 along Saylorville Reservoir.  
July 19, 2000.



*This will also be the Iowa Audubon annual conference!*

**National Audubon Society's  
Conference and Celebration of the  
Upper Mississippi River**

*September 15 - 17, 2000*

**Location:** Sinsinawa Mound Conference Center — Sinsiniwa, Wisconsin (15 minute drive east of Dubuque, Iowa on Highway 11)

Something of interest for everyone — wildlife watchers, educators, activists, and river rats! Come and Celebrate the River — its wildlife and its people

Session Sample:

- Blufflands protection efforts
- Trumpeter Swan reintroduction
- Water monitoring programs and opportunities
- Audubon Centers in the Midwest
- Red-shouldered Hawk research
- River Navigation Study
- Non-point source pollution issues
- Upper Mississippi River Birding Trail
- Bluebird and Wood Duck nest box advice
- Youth service and action programs
- Organizing for the Audubon Ark tour in October
- Field trips, fun and fellowship
- Music, exhibits, and more!

We're planning on 300 – 400 people attending who care about the wildlife, habitat, and water quality of the Upper Mississippi River. The majority will be from Iowa, but there will also be folks from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri!

You don't want to miss this one-time exciting event! For a registration brochure, contact the Iowa Audubon Office at 515-727-4271.

**BIRDATHON 2000 Nets  
\$4808 !!!**

The May 6th Birdathon set records once again, and more people than ever had fun counting birds and raising money for Big Bluestem projects. As a result, our chapter's contribution to bird education projects and nature education continues to grow.

Ten teams took to the field, and a whopping 33 people birded AND raised money. The team of Bruce and Marlene Ehresman, Gina McAndrews and Kathy Anderson took the "Birdathon Cup" for the most species at 105. Karl and Carmen Jungbluth, Paul and Becky Guidetti, Mary Doud and Russ and Donna Knutson took second with 103 species, while Mike Havlik and Amy Yoakum came in with an even 100. All told, our chapter saw 154 species for the day.

We had over 150 sponsors for our Birdathon (Thank You!), and many prizes were awarded at the Birdathon Party. See a list of our business sponsors elsewhere in the newsletter. Several prizes came from the National Audubon Society for our work in last year's Birdathon. These included binoculars, T-shirts, books, and more.

Fifty percent of our Birdathon proceeds have already been sent to the Iowa Audubon State Office. Our sizable donation will help Iowa Audubon forward its mission of bird conservation and education. Finally, a big thanks goes out to our Fundraising \$100 Club—Kevin Healy, Karl and Carmen Jungbluth, Mark Widrlechner and Sherry Dragula, Mike Havlik and Amy Yoakum, Matt and Karl Grotheer (youth birders), Galin, Carol, and Marissa (youth birder) Berrier, Annamarie Oesterreich (third-year youthbirder), Bruce and Marlene Ehresman, Paul and Becky Guidetti, Donna Flanagan, and Mary Doud.

Next year's Birdathon is on May 12th. Don't miss it!

# Big Bluestem Audubon Society

## *Project Proposals and Description*

Project Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Project (Check one)    Conservation    Education

Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Sponsor (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (include name/organization/address/phone/e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Description (include objective, equipment needed, beneficiary [birds/people/habitat, etc.] and volunteer hours anticipated)

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Estimated Cost (provide details) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Estimated Time Frame \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach additional pages if needed.)

## Big Bluestem Audubon Society Project Guidelines

### Chapter Objectives

Projects should further the chapter objectives, i.e., (1) to enjoy and study birds, other wildlife, plants, and many other facets of nature in order to gain broader understanding and a deep appreciation of the world we live in, and to encourage others to do likewise; and (2) to engage in educational and similar activities, such as sponsoring public lectures, forums, discussion groups, reports on research, etc., relating to the conservation of wildlife, other natural resources, and the quality of our natural environment.

