



Goldfinch Beakon

April

Saturday, April 11th • Field Trip to Cardinal Marsh —Meet at the parking lot east of the Decorah municipal building at 8:00 a.m. Dress for cold weather and wear waterproof footwear. We should see twelve or more species of waterfowl. For more information, contact Dennis Carter (319) 382-3754.

Saturday, April 18th • Roadside Clean-Up—Meet at the Decorah swimming pool parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to help with the Roadside Clean-Up. The project will only take a few hours. Wear waterproof footwear, and bring gloves. Safety vests and plastic bags will be provided.

Saturday, April 25th • Malanaphy Springs Wildflower Hike. Meet at the Decorah swimming pool at 9:00 a.m., or join us at the springs parking area at 9:30 a.m. Malanaphy Springs is one of the best places in the area to enjoy spring wildflowers. Wear comfortable shoes, bring your friends and family. Join us for as much of the walk as you like. Contact LeRoy Anderson at (319)382-9320 for more information.

May

Sunday, May 3rd • Wildflower Walk at Lake Meyer County Park, southwest of Calmar. Meet at the Nature Center at 2:00 p.m. Join County Naturalist Larry Reis for a leisurely walk through fields, swamp, and woods to see a good variety of spring wildflowers. Contact Larry at (319)0534-2145 for more information.

Saturday, May 9th • Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, by going on a Bird Walk at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. for a 2 1/2 hour, 2 1/2 mile hike. We'll look for thrushes, vireos, warblers, and other migrant birds. Call Dennis Carter (319)382-3754 or Effigy Mounds (319)873-3491 for more information.

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Calendar of Events Continued...

Saturday, May 26th • Annual Meeting & Teaming with Wildlife Presentation. 6:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 701 Iowa St., Decorah. This is the most important of the year! The Annual Meeting will consist of an open meeting to discuss chapter business, and to elect new Officers and Board Members for fall 1998—1999. We would be grateful to have all the member participation we can get — if you'd like to see the Audubon Chapter doing something different, this is the time to jump in! Following the meeting, Pat Schlarbaum of the State D.N.R. Wildlife Diversity Program will present a program on *Teaming with Wildlife—a natural investment*. Please see the article on page 3 for more information about this program. Bring potlatch snacks / refreshments.

Saturday, May 30th • Field Trip to Beverly and Loren Clark's Woodland Home in northwest Allamakee County. The Clark's will show us several kinds of late spring wildflowers, including orchids. We will also look for nesting birds. Meet at the parking lot east of the Decorah Municipal Building at 9:00a.m. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Arnie and Delores Rohm (319)382-4176.

Effigy Mounds National Monument Bird Walks will be led by Dennis Carter this summer. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. for a 2 1/2 hour, 2 1/2 mile walk on the following Saturdays: June 20th, July 25th, and August 22nd. For more information on these and other conducted activities, call Effigy Mounds National Monument at (319)873-3491

Saturday, July 18th • Field Trip to Hayden Prairie. Meet at the Decorah Municipal Building parking lot in Decorah at 8:30 a.m., or at Hayden Prairie at 9:30 a.m. We'll be looking for prairie wildflowers and butterflies and should also see dozens of bobolinks. For more information, contact LeRoy Anderson (319)382-9320.

*Don't miss the Annual Meeting! Tuesday May 26th at 6:30pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*This is your opportunity to get active and make a
difference! If you are interested in nature, local
environmental issues or conservation,
join the Upper Iowa Audubon Chapter
and get involved!*

Membership Information

Send \$20 to: National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51005
Boulder, Colorado 80323-1005
Attn: Chapter Code # H-58





Chapter News

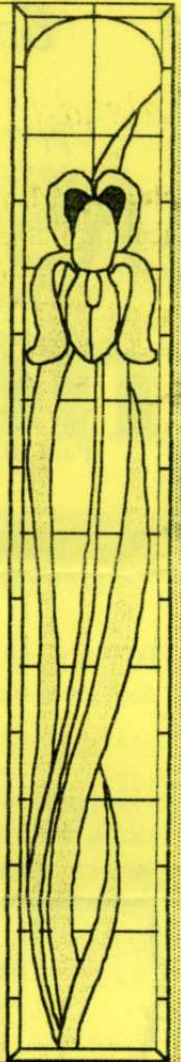
Osprey Nest Platform Project

Two 40' poles with 30'x30' nest platforms have been installed in our area in the hopes that osprey will begin nesting here. Both of these poles are in areas where birds have been observed during previous years: one sits on the northwest corner of highway 52 and Poleline road, on Luther College property. The pole is visible on the north side of Poleline—look for it along the hillside. The second pole is located to the south and a bit west on the Jewell farm property. There are many who deserve heartfelt thanks: Luther College and the Jewell family were kind enough to allow the nest platforms to be installed on their property; Hawkeye Electric provided the poles and installed them, in addition to donating time and equipment for the project; Dave Kester, Bob Chapman, and Rick Thorton donated time, energy and expertise. Bob Anderson, who oversaw the project and deserves the greatest thanks, has plans to erect a natural stick nest in a tree in an area which also appears conducive to nesting. Anyone sighting Osprey activity around these poles should contact Bob Anderson at the 382-6300.

Birding Highlights

—Dennis Carter

Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches were unusually numerous during the past winter. A Gray Catbird appeared at LeRoy and Susan Anderson's feeder on November 19th and was last seen on January 23rd. LeRoy fed it cat food. Beverly and Loren Clark hosted a Varied Thrush that appeared at their home in NW Allamakee County on January 25th and was present until February 15th. The Anderson's found a flock of 11 White-winged Crossbills at Springfield Lutheran Church near Calmar, on January 11th. The crossbills were seen by other birders as well. The mild February weather produced early arrivals of Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Red-winged Blackbird, late in the month. The strong south winds of March 25th brought 16 species of ducks to Cardinal Marsh, also an early Tree Swallow.



Teaming with Wildlife—a natural investment

Teaming with Wildlife is a proposal for federal legislation that will put a small user fee in the form of an excise tax (from 1/4% to 5%) on outdoor-related products such as field guides, binoculars, birdfeed and camping equipment. The purpose of the user fee is to provide stable and adequate funding for wildlife diversity programs in all 50 states who are responsible for wildlife conservation, education and recreation. The money generated through this user fee will be returned to the states earmarked specifically for the above mentioned purposes. The goal of this legislation is to expand and improve existing wildlife programs and establish new ones protecting all wildlife species, especially nongame, and their habitats.

Teaming with Wildlife if modeled on the user pay / user benefit system established by hunters and anglers on their sporting gear. The user fees collected from the sale of hunting and fishing equipment have been directly responsible for some of conservation's biggest success stories—restoration of fish and wildlife populations that once were critically low; conservation of millions of acres of wildlife habitat; and countless hours of recreation on America's land and waterways, to the benefit of all of us.



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

Board Members of Upper Iowa Audubon

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*The mission of the National
Audubon Society is to conserve and
restore natural ecosystems, focusing
on birds, wildlife, and habitat for
the benefit of humanity and the
earth's biological diversity.*



*Upper Iowa Audubon Chapter
Goldfinch Beakon
c/o 2888 Middle Sattre Rd.
Decorah, IA 52101*

*Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to
2888 Middle Sattre Road, Decorah, Iowa 52101 c/o UIA*