

Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 23 No. 1

September 1988

Monthly Meeting

BIRDING THE RED ROCK RESERVOIR

DR. GLADYS BLACK, Ornithologist

Tuesday, September 20, Room 181, College of Design, ISU, Ames
(Refreshments by Edwards & Meetz)

Field Trip

HAWK/PELICAN WATCH

SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR Saturday September 24
Carpool from Design Center Parking Lot, ISU, Ames
Leaving at 8:00 AM

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

1988-1989

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534
Vice-Presidents: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014
Conservation Chair
Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130
Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014
Executive Board
Elizabeth Carbrey, 292-2404
Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152
Field Trips
Andy Fix, 296-7554
Barbara Heikens, 296-2999
Education Chair
Tom Rosburg, 292-2361

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair
David Edwards, 292-3790



SOCIETY SPOTTING SCOPE

Our society spotting scope is presently in the care of Mike Meetz. He brings it to all of our field trips. Members are able to use it anytime. To make arrangements, please call Mike Meetz, President.

HELP WANTED

We need your help and ideas on the workings of our society. Help is needed on our Education, Conservation, Membership, Field Trip, and Publicity committees as well service projects, newsletter mailing, and meeting refreshments. Think about it and look for more information at the Monthly Meeting, or call Mike.

HABITAT STAMPS

Please consider purchasing Iowa Habitat and Iowa and U. S. Duck stamps. The funds are used to maintain habitat programs. Also, the U.S. Duck stamp provides entry into any fee-charging federal wildlife refuges like that at DeSoto bend. This is an inexpensive way to show your support for improving habitat. Federal stamps are sold at Post Offices for \$10 and Iowa stamps are sold wherever hunting licenses are obtained.

T. I. P.

The turn-in-a-poacher program in Iowa is everyone's responsibility. Learn the laws. If you see anything suspicious, call 1-800-532-2020. You can remain anonymous.

TOXIC CLEAN-UP DAY PROGRAM

Story County and the City of Ames have applied for an Iowa DNR grant to fund a series of toxic clean-up days in the county. These would provide collection points and appropriate disposal of selected environmental pollutants like pesticides, and such. Our executive board believes it is a project worth supporting. For further details, contact Sherry Dragula or Mike Meetz, and watch the local newspaper for announcements.

ACID RAIN UPDATE

Since January 1st approximately 15 inches of precipitation have been collected and the pH measured. Values of pH have ranged from 3.5 to 6.5, averaging around 5.6. A large number of the samples contained wind-blown soil contaminants, and these may have had a significant influence on the pH of the water. Normal rain water is slightly acidic at 5.6. Iowa and the midwest have been found to have pH averaging from 4.7 to 5.0. The lowest values in the U.S. are in the south, south-central, and north-east regions.

Mike Meetz

ANNUAL SOCIETY SERVICE PROJECT

Our second work day in East River Valley Park June 18th was successful. We, Mike Meetz, Sherry Dragula, Mark Widrlechner, Barb Bettis, and Dave Edwards, used two more rolls of cage wire to protect trees from beaver and finished root pruning some small trees for future transplanting. The actual transplanting scheduled for this fall will be delayed because of the dry conditions.

The Ames Park and Recreation Commission's plan to build a foot bridge near Carr Pool to improve access to the ERVP appears to be near completion. The bridge is now useable, and most of the work was accomplished with minimal impact beyond the actual construction site. We will need to work on some information displays soon.

BIRD HOTLINES

The Iowa Ornithological Union maintains an Iowa bird hotline. It is maintained by Jim Fuller of Iowa City. Messages on recent bird sightings are updated each Monday. Call 319-338-9881.

A Northwest Iowa Bird Hotline has been recently installed by Eldon and Dixie Kanago in Spencer. Their number is 712-262-5957.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Beginning with renewals for February 1989, members will be asked to renew at higher rates. Those entering at \$20 will be asked to pay \$30, those at \$30 will pay \$35, and those currently paying \$38 or higher will be asked to maintain that rate.

1989 BBAS EVENTS

- January 2 - Boone County Christmas Count
- January 17 - BIRD SHELTER & NEST BOXES, Pat Schlarbaum, DNR, Nongame Officer
- January (late) Eagle watch, Eastern Iowa
- February - Ledges/Big Creek State Parks, Owl walk
- February 21 - PRAIRIE RESTORATION, Dorothy Baringer
- March 18 - Bay's Branch - Waterfowl watch
- March 21 - MAMMALS, Jim Pease, ISU Extension Service
- April 8 - Izaak Walton Park, Woodcock watch
- April 18 - SHORE BIRDS, Hank Zaletel
- April 22 - Hendrickson's Marsh, Shore birds
- May 6 - Saylorville reservoir
- May 13 - Brookside Park, Warblers
- May 16 - HIGH SCHOOL PRAIRIE RECLAMATION, Judy Shearer, Nature Conservancy
- June 3 - Ledges State Park - 2nd Annual Birder's breakfast
- June/July - Canoe trip to Big Wall Lake

CALENDAR

- September 13 -- Isaac Walton League will present a video program titled Ducks in Crisis. For details call John Burnett, 232-2791.
- September 16-18 -- Fall Iowa Ornithological Meeting at Dayton Oaks Camp near Fort Dodge. Saturday and Sunday field trips plus workshops. For information, call soon, 573-3482, 573-5018, or 576-3862.
- September 20 -- BBAS membership meeting, see front page.
- September 24 -- BBAS Saylorville Reservoir field trip, see front page.
- September 24-25 -- Hawk Watch at Effigy Mounds near Marquette, IA, sponsored by the Iowa DNR and the US Park Service.
- October 1 -- Cedar Rapids A.S. bike tour of River Road with birding. Begin at 8 AM at Ellis Park swimming pool parking. Call 396-4237.
- October 8 -- Cedar Rapids A.S. all-day trip to White Pine Hollow near Luxemburg. Begin at Coe Gym parking lot at 7 AM. Call 363-6884.
- October 15 -- Cedar Rapids A. S. half-day trip to Amana Nature Trail and Indian Fish Trap. Meet at Coe Gym parking lot at 8 AM. Call 364-1047.
- October 18 -- BBAS membership meeting. PALEO INDIAN STORY CITY SITE, by Dr. John Bower. 7:30 PM 181 Design Center, ISU, Ames.
- October 22 -- BBAS Field Trip to be announced.
- October 22 -- Cedar Rapids trip to Pleasant Creek Reservoir and Palo Marsh. Meet at Coe Gym parking lot at 8 AM. Call 364-1638.
- November 11-12 -- BBAS Field Trip overnight at Desoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge. Waterfowl migrations.
- November 15 -- BBAS membership meeting. RAPTOR EDUCATION by Burke Thayer, rehabilitator. 7:30 PM 181 Design Center, ISU, Ames.
- December 13 - BBAS Christmas Party and MEMBERS SLIDE SHOW.
- December 17 - Ames Christmas Bird Count
- December 18 - Saylorville Christmas Bird Count (new)

Big Bluestem Audubon Society
2308 State Avenue, RR 5
Ames, Iowa 500 10

- BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 131
AMES, IOWA

SHERRY DRAGULA
MARK WIDRLECHNER
RR 6
AMES, IA 50010