



Bluestem Flyer

Volume 21, No. 7

March, 1987

Big Bluestem Audubon Society
Ames, Iowa

Dave Edwards, Pres. 292-3790

Judy van der Linden, Vice-Pres. 232-3450

Barbara Bettis, Sect. 232-4863

Judy Shearer, Treas. 296-7512

Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450

Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Room 181-1 (Jury Room), College of Design,
ISU Campus

WHO: Dr. Lois Tiffany, Professor of Botany, ISU, specializing in
the study of fungi, or mushrooms

TOPIC: "Morels and False Morels"
(Refreshments will be provided by Jeanne Edwards and
Laura Cook)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Waterfowl Field Trips -- Two field trips to see geese and other migrating waterfowl have been scheduled--Saturday, March 21 to Bay's Branch in Guthrie County, and Saturday, April 4 to Hendrickson's Marsh. Both trips depart from the parking lot south of C.Y. Stephens. The March one at 7:45 a.m., to return between noon and 1 p.m., and the April trip at 8 a.m., to return by noon. Call Erik Munson (292-1712) for more information.

Warbler Field Trip -- There will be a field trip to McFarland Park on Saturday, May 9 to see warblers and other migrating songbirds. Meet in the park's main parking lot at 8 a.m. and plan to return home before noon.

Bird Count Results -- A line of text was accidentally omitted from the Flyer's story last month about The Boone County Christmas Bird Count results. Seen on the count but not listed in the story were 44 Rough-legged Hawks. Surprisingly large numbers of Eastern Screech Owl (38), and Long-eared Owl (21) were also seen.

Audubon Vacations -- The National Audubon Society and The Northwoods Audubon Center, located at Sandstone, Minnesota, are offering two exciting seminars to those interested in outdoor adventure this summer. Participants will sail among The Apostle Islands in Lake Superior, or canoe through The Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness of northern Minnesota. These trips are an opportunity to explore the natural history and experience firsthand these two spectacular areas.

There will be two sailing trips among The Apostle Islands, July 6-10 and July 13-17, and two canoe trips through The Boundary Waters area, August 15-22 and August 22-29. While practicing your sailing and canoeing skills, you will also learn about the delicate relationship between humans and the environment, and issues that effect these two areas, including acid rain, forest ecology, land use and endangered species.

No canoeing or sailing experience is needed. The trips will be led by professional staff from Northwood Audubon Center, who will offer special insight into the areas visited.

For more information on the trips and registration, call Judy van der Linden at 232-3450 or National Audubon Society, 730 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 330, Minneapolis, MN 55403, (612) 375-9140.

Owls, Owls -- Fifteen birders participated in an owl trip on February 21 and got to see what they came for. Erik Munson led the trip to Big Creek, where the group saw four Short-eared and one Long-eared owl, and then to Ledges State Park to see a Northern Saw-whet Owl. The weather was good and birders also saw three Northern Harriers, 14 Ring-necked Pheasants and the first Canada Goose of the spring for Erik.

Groundwater Needs Help -- If you have time for only one letter or phone call to help conservation this year, please use it to support the groundwater bill in the Iowa Legislature! Because this bill is comprehensive and progressive, BIG MONEY is likely to come from out-of-state to fight it, especially from big chemical corporations.

The groundwater bill is now called House Study Bill 118, but will acquire a different number when it becomes a committee bill. If you refer to "The House groundwater bill", legislators should know what you mean.

The best way to support this bill is to tell your legislators two things: (1) that you support the basic ideas in the bill, and (2) that you are willing to pay your share to protect Iowa's groundwater. One legislator has noted that the cost to the average Iowa citizen would be much less than is typically paid each year for deodorant!

You can also support the bill through a letter to your newspaper -- such letters help educate readers and show that there is public support for the bill.

This bill will: (1) establish that all Iowa groundwater be maintained or restored to an uncontaminated state; (2) create a Groundwater Protection Fund to pay for long-term solutions to contamination problems. It will have four separate accounts covering solid waste, agricultural management, household hazardous waste and storage tanks; (3) establish a goal of having all Iowans share in the clean-up and maintenance efforts. Money for the four accounts will be generated from fees and taxes on the use, storage or disposal of products and waste that contribute to groundwater contamination. The fees and taxes will include a tax on household hazardous wastes, an increased fee on solid waste disposal at landfills, a tax on pesticide sales, an increase in fertilizer fees, and fees on underground storage tanks.

For more information on this very important bill, contact Cindy Hildebrand at 232-3807.

