

# Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 22, No. 3

November, 1987

## Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 1987, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Room 191-1, College of Design, ISU Campus

**"Iowa State Preserves"**

Paul Christenson, Cornell College

*(Refreshments: Marianna Loy & Elizabeth Carbrey)*

## Field Trip

Saturday, December 19, 1987

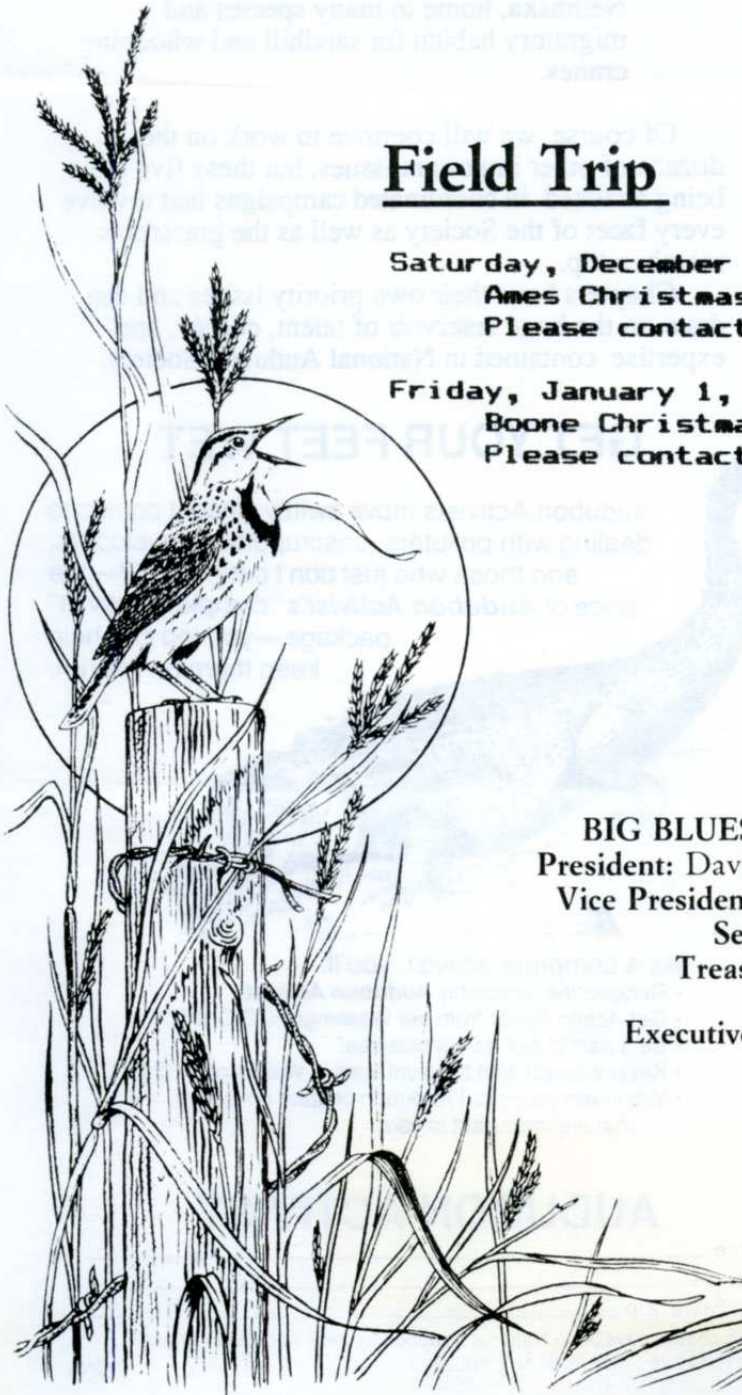
Ames Christmas Bird Count

Please contact Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152

Friday, January 1, 1988

Boone Christmas Bird Count

Please contact Mark Wildrlechner, 292-4014



### **BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS**

**President:** David C. Edwards, 292-3790, Membership Chair

**Vice President:** Michael Meetz, 382-2534, Program Chair

**Secretary:** Barbara Bettis, 232-4863

**Treasurer:** Mark Wildrlechner, 292-4014

**Executive Board:** Sherry Dragula, 292-4014,

Conservation Chair

Barbara Heikens, 296-2999,

Education Chair

Marianna Loy, 292-0769

Andy Fix, 296-7554

Kay Niyo, 292-5130

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## NEWS FROM NAS

by Peter A.A. Berle  
President, National Audubon Society

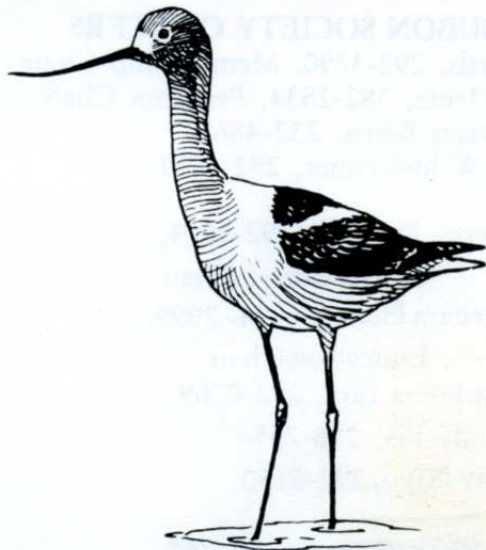
THE DECISION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS at their May meeting to reduce Audubon field staff in order to meet budget goals generated a lot of confusion and turmoil. This was understandable, because we did not at the time have a workable plan for maintaining chapter liaison services, and Audubon's work on a regional basis. In addition, we did not do a good job of communicating with chapter leaders. After a healthy internal debate, some positive results emerged:

First: The restructuring of the field offices, while still painful, has not been as drastic as it seemed at first. We lost some valuable people, but we still have nine regional offices and four state offices. In some areas, chapters are helping with the fundraising to keep offices open.

Second: A board committee and an advisory group made up of chapter leaders developed a plan by which chapters will directly elect nine of the 36 board members. This is an important and complicated process that must be accomplished quickly this first year. Your chapter leaders have been fully briefed on the process, and we hope all of you will participate.

