

Big Bluestem Flyer

March /April 1996 Vol. 31, No.4

March Monthly Meeting

**"Birds and Natural History of Costa Rica" by Kay Niyo and Stan Cyran
Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.**

In April of 1995 Big Bluestem members Stan Cyran and Kay Niyo travelled to Costa Rica on a natural history tour. Come see their slides and video of the sights and sounds of Costa Rica. Kay Niyo is the Scientific Editor for the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology in Ames. She received her PhD. in Immunology and Medical Mycology at I.S.U. Kay is a longtime member of Big Bluestem Audubon and is currently serving on the Board. Stan Cyran is a physician at McFarland Clinic in Ames. He has a keen interest in the natural world and enjoys travelling. Stan is also Big Bluestem's Vice-President.

April Monthly Meeting

**"In the Path of the Patagonia Puma" by William Franklin
Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.**

William Franklin has conducted field studies in southern Chile on the Patagonia guanaco for over two decades. During the past decade he has been assessing its predator-prey relationships with the Patagonia puma. The puma is the major cause of mortality of the guanaco and mortality is affecting the growth and composition of this remote population. William Franklin is a Professor of Animal Ecology at I.S.U.

March Field Trip

**Waterfowl Watching- Little Wall Lake & area sites
Saturday, March 30, 8 am, Meet at the parking area for the Design Center, I.S.U.**

April Field Trip

**Birding at Saylorville Reservoir
Saturday, April 13, 7:15 am, Meet at the parking area for the Design Center, ISU. We will meet up with members of the Des Moines Audubon Society for this trip.**

****On Sunday, March 3, from 10 am to 4 pm there will be an Eagle Watch at Saylorville Lake Visitor Center. Information on spots around the lake for viewing eagles will be provided at the Visitor Center.**

For further information on the Big Bluestem Audubon Society contact Mark Widrechner,
515-233-1532.



Saylorville Reservoir and Boone County 1995 Bird Count Results

Species	Saylorville	Boone	Species	Saylorville	Boone
Great Blue Heron	3	0	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0
Canada Goose	194	1	Robin	9	0
Wood Duck	4	0	Cedar Waxwing	274	15
Black Duck	1	0	Northern Shrike	4	2
Mallard	58	1	Loggerhead Shrike	3	0
Pintail	2	0	Shrike sp.	0	1
Shoveler	1	0	Starling	2618	1819
Common Merganser	19	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0
Bald Eagle	58	5	Northern Cardinal	366	468
Harrier	5	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	4	Tree Sparrow	1465	553
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	Song Sparrow	158	144
Red-tailed Hawk	73	36	Swamp Sparrow	41	12
Rough-legged Hawk	3	6	White-throated Sparrow	11	1
<i>Buteo</i> sp.	0	1	White-crowned Sparrow	11	2
Kestrel	29	14	Harris's Sparrow	9	7
Merlin	4	0	Dark-eyed Junco	686	986
Ring-necked Pheasant	155	90	Lapland Longspur	202	0
Wild Turkey	8	93	Red-winged Blackbird	186	248
Bobwhite	11	6	Meadowlark sp.	0	1
Common Snipe	1	1	Rusty Blackbird	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	13	0	Common Grackle	3	100
Herring Gull	9	0	Brown-headed Cowbird	1	4
Rock Dove	237	379	Purple Finch	76	51
Mourning Dove	158	9	House Finch	3	98
E. Screech-Owl	8	17	Common Redpoll	18	160
Great Horned Owl	16	11	Pine Siskin	37	16
Barred Owl	9	1	Goldfinch	433	208
Long-eared Owl	3	5	House Sparrow	810	901
Short-eared Owl	11	2			
Saw-whet Owl	0	4			
Owl sp.	0	1			
Belted Kingfisher	3	1			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	83	100			
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	0	1			
Downy Woodpecker	251	361			
Hairy Woodpecker	41	72			
Northern Flicker	44	12			
Horned Lark	8	6			
Blue Jay	165	72			
American Crow	1165	418			
Black-capped Chickadee	614	710			
Tufted Titmouse	16	52			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	12			
White-br. Nuthatch	95	274			
Brown Creeper	1	10			
Carolina Wren	1	0			
Winter Wren	2	0			

The Saylorville Reservoir Bird Count was held on December 17, 1995. Thirty field observers found 70 species and over 11,000 individual birds. This was a lower than average count because few waterfowl were on Saylorville Reservoir.

