

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

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

Volume 24, No. 6

February 1990

MONTHLY MEETING

IOWA'S BLUEBIRDS

Laura Jackson, Non-game Biologist, Iowa DNR

Tuesday, February 20, 7:30 p.m., Room 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

FIELD TRIPS

WINTER OWL WALK

Ledges and Big Creek State Parks

Saturday, February 17, 7:30 a.m. meet at Design Center Parking Lot

EAGLE WATCH

Red Rock Reservoir

Saturday, March 3, or Sunday, March 4.

Plan announced at February 20 meeting
or call Steve Dinsmore or Mike Meetz

7:30 AM.
Design Bldg.

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS 1989-1990

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534

Vice-President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014 Conservation Chair

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

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Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152 Field Trips

Andy Fix, 233-4956

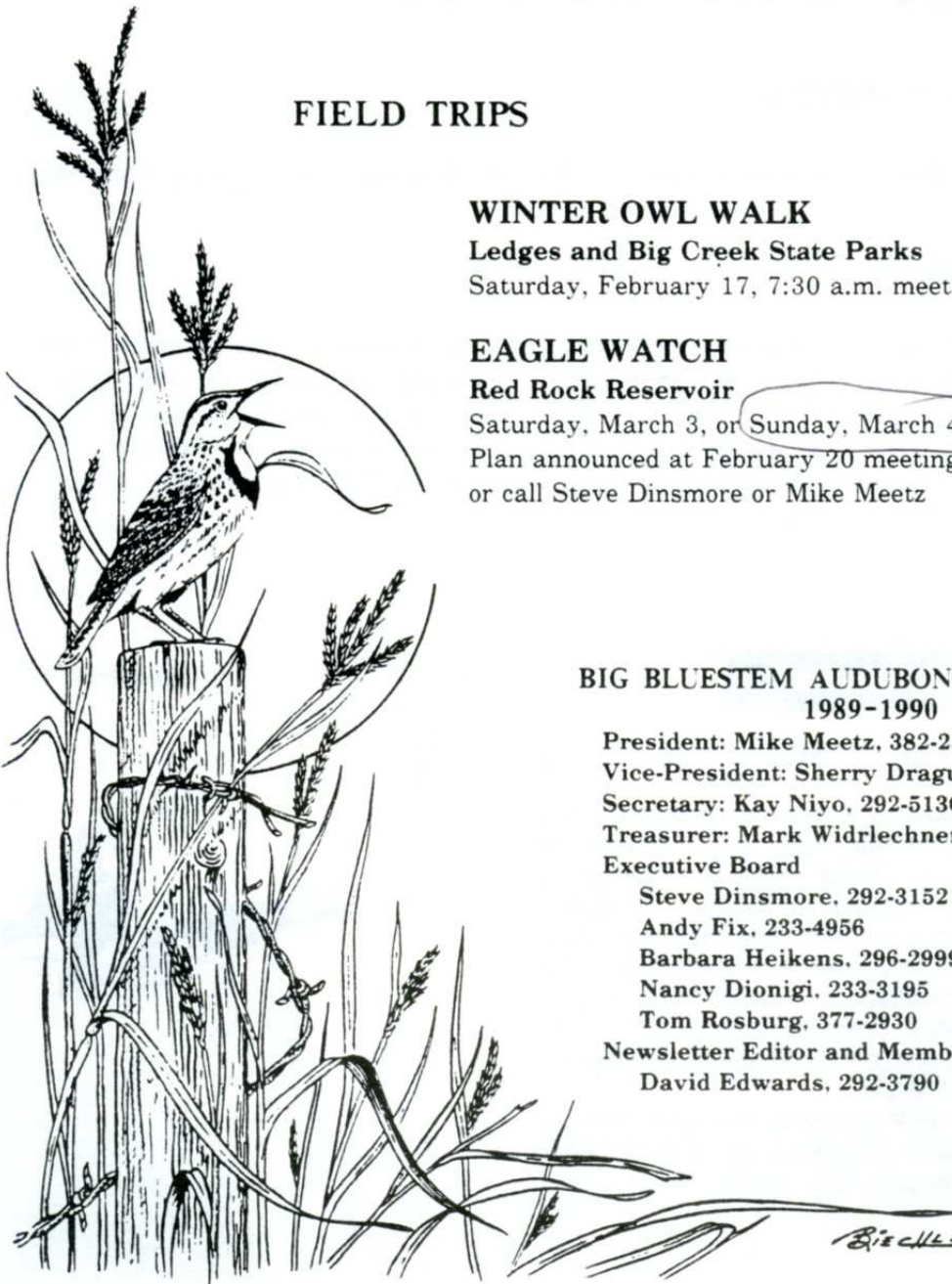
Barbara Heikens, 296-2999 Education Chair

Nancy Dionigi, 233-3195

Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790



ACID RAIN REPORT

Mike Meetz reports three measures this past month, measuring 5.4, 5.75, and 6.0 pH. (5.6 is "normal".)

BIRDER IDENTIFICATION QUIZZES

Birder A (December newsletter) was Mike Meetz; Birder B (January newsletter) was Steve Dinsmore.

NONGAME PROGRAM FUNDING

Remember to contribute to the Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund by making a contribution on the appropriate line on the tax form.

BBAS EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

The Big Bluestem Audubon Society will provide a booth at the ISU Memorial Union Earth day activities.