Third: Any consideration of changing the way members are assigned to chapters or the formula by which chapters and National share dues will be deferred and will only take place (if at all) after the election of chapter-selected board members. This election will take place at the annual meeting, December 4, 1987.

Fourth: We have resolved to improve communications within Audubon. This column, prepared especially for chapter newsletters, is one part of that effort.



## NAS PRIORITY ISSUES

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY HAS identified five high priority issues for intense and immediate focus:

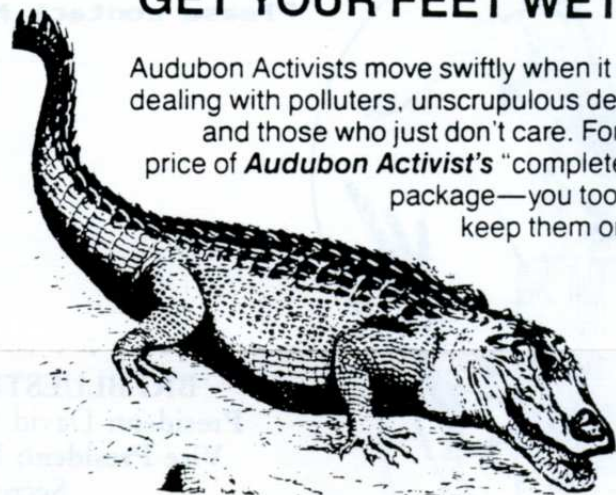
- Safeguard the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is under threat of oil development.
- Conserve ancient, virgin forests, especially in the Northwest, where they are rapidly disappearing.
- Preserve wetlands, which this country continues to lose at a rate estimated to be 450,000 acres per year.
- Fight the spread of toxics, including acid rain.
- Protect the Platte River ecosystem in central Nebraska, home to many species and migratory habitat for sandhill and whooping cranes.

Of course, we will continue to work on the dozens of other important issues, but these five are being attacked in coordinated campaigns that involve every facet of the Society as well as the grassroots membership.

Chapters have their own priority issues and can draw on the huge reservoir of talent, energy, and expertise contained in National Audubon Society.

## GET YOUR FEET WET

Audubon Activists move swiftly when it comes to dealing with polluters, unscrupulous developers, and those who just don't care. For \$9—the price of **Audubon Activist's** "complete activist" package—you too can help keep them on the run.



As a complete activist, you'll:

- Receive the bimonthly **Audubon Activist**
- Get *Action Alerts* from our Washington, D.C. office
- Be a part of our "telephone tree"
- Keep in touch with the front lines in Washington, D.C.
- Work with your local Audubon chapter on issues that are important to you

## AUDUBON ACTIVIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society, *Audubon Activist*,  
350 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022



## Student Intern Opportunities at National Audubon Sanctuaries

The National Audubon Society offers students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain training and experience in sanctuary management, while providing Audubon sanctuaries with much needed help.