The Boone County Bird Count was held on December 30, 1995. Thirty-six field observers and seven feeder watchers found 58 species and nearly 8600 individual birds. This represents the most species found on a Boone County Count.

Thanks go to the participants and the compilers of all three of our area's Bird Counts!

Birdwatching Class for Beginners

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society and the Story County Conservation Board will offer a three session birding class on April 23, April 30 and May 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. Topics will include basic equipment, habitats, and bird families. A Field Trip will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 7:30 a.m. until Noon at local birding areas. The class will be held at The Story County Conservation Center in McFarland Park. There is a \$10 registration fee for the class. Call the Conservation Center at 232-2516 by April 19 to register for the class.

Nominations Committee Appointed

A Nominations Committee has been appointed to find candidates for Board of Directors and Officers of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. If you would like to serve or would like to nominate someone to serve please contact one of the following members of the Nominations Committee: Kay Niyo-233-8803, Rebecca Shivvers-292-0691, Paul Ovrom-292-8862. Election will be held at the May monthly meeting.

Spring River Conference- March 14-18, Kearney, Nebraska

Timed to coincide with the gathering of thousands of sandhill cranes along the Platte River in central Nebraska, the Audubon Spring River Conference is set for March 14-18. Speakers (including John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society), slide presentations, workshops, exhibits and field trips are all part of this year's conference. The field trips focus on the sandhill cranes that depend on the Platte River as a spring staging area in March and early April each year. Bald eagles near the river, and large numbers of waterfowl at wetlands in the Rainwater Basin can also be seen in this part of Nebraska throughout most of March. Come learn about this fragile river ecosystem and about the restoration projects along the Missouri River. For a Conference brochure with registration form contact Sherry Dragula at 233-1532.

An update on Gladys Black's health- Gladys is scheduled to leave the hospital this week (Feb. 18) and return to her home. Thanks to all those who sent cards to her in the hospital.

May and June Big Bluestem Events

- May 4-** 7:30 a.m.-Noon, Field Trip with Beginning Birding Class, Area Sites
May 10- 7:30 p.m.- Meeting, Erv Klaas on Restoration Ecology, Room 2532 Vet. Med. Bldg.
May 12- 7:30 a.m.-Warbler Watch at Brookside Pk.
June 8- Birding at Holst Forest & Breakfast at Don Williams Lake (Boone County)

"Birds of Story County" Book Coming Soon

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society is pleased to announce the upcoming release of a new book, "The Birds of Story County," by Steve Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel. The book, made possible with a donation from Big Bluestem Audubon, will list all bird species noted for Story County as well as their abundance and dates of occurrence. Details on how to obtain the book will be available by May; see our next newsletter.

National Audubon Convention, June 8-12

Twenty-five years of progress in safeguarding our environment is now under fire in Congress. Our challenge to protect birds, wildlife and their habitat is being tested as never before. The 1996 Convention in Washington D.C. is where we renew our commitment and explore what it means to foster a "culture of conservation". The program will include political action, training and workshops on habitat protection plus a diverse array of field trips to experience the natural history of the area. Registration fees increase after May 1, 1996. To receive materials contact: Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave., #5, Boulder, CO 80303; Phone: 303-499-3622; Fax: 303-499-0286; E-Mail: convention@audubon.org

Student Assistants needed at Audubon Camps

Summer camps in Maine, Wyoming and Connecticut are looking for student assistants to carry out a field study project and attend ecology workshops and programs as well as work as camp staff. Room and board and salary are provided in return for camp work. Interested persons should send their resume to: Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops, National Audubon Society, 613 Riverside Rd., Greenwich, CT 06831

NEW MEMBER 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 Widrlechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave. Ames, Iowa 50010

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Board Members

President: Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532

Vice-President: Stan Cyran, 292-4876

Secretary: Joyce Bahrenfus, 432-3396

Treasurer: Barb Bettis, 232-4863

Kay Niyo, 233-8803

Rebecca Shivers, 292-0691

Lloyd Crim, 432-5026

Don Sanderson, 232-2227

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Iowa Bird Sightings Hotline- 319-338-9881

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