

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

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

Volume 24, No. 1

September 1989

MONTHLY MEETING

ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT

Steve Lekwa, Story County Prairie Projects

Tuesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m., Room 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

FIELD TRIPS

DOOLITTLE PRAIRIE AND SOUTHWEST HARDIN COUNTY PRAIRIES

Native and managed prairies will be seen for their flora and fauna.

It should also be a good "hawk" day.

Meet on Saturday, September 23 at 7:30 a.m. at the Design Center parking lot and be prepared to walk in the long grasses of the prairie.

HAWK WATCH

From the vantage of the Luther High Bridge and points in Ledges State Park, we hope to see some of the fall hawk migration.

The time is past the expected peak for Broad-wings, but there will be some activity. Last year we saw Bald Eagles.

Meet on Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 a.m. at the Design Center parking lot or at about 8:00 a.m. at the Luther High Bridge, west of Luther at the Des Moines river.

Dress and be prepared for standing in the open.

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS 1989-1990

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534

Vice-President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014 **Conservation Chair**

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

Executive Board

Steve Dinsmore, 292-1038 **Field Trips**

Andy Fix, 296-7554

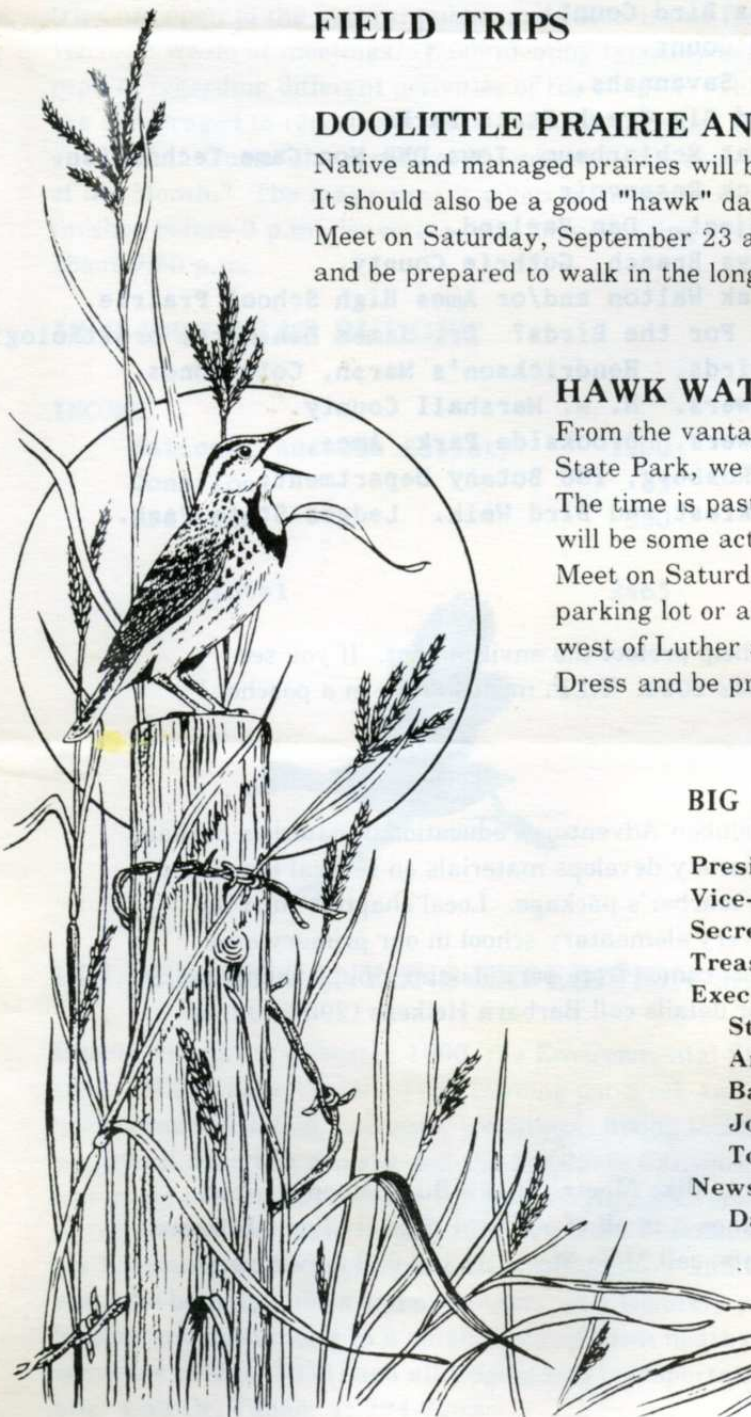
Barbara Heikens, 296-2999 **Education Chair**