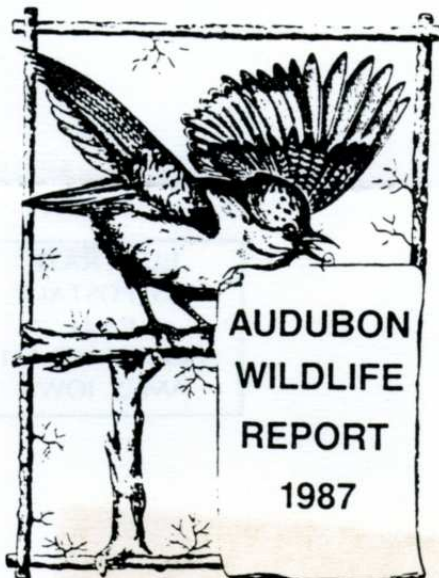
"Interns do everything from leading nature walks to running visitor centers; from collecting biological data for the sanctuary monitoring program to original ecological research; and from manual labor to building displays," says Frank Dunstan, Director of Audubon Sanctuaries. Program benefits for participants include:

- Career enhancing "hands on" experience in all phases of wildlife sanctuary work.
- Valuable references and a stronger resume.
- College credit can be arranged.
- Personal instruction.
- Housing, utilities, and uniforms are provided.
- Eligibility for scholarships to attend one of four Audubon Ecology Camps.

Internships, usually for three-month periods, are available throughout the year at participating sanctuaries in Maine, South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, Connecticut, Arizona, and California.

For additional program details and information, write:

National Audubon Society  
Sanctuary Department  
93 West Cornwall Road  
Sharon, CT 06069



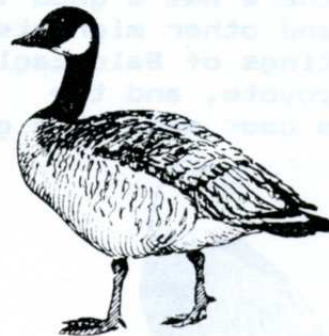
This thorough and concise volume of wildlife management is a vital reference for anyone concerned about wildlife and wild areas.

The 1987 edition is a copublishing venture between National Audubon and Academic Press, Inc., a respected publisher of scientific texts. **To order, call Academic's toll-free number: 1-800-321-5068.**

The 1985, 1986, and 1987 reports are all available for \$39.95 each.

**[Available in ISU Library (QL84.2, A9x, 1987)]**

## PUZZLES



THE THIRD IN A SERIES of comprehensive, annual books covering wildlife management in the United States, the *Audubon Wildlife Report 1987* is now available. The featured federal agency is the Bureau of Land Management. BLM's responsibilities for managing our public lands are discussed; the chapter also focuses on the controversial issues of grazing management and the agency's multiple-use mandate.

Current trends concerning wetlands protection, marine mammal protection, and migratory bird conservation are provided, adding to the material already presented in the 1985 and 1986 volumes. Information on federal agencies continues—e.g. the Forest Service and the National Park Service—and is updated and expanded.

The walrus, bobcat, elk, piping plover, and red-cockaded woodpecker are just five of 15 chapters devoted to species accounts. Discussed, among other things, are the species' natural history, management, and current status. Each chapter is written by a professional wildlife biologist and reviewed by other wildlife specialists. Rounding out this Report is a 143-page appendix, which offers key federal agency and congressional contacts.



## DESOTO BEND FIELD TRIP REPORT

Thirteen members trekked to western Iowa for the late October field trip; nine hardier ones camped out in Wilson Island State Park, having one campground to themselves and some reported skunks. Pre-dawn entry to the preserve in three cars got us to the photo blind and the observation tower at first light, though the heavy overcast and nearby thunderstorms made sun-up a theoretical calculation. Steve Dinsmore was right when he said there wouldn't be many geese there. There were several hundred Snow Geese but no others. Instead, there was a good variety of ducks and other migrants. Five good sightings of Bald Eagles, a well-fed coyote, and the ubiquitous deer made it a good



Last month's challenge to find bird names in movie titles drew three entries. Mike Meetz had the longest list with 52, thus he wins the singles. Steve and Jim Dinsmore found 30 for the doubles prize. Marianna Loy had a list of 20 and earned a creativity award for 10 extra items such as Tern Of The Screw, My Friend Flicker, and Ani Get Your Gun. Suitable prizes will be given at the Christmas meeting.

For this month, focus on song titles with bird names in them. To make it a little clearer, the word "bird" alone will not be counted.

Screech Owl and Great-horned Owl.



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