

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 28, No. 5

Newsletter of the Mid-Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society

January 1993

## MONTHLY MEETING

### OTTER RE-INTRODUCTION IN IOWA Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa DNR, Nongame Program

Thursday, January 21, 7:30 PM  
Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I. S. U., Ames

## FIELD TRIPS

### OMAHA ZOO -- LIED JUNGLE

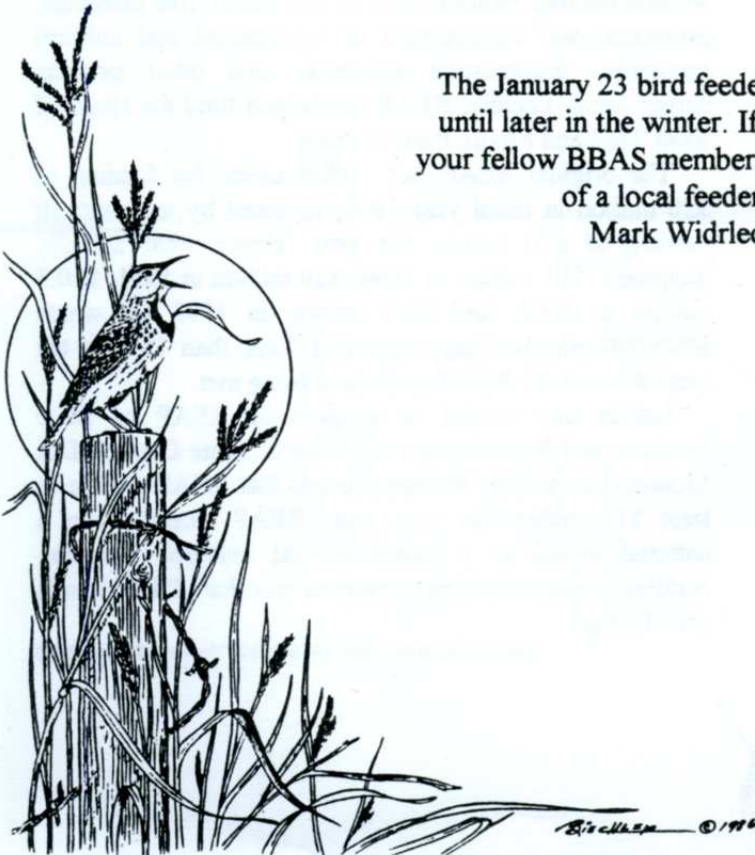
Saturday, January 16

(bad weather alternate, January 23)

Meet for carpooling at 8 AM at the Design Center parking lot,  
I.S.U. Campus.

We will stop for lunch in Omaha and then go to the zoo.  
We will stay until late afternoon and then return to Ames.

The January 23 bird feeder field trip has been postponed until later in the winter. If you would be willing to allow your fellow BBAS members to observe your feeders as part of a local feeder tour, please contact Mark Widrechner at 233-1532.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The final results and participants of the Ames Christmas bird count are shown on the facing page. The type is small but readable. Final tally was 59, among the highest totals in recent years. Note that we only found one individual of 13 of the species. Also, four species were seen only at feeders on what many reported to be an unusually low-activity day. The redhead duck seen at Hallett's quarry was new to the Ames count records.

Records from the Saylorville count are not complete now, but total species was about 79. Among the interesting reports were a mockingbird and a snowy owl.

The Boone count will be reported next month.

*David Edwards*

## SUPPORT NONGAME IOWA WILDLIFE

The good news is that Iowa's Nongame Wildlife Programs have been productive and useful. Included are Bald Eagle Appreciation Days events attended by 23,000 people, information and research programs on bluebirds, peregrine falcons, frogs, feeder birds, prairie chickens, turtles, piping plovers, bats, breeding birds, trumpeter swans, and others. We have a solid and successful program operated by competent and dedicated people.

The bad news is our failure to maintain its essential support. As you know, the primary budget comes solely from Chickadee Checkoff funds; there are no general DNR funds applied. (The wisdom of this is a subject for future discussion.) **Chickadee Checkoff contributions are declining!** The drop has been nearly 30 percent over the past four years. Of course these are not affluent times for many, but the dollar amounts needed are very small. Complete and analyzed tax data are available now for the 1990 tax year. Overall, just 1.86 percent of the tax returns contributed. Average amount was \$5.86. Story county folks had the highest percentage of contributors at 4.31 with an average amount of \$6.67. Boone county was also above average at 2.5 percent and \$6.99. The real key is to convince the other 98 percent of the people of Iowa that Chickadee Checkoff is the **ONLY** funding for our nongame wildlife protection, study, and development. We know that many if not most of that silent 98 percent are tasting the fruits, whether directly enjoying one of the many programs or indirectly experiencing the enhanced quality of Iowa life.

Of course YOU are already contributing. But you can multiply your effect by using your expertise and mentioning it to a few friends. Make it sound like something only enlightened and high-quality people are able to do. And if they do, they will be.