### Guidelines

1. Projects should fall under the categories of education or conservation.
2. Projects must be sponsored by a BBAS member. Non-members or a grantee may approach any member of BBAS and request a project endorsement. BBAS members are also encouraged to submit an original project.
3. Priority should be given to those projects which:
  - a) directly benefit birds, other wildlife and their habitats or education about those topics;
  - b) have direct, personal, hands-on involvement by members of BBAS;
  - c) occur in Iowa, especially those within the BBAS service area.
4. Proposals will be considered during the first board meeting following each of four time periods. They are:

Round 1—May 1 – July 31

Round 2—August 1 – October 31

Round 3—November 1 – January 31

Round 4—February 1 – April 30

Proposals will be held for one year in the event that additional funds become available. After one year, resubmission is required.

5. Projects may be continued for more than one year if funding is available, but they must be reviewed on a yearly basis,

# Big Bluestem Audubon Society

## Events Calendar—Fall 2000

All events are free and open to the public.

- General meetings are held Thursday evenings in Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University, beginning at 7:30 p.m. See map on reverse side.
- Field trip participants meet at 0800 at the Wild Birds Unlimited, unless otherwise noted. Check the newsletter or with trip leaders to confirm time. See map on reverse side.

### September

- 2—**Otter Creek Marsh** along the Iowa River (about an hour east of Ames). A new location to start the year. Look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and warblers nearby. Plan to do some hiking. Trip Leaders: Wolf Oesterreich (232-3285) and Jeff Nichols (292-7521).
- 10—(Sunday) **Pelican Watch** 11am-5pm at Jester Park along Saylorville Reservoir. Event sponsored by Iowa Audubon, Polk County Conservation Board and U.S. Corps of Engineers. Thousands of pelicans, plus the newly released Osprey could be there. Meet at 1000 in the parking lot behind Wild Birds Unlimited. Trip Leader: Jeff Nichols (292-7521).
- 15-17—**National Audubon Society's Conference and Celebration of the Upper Mississippi River and Iowa Audubon Statewide Conference**. Location: near Dubuque in NE Iowa. Field trips, educational sessions, music, fun! Contact Karl Jungbluth (432-5057) for car pooling and other information.
- 21—**General Meeting**: Jim Dinsmore, "North to Alaska: Birding in the 49th state" 7:30 p.m.

### October

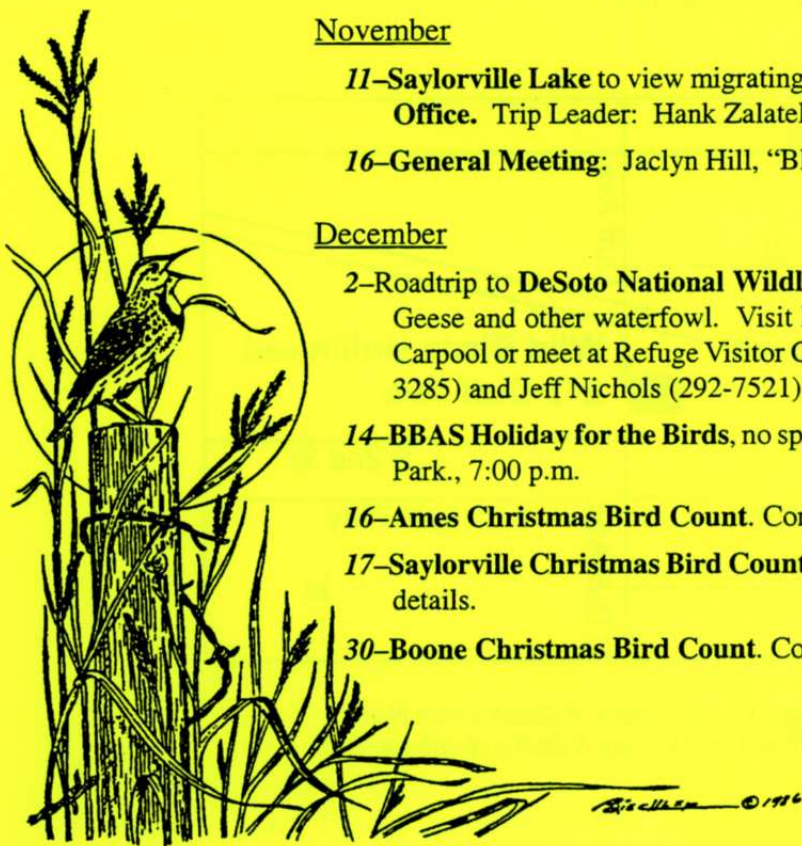
- 7—**Kate Shelley High Bridge and Des Moines River Valley**. View fall foliage, hawks and other late migrants near Boone. Trip Leader: Kevin Healy (233-5914).
- 19—**General Meeting**: Pat Schlarbaum, "Osprey in Iowa," 7:30 p.m.
- 28—**Geology of Dolliver State Park**. Look at a favorite park in a different way. Discover the rocks, water and birds of this park near Fort Dodge. Trip Leader: Tim Grotheer (233-9873).

