

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

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

Volume 24, No. 8

April 1990

MONTHLY MEETING

WETLAND RESTORATION: FOR THE BIRDS?

Dr. James Dinsmore, Ornithologist, ISU

Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., Room 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

EARTH WEEK ACTIVITIES

BBAS DISPLAY BOOTH

Thursday, April 19. ISU Memorial Union. Volunteers needed to help staff.
Call Mike at 294-1950 days, 382-2534 evenings.

FIELD TRIP: WATERFOWL AND SHOREBIRDS

Hendrickson's and Kettelsen's Marshes, Colo Ponds

Saturday, April 21, 7:30 a.m. meet at Design Center Parking Lot

MORTENSEN PRAIRIE BURN

Mortensen Road and Ashmore Drive

Sunday, April 22, 1:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP: WARBLERS AND WILDFLOWERS

Northwest Marshall County

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 a.m. meet at Design Center Parking Lot

LLOYD KURTZ BRIDGE DEDICATION

East River Valley ~~Park~~ Saturday, April 28. 1:00 p.m.

BBAS may also hold a tree transplanting and bird walk.

Volunteers call Mike as above or Mark at 292-4014 evenings

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

1989-1990

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

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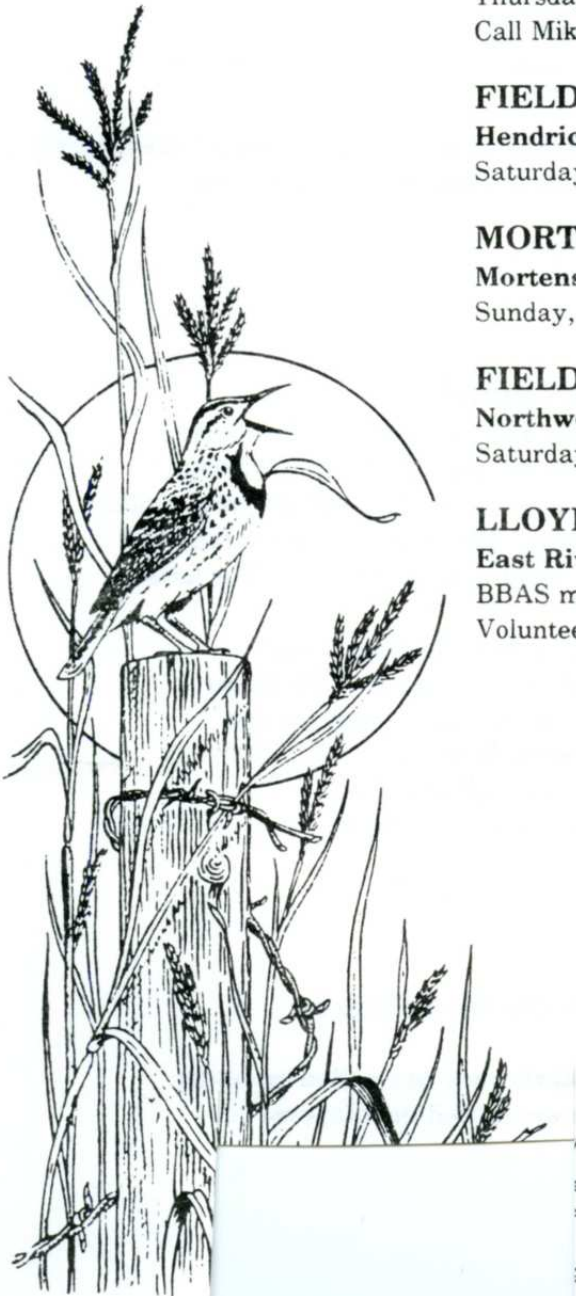
Barbara Heikens, 296-2999 Education Chair

Nancy Dionigi, 233-3195

Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790



ACID RAIN REPORT

Mike Meetz reports several measures this past month, including those of the ice storms. Readings were 5.6, 5.7, 5.25, 5.75, 5.5, 5.5, 5.5. A pH of 5.6 is considered normal.

