

Big Bluestem Flyer

November/December Vol. 30, No. 3

1994

November Monthly Meeting-

Adventures in Brazil- Flora and Fauna of the Chapada & Pantanal Regions and the Foz de Iguacu, by Wilmer and Lotus Miller

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 PM, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U., Ames.

This program will highlight some trips the Miller's took while spending a year in Brazil in 1992 -1993. Wilmer and Lotus Miller have a deep and broad interest in the natural world. Lotus is a founding member of our Audubon Society. Wilmer is a recently retired I.S.U. geneticist. Come enjoy some natural history of Brazil!

November Field Trip-

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, November 19

We will meet at 6 AM at the Design Center parking lot. See details inside this newsletter. You must contact Sherry Dragula, 233-1532 or Joyce Bahrenfus, 432-3396 if you want to go on this trip.

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Monthly Meeting- December

Holiday Meeting- Member's Slides & Treat's, Thursday, December 15, 7:30 PM, Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park, Ames

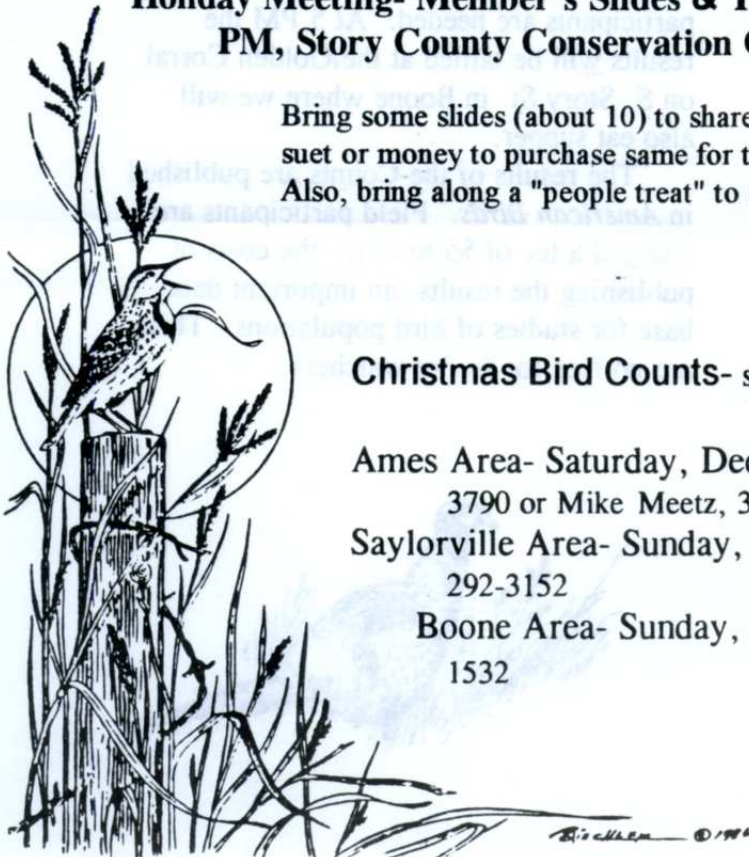
Bring some slides (about 10) to share. We will be collecting donations of seed, suet or money to purchase same for the birds at the Conservation Center. Also, bring along a "people treat" to share.

Christmas Bird Counts- see details inside this newsletter

Ames Area- Saturday, December 17, contact Dave Edwards, 292-3790 or Mike Meetz, 382-2534 if you would like to participate.

Saylorville Area- Sunday, December 18, contact Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152

Boone Area- Sunday, January 1, contact Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532



November 19 DeSoto Trip Details

Located two and one half hour's drive west of Ames on Hwy. 30 is the DeSoto Refuge. In mid-November it is known for large numbers of geese (Snow, Canada, White-fronted, and sometimes a Ross'), other waterfowl, and eagles that spend the winter at the refuge. We plan to spend Saturday birding at DeSoto, seeing the Visitor's Center with it's steamboat *Bertrand* exhibit, and birding Lake Manawa and power plant ponds near Council Bluffs as time permits. We plan to meet at 6 AM at the Design Center parking lot and to arrive at the Visitor's Center at DeSoto Refuge at 9 AM. Plans are to return to Ames at dark. **Please contact Sherry Dragula at 233-1532 or Joyce Bahrenfus at 432-3396 if you want to go on this trip.** We want to know who will be attending, and who will be driving, since mid-November can bring bad travelling weather. (Also, for those of you who might want to drive out on Friday, we have information on places to stay (motels & camping). The refuge is open from 8 AM - 6 PM.)