## THANKS TO US

The Story County Conservation Board sends a great big THANKS! to members of the Bog Bluestem Audubon Society for donating literally hundreds of pounds of seed, suet, corn, feeders, and cash for its wildlife habitat and feeding programs. The generosity and enthusiasm of the group was overwhelming. Winter greeting to all!

*Cole Burnett*

## IOWA BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

The annual Iowa survey of feeder birds will be at the end of January. Details are shown on the enclosed form. You can choose a pair of days to watch. Over a period of time we learn about Iowa bird populations and the impact of our feeders. This is one of the many works of the Iowa Nongame Program folks, in cooperation with the Iowa Ornithological Union.

## R.E.A.P. NEEDS OUR HELP AGAIN

Some environmental battles need to be fought over and over again. Last year, determined Iowans made sure that the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) survived and received funding. This year REAP needs and deserves another round of help.

REAP provides a formula for funding a variety of natural resource needs, and has resulted in soil and water conservation projects, acquisition of natural areas and wildlife habitat, establishment of city parks, tree plantings, protection and development of recreational and cultural resources, conservation education, and other projects across Iowa. Locally, REAP has helped fund the Heart of Iowa Trail and Moore Park in Ames.

The original REAP Act (1989) called for funding of \$20 million in fiscal year 1990, followed by ten years of funding at \$30 million per year. Here's what actually happened; \$15 million in 1990, \$20 million in 1991, \$10.5 million in 1992, and \$9.4 million in 1993 (of which \$900,000 may be deappropriated). Less than 15% of the local demand for REAP projects is being met.

Letters are needed in support of REAP to State Senators and Representatives (Address: State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319). We need to ask that REAP receive at least \$10 million for next year. REAP recently won a national award as a model natural resource program. Natural resource funding comprises less than 2% of Iowa's state budget.

*(excerpted from Jan. 1993 Iowa "Armchair Activist")*



1992 AMES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

| Area Groups                  | A1  | A2   | A3   | A4  | A5   | A6  | A7   | Fdr | Total | Count Week |
|------------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-------|------------|
| SNOW GOOSE                   |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 120   |            |
| CANADA GOOSE                 | 83  | 60   |      |     |      |     |      |     | 170   | 60         |
| MALLARD                      |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 10    |            |
| REDFEAD                      |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| LESSER SCAUP                 |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE             |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| NORTHERN HARRIER             |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| SHARP SHINNED HAWK           |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| COOPER'S HAWK                |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| RED TAILED HAWK              | 1   | 3    | 2    | 2   | 2    | 1   | 3    |     | 14    |            |
| ROUGH LEGGED HAWK            |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| AMERICAN KESTREL             | 1   | 1    | 5    | 5   | 4    |     |      |     | 20    |            |
| GRAY PARTRIDGE               |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 3     |            |
| RING NECKED PHEASANT         | 1   | 2    | 10   | 14  | 9    | 15  |      |     | 51    |            |
| WILD TURKEY                  |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| ROCK DOVE                    | 26  | 62   | 196  | 14  | 62   | 30  | 22   |     | 414   |            |
| MOURNING DOVE                |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 9     |            |
| EASTERN SCREECH OWL          |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 2     |            |
| BARRED OWL                   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1    |     | 4     |            |
| LONG EARED OWL               | 1   | 1    | 1    | 2   | 2    | 1   | 1    |     | 9     |            |
| GREAT HORNED OWL             | 1   | 1    | 1    | 2   | 2    | 1   | 1    |     | 9     |            |
| BARRIED OWL                  | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1    |     | 4     |            |
| SHORT EARED OWL              |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| BELTED KINGFISHER            | 3   | 1    | 1    |     |      |     |      |     | 7     |            |
| RED HEADED WOODPECKER        |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| RED BELLED WOODPECKER        | 9   | 12   | 2    | 1   | 8    | 8   | 13   |     | 53    |            |
| YELLOW BELLED SAPSUCKER      | 1   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 2     |            |
| DOWNY WOODPECKER             | 17  | 26   | 12   | 10  | 19   | 16  | 23   |     | 145   |            |
| Hairy WOODPECKER             | 3   | 2    | 1    | 1   | 2    | 1   | 4    |     | 23    |            |
| NORTHERN FLICKER             | 2   | 4    | 1    | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1    |     | 9     |            |
| HORNED LARK                  |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 29    |            |
| BLUE JAY                     | 21  | 32   | 10   | 17  | 50   | 36  | 37   |     | 249   |            |
| AMERICAN CROW                | 85  | 57   | 61   | 92  | 44   | 17  | 60   |     | 450   |            |
| BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE       | 5   | 4    |      |     |      |     |      |     | 22    |            |
| RED BREASTED NUTHATCH        | 43  | 21   | 18   | 8   | 10   | 8   | 29   |     | 156   |            |
| WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH      | 3   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 5     |            |
| BROWN CREEPER                | 2   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 5     |            |
| WINTER WREN                  | 2   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 5     |            |
| CAROLINA WREN                | 4   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 15    |            |
| GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLET       | 2   | 9    |      |     |      |     |      |     | 18    |            |
| AMERICAN ROBIN               | 2   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 18    |            |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD             | 4   | 12   | 70   | 16  | 22   | 24  | 156  |     | 346   |            |
| CEDAR WAXWING                |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| NORTHERN SHrike              | 222 | 262  | 766  | 70  | 269  | 89  | 106  |     | 1805  |            |
| EUROPEAN STARLING            | 26  | 31   | 15   | 34  | 52   | 35  | 30   |     | 262   |            |
| AMERICAN TREE SPARROW        |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| SONG SPARROW                 | 1   | 5    | 3    | 6   | 7    | 14  | 12   |     | 48    |            |
| WHITE THROATED SPARROW       |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 3     |            |
| HARRIS SPARROW               |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 17    |            |
| DARK EYED JUNCO state form   | 46  | 85   | 39   | 103 | 65   | 46  | 40   |     | 513   |            |
| MEADOW LARK SPECIES          |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 8     |            |
| RED WINGED BLACKBIRD         |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 8     |            |
| COMMON GRACKLE               |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 8     |            |
| BROWN HEADED COWBIRD         |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 8     |            |
| PURPLE FINCH                 | 1   | 26   | 2    |     |      |     |      |     | 80    |            |
| HOUSE FINCH                  |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 9     |            |
| PIKE SISKIN                  |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 2     |            |
| AMERICAN GOLDFINCH           | 27  | 25   | 25   | 5   | 24   | 20  | 5    |     | 175   |            |
| HOUSE SPARROW                | 269 | 507  | 387  | 80  | 260  | 459 | 732  |     | 2961  |            |
| group totals                 | 944 | 1194 | 1680 | 811 | 1064 | 866 | 1347 |     | 713   | 13121      |
| species seen                 | 34  | 26   | 24   | 25  | 31   | 23  | 37   |     | 27    | 59         |
| hawk sp.                     |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 2     |            |
| owl sp                       |     |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 1     |            |
| Dark-eyed Junco, Oregon form | 2   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 5     |            |
| blackbird species            | 1   |      |      |     |      |     |      |     | 10    |            |

