



Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Ames, Iowa
June 1983
v.15, no.10

John Stampe, President
Tom Davis, Vice-President
Laura Marek, Secretary
Judy Shearer, Treasurer
Karen Roughton, Editor

JUNE MEETING

WHEN: June 14, 1983 6-8:30 pm
WHERE: Brookside Park, Shelter #2 (behind wading pool)
WHAT: Annual picnic. Bring your own meat for grilling, plus one salad or desert to share, plus your own table service. Coals will be ready. Lemonade, coffee & tea will be furnished by the club.

Newly-elected BBAS officers and board members for 1983-84 are John Stampe, President; Tom Davis, Vice-President. Laura Marek and Judy Shearer were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Jim Murdock, Judy van der Linden and Cindy Hildebrand were elected as Board Members.

Dick Nuss has received the President's Award for Outstanding Service for his work as membership chairman during the Society's drive for chapter status.

A sign-up sheet to use the club's spotting scope will be available at the June meeting. Members may sign up to reserve the scope for days in June, July, August and early September. Persons may also still reserve the scope by telephone. Judy van der Linden (232-3450) will have the scope until John Stampe returns to Ames in August.

FLYING AROUND by Tom Davis

From the Mouths of Babes...

The warm, moist spring air is the perfect time to take your children or grandchildren for a stroll in the neighboring woods or fields. It is an opportunity for both the adult and the child to learn and to observe animals and plants in the new, green spring freshness. Once the kids have a certain subject or object to focus on, they can really become interested and will inevitably ask some questions that were not anticipated:

Who rakes the leaves? Do birds have to go to school to learn to fly? How did this big, green leaf come from this thin little stick? How come pine trees don't "fall" their leaves?

Raising children takes patience and answering these questions and questions like them will take a little patience and imagination. The way the question is answered will influence how the child will react to a pine tree or a baby bird when they see one again. Often several visits to the same area will encourage the children to observe changes and look forward to seeing that "secret" meadowlark nest or that "supertall" white pine or that "magic" bright orange mushroom. Not only can we teach youngsters to respect and protect the land but many times we can learn from the questions they ask about little things that we have taken for granted.

Those of you who have not yet done so, please take a half-hour to write to our congressmen expressing your opposition to the Garrison Diversion project in North

Dakota. Your letter need not be long or eloquent -- but it should clearly state your opposition to the project and provide one or two reasons.

Some background information might be useful in writing. Garrison is a \$1.2 billion Bureau of Reclamation project to divert water from the Missouri River to irrigate 250,000 acres in North Dakota. A complex system of canals, dams and reservoirs will be constructed to divert and hold the water. About 15% of the construction is completed now.

The project is no bargain for taxpayers. We will invest nearly \$3,800 per irrigated acre while the federal treasury receives only \$77 per acre in repayment from the % of North Dakota farmers who would benefit. This is a huge subsidy for a relative handful of landowners, especially when worthwhile federal programs are being cut to balance the budget.

Furthermore, project construction will destroy or damage over 70,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat, several game management areas and portions of 13 National Wildlife Refuges. Habitat loss will result in an estimated average annual loss of 178,000 ducks alone.

Overall, 197,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat will be lost if Garrison is completed. The Bureau of Reclamation has promised to establish 140,000 acres as mitigation, but conservationists feel that is insufficient, both in quantity and in quality, considering the range and game management land to be lost.

Please write today. You will have no right to bemoan Congress' decision on Garrison if you don't at least try to influence it. Write:

The Honorable Charles Grassley (or Roger Jepsen)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Neal Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The history and possible impact of the Garrison Diversion project were outlined by Erv Klaas at a special meeting sponsored by BBAS on May 31. Erv is assistant leader of the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, ISU, and a member of BBAS.

Big Bluetem Audubon Society
PO Box #1843
Ames, Iowa 50010



Ruck
1108 Scott

Ames, Iowa 50010