

Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 23 No. 9

May 1989

Monthly Meeting

HIGH SCHOOL PRAIRIE RECLAMATION

Judy Shearer, Nature Conservancy

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 PM, Rm 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

Field Trip

WARBLERS

Saturday, May 13; Brookside Park, Ames

Meet at 8:00 AM in the north parking lot.

BIRDER'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, June 3; Ledges State Park, Lower Shelter

Birding 7 to 9; Breakfast at 9 AM.

See Notes inside.

SUMMER OUTINGS

See Details Inside

CANOE TRIP

Big Wall Lake; Sunday, June 11

BIRD ATLASING

Saturday, June 24

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

1988-1989

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534

Vice-President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

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Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

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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



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SHORE BIRD FIELD TRIP REPORT

This was not a good year for seeing shore birds in the usual spots of central Iowa. There was essentially no standing water. The eleven field trip participants covered the waters of Big Creek State Park first, starting at the north end and moving south. Later, most went on to Hendrickson's Marsh, though the wind was rather strong by that time. It was a good day for variety. Though there were few shore birds, we sighted 65 species. Many different ducks and such were at Big Creek including Canada Goose, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, White Pelican, Cormorant, Coot, Pie-billed Grebe, White-winged Scoter, Common Loon, and Ring-billed, Herring, and Bonaparte's Gulls. Among shore birds were Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, Common Snipe, Killdeer, and Woodcock. Among the rest, an early Orange-crowned Warbler was interesting.

SECOND ANNUAL BIRDER'S BREAKFAST

Join us for a couple of hours of birding along the Ledges State Park canyon road and then a breakfast in the stone shelter in the lower park. Birding will begin at the lower stone shelter at 7 a.m. and proceed up the canyon road and back. A bring-your own breakfast will begin at about 9 a.m. Cooking materials will be provided and there will be some goodies to share. Call Andy Fix (296-7554) with questions. Remember to have your State Park vehicle sticker; they can be purchased at Drugtown, K-Mart, and the like, or during normal office hours at the park.

FIRST ANNUAL BBAS CANOE TRIP

A leisurely canoeing venture is planned for Sunday, June 11, to poke about the many areas of Big Wall Lake located about an hour north of Ames on highway 69. Big Wall Lake is really misnamed; it's more of a marsh with sections of open water, if there continues to be adequate rain. Alternate possibilities include sections of the Des Moines river, again assuming reasonable water levels. The Des Moines river from Boone's Water Works Park to the Ledges is a very pleasant 4 hour trip with many birds and other interesting features. On a recent trip by five BBAS members an Osprey was seen catching and showing off a large fish, a pair of Great-horned Owls were roosting in a riverside tree, a Red-tailed Hawk nest was in production, and Spotted Sandpipers and Kingfisher were evenly spaced every few hundred yards along the 12 miles.

Mike Meetz and Dave Edwards will be in charge of planning and logistics. Contact either for more information. Canoes will be rented as needed; charges are expected to be about \$12 per canoe. Novices are encouraged; little more is required than the common sense all Audubon people have.

BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

A sampling of sections of Iowa are being intensively examined for evidence of nesting bird species. The Iowa DNR and the Iowa Ornithological Union are the principle participants, but they can use volunteer help. The Big Bluestem society will cover one designated block on Saturday, June 24. Mike Meetz will organize the event, beginning at the May membership meeting.

ACID RAIN

No measurements were taken this month because of difficulties with the kit, but the samples have been frozen for analysis after the problem has been worked out.

ANNUAL MEETING

The May membership meeting is the official annual meeting for business of the society. Officers are to be elected and the budget for the coming year is to be approved. Copies of the society's official documents are available from the president and will be available for inspection at the meeting.

BBAS OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 1989-1990

The following slate of candidates has been prepared for vote at the May membership meeting.

President: Mike Meetz

Vice-president: Sherry Dragula

Secretary: Kay Niyo

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner

Executive Board: Tom Rosburg, Steve Dinsmore, Barb Heikens,
John Richard, Andy Fix

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The next newsletter will be that for September, prepared and sent to reach you at least a week before the September meeting. At least we try to get it out by then. Printing problems and mailing schedules sometimes interfere. The September 1989 meeting will be on the third Tuesday, as usual.

Audubon Specials Return to PBS This Summer

PBS will be airing eight Audubon Television Specials this summer on **Sunday nights at 8:00**. Check your local listings for details.

- July 9 Greed, Guns, and Wildlife
- July 16 Grizzly and Man: Uneasy Truce*
- July 23 Whales
- July 30 Crane River
- Aug. 6 Wood Stork: Barometer of the Everglades
- Aug. 13 Messages from the Birds
- Aug. 20 Sharks
- Aug. 27 Sea Turtles

*First place winner, 1989 North American Outdoor Film/Video Awards, Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Audubon Television now keeps you up-to-date on all its programs, videos, computer software, and myriad other educational and environmental projects with its new **Audubon TV News Bulletin**. The Spring 1989 issue is now available. To be placed on the mailing list to receive this quarterly newsletter, simply drop a note with your name and address to Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003.



BLUEBIRD ENTHUSIASTS

A compilation of state-wide nesting results from bluebird trails will be available this year. It will include charts, graphs, articles, and other useful information on the bluebird and the 1989 nesting season. To obtain a copy of the report send a \$3.00 or more contribution to the Sac County Conservation Foundation, RR 3, Box 96A, Sac City, IA 50583.

CALENDAR

- May 27 - Cedar Rapids AS, Canoe the Maquoketa; 319-338-4386 or 393-5754
- May 27-30 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Paddle the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers 612-245-2648
- June 4-10 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Black Hills Backpacking Trip 612-245-2648
- June 10 - Cedar Rapid AS; Cedar Valley Bird Count; 319-393-2573
- June 16-25 or June 30-July 9 - Northwoods AC, Minn, Bald Eagle Nesting Surveys and Research in the BWCA 612-245-2648
- Aug 5-12, 12-19 - Boundary Waters Canoe Trips, Northwoods AC, 612-245-2648
- Sep 11-16 - NAS Biennial Convention, Tucson, AZ

The public is invited to attend any BBAS sponsored event.

BIRDER'S HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING THE CHICKADEE CHECKOFF!

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