### November

- 11—**Saylorville Lake** to view migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Visit the **Iowa Audubon Office**. Trip Leader: Hank Zalatel (382-5427).
- 16—**General Meeting**: Jaclyn Hill, "Bluebirds and Bluebird Houses," 7:30 p.m.

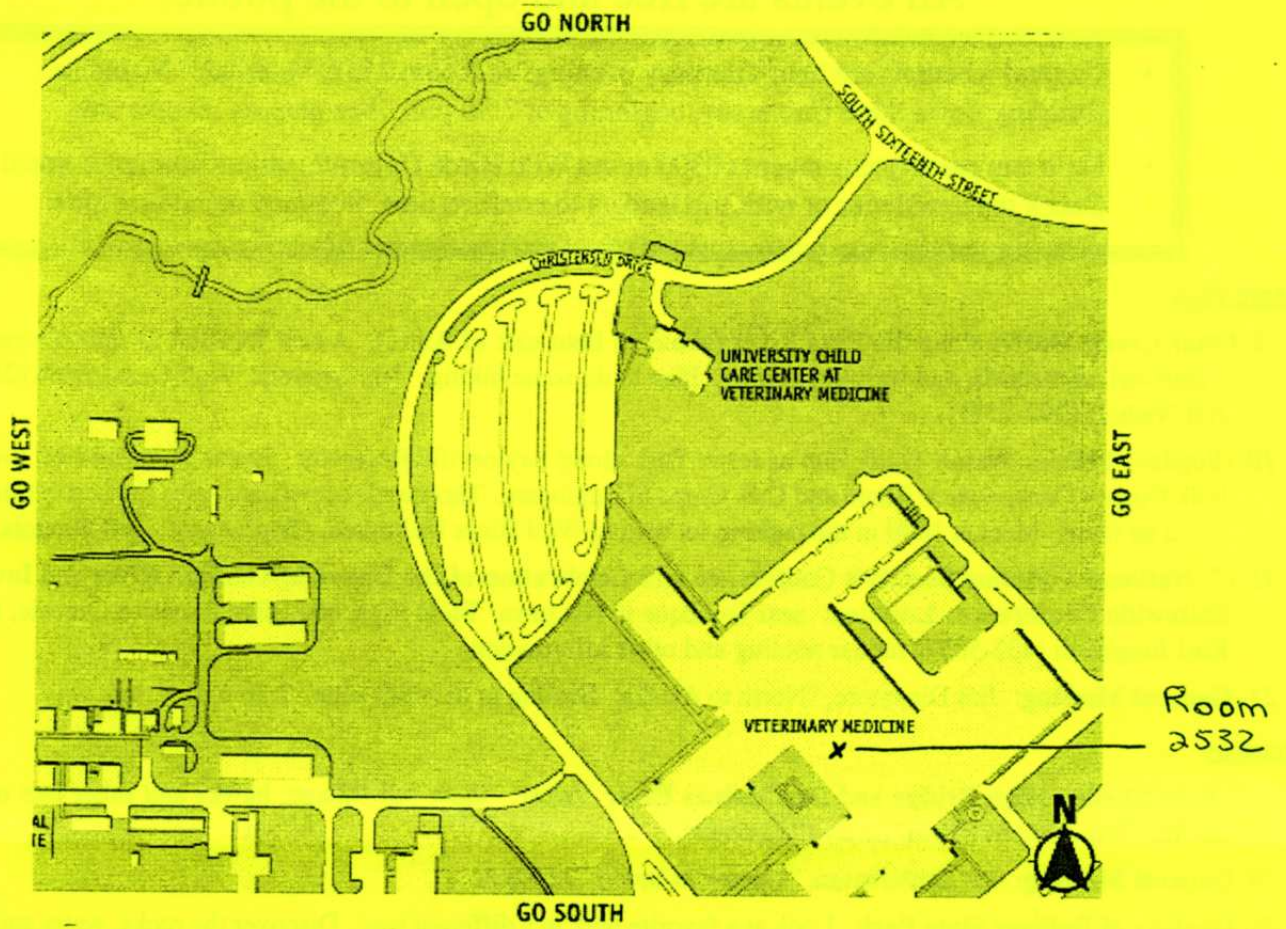
### December

- 2—Roadtrip to **DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge** (western Iowa) to view migrating Snow Geese and other waterfowl. Visit **Bertrand steamboat exhibit** and wildlife museum. Carpool or meet at Refuge Visitor Center at 0800. Trip Leaders: Wolf Oesterreich (232-3285) and Jeff Nichols (292-7521).
- 14—**BBAS Holiday for the Birds**, no speaker, Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park., 7:00 p.m.
- 16—**Ames Christmas Bird Count**. Contact Dave Edwards (515-292-3790) for details.
- 17—**Saylorville Christmas Bird Count**. Contact Jim or Steve Dinsmore (515-292-3152) for details.
- 30—**Boone Christmas Bird Count**. Contact Mark Widrechner (515-233-1532) for details.



Field Trip Chair	Jeff Nichols	292-7521
Program Chair	John Snyder	232-8824

MAP FOR GENERAL MEETINGS.



MAP FOR FIELD TRIPS MEETING LOCATION.



Located in Duff Centre South of Dutch Oven Bakery  
 1 Block North of Lincoln Way & Duff Ave Intersection



## Notes From A Novice Birder

*Flo Ditzler*

As I stood on the edge of the Des Moines River flood plain in Ledges State Park, I watched two young black beaks peeking out of the oval fist-sized nest wedged in a collection of light gray snags. The young birds swayed to and fro to an ancient dance of anticipation, waiting for the arrival of the black winged parents with the jaunty red caps to ferry in the next meal of juicy insects. The silence was broken with the rising and falling wuck-a-wuck-a-wuck-a cry of an adult woodpecker and the rapid intake of my astonished