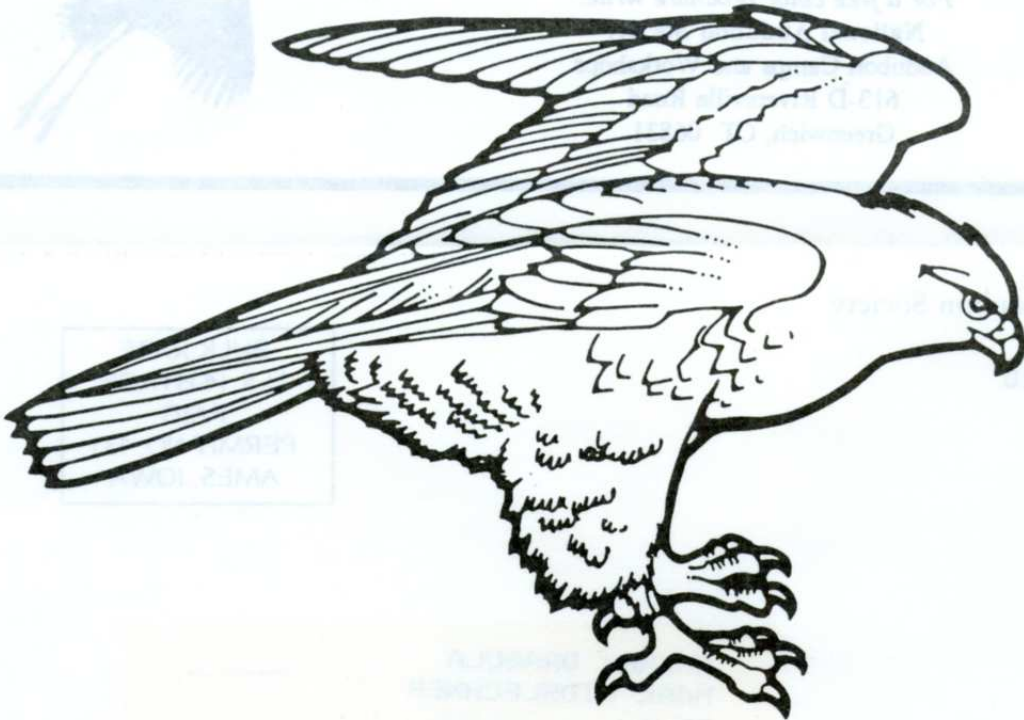
Birder's Notes

3

February 24th -- Another four relatively warm, dry weeks have passed with little bird activity to report. Instead of flocking to our feeders, the birds this winter are scavenging weed seed and other food in fields and lawns that remain uncovered by snow. Likewise, we see no large flocks of Horned Lark or Snow Bunting along the road's edge as we drive -- they are dispersed in the corn and soybean fields, where they can find food easily because there is no snow, but where they're also hard to see!

The same Snowy Owls reported in last month's column are still around. They were spotted as recently as February 21 about 2 miles north and 2 miles east of Whitten, IA. Call Mark Proescholdt at 496-5219 for more information. Bald Eagles have begun moving north

along rivers and may possibly be seen now around Saylorville Dam. Thousands of ducks are reportedly resting and waiting near Burlington, IA, and some Common Merganser, Mallard and Canada Geese were seen the first week of February on open water at Hendrickson's Marsh. Colder weather has since closed those open areas of marsh. Now is a good time to listen for owls calling. Call Hank Zaletel at 377-2889 for directions to find Great Horned or Barred owls at Hickory Grove Park, or go to a pine grove or wooded river bottom to search on your own. Call Erik Munson at 292-1712 for information on finding Northern Saw-whet or Long-eared Owl. Ames residents have recently reported seeing American Robin in town. Some Red-breasted Nuthatch have also been seen.



Audubon Camps and Ecology Workshops

Come join us in a celebration of nature . . .

. . . as we embark on Audubon's 50th year of excellence in environmental education and field natural history studies.

In superb natural settings, in the company of distinguished naturalists and fellow students who share your interest in nature, you'll search a pond for whirligig beetles and damselfly nymphs. Or dredge the ocean floor for starfish and sea urchins. Or investigate the riparian grotto home of the nocturnal oilbird. Or follow paths blazed by mountain sheep.

Field studies range from geology and marine life to birds, mammals, plants, insects, weather, astronomy, and renewable energy. For recreation you may explore a wild island in Maine, go rafting in Wyoming, roam the lovely, lush, deciduous woods of Connecticut. In Trinidad your studies will focus on such subjects as sea turtles, manakin leks, and tropical forest ecology.

Camp sessions for adults run for one or two weeks. College credit is available. There is also a session for children in Maine; introductory field ecology for educators in Connecticut; field ornithology in Maine; wilderness research and nature photography in Wyoming.

You'll learn to better understand and protect the wild creatures and wild places that we love. As it has done for so many others, this Audubon experience will enrich the rest of your life.

For a free color brochure write:

National Audubon Society
Audubon Camps and Workshops
613-D Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831



Big Bluestem Audubon Society
2308 State
Ames, Iowa 50010

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 131
AMES, IOWA

SHERRY DRAGULA
MARK WIDRLECHNER
RR 6
AMES, IA 50010