



Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
Ames, Iowa

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listed above.

# Bluestem Flyer

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## Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

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

EVENT: Big Bluestem Audubon Society Christmas Bash, featuring food, fun and a fantastic "fotographic" extravaganza. Everyone is invited to bring a thermos-ful or plateful of Christmas goodies to share and, if you wish, 5-10 favorite 2x2 slides to show the group (they need not be of birds).

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Christmas Bird Counts -- Saturday, Dec. 21 in Story County and Wednesday, Jan. 1 in Boone County (see details on page 2).

Acid Rain Conference -- The National Clean Air Fund is sponsoring "Acid Rain: Clouds over the Midwest -- Science and Solutions," March 7-8 at the Americana Congress Hotel in Chicago. Contact Judy van der Linden for more information.

Board Meeting -- A meeting of the society's executive board is tentatively set for Jan. 8. Details will be announced at the Christmas party by President Jim Murdock.

Newsletter Deadline -- The deadline for submitting articles and/or artwork for the January newsletter will be Jan. 6. Send material to Judy van der Linden, 610-9th St.



### Christmas Bird Count

Our chapter will participate again this year in the Christmas Bird Count sponsored by National Audubon Society (NAS). Traditionally our count area has covered Story County, but for the first time this year, Blue-stem members may also help count birds in parts of Boone County.

The Story County bird count will be Saturday, Dec. 21. Organizer Hank Zaletel plans to contact group leaders from last year and to announce, at the Christmas party on Dec. 10, the leaders' names and the areas each group will survey. (Participants record the actual number of each type of bird they see during the day.) Birders wishing to help count can then contact a group leader at the party or by phone. Persons who will not be at the Christmas party but who want to count in Story County should call Hank at work(239-1200) or at home(377-2889).

The Boone County bird count will be Wednesday, Jan. 1, and is being organized by Mark Widrlechner. Areas to be surveyed include Ledges State Park, Iowa Arboretum and Holst State Forest. Persons interested in helping count should contact Mark at the Christmas party or by phone at 292-4014.

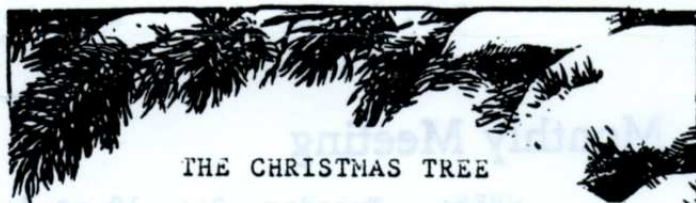
If you can't join a group outdoors either day, you may want to make a backyard bird feeder count on Dec. 21. Feeder counts are important to determine which birds are staying in town over winter. Contact Hank for more information on a backyard count.

The cost of participating in the bird count will be \$3 per person, money that goes to NAS to help tabulate count results from all over the country. There is no fee for persons making feeder counts.

Finally, a get-together to tabulate the Story County count results will be held at the home of Dave and Jeanne Edwards, 2308 State, at dusk on Dec. 21.

December Bird Puzzles -- Which birds are described by the short phrases below? Answers will be given at the December meeting.

1. An elderly lady
2. Tanned harvester
3. What felons are doing
4. Had a husband named Charles
5. Is an old-time movie



### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

By Alan Beck

You'll remember me as I look tonight--

In my Christmas dress, shimmering  
with tinsel, gay with brightness,

A star at my head and presents at my  
feet.

Thru the window pane my gaiety is a  
bit of Christmas spirit even for  
the passerby.

You'll remember me in my Christmas  
dress.

But I'm remembering last Christmas.

From the north came a sifting of  
snowflakes for my holiday decor-  
ation.

A rabbit paused near my feet, sniffing  
the cold, then hurried across  
the white meadow.

My presents, a pair of finches hud-  
dling close in my branches.

For a carol, only the hooting of  
an owl.

And overhead, a million stars to  
light my Christmas night.

From Good Housekeeping Magazine, 1960  
Courtesy: Men's Garden Club of Des  
Moines.



Evening Grosbeak

## BIRDER'S NOTES

Keep an eye on the bird feeder at home and watch along the roadsides when driving to see some bird visitors from the north in coming weeks. Evening Grosbeaks have been reported recently in Ames, Marshalltown and Eldora. They are especially fond of black sunflower seed at the feeder. Along roadsides, Horned Larks and large numbers of Lapland Longspurs have been seen recently. A few Snow Buntings also have been reported, usually mixed in with large flocks of the Horned Larks or longspurs.

In an interview with the Des Moines Register, Pleasantville ornithologist Gladys Black said that she

expects a "minor invasion" of the grosbeaks this winter, and welcomes reports of sightings of these and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Redpolls, Snowy Owls and other unusual birds. Call her at 515-858-5865 or write her at Box 276, Pleasantville 50225. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want a reply.

Hickory Grove Park lake was the resting spot for six Tundra Swans on Nov. 13, and for Greater Scaup on Nov. 14, 20 and 23. At Big Creek Park, a Northern Shrike and Northern Goshawk were seen on Nov. 17, and a White-winged Scoter on Nov. 23. The scoter (the same one?) was seen near Saylorville dam on Nov. 24. In mid-November, the Common, Surf and White-winged scoters, an Eider (King or Common) and a Ross' Goose were all reported from DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge in western Iowa.

### CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT -- Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Tropical Rain Forests -- Bills have been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate to help stop the estimated annual loss of more than 1,000 plant and animal species through the destruction of tropical rain forests. The bills direct the Agency for International Development to commit funds to protect biological diversity and to provide assistance to developing countries only for programs that place a high priority on forest conservation.

Hearings have been scheduled for the House, but not the Senate. Concerned persons may write to their senators and urge them to co-sponsor S. 1747, the Tropical Deforestation Bill, and S. 1748, the Biological Diversity Bill.

Superfund Update -- The U.S. House of Representatives has yet to vote on a Superfund bill. National Audubon Society supports the bill passed by the House Public Works Committee, which would put the Environmental Protection Agency on a strict timetable for starting cleanups

(cont. on page 4)

and require sites to meet health standards established under other environmental laws. It also gives citizens the right to know about hazardous chemicals produced locally. Send letters to Rep. Neal Smith, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and ask him to support the House Public Works Committee Superfund bill.

ETCETERA

Job Opening -- The National Audubon Society and the Minnesota Audubon Council want to hire an environmental lobbyist to represent the Audubon point of view on environmental issues before government decision makers in the state of Minnesota. The position will run from Jan. 1, 1986 through June 30, 1986, with the potential for full-time work thereafter. Pay will be \$2,000 per month with benefits. Contact Judy van der Linden for more information.

Winter Vacations -- Northwoods Audubon Center, Rt. 1, Sandstone Minn., offers the following programs for winter vacation ideas -- New Year's camp and snowshoe in the Boundry Waters Canoe Area (12/28-1/1/86); winter camping and moose and deer research (1/7/86-1/24), and sail and ecology study in the Florida Keys (1/8/86-1/24). Contact Judy van der Linden for more information.



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