



Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 20, No. 9

April, 1986

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Ames, Iowa

Jim Murdock, Pres. 233-1199
Dave Edwards, Vice-Pres. 292-3790
Sherry Dragula, Sec. 292-4014
Judy Shearer, Treas. 296-7512
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450

For membership information,
contact Dave Edwards.

Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Room 181-1 (Jury Room), College of Design, ISU campus

TOPIC: "Ferns of Iowa"

Refreshments -- Mary Cowan and Jean Hempstead

Upcoming Meeting and Events

Executive Board Meeting -- The board will meet Wednesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Owings, 411-9th Street. Anyone interested may attend.

Shorebird Field Trip -- Hank Zaletel will lead a trip to see shorebirds on Sat., April 26, rain or shine. Meet in the parking lot behind C.Y. Stephen's Auditorium at 7:30 a.m. We will carpool and join Hank at Niland's Cafe (jct. old Hwy 30 & Hwy 65, west of Colo), then head to Colo "ponds" and maybe Hendrickson's Marsh for a morning of birding. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, if you have them, and field guides.

May Warblers Trip -- Hank Zaletel will lead birders in search of migrating warblers on Sat., May 10. Meet him at 8 a.m. in the parking lot at McFarland Park.



Nominations Sought -- A committee was formed in February to accept nominations for the society's election of officers and board members in May. The positions of president and secretary are open, as well as four openings on the society's executive board. Persons interested in any of the openings, or in challenging the current treasurer and vice-president, are asked to call a nominations committee member -- Peter van der Linden (232-3450), Dianne Mumm (232-4930) or Sherry Dragula (292-4014).

Crane Trip Report -- Ten Bluestem members joined birders from the Cedar Rapids Audubon Society last month to watch thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes in central Nebraska. Snow Geese and Canada Geese were also plentiful. In addition, the group saw white-fronted Geese, 16 types of ducks, many hawks, several Bald Eagles, some early migrating sparrows and several Black-billed Magpies, a life bird for many of us. A total of 56 species was seen. We enjoyed meeting the Cedar Rapids Audubon members and express our thanks to trip organizers and leaders Bill Horine, Ed and Elizabeth Carbrey and Dick and Dianne Mumm.



1986-87 Budget -- Three persons have been named to a committee that will formulate the chapter's budget for next year. Dave Edwards, Tom Davis, and Judy Shearer will be accepting spending proposals until April 15 for the 1986-87 fiscal year. All committee chairpersons and anyone else with specific requests for money should submit a written list of their needs to Tom, Dave or Judy. The committee will review requests and offer a tentative 1986-87 chapter budget to members for approval at the May meeting.

Halley's T-Shirts -- National Audubon Society has Halley's Comet T-Shirts for sale, check p. 118 of your March issue of "Audubon" magazine for details.



Northwoods Trips -- Northwoods Audubon Center near Sandstone, Minn., is offering a number of recreational and educational trips this spring and summer. Two spring canoe trips that are still open will be April 26-27 and May 3-4. Two 2-week summer canoe trips in Canada will begin July 5 and July 26. Other opportunities include: Sailing the Apostle Islands, Naturalist Training, Wilderness School for youngsters, and a session exploring native American technologies. Contact Judy van der Linden for more information.

April Bird Puzzles and March Answers

Which bird's name is described by each of the short phrases below?

1. Queen's moment
2. Thunder mug
3. Embarrassed singer
4. A very unkingly Bill
5. Russian survey

The answers to the March bird puzzles are:

1. A very irritated Mr. Buckley -- Crossbill
2. Sell in the street at 11 p.m. -- Nighthawk
3. Red-faced mason -- Ruddy Turnstone
4. Cookie in the apple tree -- Orchard Oriole
5. Elevating device of the dunes -- Sandhill Crane



Birder's Notes

Thursday, March 27 -- Thousands of ducks and the spring's first shorebirds are showing up in flooded fields east of Colo along old Highway 30. Mallards, scaup, Canvasbacks and Common Pintails are present, along with both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and one snipe.

3

Some of these same ducks plus common Mergansers, Blue- and Green-winged Teal, Double-crested cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls are at Hendrickson's Marsh, south of Colo. Keep an eye out now for migrating shorebirds in wet fields along roadsides. The Colo "ponds" described above, Hendrickson's Marsh and Little Wall Lake, north of Ames on Highway 69, are among the best places near Ames to see waterfowl and shorebirds in the coming weeks. Some other spots are Hickory Grove Park lake, east of Ames on new Highway 30, Larson's Marsh, east of Ames on 13th Street, and Peterson's Pits, just west of McFarland Park.

Audubon Member Profile

This is the first in a series of columns that we hope will help you get to know your fellow members better.

Cindy Hildebrand proves everyday that one person can make a difference. Every morning that the legislature is in session she drives down to Des Moines for another day of explaining to elected representatives the importance of conservation issues. She is the only registered Audubon lobbyist in the state. It is a volunteer position.

Cindy first became interested in lobbying during the steel shot vs. lead shot controversy. She had been a casual follower of the subject, but when she saw that a state hearing was to be held on the subject she decided to attend. "Sherry Dragula and I went to the library to research the whole debate. But when we got there I realized that everyone else was just standing up and speaking their mind. It was then I realised that if you research your topic, one person can really have an impact."

Cindy was recently invited to attend a week-long seminar on lobbying skills in Washington D.C. by the National Audubon Council. "One of our 'exercises' is to personally lobby all of our congressmen and senators". Cindy is the first person from Iowa ever to be asked to attend this annual seminar.

Cindy first joined the Audubon Society in 1981. The first meeting she ever attended was about winter bird feeding. But it was the other members that aroused her interest. She remembers thinking, "these are the kind of people who are interested in the same things I am."

Cindy is originally from Royal Oak, Michigan (near Detroit). She graduated from Kalamazoo College with a double major in biology and English. She came to Ames to take graduate journalism courses. She is married to Roger Maddux, a math professor at Iowa State. In her spare time she likes to travel (Roger and Cindy were able to go to Hungary and Poland this summer on a math-related trip). Plus, she has the unique hobby of raising caterpillars. She does this so that she and her friends can enjoy the beauty of an opening chrysalis. "Monarch chrysalises turn dark the night before so you know when to watch them open." Somehow, such a special hobby is in keeping with this very active woman.

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