1992 AMES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

COUNT AREAS (Leaders in bold type)

AREA 1. Squaw Creek/West Ames Wolfgang Oesterlech

AREA 2. Skunk River/North Ames Mark Widtichner

AREA 3. Worrell Creek/West Areas David Edwards

AREA 4. Ballard Creek/South Areas Barney Cook

AREA 5. State Nursery/Central Areas Tom Rosburg

AREA 6. Indian Creek/Nevada Hank Zalatel

AREA 7. McFarland Park/North Areas Mike Meetz

CROWS

FEEDWATCHERS

- Jim Dinamore
- David Kinker
- Joey Boeynk
- John Mayfield
- Gordon Brown
- George Brown
- Carrie Dixon
- Barbara Battis
- Markel Jackson
- Barbara Battis
- Hank Zalatel
- Dick Schmitz
- Bill Morris
- Joey Bahentus
- John Bahentus
- Tom Rosburg
- C. Stassis
- Rebecca Shivers
- Shelly Porter
- Ginny Huntington
- Fritz Franzen
- Stu Huntington
- Barney Cook
- Frank Rizzo
- Bruce Munson
- Paul Ovrum
- Cate Burnett
- Jeanne Edwards
- David Edwards
- Peggy Murdoch
- Diane Mumum
- Sherry Dragulia
- Mark Widtichner
- Jane Clark
- Don Sanderson
- David Brenner
- Kay Niyo
- Wolfgang Oesterlech
- Ruby Buck
- Kinkers
- Joyce Ramsey
- Juanta/Carl Switzer
- Norm Jacobson
- Florence Olyphant
- Marlys Ladd
- Phil Cox
- Deanne Summerfell
- Cindy Hildebrand
- Jean McMaken
- Steve Maloy
- Jean Harkin
- Kristin Jurik

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| February 18, Thursday         | 7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Ty Smedes, Nature Photography   |
| February 20, Saturday         | BBAS Field Trip, local Owl Prowl   |
| February 26-28, Friday-Sunday | DNR Eagle Days at Red Rock Lake  |
| March 6, Saturday             | BBAS Field Trip to watch Eagles at Red Rock Lake   |
| March 18, Thursday            | 7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Dick Trump, Woodchucks  |
| *March 19-21, Friday-Sunday   | National Audubon's Spring River Conference in Kearney, NE, includes trips to see migrating sandhill cranes and waterfowl |
| March 27, Saturday            | BBAS Field Trip, Hendrickson Marsh and possibly Saylorville, Bear Creek and Bays Branch                                  |
| April 15, Thursday            | 7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Jean Prior, Geology of NE Iowa  |
| April 17, Saturday            | BBAS Field Trip, Local marshes north of Ames including Tieg's and Little Wall Lake                                       |
| May 9, Sunday                 | BBAS Field Trip, Warbler Wander at Brookside Park and newly protected Ann Munn Woods                                     |
| May 15 and 16                 | Saturday and Sunday, IOU Spring Meeting, Keosauqua, IA   |



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

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January 1993  
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