BIRDING WISCONSIN

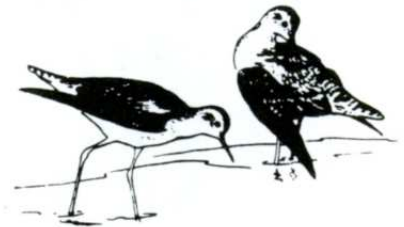
Fred Leshar has led small groups on birding trips in Wisconsin for several years. This summer's trips are "Birding the Upper Mississippi Valley," May 28 to June 1. This plan is new this year and can be scheduled for the whole workshop or for any single day. The second trip is "Birding Northwestern Wisconsin," June 3 to 8, a traditional workshop with headquarters at the University of Wisconsin's Pigeon Lake Field Station. Brochures with more description will be at the February 20 BBAS meeting.

NAS Television

Plight of Dolphins Subject of Next Audubon Special

MICHAEL DOUGLAS HOSTS THE NEWEST Audubon Television Special, "If Dolphins Could Talk," a film journey into the world of the gentle, intelligent mammal. The special focuses on how human activities—pollution, tuna fishing, and, in one case of competition with fishermen, indiscriminate slaughter—are devastating dolphin populations. The program airs on TBS SuperStation: Sunday, February 25 at 10 p.m. (Eastern); Monday, February 26 at 8:55 p.m. (Pacific); Saturday, March 3 at 9:05 a.m. (Eastern); and Monday, March 19 at 11:05 p.m. (Pacific).

For information on these programs and other Audubon television offerings, write to: Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.



1988-1989 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

AMES, December 16, 1989 Compiler - Steve Dinsmore

Eight feeder watchers and 33 field observers helped to register 56 species, the highest count recorded for Ames. The most unusual sightings were the four new species to the Ames count: Northern Mockingbird, Vesper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and House Finch. Other unusual birds seen were two Great Blue Herons, Lesser Scaup, 31 Brown Creepers, and 5 Winter Wrens.

SAYLORVILLE, December 17, 1988 Co-Compiler - Steve Dinsmore

The Saylorville count in its second year was co-sponsored by members of the Des Moines Audubon Society. Just 77 species were tallied, down from the 82 of last year. Highlights were Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, eight Common Snipe, Glaucous Gull, 18 Long-eared Owls, 45 Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, eight Rufous-sided Towhee, five Brewer's Blackbird, and two Common Redpolls. Twelve of the 28 participants were from Ames.

BOONE, December 30, 1989, Compiler - Mark Widrechner

Among the good sightings on the Boone count were 150 Wild Turkey, three Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, and Rufous-sided Towhee. The species count was 55.

	AMES	BOONE			
Great Blue Heron		2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	2
Canada Goose		4	White-breasted Nuthatch	183	210
Mallard	42	3	Brown Creeper	31	15
Lesser Scaup	1		Winter Wren	5	2
Bald Eagle		3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	3
Northern Harrier	2	1	Eastern Bluebird	9	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	American Robin	1	22
Accipiter sp		2	Northern Mockingbird	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk			Cedar Waxwing	25	275
Red-tailed Hawk	15	25	Northern Shrike		1
Rough-legged Hawk		2 3	Loggerhead Shrike		1
American Kestrel	6	7	Shrike sp	1	
Gray Partridge	15	33	European Starling	1615	1142
Ring-necked Pheasant		86 92	Northern Cardinal	221	185
Wild Turkey	2	150	Rufous-sided Towhee		3
Common Snipe	1	2	American Tree Sparrow	809	262
Rock Dove	303	930	Vesper Sparrow	1	
Mourning Dove	24	19	Fox Sparrow	1	1
Eastern Screech-Owl		7 11	Song Sparrow	33	18
Great-horned Owl	4	20	Lincoln's Sparrow	4	
Barred Owl	4	4	Swamp Sparrow		2
Long-eared Owl		2	White-throated Sparrow	3	
Short-eared Owl	2		White-crowned Sparrow		6
Northern Saw-whet Owl		3	Harris' Sparrow	6	39
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	Dark-eyed Junco	663	445
Red-headed Woodpecker		4 24	Lapland Longspur	30	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		53 98	Snow Bunting		
Downy Woodpecker		179 107	Red-winged Blackbird	6	1
Hairy Woodpecker		22 36	Meadowlark sp	7	2
Northern Flicker		10 11	Rusty Blackbird	6	25
Horned Lark		6	Common Grackle	1	
Blue Jay	198	164	Purple Finch	3	15
American Crow	5400	371	House Finch	5	
Black-capped Chickadee		438 387	Pine Siskin	77	19
Tufted Titmouse	15	37	American Goldfinch	117	195
			House Sparrow	5831	1761

CALENDAR FOR THE COMING MONTHS

- March 16-18. Spring River Conference, Kearney NE. West Central A.S. regional office.
March 20 BBAS Meeting. American Kestrel Project. Dan Varland.
March 24 BBAS Field Trip. Waterfowl Watch. Bays Branch, Guthrie County.
April 7 or 8 BBAS Field Trip. Woodcock Watch. Izaak Walton and/or Ames High School Prairie.
April 17 BBAS Meeting. Wetland Restoration: For the Birds? Dr. James Dinsmore, ornithologist.
April 21 BBAS Field Trip. Waterfowl and Shorebirds. Hendrickson's Marsh, Colo ponds.
April 29 BBAS Field Trip. Warblers and Wildflowers. N. W. Marshall County.
May 12 BBAS Field Trip. Warblers and Wildflowers. Brookside Park, Ames.
May 15 BBAS Meeting. Prairie Foray. Tom Rosburg, ISU Botany Department.
June 2 BBAS Field Trip. Annual Birder's Breakfast and Bird Walk. Ledges State Park.

BIRDERS' HOTLINE

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

February 1990

Big Bluestem Audubon Society
2308 State Avenue, RR 5
Ames, Iowa 50010

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