

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 29, No. 5      Newsletter of the Mid-Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society      January 1994

## MONTHLY MEETING

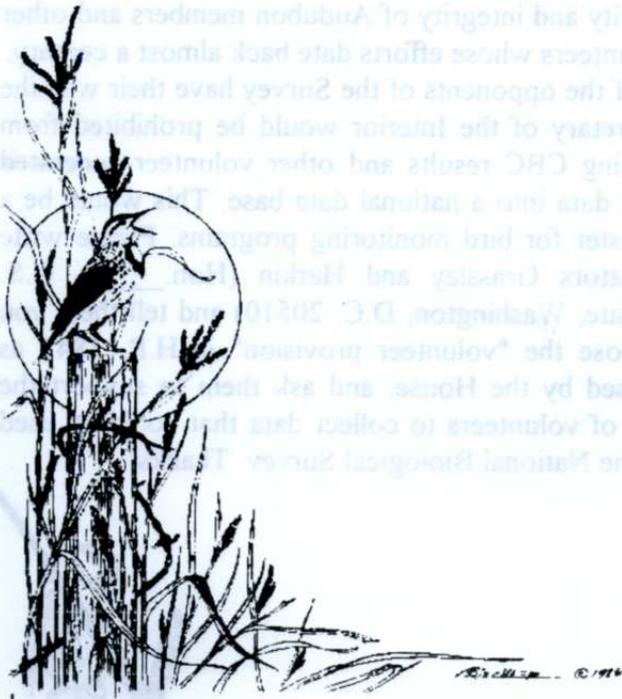
### THE LANDFORMS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

#### GARRY BRANDENBURG

Garry Brandenburg is the Director for the Marshall County Conservation Board.

Thursday, January 20, 7:30 PM

Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U., Ames



## FIELD TRIP

### OWLING AT BIG CREEK

Sunday, January 23

Meet at 7:30 AM at the parking lot west of the Design Center. From there we will carpool to the Big Creek area.

(Please note that this trip will take place on Sunday instead of our usual trip day of Saturday.)

For those who want to meet us at Big Creek, we will be at the playground—beach area at 8:15 to 8:30.

### Ames High School Prairie Schedule

These events are free and open to the public, they take place at the prairie on the west side of the Ames High School.

Saturday, February 5, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, wood and brush cutting at the west prairie; bring your tools, and take precautions against poison ivy.

Saturday, March 26, 9 AM to Noon, cut sprouts from stumps that were cut in previous years. Afterwards an optional restaurant lunch. If you have questions call David Brenner, 292-3114.

### American Kestrel "Adopt-A-Box" Program

Funds are being sought to help offset the expenses accrued while maintaining the American Kestrel nest box trail which is located along I-35 in Story and Hamilton counties. For just \$35, you or your group can adopt a nest box for one year. You will receive a nesting and fledging report of your nest box, a color photograph of one of the nestlings, banding information, a summary on the entire trail at the end of the year, and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped the American Kestrel in Iowa. Contact Mike Meetz at 515-382-2534, RR 2, Box 24, Nevada, IA 50201 for further information. Thank You!

### Beginning Birding Course

A beginning birding course will be offered by the Big Bluestem Audubon chapter and the Story County Conservation Board in 1994. The location will be the McFarland Park Conservation Center. Subjects covered include: Basic Bird Identification, Equipment Basics, Identification Guides, Field Techniques and other related information. The cost of the course is \$5 for all three sessions, or \$2 per individual session. Field trips associated with the course are free. The meeting dates are: February 8 & 22, and March 8. Meetings will start at 7 PM and end at 9 PM. For more information contact the park office at 232-2516 or Mike Meetz at 382-2534

### Thanks from the Story County Conservation Board

Cele Burnett, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Board sends this note of thanks: "On behalf of the Story County Conservation Board, I'd like to thank the Big Bluestem Audubon Society for their annual donations of bird seed and suet for our birdfeeding programs. We always appreciate the support of our good friends with the BBAS. Thanks!"