breath. I could not believe I have finally seen the Pileated Woodpecker. I had first heard of this bird in North Carolina, but in my short time as a novice birder there, I had never been able to locate it on my own. It was the welcoming people of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society who helped me to achieve this goal. They led me right to the doorstep of this giant among woodpeckers. We all stood under the shadeless trees in small collections of groups of two to three people while the more experienced birders among us pointed out the habitat and behavior of the birds. Long time birder, Kay Niyo, positioned her spotting scope and invited everyone to share in a close-up view. With the nest entry in tight focus, I was able to view the ruby red caps, white chins, and yellow eyes contrasting against the glistening black feathers of the mature birds, what a picture! It was as if I was peering through a kaleidoscope: colors and details bounced around in my vision field playing tag with my sense of wonderment. This was a moment that could never be captured by a camera; this was life with the energy only reality can bring.

My angst over being a novice among experienced birders vanished. They clearly enjoyed sharing their knowledge as much as I enjoyed witnessing this gift of nature. No matter how many times I see the birds around me, it remains a stunning sight and I fully appreciate the privilege to learn from the people who are eager to share their own experiences. Behind this bird-watching activity are the connections we make with another species; I was in on the birth of a new family, made up of hard-working parents and demanding offspring housed in an old gray leafless tree. I just cannot get enough of the worlds surrounding me; my only question is, what will this novice see on the next field trip?