John Richard, 292-3213

Tom Rosburg, 292-2361

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790



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1989-1990 BBAS EVENT SCHEDULE

This is the schedule of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society events for the coming season.

MM means our regular monthly meeting; FT means a field trip.

September 19	MM	Roadside Management. Steve Lekwa, Story County Prairie Projects.
September 23	FT	Roadside Prairies. Doolittle Prairie and SW Hardin County Prairies.
October 7	FT	Hawk Watch. Ledges State Park and Luther High Bridge.
October 10	MM	Peregrine Falcon program update. Iowa DNR Non-Game Biologist. Isle Royale Peregrine Release Project. Steve Fettig, Michigan DNR
November 11	FT	Waterfowl Watch. Squaw Creek, MO or DeSoto Bend NWR. This will be an overnight trip and will depend upon rains and water levels.
November 14	MM	Bolivia: Savannah Geology and Botany. Tim Killeen.
December 12	MM	Holiday Party and members' show-and-tell slide show.
December 16		Ames Christmas Bird Count.
December 17		Saylorville Christmas Bird Count.
January 1		Boone Christmas Bird Count.
January 16	MM	Bolivia: Birding the Savannahs.
February 17	FT	Owl Walk. Ledges and Big Creek State Parks.
February 20	MM	Iowa's Bluebirds. Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa DNR Non-Game Technician.
March 3	FT	Eagle Watch. Red Rock Reservoir.
March 20	MM	American Kestrel Project. Dan Varland.
March 24	FT	Waterfowl Watch. Bays Branch, Guthrie County.
April 7 or 8	FT	Woodcock Watch. Izaak Walton and/or Ames High School Prairie.
April 17	MM	Wetland Restoration: For the Birds? Dr. James Dinsmore, ornithologist.
April 21	FT	Waterfowl and Shorebirds. Hendrickson's Marsh, Colo ponds.
April 29	FT	Warblers and Wildflowers. N. W. Marshall County.
May 12	FT	Warblers and Wildflowers. Brookside Park, Ames.
May 15	MM	Prairie Foray. Tom Rosburg, ISU Botany Department.
June 2	FT	Annual Birder's Breakfast and Bird Walk. Ledges State Park.

T.I.P.

The hunting season is upon us. Learn the the laws to help protect the environment. If you see unethical acts occuring, call the T.I.P. Hotline: 1-800-532-2020. T.I.P. means "turn in a poacher."

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

School has begun, and we are beginning to fund the Audubon Adventures educational materials package for area grade school classes. The National Audubon Society develops materials on several topics and gives copies to each child in the classroom along with a teacher's package. Local chapters fund the costs of the program. We try to place at least one in every elementary school in our primary area. Some are funded from our meager resources and the rest comes from persons and groups willing to sponsor a class. The cost for one classroom is \$25. For details call Barbara Heikens (296-2999) or Carolyn Crandell (232-9477).

NEED TO USE A SPOTTING SCOPE?

Our chapter spotting scope is in the care of the president, Mike Meetz. It is a Bushnell on a tripod and with 40 power and 22 power magnification. He brings it to all of our field trips, and members are able to use it at any other times. To make arrangements, call Mike Meetz at 382-2534, evenings.

WHAT IS THE BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY?