### Action Alert! Volunteerism Under Attack

Almost one hundred years ago, the National Audubon Society initiated the nation's first coordinated bird monitoring effort, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The data base provided by the Christmas Count constitutes the longest continuous record of bird populations available in North America.

Late in October the House passed H.R. 1845, a bill to establish the National Biological Survey (NBS), a new agency within the Department of Interior. The purpose of the Survey is to better assess the nation's biological resources, including birds. Unfortunately, the House adopted amendments including one to remove a provision authorizing the Secretary of Interior to accept the services of volunteers in conducting the Survey. This amendment (by Rep. Tauzin, D-LA) insults the quality and integrity of Audubon members and other volunteers whose efforts date back almost a century.

If the opponents of the Survey have their way the Secretary of the Interior would be prohibited from putting CBC results and other volunteer-generated bird data into a national data base. This would be a disaster for bird monitoring programs. Please write Senators Grassley and Harkin (Hon. \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and tell them you oppose the "volunteer provision" in H.R. 1845 as passed by the House, and ask them to support the use of volunteers to collect data that could be used in the National Biological Survey. Thanks!



BIRDFEEDER SURVEY JANUARY 27-30, 1994

Please fill out carefully. Feel free to copy the form for friends and patrons. Thank you and enjoy yourselves!

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
- 2A. Address \_\_\_\_\_
- 2B. County \_\_\_\_\_ 2C. City \_\_\_\_\_ 2D. Zip \_\_\_\_\_
3. The feeder survey period this year runs from Thursday, January 27th to Sunday, January 30th. Count birds on two consecutive days only. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.  
 Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday (1/27) and Friday (1/28),  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Friday (1/28) and Saturday (1/29), or  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday (1/29) and Sunday (1/30).
4. Is your feeder in Town (including suburbs) or in the Country?  
 Circle T or C.
5. Check the ONE description which best describes the area within a 2-block circle around your feeder:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ suburban, houses with shrubs and small trees but few trees wider than 20 inches.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ suburban bordered by: (circle 1) timber, grass, field or row crop.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ town, neighborhood has many mature shade and street trees.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ downtown with mostly buildings, sidewalks, roads, parking lots, high rises  
 \_\_\_\_\_ pasture  
 \_\_\_\_\_ row crop (corn, beans, etc.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ timber  
 \_\_\_\_\_ farmstead with mature trees and shrubs around house.
6. Type and number of feeders: \_\_\_\_\_ Thistle, \_\_\_\_\_ Sunflower(only), \_\_\_\_\_ Fruit, \_\_\_\_\_ Safflower, \_\_\_\_\_ Peanuts, \_\_\_\_\_ Mixed seed, \_\_\_\_\_ Peanut Butter, \_\_\_\_\_ Suet, \_\_\_\_\_ Cracked Sunflower, \_\_\_\_\_ Corn, \_\_\_\_\_ Millet(only), \_\_\_\_\_ unfrozen water, \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_
7. On what date did you start feeding during 1993-94? About \_\_\_\_\_
8. Comments or additional description of your feeder or yard: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES DURING TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ Ring-necked Pheasant      | _____ Tree Sparrow (American)     |
| _____ Rock Dove (Common Pigeon) | _____ Song Sparrow                |
| _____ Mourning Dove             | _____ White-throated Sparrow      |
| _____ Red-headed Woodpecker     | _____ White-crowned Sparrow       |
| _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker    | _____ Harris' Sparrow             |
| _____ Downy Woodpecker          | _____ Dark-eyed Junco (All races) |
| _____ Hairy Woodpecker          | _____ Red-winged Blackbird        |
| _____ Flicker (All races)       | _____ Grackle (Common)            |
| _____ Blue Jay                  | _____ Brown-headed Cowbird        |
| _____ Crow (American)           | _____ Purple Finch                |
| _____ Black-capped Chickadee    | _____ Common Redpoll              |
| _____ Tufted Titmouse           | _____ Pine Siskin                 |
| _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch     | _____ Goldfinch American          |
| _____ White-breasted Nuthatch   | _____ Evening Grosbeak            |
| _____ Brown Creeper             | _____ House (English) Sparrow     |
| _____ Robin (American)          | _____ House Finch                 |
| _____ Cedar Waxwing             | _____ (other) _____               |
| _____ Starling (European)       | _____ (other) _____               |
| _____ Cardinal (Northern)       | _____ (other) _____               |

