



## PROGRAMS

### April 18, 2019 | Larry Stone | Portrait of the Land

With degrees in biology and journalism, Larry Stone understands the natural world and how to communicate the wonders of the outdoors. His work has appeared in several Iowa and outdoor magazines, and he has received many awards from environmental and writers' organizations. Larry's presentation is based on his award-winning book, *Portrait of the Land*.

### May 16, 2019 | Bruce Ehresman | Iowa's Nesting Owls & Barn Owl Restoration

In 1981, planning began for Iowa Barn Owl restoration—the first big project of the newly created Iowa Living Resources Program/Nongame Program/Wildlife Diversity Program. This program will briefly cover the current status of Iowa's seven nesting owl species followed by life history information of the Barn Owl, the different phases of Barn Owl restoration that have occurred during the last few decades, how this program was implemented, and how each person can do her or his part to help this species recover and be removed from Iowa's Endangered Species list. A live Eastern Screech Owl will be used as part of this presentation.



Male Baltimore Oriole in Boone County | Photo by Larry Dau

Program meetings take place in the Ames Public Library (515 Douglas Ave.). Meetings begin at 6:30 PM; programs begin at 7:00 PM. Directions available at [bigbluestemaudubon.org](http://bigbluestemaudubon.org).

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| 3 | Alaska Field Trip Report; Field Trip Reports                 |
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The mission of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society is to enjoy the observation and study of birds and natural ecosystems, contribute to their conservation and restoration, engage in educational activities to benefit humanity, and gain a broader understanding and deeper appreciation of the world in which we live.

## FIELD TRIPS

### May 25, 2019 | Ledges State Park | Birder's Brunch

Meet at the Oak Woods Shelter at Ledges Park by **8:00 AM**. We will bird the park and then break for a potluck brunch. Please bring a food item to share, a beverage, and plates and utensils.

**Note:** Field trip destination and target birds will be determined by the group that assembles at that time and will usually be confined to Story, Boone, Polk, or Hamilton Counties.

## BIRD-A-THON SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2019

SEE PRESIDENT'S CORNER FOR DETAILS.  
REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY EMAILING YOUR TEAM NAME, MEMBERS, AND CAPTAIN TO [BARBARA.KRUMHARDT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARBARA.KRUMHARDT@GMAIL.COM)

Monthly field trips are free and open to the public.

We will no longer be carpooling to the field trip. Those interested in attending a field trip should meet the group at the field trip destination at 8:00 AM, unless stated otherwise.

The field trip will usually last until around noon.

If you need a ride to the location, contact Eric Ollie at [uphawkeye@gmail.com](mailto:uphawkeye@gmail.com) to see if a ride can be arranged. The destination and target birds will be determined by the group that assembles at that time and will usually be confined to Story, Boone, Polk, or Hamilton counties.

### Notice to New Members of Big Bluestem Audubon Society Only:

We are sending you this printed version of our BBAS newsletter for the first two issues after you have joined the National Audubon Society or become a local member. We have now converted to a mostly electronically-delivered newsletter to save costs and be more green. If you want to receive a printed version, please notify me. Otherwise, you will receive the online version. If you supplied your email address upon joining, we will send you a notice and link for the newsletter each time a new version is available.

Thanks,  
Larry Dau  
1644 Maple View Pl.  
Boone, IA 50036  
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**BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OF CENTRAL IOWA**

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**Secretary** | Hank Zaletel  
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**Treasurer** | Brian Schilling  
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weatherbird58@gmail.com

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER WITH ERIC OLLIE**

My two consecutive year-long terms as president of BBAS are quickly nearing their end. This will be the final time that I will author the President's Corner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me along the way, none of whom I could have done this without. There are too many people to thank to mention them all by name (including BBAS members and the BBAS board) but two people I will single out for special thanks are my predecessor Hank Zaletel and vice-president Doug Harr, who have been indispensable to me. I have been honored and enriched by my service and have gained great in life experience. Thank you, everyone!