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society is the latest form of a group of long standing. It began as an Ames birding group many decades ago changing its name at least once. In 1983 the group applied for and received formal chapter status with the National Audubon Society. The chapter is incorporated and has the requisite formal documents and obligations. Our tie with the National Audubon Society is a mutually beneficial one. Members of the NAS in a defined area are automatically members of the local chapter. Our area extends from about Ogden to State Center and Webster City to Perry. The NAS supplies a part (\$5.50) of those members' fees. These funds are for our use in the aid of Audubon causes as defined in our documents. The current budget details are shown below. We supply a local effort in conservation causes including education, service projects, and membership recruitment. The NAS gives \$15.50 in the first year for members the chapter recruits, so it is very important that those you encourage to join use our application materials or place the chapter's designator code H57 on them.

The chapter holds monthly business meetings from September through May. Field trips are planned to meet the interests of the members and be attractive to potential members. All meetings and field trips are open to the general public, and there are no fees charged for any event.

What do we do at meetings? Each meeting typically begins with a short period of announcements and reports regarding different activities of the chapter. This is followed by a period in which members are encouraged to report interesting natural sightings and experiences; the primary focus is usually on birding. One of the experienced birders then presents a short identification lesson called "Bird of the Month." The major time is given to the scheduled speaker or program. The program normally finishes before 9 p.m., leaving a time for socializing over refreshments before our closing time of about 9:30 p.m.

1989-1990 BBAS BUDGET

INCOME

National Audubon Society	1900
Donations	15
Projects	550
Total	2465



EXPENSES

Newsletter	1140
Publicity and Program	70
Conservation	75
Education (Audubon Adventures)	400
Membership	25
Field Trips and Bird Counts	100
T-shirts	41
Insurance	259
Iowa Audubon Council	150
Iowa Nature Conservance	35
Story County Conservation	75
Kestrel Study	75
Total	2465

ISU DESERT CANYONS EXPEDITION SEMINAR

During the spring semester 1990, the Environmental Studies Program at ISU will offer a seminar. "The Desert Wilderness," meeting one evening per week and featuring literature, natural and human history, wilderness legislation, and safe, low-impact hiking techniques as they pertain to the American southwest desert in general and the Escalante Canyons of Utah specifically. The seminar will culminate in a 15-day expedition. May 20 through June 3, suitable for persons in moderately good physical condition regardless of age. Dr. Tom Tanner, seminar instructor, confirms that on most of his Escalante walks he encounters no other people and little evidence of human visitation. The group will take both day hikes and overnights, at a leisurely pace. "Base camp" will feature comfortable lodging and good meals in a small, isolated town nearby. The fee of \$511 includes tuition for three semester credits (\$231) and all lodging and transportation. Food and equipment costs will be held low. Call Dr. Tanner at 294-7253.

CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

- September 10 Prairie Seed Harvest at Doolittle Prairie. Call McFarland Park at 232-2516
- September 16 Story County Conservation Board program at McFarland Park. Pioneer Heritage of the Prairie
- September 15-17 Iowa Ornithological Union fall meeting at West Okoboji. Call Harold White evenings or weekends at 712-362-7010 for local arrangement information. Call Jim Dinsmore at 292-3152 for membership information.
- September 19 BBAS meeting. Roadside Management. Steve Lekwa, Story County Prairie Projects.
- September 23 BBAS field trip. Roadside Prairies. Doolittle and SW Hardin County Prairies.
- September 23,24 Annual Hawk Watch at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Best at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m
- October 7 BBAS Hawk Watch. Ledges State Park and Luther High Bridge.
- October 10 BBAS meeting. Peregrine Falcon program update. Iowa DNR Non-Game Biologist. Isle Royale Peregrine Release Project. Steve Fettig, Michigan DNR.
- October 14 Cedar Rapids AS field trip to the Yellow River. 9:00 a.m. at the campground.
- October 20,21 Halloween Hikes at McFarland Park with an environmental educational alternative to the usual seasonal frights. Reservations required and a modest fee is charged. Call McFarland Park office at 232-2516.

BIRDERS' HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.

September 1989

Big Bluestem Audubon Society
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Ames, Iowa 50010

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