

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 26, No. 8

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

April 1991

MONTHLY MEETING

HUNTING BAMBOOS IN CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Dr. Lynn Clark - Assistant Professor of Botany, ISU

Thursday April 18, 7:30 PM,
Room 181 Design Center, ISU

FIELD TRIPS

SHOREBIRDS & WATERFOWL

Hendrickson's Marsh and Colo Ponds.

Saturday April 27. Meet at 7:30 AM
in the West parking lot of the ISU Design Center

WARBLERS & WILDFLOWERS

Brookside Park, Ames

Saturday May 11. Meet at 7:30 AM
in the north parking lot at Brookside Park,
off 6th St. in Ames.

For more information on Field Trips,
call Mike Meetz 382-2534

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY 1990-1991

President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Vice-President: Andy Fix, 233-4956

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrechner, 392-4014

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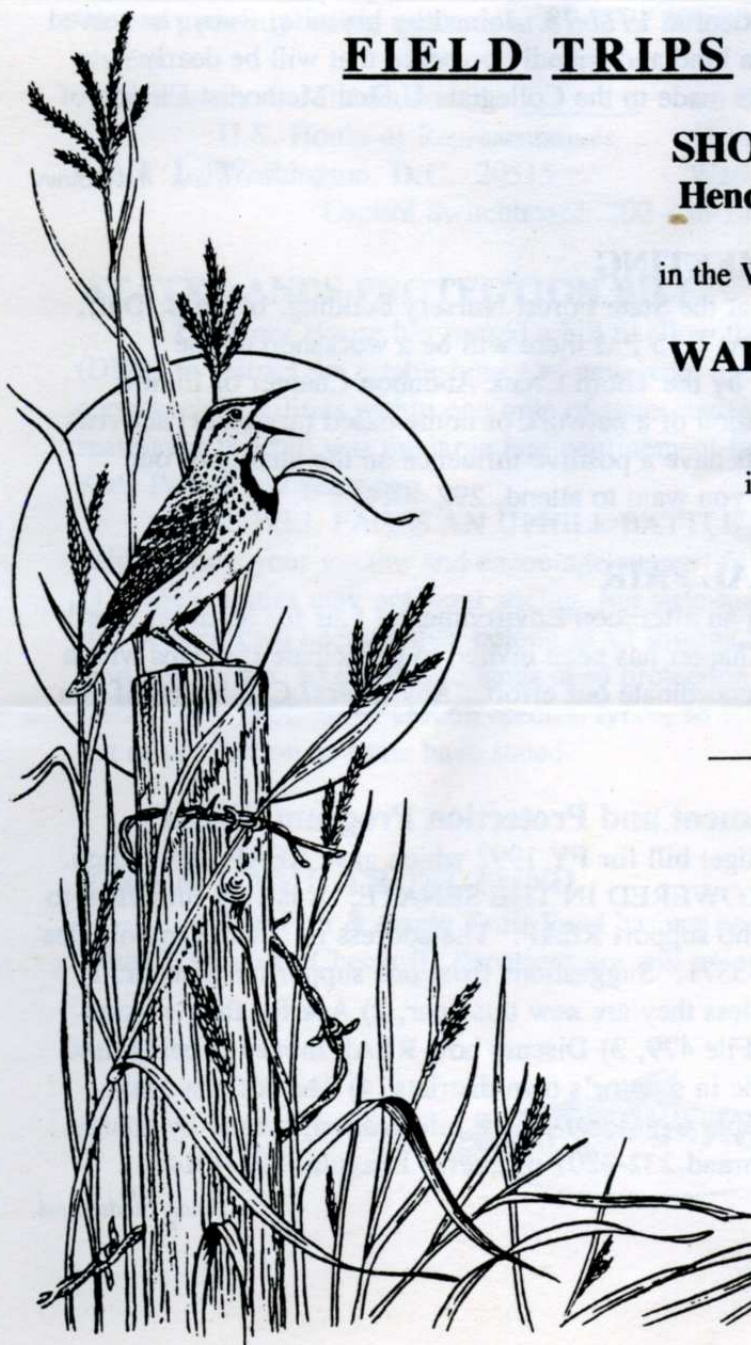
Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790

Field Trips Chair

Mike Meetz, 382-2534



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SERVICE PROJECT

BBAS will have a special work day at the Ontario Cemetery, on North Dakota Avenue between Lincoln Way and Ontario St. in Ames. The major events will be a **PRAIRIE BURN** at the **ONTARIO CEMETERY** and general clean-up at the **MORTENSEN PRAIRIE**. For more information, call Tom Rosburg at 377-2930.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Griffith J. Buck, friend of the environment and long-time member of our society, passed away in Ames on Thursday March 28, 1991. Dr. Buck had a remarkably long and productive career as a breeder of hardy roses and garden flowers at Iowa State University.

He joined the Ames Audubon Society (forerunner of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society) in 1971 and served as our President in 1977-78. Joined by his wife, Ruby, he served our society well and regularly provided a kind and friendly presence that will be dearly missed. Donations in his memory can be made to the Collegiate United Methodist Church of Ames or the Iowa Arboretum in Madrid.

Mark Widrechner

IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

The Council will meet in Ames, at the State Forest Nursery building, off of S. Duff, on Sat. April 13, beginning at 11 AM. At 1:15 PM there will be a workshop on the "Armchair Activist" program developed by the Thorn Creek Audubon Chapter of Illinois. The objective of this program is the creation of a network of home-based (armchair) activists whose combined minimal monthly efforts have a positive influence on the quality of our environment. Please let Sherry know if you want to attend, 292-4014.

EARTH DAY ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

The EcoAction group is planning an afternoon Environmental Fair for Saturday April 20th at Brookside Park in Ames. The Chapter has been invited to participate (perhaps with a display table?) but we need someone to coordinate our effort. Any takers? Call Sherry if you are interested.

UPDATE ON Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)

The Iowa House has passed a budget bill for FY 1992 which gave REAP \$20 million. **THAT AMOUNT IS LIKELY TO BE LOWERED IN THE SENATE.** It is very important to contact senators ASAP, even senators who support REAP. The address is: State Capitol, Des Moines 50319. Senate Phone: 515-281-3371. Suggestions from one supportive Senator: 1) Thank senators for supporting REAP unless they are new this year, 2) Ask for their support for the \$20 million for REAP in House File 479, 3) Discuss how REAP money is being used to benefit natural resources and the public in senator's own districts, 4) Thank them again.

A model letter on REAP is available with local REAP information, county by county. If you want a copy contact Cindy Hildebrand, 232-3807 or Sherry Dragula, 292-4014.

Cindy Hildebrand

WATERFOWL FIELD TRIP REPORT

For once it was a great day to be out birding on a Saturday in March. The sun was strong enough to see colors at a distance and the wind was nearly absent. Eight BBAS members travelled from Ames and joined two more at Bay's Branch, about 3 miles northeast of Panora in Guthrie County. (A gremlin in the last newsletter had it in Greene County). Later we travelled a few miles due north to the Lakin Slough wildlife area. On the way back we went on backroads to the north, making it into Greene County and Grand Junction. The variety of wildfowl was good though the numbers were not spectacular. On the water there were Great Blue Heron, Snow and Canada Geese, American Coot, Ring-billed Gulls, and fourteen kinds of duck (Woody, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail and Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Ring-neck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, and Ruddy). Other sightings were the usual except one pair of Shrike that didn't stay in range long enough to scope the species, and some Brewer's Blackbirds that did. All told, we saw 46 species.



BIRDERS' HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.
712/262-5958 for northwest Iowa sightings.

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Big Bluestem Audubon Society
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