### Thanks to our BIRDATHON 2000 Business Sponsors

Ames—

Big Table Books  
Brekke's Town & Country Store  
Country Landscapes  
Earl May Nursery & Garden Center  
Wild Birds Unlimited

Boone—

The Bluebird Bed & Breakfast  
Boone Cellular  
Duffee Insurance  
Earl May Nursery & Garden Center  
Lowe-Berry Garden Center  
Swan Creek Cabinetry  
Westlake Hardward

National Camera Exchange—Minneapolis  
WoodLink, Ltd.—Mt. Ayr  
Preston Engineering—Johnston-Corporate  
Match

## Roger Hill Donates Photos for Fundraising

Accomplished wildlife photographer, Roger Hill, has donated a pair of enlarged photographs to our Big Bluestem Audubon Society. The magnificent photos, a Sharp-tailed Grouse and a Greater Prairie chicken, will be raffled or sold in a silent auction by our chapter. In turn, the proceeds will be donated by Big Bluestem to DNR programs which are re-introducing these wonderful birds to Iowa. The Greater Prairie chickens can be found at Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in southern Iowa, a project already financially supported by your Audubon Society. The sharp-tailed Grouse program is in western Iowa's Loess Hills. You can see the photos at all chapter meetings this fall, at the National Audubon Society's Conference and Celebration of the Upper Mississippi River, September 15-17 and at the fall IOU meeting September 22-24. This fundraiser will wrap up at our annual Holiday for the Birds party, December 14.

## **It's Been Two Years – How Are We Doing?**

*Paul Zeph, Iowa Audubon Executive Director*

July 2000 marked the two-year anniversary of Iowa Audubon, the state office of the National Audubon Society. It's been a very busy two years, with lots of planning, meetings, speeches, fundraising, and activities going on behind the scenes. It's time to step back and ask a few questions: Are we having an impact? How is the education program coming? Are we finding the money needed to keep the state office running?

It's too soon for thorough analysis, but I can certainly shed a little light on how we're doing right now and what the next year ahead looks like!

**Are we having an impact?** Iowa Audubon is now known throughout the nonprofit conservation community, and is a partner in several DNR and federal government initiatives. We are regularly asked for input on policies, sought out for quotes in news articles, and requested as a participant on committees. The Audubon name has always carried weight, but now that organizations, agencies, and individuals have one number to call, it makes it easier to quickly use our name to weigh in on issues and to express our concerns. I regularly hear comments from folks in other organizations who are very happy and impressed that Audubon is directing resources to Iowa to support an office. I immediately tell them that the office wouldn't be here without the hard work and support of our chapters and members from throughout the state.

**How is our education program coming?** Last fall we launched the "Help a Habitat" campaign. With the support of REAP and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we developed and are distributing copies of an education and action guide to teachers all across Iowa. Through this, and our website ([www.helpahabitat.org](http://www.helpahabitat.org)), we are reaching tens of thousands of students and adults this year with basic, positive habitat information. As a result of our efforts, thousands of people will be involved in habitat improvement projects this year. In future years we can build on this foundation and conduct education campaigns targeting specific habitats or types of wildlife. In addition, we are seeking funding for bird education and action programs and for Audubon education staff at nature centers throughout Iowa.

**Are we finding the money needed to keep the state office running?** Since we started asking Audubon members to help build our Iowa Audubon effort, the number of donors has grown steadily. Each time I send out a mail appeal, I receive another pile of donations from members who have never given to Audubon's Iowa program before! Our Board of Directors is growing as we add members with fundraising interest and experience, and we are getting help from a development consultant to connect us with new donors who are interested in Audubon's work. It's a slow and steady building process, and so far we've been able to cover our basic operating expenses. This next year, however, will be a crucial period for us to find donors who can support us with major gifts annually, and find a few foundations who can help us in our start-up phase.

**We're doing great, thanks to you!** Iowa Audubon is not just the state office, it is the combined effort of all the exciting and important work we all do across the state on behalf of the Audubon cause. Audubon has never been stronger in Iowa, and over the next few years we'll become an even stronger and exciting force for habitat conservation!


## Binoculars and Field Guides for Boone County Students

Birdathon proceeds were recently used to purchase 20 pairs of binoculars and 35 copies of *Stokes Beginner's Guide to Birds*. The binoculars and books will be used by Boone County Conservation's Naturalist, Heather Freidhof, for public and school programs. Heather is Boone County's first Naturalist, and wants to help students and adults appreciate our wonderful local birds and natural resources. Her programs and bird walks will also provide volunteer opportunities for Big Bluestem members.

