

Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 23 No. 7

March 1989

Monthly Meeting

MAMMALS: DISCOURAGING PESTS

Jim Pease, ISU Extension Service

Tuesday, March 21, 7:30 PM, Rm 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

Field Trip

WATERFOWL WATCH

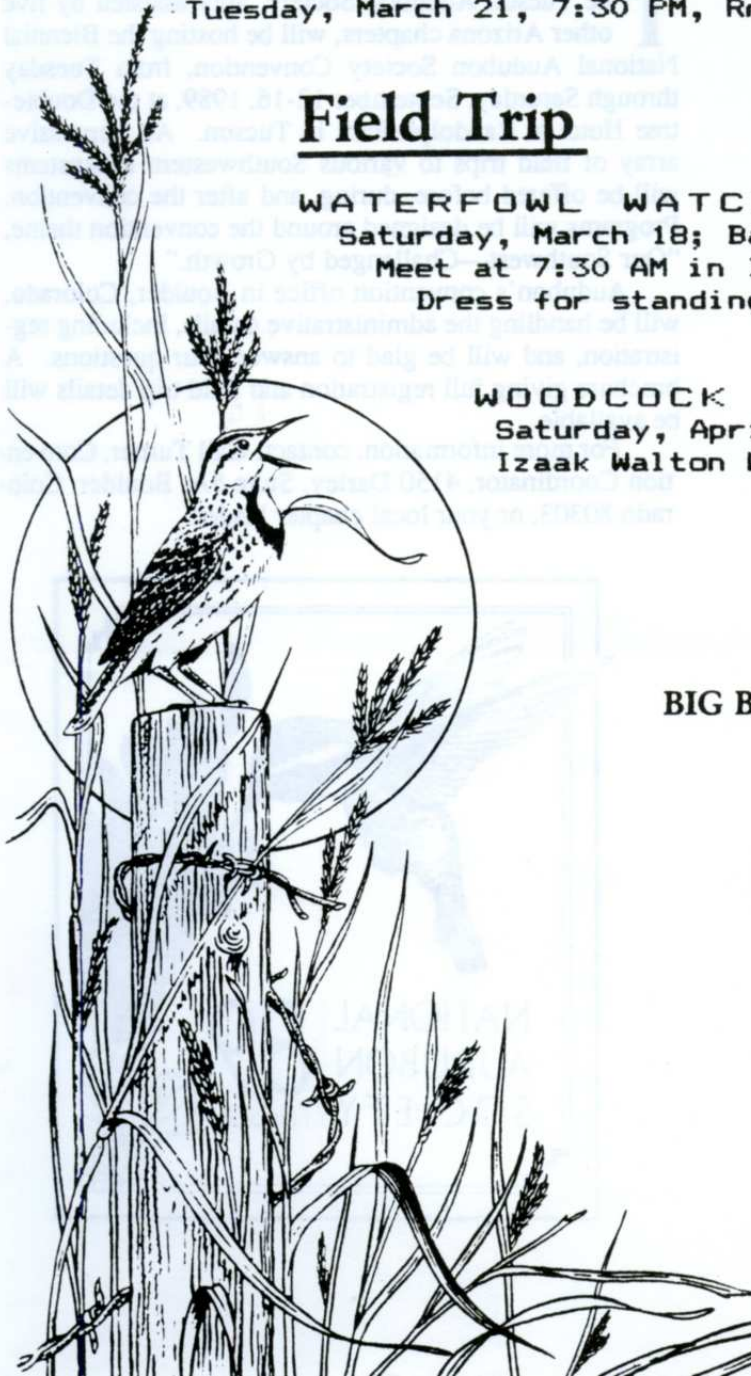
Saturday, March 18; Bay's Branch, Guthrie County

Meet at 7:30 AM in ISU Design Center Parking Lot.

Dress for standing in place and some walking.

WOODCOCK WATCH

Saturday, April 8, 7 PM, Stagecoach Road at the
Izaak Walton League Park entrance.



BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

1988-1989

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534

Vice-President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014
Conservation Chair

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

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Field Trips

Andy Fix, 296-7554

Barbara Heikens, 296-2999

Education Chair

Tom Rosburg, 292-2361

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790

ACID RAIN

Mike Meetz' four rain samples since the last report measured pH of 5.25, 4.0, 4.25, and 4.25

OWL WALK FIELD TRIP REPORT

Birders from Big Bluestem were joined by visitors from Centerville, Mason City, and England for some owling at Ledges State Park and the Saylorville Reservoir. Seventeen participants had opportunities to get close to roosting Northern Saw-whet Owls and saw Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl and Long-eared Owl. The youngest of the group (five years) found a roosting Saw-whet all by himself!!! His eyes were at its roost level while everyone else was looking higher and walked on by. Other species seen included Chickadee, Cardinal, Sparrows, Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks and Kestrel. Below the Saylorville dam the group saw Crows, Canada Geese, Mallard, Kingfisher and a mature Bald Eagle for a total of 21 species.

Tucson to Host '89 Audubon Convention

The Tucson Audubon Society, ably assisted by five other Arizona chapters, will be hosting the Biennial National Audubon Society Convention, from Tuesday through Saturday, September 12-16, 1989, at the Doubletree Hotel at Randolph Park in Tucson. An impressive array of field trips to various Southwestern ecosystems will be offered before, during, and after the convention. Programs will be designed around the convention theme, "Our Southwest—Challenged by Growth."

Audubon's convention office in Boulder, Colorado, will be handling the administrative details, including registration, and will be glad to answer your questions. A brochure giving full registration and field trip details will be available

For more information, contact: Gail Turner, Convention Coordinator, 4150 Darley, Suite 5A, Boulder, Colorado 80303, or your local chapter leader.

