



Big Bluestem Audubon Society
Ames, Iowa

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Bluestem Flyer

Vol 21, No. 3 November, 1986

Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m.

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

WHO: George Thomson, professor in the Dept. of Forestry, ISU

TOPIC: "The Prairie Grove Revisited." Refreshments--Ruby Bade and Dick Trump."

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Board Meeting--The society's executive board will meet Tuesday, November 25, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Dave Edwards' home, 2308 State Avenue.

Public Bird Program -- "Mysteries of Migration" will be discussed by rangers on November 23 at 1 p.m. at the Saylorville Lake Visitors Center.

Christmas Birdcounts -- The annual Christmas birdcounts will be held Saturday, December 27, 1986, in Story County, and Thursday, January 1, 1987, in Boone County. Count leaders are Hank Zaletel (377-2889) for Story County and Mark Widrlechner (292-4014) for Boone County. Volunteer counters are needed -- you don't have to be an expert birder. Areas are assigned to groups with experienced leaders and all participants meet at the end of the day for eating, final tallies and bragging. Counters will be charged a small fee to underwrite the collating and publishing costs of count results in "American Birds."

For the less hardy birders -- feeder watchers are also needed in both counties. No fee is charged for feeder counting. Contact either count leader, Steve Dinsmore or any board member on the masthead above for more information.



Birder's Notes

November 1 -- The first few winter birds have returned to central Iowa -- juncos in Ames, a Snow Bunting near Tama and a Saw-whet Owl at Ledges State Park near Camp Hantesa. Warmer weather up north has delayed the migration south of most ducks and geese, but it could pick up anytime. Gulls will also be migrating through Iowa, and all of these water birds can be seen at Big Creek State Park and Saylorville Reservoir south of Ames.

The last of the migrating shorebirds are still feeding and resting in the Highway 30 "ponds" just east of Colo. Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lesser Yellowlegs and Snipe were seen there this week.

It's not too early to start watching evergreen plantings (i.e. the State Nursery) for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. These birds can also be attracted to your homes. Now is the time to clean out and put up bird feeders. Keep fresh water out for birds at this time of year, too, if possible.

News and Notes

Why am I Receiving This Newsletter? -- Membership in the National Audubon Society (NAS) entitles you to membership in a local society at no additional cost. Those of you receiving this newsletter for the first time have been recently added to our mailing list, in most cases because of a reshuffling of chapter "share" guidelines by NAS. Members living close enough to Ames are encouraged to participate in our Big Bluestem chapter's meetings and activities. A portion of your national dues are returned to this chapter to help support local organization and conservation activities. We would be pleased to have you come to our events, and we are always happy to have volunteers for projects and leadership roles.

A few persons receiving this newsletter are not members of the national society. If you do not wish to continue receiving the "Flyer", or if you wish to join the national society, please drop a note to the president at 2303 State Avenue.



Newsletter Deadline -- The deadline for submitting articles for the "Bluestem Flyer" will be the last Tuesday of every month. All contributions are welcome. Send articles or artwork to Judy van der Linden, 610 9th Street, Ames. The editor reserves the right to edit articles as necessary.

Bird Puzzles Return!

Here's a dose of bird puzzles to get you through the long November days. Each phrase describes the name of a bird. Answers at the November meeting!

1. Highway sprinter
2. Drunken angler
3. Pale Robert
4. Extended sidetrack
5. U.N.C.L.E.'s chief adversary



Conservation News

National -- The national Superfund law was passed and later signed by President Reagan on October 17. The version passed provides \$8.5 billion for cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste dumps and an additional \$500 million for leaking underground storage tanks. The law also establishes a schedule of starting dates for cleanup efforts and gives communities the right to obtain information about the release of toxins into the environment.

As of this writing, the Clean Water Act awaits President Reagan's action. Congress unanimously approved the act on October 18. However, the Reagan administration objects to the \$18 billion it includes for sewage construction grants and the president may veto the bill. Of special concern to agricultural states like Iowa is a provision of the bill which starts a program for states to develop watershed management plans for combating non-point source pollution.

Local -- Our Audubon chapter's Conservation Committee is seeking several people interested in developing and reviewing plans for a nature trail and plantings in East River Valley Park, Ames. Please call or write Sherry Dragula (R.R. #6, Ames, or 292-4014) if you would like to help with this project.

Audubon Member Profile

Jeanne Edwards is one of the first people one notices at a Big Bluestem Audubon meeting. She's always got something fun to talk about and she goes out of her way to make newcomers feel welcome.

Jeanne is originally from Wisconsin. That's where she met her husband Dave, the current Big Bluestem chapter president. They have been married 28 years and have two children, Jen and Ann.

Jeanne started attending college in Milwaukee but had to pull out of school everytime she ran out of tuition money. She first majored in chemistry then switched to psychology. Jeanne received her undergraduate degree and her masters at the University of Iowa. "I did my master's thesis on the reliability of reporting in mothers of boys vs. the mothers of girls. I found out, however, that I'm more of an applied person than a research person."

Twenty-three years ago, when Jeanne and her husband moved to Ames she started teaching in the Child Development department at ISU. Both of her daughters, however, were very sick in their youth so Jeanne found it necessary to quit her job. Jen has Boeck's Sarcoid disease and came close to death four times. Jeanne says of her decision to quit twenty-three years ago, "You can't be planning a lecture while your kid is in a coma." Doctors could find nothing that seemed to cure Jen. One day her mother Jeanne decided to keep a food diary of the children's eating habits. She noticed that on the days Jen and Ann avoided certain foods, the children's health was improved. Jeanne also started the eldest daughter Jen on a mega-vitamin program. The therapies seemed to work. The Mayo Clinic doctors told Jeanne that while they couldn't condone what she was doing she certainly shouldn't stop it. "I literally saved my daughter's life."

This revelation of what allergies did to her family's health led Jeanne to help start a HEAL (Human Ecology Action League) chapter with three other friends. It's an Ames-area support group for people who are allergic to food and/or chemicals. There are approximately 60 families who are members with an average attendance of 20 people at each meeting. Jeanne is currently secretary/treasurer of the group. "It's very satisfying to help all those people. I think my psychology training really helped.

Jeanne thinks it is her own allergies that contribute to her love of the outdoors. "I need to get out in the fresh air or I get cabin fever." One of her hobbies is gardening. She does all of the planting at the Wilson Elder Service Center. That activity brought her a Pride and Property award this summer from the Ames Beautification Committee for outstanding contribution to environmental quality.

It took Jeanne five years to talk her husband Dave into going to his first Audubon meeting (and another five to get him to try square dancing)! Now they both enjoy the friends they've made from each group. Jeanne's one unfulfilled desire is to take a canoe trip through the boundary waters. "My needs are small," she says. Somehow, it seems like an apropos comment for such a giving individual.

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