

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER Volume 57 | Number 1 | September/October/November 2021

<http://bigbluestemaudubon.org/>



PROGRAMS

October 21, 2021 | Anna Buckardt Thomas | Tracking Bird Migration for Conservation

Many birds experience seasonal migrations which play an important role in their annual survival and conservation. Join Anna Buckardt Thomas, Iowa DNR's Avian Ecologist, as she explains current technologies being used by scientists to track bird migration, shares examples of her own research that utilized these technologies, and highlights the importance of these tools for bird conservation.

November 18, 2021 | Billy Reiter-Marolf | Forest Habitat Changes and Bird Habitat Associations in Pool 10 of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

From 2017 through 2020, forest inventory surveys and bird point counts were conducted in Pool 10 of the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The goal of these surveys was to collect baseline forest and bird data to better understand the habitat associations of three priority resources of concern bird species: Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Red-shouldered Hawk. During this four-year period, above average flooding resulted in extensive tree stress and mortality on the Refuge. Wildlife biologist Billy Reiter-Marolf will examine the composition, structure, and health of the forested islands in Pool 10, as well as illustrate the distribution and abundance of priority bird species that utilize these islands as breeding habitat.

December 9, 2021 | Christmas Program

Bring 15 of your favorite photos from this past year on a memory stick to Members Night at Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park. Donations for bird feeder food are appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE

BBAS Programs will resume in person.

FIELD TRIPS

October 16, 2021 | 8:00 AM | Chichaqua Bottoms

Meet the group at the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt campground parking lot (8700 NE 126th Ave, Maxwell, IA 50161, GPS:41.793752, -93.429591) by 8:00 AM. We will bird the Cardinal Flower and Otter Trails and visit the bird blind. If time allows, we will explore parts of the wildlife management area.

November 7, 2021 | 8:00 AM | Saylorville Reservoir

Meet the group at the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center (8250 NW Horseshoe Rd, Polk City, IA 50226, GPS: 41.707600, -93.671567902) by 8:00 AM. We will briefly check out the feeders at the visitor center before moving on to check out the birdlife around and on the lake.

No field trip in December due to Christmas Bird Counts



Caption Ovenbird in rural Boone County, September 2021
Photo by Larry Dau

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| 2 | Officers and Committees; President's Corner; Membership Form |
| 3 | 2021 BBAS South Texas Birding Adventure; CY-Hawk Challenge Results |
| 4 | Bird-A-Thon 2021 Results |
| 5 | Photos |
| 6 | New Members |

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.

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
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BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL IOWA

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER WITH TIM GARNER

Blanch DuBois, the tragic character in Tennessee Williams' play *A Streetcar Named Desire*, proclaims "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." So have I. And I think that quote applies to the birding community at large.

A recent trip to Lawrence, Kansas that Heather Sanders, BBAS treasurer, and I took illustrates this point beautifully. We had decided that we wanted to do some birding in the Sunflower State, and a quick Google search revealed that Lawrence was the home to the Jayhawk chapter of the National Audubon Society. I reached out to the president of that chapter, and he referred me to a gentleman named Roger Boyd, a retired biology professor at Baker University, an institution of higher learning affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Roger graciously agreed to be our guide at Baker University Wetlands, just south of Lawrence. He did not know who we were – Heather and I were perfect strangers to him. Yet, he generously gave of his time and (considerable) expertise, pointing out numerous specimens that were life list birds for us, including a least bittern and green heron. We also spotted Mississippi kites that were flying high above us, circling and diving, dining on insects.

He gave us a history of the marsh and pointed out a number of insects and drew our attention to the wild petunias that were growing about. (I never even knew there was such a thing as a wild petunia.) A grand day. Not so grand were the water snakes that I encountered. I gave them a wide berth.

| Continued on page 4

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.*

For Official Use Only
C1ZH570Z

2021 BBAS SOUTH TEXAS BIRDING ADVENTURE NOV 13-20, 2021

BBAS is excited to announce that it has organized a birding and nature viewing tour to the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Gulf Coast of Texas! This is one of THE TOP birding locations in the United States. Green Jays, Great Kiskadees, Plain Chachalacas, Aplomado Falcons, Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, Ringed Kingfishers, Common Pauragues, Zone-tailed Hawks, Altamira Orioles, Tropical Parulas, and Red-crowned Parrots are just a few of the many incredible birds that we will be targeting on this trip, along with a plethora of butterflies, odonates, reptiles, and mammals. We also plan to take a boating excursion into Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to get close-up views of the over-wintering Whooping Cranes and so much more! For more information about this trip, send an email to Eric Ollie at uphawkeye@gmail.com.

CY-HAWK CHALLENGE RESULTS ERIC OLLIE

I received word from Chris Edwards of ICBC that they compiled a list of 127 species, compared to our 142 species, so WE WON by a whopping 15 species! A crushing victory!

They did indeed find more shorebirds than we did but only 3 more species, while only finding 13 warblers compared to our 20.

Chris tallied up a great comparison spreadsheet as well as a really good write-up for their club newsletter. I am attaching both, as well as our complete results.

So, GREAT WORK one and all! We have a year to bask in the glory!

After 8 Cy-Hawk Challenges, we are now 2-5-1 against ICBC.



Summer Tanager in Spark's Cemetery area of Boone County in May 2021
Photo by Larry Dau



Young Kestrels looking out of their nest box in rural Boone County, June 2021
Photo by Larry Dau



Female Kestrel bringing a vole to her nest box to feed her young in rural Boone County, June 2021
Photo by Larry Dau

PHOTOS AND CONTENT FOR NEWSLETTER BY LARRY DAU

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.