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL DIFFERENT SPECIES SEEN

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive the free Nongame News. (NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I would like information about the Iowa Ornithologists Union which is a statewide bird organization. If you see a rare or unusual bird, please report it to the Iowa birdline 319-338-9881.

1 9 9 4 W I N T E R B I R D F E E D E R S U R V E Y

SPONSORED BY THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST'S UNION

AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE'S NONGAME PROGRAM

On two consecutive days during January 27-30, 1994 observe your feeder and using this form, describe your feeder and record the birds that visited you. In the space provided, list the highest number of each species that you saw together at any one time. For example, if you saw 10 juncoes at 9:00, 11 at 12:00 and 7 at 4:00, the number you should record is 11. If males and females can be distinguished (cardinals, downy woodpecker etc.) record the combined total. For example, if you saw 3 male cardinals at 11:00 then 1 male and 2 females at 2:00, record 5 cardinals--the highest count for the males and the highest count for the females combined. Count only on the two consecutive days and record only the birds that you see at your feeder, under your feeder, or in the trees around your feeder. Do not count birds which just flew past your house and did not use your feeder area. We want information only about birds influenced by your feeders. If you cannot get an exact count, record your best estimate. An honest estimate is far more useful than 'umpteen' or 'too many to count.'

Mail the completed form to me by February 12, 1994:

R. J. Hollis  
3351 Lower West Branch Road  
Iowa City, IA 52245

If you would like a personal reply, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and be patient; it may take 12 months before I can get back to you. Look for results in the Iowa Nongame News and the I.O.U. newsletter.

# 1993 AMES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Area Groups	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	Fdr	Total
TUNDRA SWAN	1								1
CANADA GOOSE	340	35			1	25			401
MALLARD	17			4		24			45
GADWALL	2								2
LESSER SCAUP	1								1
BALD EAGLE	2			1					3
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK					2				2
RED-TAILED HAWK	3	7	1	2	1		5		19
AMERICAN KESTREL	1		4		6	2			13
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	6		8	5	10		14		43
WILD TURKEY							1		1
ROCK DOVE	13	36	112		49	30	53		293
MOURNING DOVE			3	6		4		5	18
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	1							1	2
GREAT-HORNED OWL	1			1		1			3
BARRED OWL		2		1			1		4
LONG-EARED OWL				1					1
SHORT-EARED OWL				1					1
BELTED KINGFISHER			1		1	2	4		8
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER								2	2
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	9	11	7	5	2	5	15	7	61
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER			CW						
DOWNY WOODPECKER	20	24	11	5	6	3	18	19	106
HAIRY WOODPECKER	2	1	1			2	3	5	14
NORTHERN FLICKER		5			2		4	1	12
HORNED LARK				32			6		38
BLUE JAY	13	18	9	13	12	23	13	19	120
AMERICAN CROW									8500
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	76	94	36	26	45	6	42	33	358
TUFTED TITMOUSE	2	1	2		1			4	10
RED-BREADED NUTHATCH	6	2	3	1	46	7	2	12	79
WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	35	21	15	6	14	8	29	14	142
BROWN CREEPER	4	3						1	8
WINTER WREN			1						1
EASTERN BLUEBIRD							3		3
AMERICAN ROBIN	98		2				149	5	254
CEDAR WAXWING	27		4			40	3	64	138
NORTHERN SHRIKE				1					1
EUROPEAN STARLING	112	706	579	66	472	210	444	161	2750
NORTHERN CARDINAL	13	29	10	10	34	12	19	40	167
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	58		5	200	9	45	189	3	509
SONG SPARROW	2	2							4
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	4				5		2		11
DARK-EYED JUNCO slate form	76	118	19	15	122	28	37	91	506
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD				2			12		14
MEADOWLARK SP.							1		1
COMMON GRACKLE	1					1		8	10
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD							3		3
PURPLE FINCH								3	3
HOUSE FINCH	3	4			95	22	1	2	127
COMMON REDPOLL								5	5
PINE SISKIN		20	29			5			54
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	57	23	4	12	19	17	10	16	158
HOUSE SPARROW	24	199	388	260	91	225	179	103	1469
<b>NUMBER OF SPECIES SEEN</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>53</b>
group totals	1030	1361	1254	676	1045	747	1262	624	16499

