

Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 22 No. 8

April 1988

Monthly Meeting

APRIL

BIRDS UNDER FEATHER or

WHAT HOLDS THEM TOGETHER

Andy Fix, ISU Veterinary Pathologist

Tuesday, 19th, Room 181, College of Design, ISU, Ames
(Refreshments by Dianne Mumm and Mary Owings)

Field Trips

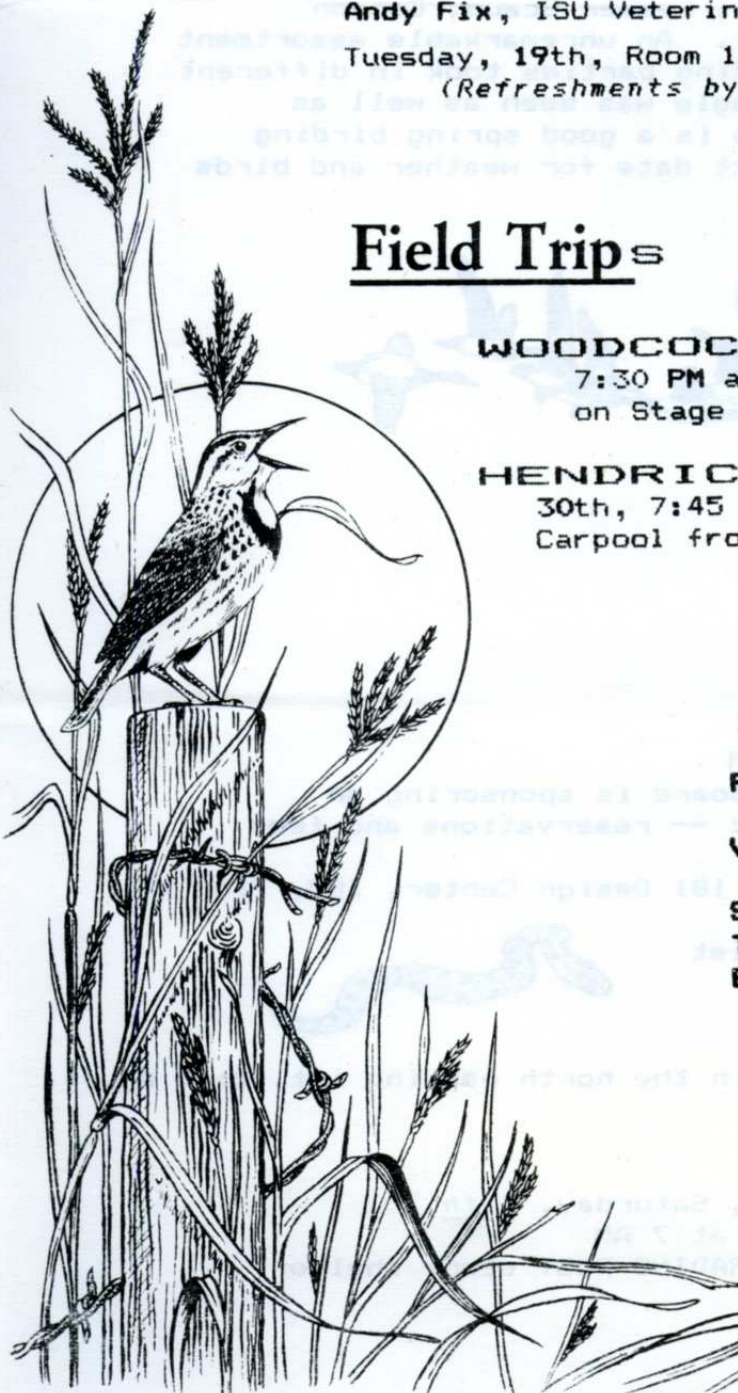


WOODCOCK DISPLAY Friday, 22nd
7:30 PM at Izaak Walton Park
on Stage Coach Road

HENDRICKSON'S MARSH Saturday
30th, 7:45 AM
Carpool from Design Center Parking Lot

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: David C. Edwards, 292-3790
Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor
Vice-President: Michael Meetz, 382-2534
Program Chair
Secretary: Barbara Bettis, 232-4863
Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014
Executive Board
Stephen Dinsmore, 292-3152
Field Trips
Sherry Dragula, 292-4014
Conservation Chair
Andy Fix, 296-7554
Barbara Heikens, 296-2999
Education Chair
Kay Niyo, 292-5130





MARCH WATERFOWL FIELD TRIP

The cold wind was not what we wanted, and the ice that returned to much of the Bay's Branch water was not what we expected. Nonetheless, 24 and more people were together at the different stops at the south east overlook of Bays Branch, at the northwest parking, and a mile or so north at Lakin's slough. The dominant population was Snow Geese, arriving and departing in waves. An exciting mass ascension, circle, and landing was demonstrated courtesy of two Des Moines National Gaurd jets. Some humor was provided by individual geese landing on the ice. Water-related birds sighted at these locations were: Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross' Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, American Coot, and Kildeer. An unremarkable assortment of other birds were also noted. Birding parties took in different areas on the way back. One Golden Eagle was seen as well as several Bald Eagles. All-in-all this is a good spring birding trip, though the choice of the perfect date for weather and birds remains a matter of some luck.