CONTINUED PRESIDENT'S CORNER TIM GARNER

On numerous occasions I, like Blanch DuBois, have relied upon the kindness (and expertise) of others in the birding community – stranger who went out of their way to share their knowledge and insights about birds. I will never forget, and I will always be grateful for Roger Boyd's act of generosity, which represented the very best of this wonderful hobby.

And the good news is that he is not unique; you will find such individuals in the Big Bluestem Audubon Society chapter and at other outings sponsored by organizations such as the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

Finally, I hope to see you at the Big Bluestem Audubon Society meetings this fall at the Ames Public Library on the third Thursday of the month beginning in September and running through May. Our chapter meetings start at 6:30 PM, and the programs begin at 7:00 PM. Doug Harr, our vice-president, has booked some great speakers, and you won't want to miss them.

Happy birding to all of you.

BIRD-A-THON 2021 RESULTS ERIC OLLIE

After a year of absence, the 2021 Bird-A-Thon was held on Saturday, May 8. All birders involved agreed that it was the coldest Bird-A-Thon they could remember, with wind, rain, and temperatures holding in the low 40s for the majority of the day. Winter coats, stocking caps, and gloves made an unusual Bird-A-Thon appearance, but the birds ended up making their usual appearances. Altogether, the Bird-A-Thon teams were able to identify 178 species of birds, including 22 species of warblers, which would not be a bad tally if it were sunny and 80 degrees! This year's winning team was Bruce Ehresman's "Baffled Birders" who edged out the "Felted Kingfishers" 135 species to 131 species. "Phishing In the Wind" was third with 116 species; "Quick Three Beers" was next with 115 species, followed by "Out For A Lark" at 99. This year's Bird-A-Thon raised \$4,865.20 for worthy causes supported by our chapter.




Yellow Warbler near Ledges Park in July 2021 | Photo by Larry Dau

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



*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, 2022

213 Duff Ave. Ames, IA 50010 (515) 956-3145
Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30 Saturday 9-5 Sunday 12-4
www.ames.wbu.com

BIRDSEED • FEEDERS • BIRDBATHS • OPTICS • NATURE GIFTS

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

<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Up to \$15	\$1.50
\$15 and over	\$3.00
\$35 and over	\$5.00
Over \$70	\$7.50

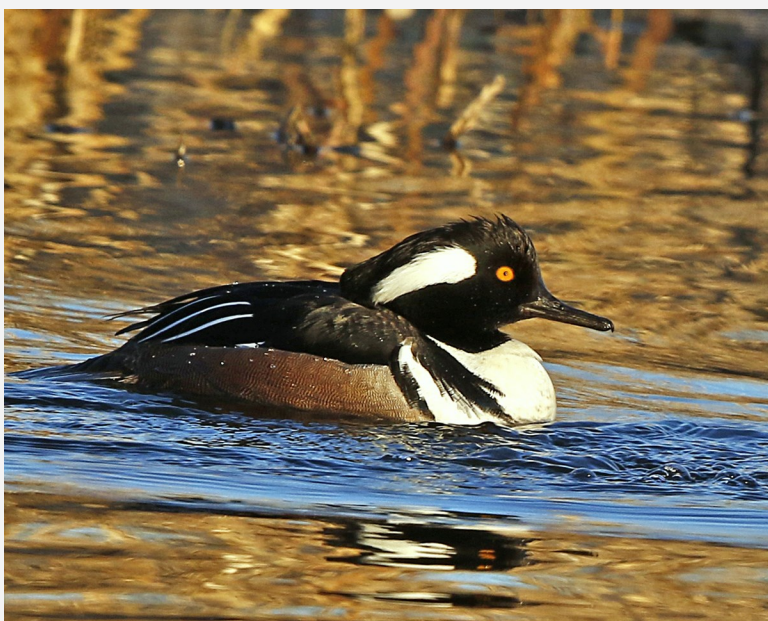
Brekke's offers Big Bluestem Audubon Society a donation when bird seed or other bird products are purchased.

Present this coupon with your purchase and a donation will be given to BBAS.

Offer good until June 30, 2022



Female Great-horned Owl with young found by Doug Harr at McHose Park in Boone | Photo by Larry Dau



Male Hooded Merganser at Swan Lake in Carroll County Spring 2021 | Photo by Larry Dau



Fall migrant Magnolia Warbler in Spark's Cemetery area of Boone County, September 2021
Photo by Larry Dau



Red-eyed Vireo in Spark's Cemetery area of Boone County, September 2021 | Photo by Larry Dau



Tufted Titmouse in Rural Boone County, September 2021 | Photo by Larry Dau

NEW MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

- Ames**
Loretta Adams, Michael Baumhover, Duane Black,
James Brannon, Bruce Carter, Jennie Chamberlain,
Tom Holme, Larry Middleton, Coleen Nutty,
Susan Petra, Kate Tindall
- Boone**
Jane Edwards
Fred Harman
Barb Licklider
Gayle Lutjen
Annamae Reed
Nancy Sloan
- Lehigh**
Barb Kolesar
- Nevada**
Linda Korsching
Nathan Liston
- State Center**
Emily Riley
- Cambridge**
Glee Goodner
- Jefferson**
James Andrew
- Melbourne**
Rachel Barber
- Ogden**
Mike Plueger
- Story City**
Lorijo Lounsberry



Female Kestrel on her nest box in rural Boone County, June 2021
Photo by Larry Dau

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We welcome new members!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Big Bluestem Flyer
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