



Big Bluestem Audubon Society
Ames, Iowa

Jim Murdock, Pres. 292-5102
Tom Davis, Vice-Pres. 292-1869
Sherry Dragula, Sec. 292-4014
Judy Shearer, Treas. 292-4430
Judy van der Linden, Ed. 232-3450

Bluestem Flyer

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March, 1985

Monthly Meeting

- WHEN:** Tuesday, Mar. 12, at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Room 181-1 (Jury Room), Design Center, ISU campus
WHO: Tom Davis, Dept. of Zoology, ISU
TOPIC: "Bird Eggs: They Are Not Just For Breakfast Anymore"
(Biology and adaptations of bird eggs)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

March Field Trip -- Bill Horine will lead a field trip to Nebraska's Platte River area to see thousands of Sandhill Cranes and other waterfowl. Detailed article on p. 2.

Board Meeting -- The Society's executive board will meet (briefly!) after the general meeting on Mar. 12. Anyone interested may attend.

Conservation Committee -- The committee will meet on Mar. 25 at 7 p.m. at a location on the ISU campus. A major topic will be the meeting with the Army Corps regarding the Ames Lake Reevaluation Study (details on p. 3). Anyone who wants to attend the meeting can call Sherry Dragula (292-4014) for the location or see her at the March general meeting.

World of Audubon -- The next Audubon television special will be broadcast on Mar. 21, and will feature turtles, puffins, and acid rain. Check your cable channel listings for details.

Newsletter Deadline -- Articles and artwork for the April newsletter should be sent to Judy van der Linden, 610 9th St., before Monday, Mar. 25 at 5 p.m.

Otters are being
reintroduced in Iowa!



MARCH FIELD TRIP -
WINGS OVER THE PLATTE

The March field trip to Nebraska's Platte River area promises to yield excellent bird-watching -- trip leader Bill Horine guarantees thousands of Sandhill Cranes, Common Pintail Ducks, White-fronted Geese, and other waterfowl. Bill urges anyone interested to call him as soon as possible (382-4150), and no later than Tuesday, Mar. 12.

The trip schedule will be flexible. Bill has reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn in Grand Island, Neb., for Fri., Mar. 15. He'll meet participants there that evening (those wishing to arrive later should let him know beforehand) and plans to lead the group Saturday along the Platte River and to the nearby Lillian Roe Refuge and several rainwater basins. The area's main attraction, of course, is the hundreds of thousands of migrating cranes. Generally, by mid-March, an estimated 70% of the world's population of Lesser Sandhill Cranes crowd a 150-mile stretch of the Platte River starting at Grand Island. Here the birds rest and prepare for the last leg of their flight to breeding grounds in the Arctic.

Grand Island is about 320 miles from Ames. Participants will carpool over and share gas expenses. Lodging will cost \$25-\$40 per person per night and birders will pay for their own meals or bring food. Bill suggests participants bring warm clothing, sturdy footgear, and binoculars or a spotting scope. Optional gear includes a camera with a long lens, tape-recording equipment, a thermos and/or cooler, and a CB radio for communication between cars.



AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING...

Sherry Dragula reported for the Conservation Committee that the Piping Plover's status is up for review and that letters are needed by Mar. 29 to protect it as an endangered species. A letter-writing session was announced for Feb. 25 (which generated 16 letters on various environmental issues.)

Tom Davis (for the Education Committee) moved that the Society approve spending \$100 to provide the Audubon Adventures series to five 4th to 6th grade classes. The series is an environmental education tool for use in the classroom. The motion passed unanimously.

The Budget Committee will submit a budget for approval at the March general meeting. Jim Murdock announced his upcoming field trip.

The "Bird of the Month" report was given by Tom Davis on Black Ducks and Mallards. Tom Squires presented a program on the "Science and Politics of Acid Rain."

FIELD TRIP REPORT

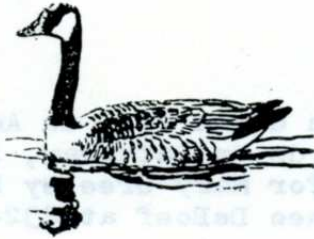
In spite of car trouble, the four participants in the February field trip did see a Saw-whet Owl at Big Creek and Pine Siskins and a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Glendale Cemetary. Anyone who wants directions to the owl can contact Jim Murdock.