WATERFOWL WATCH FIELD TRIP REPORT

About 52 species were seen by the eleven participants on the spring waterfowl watch field trip to Saylorville Reservoir at Jester Park, the north end of Big Creek Lake, and Bay's Branch and Lakin's Slough wildlife areas in Guthrie County. Among the highlights reported were 14 White Pelicans and large concentrations of Lesser Scaup at Saylorville, 3 or 4 thousand Snow and Blue Geese at Lakin's Slough, and over 20 Great Blue Heron at Bay's Branch. The list reflected 19 species of ducks and geese.

AUDUBON CAMP EMPLOYMENT

The Audubon Ecology Workshops and Camps program in Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming have summer employment opportunities for natural history instructors and student assistants. Contact the Connecticut center at (203) 869-5272.

BOOK REVIEW

A FIELD GUIDE TO LITTLE-KNOWN AND SELDOM-SEEN BIRDS

Purely a spoof from cover to cover, including appendices of charts and bibliography. The bulk of the book is field guide specifications, maps, and pictures of 32 "birds" like the Military Warbler featured on the cover in camouflage colors. Others include the Long-Range Target Duck with a bulls-eye underneath and the Monarch Warbler colored like the butterfly. My favorites are the family of seven yellowlegs, ranging from the Very Least to the Greatest, and the Ringed Gimpy. The latter is described as follows:

"This medium-sized bird is born with one leg shorter than the other. This leg length disparity causes the Ringed Gimpy to walk in circles. The Western race...walks in larger circles (420 miles) than the eastern race (314 miles)...Males have a short right leg and females have a short left leg. As a result, males walk clockwise, females counterclockwise; this trait makes breeding opportunities rather unpredictable."

Authors are Ben, Cathryn, and John Sill; publisher is Peachtree Publishers; \$7.95

CONSERVATION ETHIC?

Abstracted from Joseph Wood Krutch via Gaylord Nelson in the Des Moines Register:

**If people destroy something replaceable made by mankind, they are called vandals;
if they destroy something irreplaceable of nature, they are called developers.**

A SINGLE DAY, A COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

by Anne Schwartz printed in the Audubon Activist

The first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, transformed the nation. What had been a crusade by a small number of conservationists turned -- overnight, it seemed -- into a national cause.

Veterans of the environmental movement recall that at the time, many people doubted that Earth Day would amount to much. Instead, it turned out to be a fulcrum for historic change. Soon after, Congress passed our major environmental laws. The bounds of the environmental movement were redrawn to embrace a broader range of issues and a wider circle of citizens.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of that day in April, our green Earth faces threats of a magnitude not foreseen even 20 years ago.

Today, too, there are skeptics who wonder whether a day or a week or a month of environmental awareness can do more than scratch the surface of these problems.

That is why Earth Day 1990 must up the ante. The organizers of the event envision a campaign of global dimensions, involving people all over the world. Its aim is to rally citizens from all walks of life to bring about change through the political process, and to change their own values and lifestyles.

All sorts of groups and institutions are joining with environmentalists to plan Earth Day events: universities and elementary schools, businesses and churches, local and state governments.

In Dayton, Ohio, a shopping mall is sponsoring a four-day festival, including a major recycling drive. Churches and synagogues all over New York City will participate in special ceremonies on April 22. A thousand Girl Scouts will converge on Muskogee, Oklahoma, for Earth Day activities beginning March 31.

Today, more people than ever consider themselves environmentalists; the environment even became an issue in the last U.S. presidential campaign. And as the remarkable political changes in eastern Europe have shown, when a cause gathers overwhelming support, it cannot be held back. If we all participate, Earth Day 1990 could be the catalyst for a new wave of environmental activism that will carry us into the 21st century.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have an idea why some newspaper columnists, like David Jepsen in the Des Moines Register, call environmentalists by names like "tree-hugger". Maybe he can't spell 'environmentalist'.



CALENDAR FOR THE COMING MONTHS

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.

AUDUBON CENTER OF THE NORTH WOODS

Telephone (612) 245-2648 for information.

Orienteering Weekend

April 20-22, 1990.

Whitewater Canoeing Weekend

April 27-29, 1990.

Fishing Ecology Camp

June 1-3 or 11-14, 1990.

Exploring Native American Technologies

June 18-22, 1990

Teaching Workshop in Environmental Education

June 29 - July 1, 1990

BIRDERS' HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.

712/262-5958 for northwest Iowa sightings.

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