

**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](mailto: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	Dec 19	Contact Shane Patterson, <a href="mailto:shanepatterson@alumni.iastate.edu">shanepatterson@alumni.iastate.edu</a>
Saylorville	Dec 20	Contact Stephen Dinsmore, <a href="mailto:cootjr@iastate.edu">cootjr@iastate.edu</a>
Boone	Dec 26	Contact Alex Kretzinger, <a href="mailto:alexkretzinger1@gmail.com">alexkretzinger1@gmail.com</a>

**Cancellation**

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

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.

**Donate \$5 of your next purchase\* of \$25 or more at WBU to BBAS**



**Big Bluestem Audubon Society**



*Wild Birds Unlimited*  
Nature Shop

\*Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.  
One coupon per purchase.  
May not be combined with any other offer.  
Valid only at Wild Birds Unlimited of Ames.

**Valid through June 30, 2021**

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Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30 Saturday 9-5 Sunday 12-4  
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**Offer good until June 30, 2021**

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