Christmas Bird Counts

The 95th Annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held at over 1600 locations from mid-December to early January. You are invited to join with more than 43,000 birders in all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda and the West Indies.

You do not need experience to join in a count. Experienced leaders are placed in charge of an area and other birders will be assigned to them. Groups vary in size depending upon the area to be covered and how many wish to participate. A final tally

Christmas Bird Counts- continued

is scheduled at dark. Bird feeder counters are also needed on the same day as the field count.

Three Counts will be conducted in our area this year. **The Ames Count will be held on Saturday, December 17.** Contact David Edwards (292-3790) or Mike Meetz (382-2534) if you would like to participate. Field participants and feeder watchers (people who count the birds at their feeders on Count Day) are needed. At the end of the day we will meet at the home of David & Jeanne Edwards, 2308 State Ave. for a tally and chili supper.

The Saylorville Count will be Sunday, December 18. Contact Steve Dinsmore at 292-3152 if you want to participate. At dark the results will be tallied at Saylorville.

The Boone Count will be held on Sunday, January 1. Contact Mark Widrlechner at 233-1532 if you want to help. Feeder watchers and field participants are needed. At 5 PM the results will be tallied at the Golden Corral on S. Story St. in Boone where we will also eat supper.

The results of the Counts are published in *American Birds*. Field participants are charged a fee of \$5 to cover the costs of publishing the results- an important data base for studies of bird populations. There are no fees for feeder watchers.



Last Chance to Order Wildlife Shrubs and Trees

Rebecca Shivers has again agreed to make wildlife shrubs and trees available to the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. Eleven types of shrubs and trees are available. Rebecca would like to know how many of what types are desired by members. You can come to our meetings and fill out an order form or call Rebecca at 292-0691. The following trees are available: Green Ash (4-5 feet), Red Oak (3-4 feet), Red Splendor Crabapple (3-4 feet), Hackberry (3-4 feet). They cost \$5 each. The following shrubs are available: Nanking Cherry & Red Osier Dogwood (3-4 feet), Silky Dogwood and American Plum (2-3 feet), American Cranberry Bush, Serviceberry and Aromatic Sumac (18-24 Inches). The shrubs cost \$3 each. Orders will be taken through November. Some varieties will only be ordered if enough orders are placed for them. The trees and shrubs are bare root and will arrive in the spring. All proceeds will go to our Big Bluestem Chapter.



Membership Surveys Needed

In our October newsletter we included a membership survey (it was the last page of the newsletter). Please take a moment to look it over and give us your feedback. The survey will help us in planning future meetings, field trips, newsletters and other projects. You can mail in the survey (it's a self-mailer) or bring the survey to the November 17 meeting.

Mountain Bikes-Where do they belong?

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, at 7 PM in the Founder's Suite, second floor of the Ames Public Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss problems associated with mountain bike use in I.S.U.'s Outdoor Teaching Lab adjacent to the YMCA Outdoor Center off Scholl Rd. in Ames. Discussion topics include: erosion and damage to the environment, conflicts with other trail users, and need for a separate area for mountain bikes. Proposals for a mountain bike area south of town near Gateway Hills, Zumwalt Trail or Curtiss Farm will be considered. Call Bryan Burke of the Student Environmental Council at 292-4070 for further information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I'd like to join as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Chapter H-57. Please send me *Audubon* magazine, *The Big Bluestem Flyer* and my membership card. Introductory membership is \$20.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please make your check payable to: National Audubon Society and include chapter code H-57 on the check. Send To: Mark Widrechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010

FUTURE BBAS EVENTS

- December 15, Meeting: Holiday Meeting at the Story County Conservation Center
- December 17, Ames Christmas Bird Count
- December 18, Saylorville Christmas Bird Count
- January 1, Boone Christmas Bird Count
- January 19, Meeting: Wildlife & the Conservation Reserve by Matthew Patterson
- February 16, Meeting: Natural Areas of Ames by Bill Norris
- March 16, Meeting: California Desert by Wolfgang Oesterreich
- April 20, Meeting: Wildlife Diversity Program by Bruce Ehresman
- May 18, Meeting: Entomology by Ken Holscher

(Meetings are held in Room 2532 of the Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.)

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY- EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

- President: Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532
- Vice-President: Jon Bahrenfus, 432-3396
- Secretary: Joyce Bahrenfus, 432-3396
- Treasurer: Barb Bettis, 232-4863

Additional BOARD MEMBERS:

- Kay Niyo, 233-8803
- Rebecca Shivers, 292-0691
- Lloyd Crim, 432-5026
- Don Sanderson, 232-2227

Newsletter Editor: Sherry Dragula, 233-1532

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