I will no longer be president, but I will continue to serve on the board and remain the field trip chair. As field trip chair, I am excited to report that BBAS is moving forward with full momentum. Along with my co-leaders Matt Wetrich, Wolf Oesterreich, and Rachel Clark, we are proud and excited to announce that we have organized a week-long birding field trip to Alaska to be held this summer, June 29th through July 6th! The group will assemble at our hotel in Anchorage, AK, and we will spend the next six full days birding and exploring the wilds of the Anchorage area, especially the Kenai Peninsula, including a day-long boat trip into and around the inlets and islands of Kenai Fjords National Park. The target birds we hope to find are too numerous to list in this short column, but I will say that puffins are high on our list. We should also see many moose and various cetaceans and pinnipeds, Grizzly Bears, Sea Otters, Dall Sheep, and Mountain Goats. We will also get up close and personal with calving glaciers and get panoramic views of snow-capped mountains which surround you and seem everpresent. I know that Alaska is on many people's bucket lists. Having been to Alaska previously, I can say that Alaska is definitely bucket list worthy! For all of the details, please send an email to me at [uphawkyeye@gmail.com](mailto:uphawkyeye@gmail.com).

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**Membership Application Form**

New member of the National Audubon Society. You will 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

Subscribe to the *Big Bluestem Flyer* for one year and participate in some Big Bluestem Society Activities — \$10  
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:  
Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 543, Ames IA 50010

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED BY ERIC OLLIE

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Bird-A-Thon is almost here! Bird-A-Thon 2019 will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Mark it on your calendar now. Bird-A-Thon is BBAS' main fundraiser and source of income. A large percentage of what we like to do as a nature conservation, education, and appreciation organization is possible due to the efforts of those who participate in and contribute to Bird-A-Thon. It is never too early to form your team; start recruiting sponsors, or begin forming your "game day" strategy. Barb Krumhardt has graciously agreed to once again compile the results of Bird-A-Thon, and we thank her greatly!

So, thank you for a great two years! I wish my successor great success, and I will see you all down the birding trail!

## ALASKA FIELD TRIP BY ERIC OLLIE

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BBAS has organized a birding trip to Alaska, which will be held from Saturday, June 28th through Saturday July 6th, 2019. There will be six full days of birding, including the Kenai Peninsula, the area around and just north of Anchorage, and a boat trip exploring the natural wonders of Kenai Fjords National Park. Alaska is a breathtakingly beautiful state with an amazing array of wildlife. It is a place all nature lovers should get to at some point in their lives.

This trip is open to all and all are welcome to sign up! We have a maximum of 20 participants for this trip and spots are beginning to fill up fast.

For more information, please send an email to me at [uphawkeye@gmail.com](mailto:uphawkeye@gmail.com).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS BY ERIC OLLIE

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### January 19, 2019 | Ada Hayden Heritage Park

It was a very cold and windy day with very little cover at Ada Hayden and not many birds to see, so it was a very abbreviated outing.

Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, American Crow

### February 23, 2019 | Field trip canceled due to an impending blizzard

### March 9, 2019 | Hendrickson Marsh, Nevada Cemetery, Big Creek State Park, Saylorville Reservoir, Jester Park, Ada Hayden

Another day of poor weather for birding - rain, wind, fog, We made a car birding tour of a few local birding spots and actually did fairly well.

Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Ring-billed Gull, American White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, falcon sp., Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Meadowlark sp., House Sparrow

## PHOTOS AND CONTENT FOR NEWSLETTER BY LARRY DAU

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Please send any photos you have of events, birds, wildlife, habitat or BBAS members in the field that you would like to see in the newsletter. We are also looking for short content items and announcements to include. Stefany Hulsebus edits all content and creates the layout of the BBAS Newsletter. We appreciate her expertise and help.



American Dipper at Campbell Creek  
Alaska | Photo by Eric Ollie



Red-necked Grebe in Alaska  
Photo by Eric Ollie



Common Murre at Kenai Fjorde in  
Alaska | Photo by Eric Ollie



Horned Puffin at Kenai Fjorde in Alaska  
Photo by Eric Ollie



Arctic Tern at Potter Marsh in Alaska  
Photo by Eric Ollie



# NEW MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Ames

Cinzia Cervato, Collin Dettmann, Carla Dixon,  
John Hill, Sam Hipple, Darlene Honzatko,  
James Kehr, Frank Maly, Robert Mazur,  
Diane McDonald, Richard Mull, Coleen Nutty,  
Jerome Peltier, Norman Rudi, Louisa Tabatabar,  
Mary Lou Wheeler

## Ankeny

Dick Dahle

## Boone

Mary Dawkins, Karen Hinkle, Judy Sondall

## Churdan

Jane Thornton

## Jefferson

Francis Baker, Carol John

## Kelly

Pebble Holland

## Madrid

Bruce Brown



Younger male Summer Tanager in Boone County | Photo by Larry Dau

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<http://bigbluestemaudubon.org/>



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

*We welcome new members!*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Big Bluestem Flyer**  
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