BBAS Newsletter Volume 56 | Number 2 |Dec/Jan/Feb 2020-21

A Message from our President December, 2020

As I write this brief column for our Big Bluestem Audubon Society newsletter, the last for 2020, I cannot help but think what a tumultuous year this has been for all of us. The challenges we have faced are well known to all, and need not be recounted here. I thought the most succinct statement on this matter came from the City of Ames Facebook page, which proclaimed, after the derecho ravaged the state, "Thanks for nothing 2020."

But there are some things we can be thankful for as an organization. First, thanks to efforts by Heather Sanders, Doug Harr, and others in our organization, we are planning to have our meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month via Zoom. (Our next meeting, December 17th, will be our annual Christmas meeting, in which members are invited to share their photographs of avian and other wildlife. If you have photos to share, please send them via PowerPoint or Keynote to Heather Sanders, at hsanders0519@aol.com) While we all hope we can have in-person meetings again as soon as public health conditions permit, we can at least avail ourselves of this technology to keep in touch and to enjoy the birding and other wildlife programs which we all love.

Big Bluestem has also taken steps to continue to foster a love of birds with the young people in our community. The BBAS board has voted to fund Audubon Adventures, a program sponsored by the National Audubon Society, which provides science-based, engaging learning activities to elementary school teachers. These students benefit from these lessons, and, hopefully, will develop a life-long appreciation and enjoyment of nature as a result of their exposure to this curriculum.

Finally, I am thankful for your continued membership the Big Bluestem Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. Your support for these organizations helps preserve and protect birds not only on a local level, but nationally and world-wide. So-I wish each of you a healthy, safe, and happy holiday season, and every good thing in 2021.

Yours truly,

Tim Garner President, Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Area Christmas Bird Counts

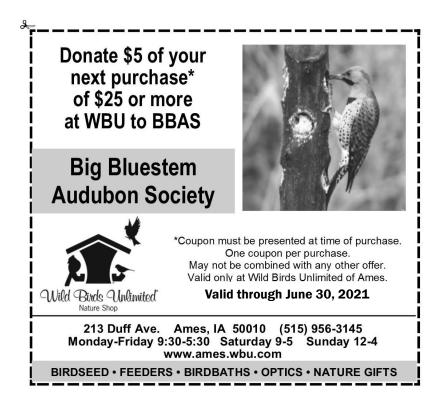
Ames	Dec19	Contact Shane Patterson, shanepatterson@alumni.iastate.edu
Saylorville	Dec 20	Contact Stephen Dinsmore, cootjr@iastate.edu
Boone	Dec 26	Contact Alex Kretzinger, alexkretzinger1@gmail.com

Cancellation

All Big Bluestem Audubon Society birding field trips are cancelled until further notice.

BBAS Newsletter Volume 56 | Number 2 |Dec/Jan/Feb 2020-21

Buying from the businesses listed on this page not only benefits the birds but also helps our local economy and provides funding for BBAS. Donations fund various habitat restoration and educational projects. Present the coupons at the time of your purchase and a donation will be given to BBAS.



Brekke's Town & Country Store, Inc.			
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			
Purchase Up to \$15 \$15 and over \$35 and over Over \$70	<u>Donation</u> \$1.50 \$3.00 \$5.00 \$7.50		
Brekke's offers Big Bluestem Audubon Society a donation when bird seed or other bird products are purchased.			
Present this coupon with your purchase and a donation will be given to BBAS.			
Offer good until June 30, 2021			



Below photos by Larry Dau – Cedar Waxwings and White-winged Crossbill