National Audubon Society



Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

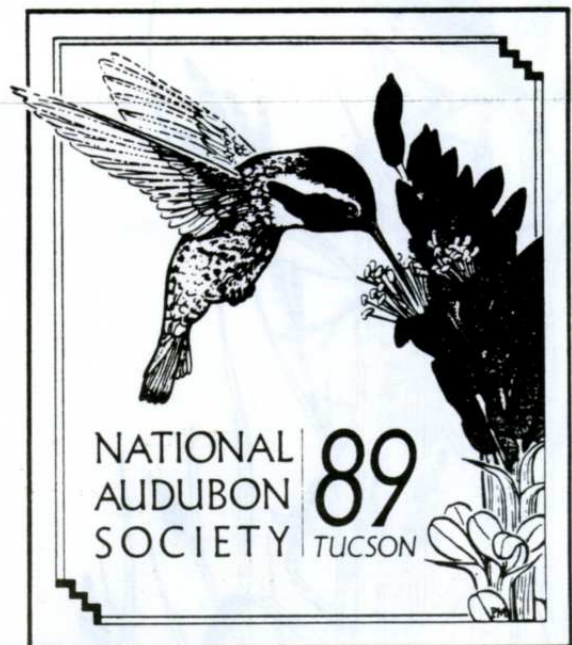
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY
2308 STATE AVENUE
AMES, IA 50010

H57

Local Chapter Code
7XCHA



NATIONAL
AUDUBON
SOCIETY

89

TUCSON

Clean Air Key Issue in '89

Activists are suiting up for one of the big battles of the coming year: getting a new and better Clean Air Act passed by the 101st Congress. In a seemingly endless effort, environmentalists have been working to amend the bill with provisions for controlling acid rain, airborne emissions of toxic chemicals, and urban smog.

The "tough birds"—Audubon activists—fought hard in 1988 and made significant gains, particularly in the House. More than 218 representatives—the magic majority of House members—signed the Vento-Green letter urging the House to move ahead on clean air legislation. Although House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, from the auto-producing state of Michigan, had refused to let a strong bill out of committee, it looked as if a compromise was still possible in late 1988. But the final agreement was too weak to protect the environment and public health, and environmentalists were unable to support it.

The work of Audubon activists in pushing forward this critical legislation cannot be underestimated, according to Audubon's grassroots coordinator Connie Mahan, and it will be even more so in the new term. She says, "We're very close to getting a clean air bill. If our clean air "tough birds" can stick with it and not lose heart, I believe we can win this issue in 1989."

Nature Catalog

Richardson Bay Audubon Center has just published its 1989 mail-order catalog of field and site guides for birding, video and audio cassettes of birds, and environmental education books. The catalog is free. If you would like one please send a 25¢ stamp to: The Book Nest, RBAC, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, Calif. 94920.

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"There is simply no substitute for the Audubon Activist when it comes to good, hard reporting on wildlife issues.

The Activist Network is speaking out and winning environmental battles. I urge all Audubon members to subscribe!"

-Peter A.A. Berle, President

Cowbirds Invade Sunshine State

By Drs. Thomas Bancroft and Wayne Hoffman
Audubon Research Biologists

Cowbirds, already sporting a bad reputation, are invading Florida, and scientists are concerned about the impacts of these aliens on long-time resident songbirds.

Brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were first found breeding in the panhandle of Florida in 1956. Since then they have spread through the panhandle and across north Florida. In 1985, a fledgling cowbird was first found in Pinellas County, halfway down the peninsula. We now regularly see brown-headed cowbirds in south Florida during the summer, although no confirmed breeding has been recorded south of Sarasota County.

PUZZLE CORNER

Colors are frequently used in the common names of birds. What are the three most common color names?

Eight birds have two colors in their names. Which are they?

About nine color names appear only once in the usual list of common names of North American birds (as listed in Robbins, for example). Can you come up with five or so?

CALENDAR

- April - AUDUBON MONTH. Theme: Rivers and Wildlife
April 1 - Upper Iowa AS field trip, Ducks on the Mississippi
Decorah City Hall at 8 AM
April 8 - Cedar Rapids AS, Early Spring Wildflowers at Palisades SP
at the park at 8 AM. 319-338-4386
April 14 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Map and Compass Wilderness Navigation
612-245-2648
April 15 - Prairie Rapids AS (Waterloo) Field trip to Sweet Marsh
Meet 7 AM at Logan Plaza, 319-232-0217
April 18 - BBAS public meeting, State Forestry Nursery,
SHORE BIRDS, Hank Zaletel
April 21-23, 28-30 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Discover Adventure Whitewater
Canoe Weekends 612-245-2648
April 22 - BBAS, SHORE BIRDS, Hendrickson's Marsh
May 6 - BBAS, WATER BIRDS, Saylorville reservoir
May 13 - BBAS, WARBLERS, Brookside Park
May 16 - BBAS public meeting, HIGH SCHOOL PRAIRIE RECLAMATION,
Judy Shearer, Nature Conservancy
May 27-30 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Paddle the Namekagon and
St. Croix Rivers 612-245-2648
June 3 - 2ND ANNUAL BBAS BIRDERS' BREAKFAST, Ledges State Park
June 4-10 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Black Hills Backpacking Trip
612-245-2648
June 16-25 or June 30-July 9 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Bald Eagle Nesting
Surveys and Research in the BWCA 612-245-2648
June/July - BBAS CANOE TRIP to Big Wall Lake
Sep 11-16 - NAS Biennial Convention, Tucson, AZ

The public is invited to attend any BBAS sponsored event.

BIRDER'S HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.

REMEMBER THE CHICKADEE CHECKOFF!

Big Bluestem Audubon Society
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Ames, Iowa 500 10

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