FUTURE EVENTS

MAY

Field Trip, Saturday, 7th

McFarland Park

Birds and Wildflowers

Meet at the park at 8:30 AM

Story County Conservation Board is sponsoring an accompanying breakfast -- reservations and fees

Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, 10th, 181 Design Center, ISU, 7:30 PM

"All about Iowa Snakes"

Paul Hollander, herpetologist

Field Trip, Saturday, 14TH

Brookside Park

Birds and Wildflowers

Meet at the Audubon Trail in the north parking lot, 8:00 AM



JUNE

First Annual **Birder's Breakfast**, Saturday, 11th

Ledges State Park, Birding at 7 AM

Breakfast at 9 AM in the TRADING POST stone shelter

1988-1989 SOCIETY OFFICERS

The slate of officers has been prepared by a nominating committee for vote by the membership at our May (official annual) meeting.

President: Michael Meetz
Vice President: Sherry Dragula
Secretary: Kay Niyo
Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner
Executive Board #1 (2 year): Tom Rosburg
Executive Board #2 (2 year): Stephen Dinsmore
Executive Board #3 (2 year): Barbara Heikens
Executive Board #4 (1 year): Elizabeth Carbrey

RAIN FOREST DESTRUCTION IS NOT JUST A TROPICAL PROBLEM

Still largely wild and pristine, North America's last temperate rain forest blankets the rugged coastline of Alaska's southeastern panhandle. Incorporated into the 17-million acre Tongass National Forest, spruce and hemlock often 800 years old shelter an area of incredibly abundant wildlife and unparalleled scenery.

Despite these rare qualities, current federal law and Forest Service contracts with two southeast Alaska pulp mills mean the continuing destruction of hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin timber. Ironically, American taxpayers fund the chainsawing. Because of the terms of their 50-year contracts, stumpage rates paid by the mills are only a fraction of the timber's value. In addition, the federal government annually spends around \$50 million to build logging roads and prepare sales for the two mills, one of which is wholly Japanese-owned.

In May hearings, Audubon vice-president Brock Evans called upon Congress to support legislation, the Tongass Timber Reform Act, that would eliminate the subsidy and 4.5 billion board feet per decade cutting goal established under the Lands Act in 1980. The timber program resulting from these unusual provisions, according to Evans, destroys crucial habitat for a range of wildlife including grizzly bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, and five species of salmon. In addition, the thousands of acres of clearcuts and hundreds of miles of logging roads adversely affect the region's healthier resource industries -- commercial fishing and tourism.



Despite these devastating environmental consequences, Evans noted that the government has spent over \$287 million on the Tongass timber program since 1982. In return, the Forest Service has collected only \$32 million in timber receipts. Because of the combined fiscal and environmental loss, Evans asked Congress to cancel the Forest Service's unprecedented 50-year contracts with the two mills and to consider adding several prime scenic and wildlife areas to existing wilderness.

"Southeast Alaska is probably the least known part of that magnificent state, and yet, in the opinion of many--certainly myself--it is probably the most beautiful," Evans said. "It is clear that the economic future of southeast Alaska lies not in heavily subsidized timber operations which continue to lose money and jobs. The future rather is in tourism and the fishing industry, and a timber industry geared to a local, not a world, economy."

About half of the largest, oldest trees still stand on the Tongass. **Virtually none of them are protected in wilderness.** Your help is needed to ensure that some are protected for future generations.



IF you are interested in contacting our Representatives and Senators on this matter, you might ask them to cosponsor the Tongass Timber Reform Act (H.R. 1516 in the House, S. 708 in the Senate).

NORTHWOODS AUDUBON CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Northwoods Audubon Center at Sandstone, Minnesota is an Audubon Society Sanctuary dedicated to environmental education and operated through a Board of Directors appointed annually by Minnesota Audubon Chapters. Each year they sponsor activities of varying length. The current list includes these:

- WHITEWATER CANOE WEEKENDS April 23-24 and April 30-May 1
- CANOE AND ECOLOGY STUDY OF CANNON RIVER April 23
- EXPLORATION OF WOLSFIELD SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA May 5
- EXPLORE BLACK DOG SCIENTIFIC AREA AND THE MINNESOTA RIVER AREA May 31
- NATURALIST TRAINING June 1-4
- EXPLORING NATIVE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES June 6-10
- BALD EAGLE NESTING SURVEYS AND RESEARCH IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA June 18- July 16
- NORTHWOODS WILDERNESS SCHOOL YOUTH ECOLOGY CAMPS
 - July 2-9 (ages 14-16)
 - July 9-16 (ages 10-14)
 - July 19-26 (ages 10-14)
- APOSTLE ISLAND SAILING
 - July 10-12, July 24-26, August 7-9, August 21-23
- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEACHING TECHNIQUES August 8-12
- BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP August 20-27
- ISLE ROYALE BACKPACK TRIP August 30-September 4

For more information and registration forms, contact the center at Route 1, Sandstone, MN 55072, or phone (612) 245-2648.



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