## Hello New Members!

The folks at the National Audubon Society tell us that our chapter has a LOT of new Audubon members. WELCOME! If you'd like to tell us why you joined the Audubon Society, we'd love to hear from you. Just send an e-mail to Mark Widrlechner (Membership Chair) at mpwskd@aol.com or Karl Jungbluth (President) at weatherbird@opencominc.com. You can also drop a note to Big Bluestem Audubon Society, c/o Karl Jungbluth, 1372 Peony Lane, Boone, IA 50036. We'll have more information for new members in the next newsletter.

Wild Birds Unlimited



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

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May not be combined with any other offer  
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Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Sunday Noon - 4pm

Offer Expires: 10/31/00

**We Bring People and Nature Together®**

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

## NatureMappingCommittee Needs Your Participation

Committee members met this summer and formulated an action plan. They would like to begin their support of this program by assisting BBAS members in reporting what birds and mammals are seen in their yards or favorite birding area. A committee member would make an appointment with you to come to your house or a selected area and find the GPS co-ordinates. He or she would also give you a list of commonly found species in Iowa, and help you to select your habitat code. Then, using their assigned nature mapping ID number, you would send in your data for that site. Observations can be made as often as you like. You can enter the data through the Internet or by mail.

A sign up sheet will be available at the September and October meetings of BBAS. Anyone missing those meetings who would still like to participate should call 515-597-3926. We will only offer this service if enough members are interested in participating.



## Clip and Join

Don't forget gift memberships!

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

New member of the National Audubon Society (receive the *Audubon* magazine, the *Big Bluestem Flyer*, membership card)—\$20. Please make your check payable to: National Audubon Society and include "Chapter Code H-57" on the check.

OR

Subscribe to the *Big Bluestem Flyer* for one year and participate in some Big Bluestem Audubon Society activities—\$5.50. Restrictions are that you will not be a National Audubon Society member or have voting privileges, and you cannot be an officer or committee chair. Please make your check payable to: Big Bluestem Audubon Society.

Send your check and this coupon to Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Field Trips

Meet at the Wild Birds Unlimited at 0800, unless otherwise noted.

### September

**2—Otter Creek Marsh** along the Iowa River (about an hour east of Ames). A new location to start the year. Look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and warblers nearby. Plan to do some hiking.

Trip leaders: Wolf Oesterreich (232-3285) and Jeff Nichols (292-7521).

**10—(Sunday) Pelican Watch** 11 am-5 pm at Jester Park along Saylorville Reservoir. Event sponsored by Iowa Audubon, Polk County Conservation Board and U.S. Corps of Engineers. Thousands of pelicans, plus the newly released Osprey could be there. Meet at 1000 in parking lot behind Wild Birds Unlimited to carpool.

Trip leader: Jeff Nichols (292-7521)

**15-17—National Audubon Society's Conference** and Celebration of the Upper Mississippi River and Iowa Audubon Statewide Conference. Location near Dubuque in NE Iowa. Field trips, educational sessions, music, fun!

Contact: Karl Jungbluth (432-5057) for car pooling and other information.

### October

**7—Kate Shelley High Bridge and Des Moines River Valley.** View fall foliage, hawks and other late migrants near Boone.

Trip leader: Kevin Healy (233-5914)

**28—Geology of Dolliver State Park.** Look at a favorite park in a different way. Discover the rocks, water, and birds of this park near Fort Dodge.

Trip leader: Tim Grotheer (233-9873).

On display, "The Bird Lady of Iowa," a small exhibit on the life of Gladys Black, one of Iowa's best known bird experts. Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Building is open daily through August. Museum and library hours: 9 am-4:30 pm., Tuesday-Saturday, noon-4:30, Sunday, museum only. Free admission.

### Big Bluestem Flyer

Rebecca A. Shivvers, Editor

Big Bluestem Audubon Society

2380 220th Street

Boone, Iowa 50036

*We welcome new members!*



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