## PARTICIPANTS

### AREA 1. Squaw Creek/West Ames

Wolfgang Oesterriech  
Kay Niyo  
Mark Dobbe  
Steve Holland  
Andy Thomas

### AREA 2. Skunk River/North Ames

Mark Widrechner  
Sherry Dragula  
Tom Edstrom  
Mary Nick  
Dave Guy  
Ken Hunt

### AREA 3. Worrell Creek/West Areas

David Edwards  
Jeanne Edwards  
Cele Burnett  
Paul Ovrum  
Lisa Burke

### AREA 4. Ballard Creek/South Areas

Barney Cook  
Stu Huntington  
Fritz Franzen  
Ginny Huntington

### AREA 5. State Nursery/Central Areas

Tom Rosburg  
Rollins Sachs  
Jeannette Schafer  
John Bahrenfus  
Joyce Bahrenfus  
Bill Norris  
Dick Schmitz

### AREA 6. Indian Creek/Nevada

Hank Zalatel  
Barbara Bettis  
Maridel Jackson

### AREA 7. McFarland Park/North Areas

Mike Meetz  
George Brown  
Gordon Brown  
John Mayfield  
Pat Schlarbaum  
Julie Kinker  
Kevin Mack  
Michelle Halfhill

### CROW COUNT

Jim Dinsmore

### FEEDWATCHERS

Ruby Buck  
Helen Atkins  
Norm Jabcoson  
Florence Olyphant  
Marlys Ladd  
Phil Cox  
Cindy Hildebrand  
Jean McMaken  
Steve Maloy  
Jean Harkin  
Kristin Jurik  
Barbara Lockhart  
Janice Coy

## CURRENTLY PLANNED EVENTS

Jan. 27-30, Friday-Sunday	Bird Feeder Survey
February 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Environmental Education Programs", Cele Burnett
March 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: Dr. Jim Dinsmore, Ornithologist
April 21, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge"(tentative)
May 19, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Photographers View of Trees", Betty Stanley (tentative)
*May 20-22, Friday-Sunday	Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting, Ames
June 11, Saturday	Birder's Breakfast and Hike (plus bluebird trail), Ledges State Park

Unless otherwise specified, the location for meetings is Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

\* These are events of interest to Audubon members but are not sponsored by the Big Bluestem Audubon Society



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### BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY 1992-1993 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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**VICE-PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** *Mark Widrechner*, 233-1532  
**SECRETARY:** *Joyce Bahrenfus*, 432-3396  
**TREASURER:** *Barb Bettis*, 232-4863  
*Kay Niyo*, 292-5130  
*Jon Bahrenfus*, 432-3396  
*Hank Zaletel*, 377-2889  
*Paul Ovrom*, 292-8862  
*Rebecca Shivers*, 233-2733

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** *Sherry Dragula*, 233-1532; *David Edwards*, 292-3790

January 1994  
**BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
 2308 STATE AVE  
 AMES IA 50010

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