

Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 23 No. 2

October 1988

Monthly Meeting

PALEO INDIAN STORY CITY SITE

Dr John Bower, Anthropologist

Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 PM, Rm. 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

Field Trip

LOCAL BIRDING FORAY

October 15, 7:30 AM

Meet at Design Center parking lot,



BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

1988-1989

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

The Pelican/Hawkwatch field trip to Saylorville Reservoir started on the east side of the water and ended at Jester Park on the west. The eight members of the group were treated to the sights and sounds of three "small" flocks of American White Pelicans, totaling 10,000 birds. Mixed in among them were American Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, and American Widgeon. Many shorebirds waded the flats including Killdeer, Dowitchers, Sanderling, and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. Along the shore among the grasses, ragweed, and small trees were Yellow-rumped Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Total species for the trip was 60.

A final treat came when one member of the group moved closer to the Pelicans for photos. As he lumbered [stealthily crept] down to the edge of the reservoir, a graceful [clumsy] white-tailed doe bounded from [crashed through] the thick growth and loped past the others. The Pelicans sat undisturbed while this display happened on shore; they did not stay, however, when some thoughtless ultralight aircraft pilots zoomed over the water at a few hundred feet.



NEXT MONTH'S FIELD TRIP -- A CHANGE

After some surveying of likely participants, the November 11-13 weekend overnight field trip to see migrating geese, etc. has been changed from DeSoto Bend to Squaw Creek, Missouri. More details will be presented at the Monthly Meeting on October 18.

WOLF STUDY WEEKENDS

Enjoy a weekend of wolf studies, dog sledding, winter skills and winter ecology with Polar Explorer Paul Schurke and Northwoods Audubon Center's Mike Link or Craig Prudhomme. Choose from two 4-day or 7-day trips into canoe country near Ely and observe radio-collared research wolves. The 4-day trips feature heated tents. Both 7-day trips are winter camping, with top-notch arctic gear provided by Paul Schurke. Four-days sessions February 10-13 or 17-20; \$495.00
Seven-day sessions March 4-10 or 11-17; \$795.00
Call the Northwoods Audubon Center at 612-245-2648

ACID RAIN UPDATE

Since the last newsletter the rains have been more frequent. The pH of normal rainfall is slightly acidic at 5.6. Ames readings for the month of September have averaged close to 5.0 with the range extending from 4.8 to 6.0.

Mike Meetz

TOXIC CLEAN-UP DAY PROGRAM

Story County and the City of Ames have received an Iowa DNR grant to fund a onetime toxic clean-up day for residents of the county. The day is October 29, 1988, from 9 AM to 4PM, and the place is the Iowa State Center parking lot. Materials accepted are these:

- motor vehicle products
- waxes and polishes
- solvents
- lacquers and thinners
- caustic household cleaners
- spot and stain removers with petroleum base
- fertilizers containing nitrogen
- pesticides

The following will NOT be accepted:

- infectious wastes
- pesticides containing 2,4,5-T and 2,4,5-TP (Silvex)
- pesticides containing kepone
- wood preservatives containing tri, tetra, or pentachlorophenols or any of the derivative forms
- explosives
- gas cylinders or pressurized vessels
- radioactive wastes
- dioxin bearing wastes



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The Youth Program of the National Audubon Society

Audubon Adventures is presented to elementary school classes and other groups of children in grades 3 to 6. Materials are issued on a bimonthly basis during the school year. An enrolled class receives the Audubon Adventures Newspaper for children, a companion leader's guide of background information, and activity ideas for the teacher as well as student membership cards and decals.

Our chapter is doubling its sponsorship to 28 classrooms. The cost is \$25 per class for one year. You can help sponsor a class in the Boone and Story county areas or suggest a business or individual who might like to do so. Contact Barb Heikens or Mike Meetz (phones on the front page). This is an excellent way to contribute to the conservation education of the next generation, the leaders of tomorrow.


CALENDAR

- October 15 -- Cedar Rapids A. S. half-day trip to Amana Nature Trail and Indian Fish Trap. Meet at Coe Gym parking lot at 8 AM. Call 364-1047.
- October 22 -- Cedar Rapids trip to Pleasant Creek Reservoir and Palo Marsh. Meet at Coe Gym parking lot at 8 AM. Call 364-1638.
- October 29 -- Upper Iowa Audubon Society trip to Horicon Marsh, WI, Call 319-382-4176
- November 11-12 -- BBAS Field Trip overnight to Squaw Creek, Missouri Refuge to see waterfowl migrations.
- November 15 -- BBAS membership meeting. RAPTOR EDUCATION by Burke Thayer, rehabilitator. 7:30 PM 181 Design Center, ISU, Ames.
- November 19 -- Upper Iowa Audubon Society trip to Saylorville. Contact Steve Dinsmore, 292-1038
- December 13 - BBAS Christmas Party and MEMBERS SLIDE SHOW.
- December 17 - Ames Christmas Bird Count
- December 18 - Saylorville Christmas Bird Count (new)

BIRDER'S HOTLINE 319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.

COUNTING

It's early, but be thinking about participation in the Christmas Bird counts this year.



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