



Big Bluestem Audubon Society
Ames, Iowa

Jim Murdock, Pres. 233-3185
Tom Davis, Vice-Pres. 292-1869
Sherry Dragula, Sec. 292-4014
Judy Shearer, Treas. 292-4430
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450

Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 19, No. 3 November, 1984

Monthly Meeting

- WHEN:** Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Room 181 (Jury Room), Design Center, ISU campus (Room 181 is in the northeast corner of the ground floor.)
- WHO:** Dr. Jim Dinsmore, ISU Department of Animal Ecology
- TOPIC:** "Winter Bird Identification"

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Board Meeting -- The society's executive board will meet Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Pete and Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St., Ames. Anyone interested may attend.

Conservation Committee -- The Conservation Committee will meet Monday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. in Room 297, Design Center, ISU campus.

Newsletter Deadline -- Deadline for submitting articles or artwork for the December newsletter will be Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 5 p.m. Cindy Hildebrand will be editing and typing this issue. Items should be sent to her at 3323 Harcourt Dr., Ames.

Christmas Bird Count -- Set aside Saturday, Dec. 15, for this year's Christmas Bird Count. Organizer Hank Zaletel notes that for the past few counts, no bird feeder reports have been submitted, perhaps because of the cost of participating in the count. He hopes to encourage feeder reports this year. Dave and Jeanne Edwards have generously offered to host the traditional end-of-the-day tally at their home.

AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING ...

During committee reports, Conservation Committee chairperson Sherry Dragula discussed plans to monitor and research the Ames Reservoir proposal. Tom Davis, Education Committee chairperson, requested volunteers for the Audubon Trail work day, Saturday, Oct. 13, at Brookside Park. Bluestem program schedules will be available from the Publicity Committee, chairperson Cindy Hildebrand announced. Finally, a field trip to DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge the weekend of Nov. 3-4 was described by Jim Murdock.

Bluestem members learned that the IRS application for chapter tax exempt status has been revised and will be returned to that agency for approval. Tom Davis made the "Birds of the Month" report on distinguishing Downy from Hairy woodpeckers and Purple Finches from Pine Siskins.

REPORTS OF OTHER MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES

Conservation Committee -- The proposed "Ames Reservoir" was the main topic of discussion at a committee meeting on Oct. 29. Members reviewed a schedule for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study of the project, and learned that meetings for "interest group input" into the study will be held in December and January. Members will continue gathering information and begin preparing a statement for presentation at one of the meetings. They also will explore alternatives to the water supply problem in Ames, which generated much of the renewed interest in the reservoir. Sherry Dragula has more information for anyone interested.

Trail Work Day -- Brookside Park's Audubon Trail received some much-needed maintenance on Saturday, Oct. 13, from a small group of Bluestem volunteers. Under the direction of Tom Davis, workers rerouted a section of the trail that was washed away by last spring's flood and sank 14 of 29 posts that will mark points of interest along the trail. Refurbish-

ment of the trail and rewriting an accompanying trail guide are projects of the Education Committee. Volunteers besides Tom on Oct. 13 were Dave and Jeanne Edwards, Tim Grotheer, Jim Murdock and his two sons, Dick Trump and Judy van der Linden.

Iowa Audubon Council -- The Iowa Audubon Council met Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Iowa Arboretum. Bluestem members who attended were Janet Graver, Sherry Dragula, Cindy Hildebrand, Jim Murdock, John Stampe (chapter delegate) and Peter van der Linden, who led a tour of the Arboretum.

State representative Dennis Black of Grinnell gave a talk on upcoming environmental issues in the Iowa Legislature, particularly the drainage district issue. The Council voted to write a letter to Iowa Conservation Commission director Larry Wilson disagreeing with his decision to allow construction of the Bloody Run highway, and another letter to the DOT expressing the opinion that the environmental impact statement for the Marion Bypass was not adequate. The Council also voted to support and pay expenses for Cindy Hildebrand's work as the Council's legislative chair. The next Council meeting is tentatively set for April 13 in Grinnell.

Regional Conference -- The North Midwest Regional Conference on Oct. 12-14 was attended by four Bluestem members: Sherry Dragula, Dave and Mary Newhouse and Cindy Hildebrand. The Audubon conference, held at Sturgeon Lake, Minn., was on "Wildlife, Habitat and Education: Back to Basics." Workshops included discussions on how National Audubon Society is organized, new Audubon educational materials, prairies, steel shot, the Garrison Diversion and Audubon camps and sanctuaries. Dave Newhouse presented a program on Iowa's nongame wildlife program.

Attendees were given lots of material to bring home and share -- if you'd like more information, contact one of them. The next regional conference will be Jan. 26-27 at Albert Lea, Minn.

BIRD
NOTES



There were several sightings of relatively rare birds for central Iowa during the past month. Seven Western Grebes were seen near the dam at Saylorville the week of Oct. 21-28 and Surf Scoters were seen on the reservoir on Oct. 27. Also, there were

ten sightings of Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Hendrickson Marsh, Sept. 27-Oct. 10.

Much of the songbird migration is now over. There are still some shorebirds stopping over at Hickory Grove lake, and ducks and geese are beginning to move through Iowa. It's time to begin filling bird feeders and to look for visiting northern birds, such as Saw-whet Owls, grosbeaks and siskins.

CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT

Garrison Update -- The 12 commissioners appointed by the Secretary of the Interior continue to study the water needs of North Dakota in an effort to resolve the Garrison Diversion Unit controversy. Commissioners held the first of several public hearings on Sept. 10-11 at Bismark, N.D. They met again Oct. 17 in Washington, D.C., this time to put together an interim report containing a number of options for meeting state water needs. The public's next opportunity for input will be a public hearing on the interim report on Nov. 16 at Fargo, N.D. Anyone with questions or comments about Garrison and/or Audubon's role may contact regional vice president Ed Brigham at (612) 375-9140.

Drainage District Bill -- Wetlands and streams in Iowa could be severely affected by the passing of the "drainage district bill," which would eliminate state authority over drainage district projects. Conservationists around the state are very concerned about this proposal. The legislature's interim committee studying the issue will meet in Humboldt, Tuesday, Nov. 20 -- if you'd like a ride to the meeting or want to learn more, please contact Sherry Dragula or Cindy Hildebrand.

Prairie Development -- Wisconsin's Chiwaukee Prairie, a 1,825-acre site near Lake Michigan, is the subject of a battle between would-be developers and Wisconsin conservationists. The Chiwaukee Prairie Rescue Coalition describes the site as half virgin tall grass prairie, containing 18 threatened or endangered Wisconsin plant species among a total of 400 plant species, and half valuable wetlands or unique natural area, including dunes and swales of glacial Lake Michigan and archeological sites. Developers are requesting rights to expand a marina, build a sewage plant and construct a utility access road across the prairie. The Coalition is urging people to write letters expressing their opinions about the development before Nov. 22. For more information, contact Cindy Hildebrand or write the Coalition at P.O. Box 152, Franksville, WI 53126.

ETCETERA

Educational Materials -- The Education Committee has recently received a publication from Audubon's regional office that reviews many of the most widely-used environmental education materials currently available. A directory to nature centers in this region is also included. Anyone interested in the publication may contact Tom Davis after Nov. 13.

Address Change -- Headquarters of the National Audubon Society's North Midwest Region (which includes Iowa) have moved within Minneapolis to: Suite 330 City Place, 730 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn., 55403. The phone number remains the same: (612) 375-9140.

Bird Journals -- The Ames Public Library now subscribes to "Iowa Birds" and has copies of "Iowa Bird Life" back to 1974, all of which may be checked out.

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