CHICKADEE CHECKOFF!

Mark Your State
Income Tax Form —
An Easy Way for You
to Help Iowa's
Nongame Wildlife



BIRD
NOTES



Late winter has brought some new birds, and some earlier arrivals are still in the area.

Pine Grosbeaks can be seen in Glendale Cemetary, which is near 48th and University. They are un-common in this part of Iowa. They can be seen where the crossbills and Bohemian waxwings were seen in January.

Redpolls have been seen in Nevada, and a few Canada geese and some ducks have been seen on Little Wall Lake. For more information, call Hank Zalatel (377-2889).

CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT

(Sherry Dragula, 292-4014; Cindy Hildebrand, 232-3807)

Ames Lake Reevaluation Study -- There will be a meeting regarding the Study on Mar. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the State Forest Nursery building in Ames. The meeting will include representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and interested members of the Story County Conservation Board (SCCB), the Citizen's Advisory Council to the SCCB, the Cary Lobe Group of the Sierra Club, and the Society. The meeting will include a report on Study progress and an opportunity for questions, ideas, and opinions. If you want to attend, please contact Sherry for more information, and consider attending the Conservation Committee meeting (p. 1).

Ames Trails Association -- This new group is interested in encouraging the City of Ames to establish a system of trails within the City for hiking, nature walking, cross-country skiing, and other passive forms of recreation. Signatures are being collected for later presentation to the City as a sign of public support. For more information, contact Sherry.

State Issues -- The Park User Fee (H.F. 183) which is supported by the Iowa Audubon Council needs help in the Senate, and letters and phone calls to senators are needed. The grazing bill (H.F. 266) is also supported by the Council. It would protect forests and forest soils from grazing by providing some cost-share money to landowners for fencing out livestock from woodlands. Representatives and senators should be contacted on this bill. For more information on these and other state issues, call Cindy.

National Issues -- A number of issues will be coming up in the current session of the U.S. Congress. They include; Superfund, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and funding for EPA and the Energy Department. For more information on national issues, contact Sherry.

PROPOSED SOCIETY BUDGET

This budget will be presented for questions, comments, and possible adoption at the March general meeting. For more information, contact Judy Shearer (p.1).

Estimated income, \$1,500; Expenses; Publications Comm., \$750; Publicity Comm., \$75; Conservation Comm., \$100; Education Comm., \$250; Membership Comm., \$50; Grants (see below), \$175; Office holder's expenses, \$50; total, \$1,450.

Grants; Nature Conservancy, \$25; Iowa Audubon Council, \$50; Story County Conservation Education, \$100. Office holder's expenses would include all office supplies; staples, typewriter ribbon, paper, etc.

+ \$25 Wilson Elder Center Birdseed

ETCETERA --

Charity Birders Wanted -- The North Grand Mall in Ames is seeking volunteers to present programs about birds on Saturday, April 13 as part of a special event to raise money for Mary Greeley Hospital. Interested persons are asked to call Renee DeBoef at 232-3679 (afternoons only).

The Future of Iowa's Natural Areas -- A colloquium on this topic is being presented on Mar. 14 by the Iowa Society of American Foresters and the ISU Department of Forestry. Speakers will talk about parks, recreation, protecting natural areas, working with farmers, the legislative system, the value (monetary and non-monetary) of natural areas, and other subjects. The colloquium will be held at the Scheman Building in Ames and will last all day. For more information, call Joe Colletti (294-4912, days).

Workshop on Iowa's Groundwater -- This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Iowa and the Joyce Foundation, and will take place on Mar. 30. It is designed to provide practical information and ideas for action, and will be held on the ISU campus. For more information, call Judie Hoffman (292-2660).

Sierra Club -- The Cary Lobe Group will meet in Room 181 of the ISU Design Center at 7:30 p.m. on Mar. 27. The program will be on outdoor learning by Dr. Robert Dyas of ISU.

AUDUBON TIP - SAFER SUBSTITUTES

Window Cleaner -- Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar with one gallon warm water. Use newspapers to dry the glass. Or use straight lemon juice and dry with a soft cloth.

Air Freshener -- Leave an opened box of baking soda in the room, or use fresh flowers or herbs.



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