

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 29, No. 4      Newsletter of the Mid-Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society      December 1993

## MONTHLY MEETING

### HOLIDAY PARTY

#### MEMBERS' SLIDES, TREATS FOR THE BIRDS, TREATS FOR US

Thursday, December 16, 7:30 PM  
Story County Conservation Center  
McFarland Park, Ames

This is our Holiday meeting and the program will consist of members' slides from the past year. Bring some slides (no more than 10) to share. We also want to share some "cheer" with the birds at the Conservation Center. Please bring seed, suet or a donation to purchase seed. This year we will pool our monetary donations and purchase the seed at a discount. We will enjoy Holiday treats before and after the program, drinks will be provided, but bring along a treat to share.

Co-sponsored by the Story County Conservation Board.

## FIELD TRIPS

### AMES AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 18

Contact David Edwards (292-3790) or Mike Meetz (382-2534) with your questions. Feeder watchers especially are needed (people who count the birds at their feeders on count day). At the end of the day we will meet at the home of David & Jeanne Edwards, 2308 State Ave. for a tally and chili supper.

### SAYLORVILLE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 19

Contact Maridel Jackson (964-0140) for information about the count, or call 292-3152 to leave a message for Steve Dinsmore. At 5 PM the results are tallied at the Corps of Engineers Administration Building at the west end of Saylorville Dam.

### BOONE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, January 1

Contact Mark Widrechner (233-1532). After the count, meet at 5 PM at the Golden Corral on S. Story St. in Boone to eat and tally the results.



## AMES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS 1992

Area Groups	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	Feeder	Total
SNOW GOOSE				120					120
CANADA GOOSE	83	60		170	60				373
MALLARD	1					10			11
REDHEAD	1								1
LESSER SCAUP	1								1
COMMON GOLDENEYE	1								1
NORTHERN HARRIER							1		1
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK							1		1
COOPERS HAWK		1							1
RED-TAILED HAWK	1	3	2	2	2	1	3		14
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK							1		1
AMERICAN KESTREL	1	1	5	5	4		4		20
GRAY PARTRIDGE							3		3
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	1	2	10		14	9	15		51
WILD TURKEY							1		1
ROCK DOVE	26	62	198	14	62	30	22		414
MOURNING DOVE	30		9				2	6	47
EASTERN SCREECH OWL								1	1
GREAT-HORNED OWL	1	1		2	2	1	1	1	9
BARRED OWL	1	1		1	1				4
LONG-EARED OWL				1					1
SHORT-EARED OWL									1
BELTED KINGFISHER	3	1	1				2		7
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER							1	6	7
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	9	12	2		1	8	8	13	53
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	1					1			2
DOWNY WOODPECKER	17	26	12	10	19	16	23	22	145
HAIRY WOODPECKER	3	2	1	1	2	1	4	9	23
NORTHERN FLICKER	2	4	1		1		1		9
HORNED LARK				6	8	3	12		29
BLUE JAY	21	32	10	17	50	36	37	46	249
AMERICAN CROW									4500
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	85	57	61	92	44	17	60	43	459
TUFTED TIT MOUSE	5	4		8		1			22
RED-BREADED NUTHATCH					2			2	4
WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	43	21	18	8	10	6	29	23	158
BROWN CREEPER	3						2		5
WINTER WREN	2		1	1			1		5
CAROLINA WREN									
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	4				8		3		15
AMERICAN ROBIN	2	9			2		5		18
EASTERN BLUEBIRD									
CEDAR WAXWING	4	12	70	16	22	24	158	40	346
NORTHERN SHRIKE							1		1
EUROPEAN STARLING	222	202	788	70	269	89	106	59	1805
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER							1		1
NORTHERN CARDINAL	26	31	15	34	52	35	30	39	262
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW			9	28	13	10	10	12	82
FOX SPARROW			1				1	1	3
SONG SPARROW	1	5	3	6	7		14	12	48
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW					2			5	7
HARRIS' SPARROW					7	6		4	17
DARK-EYED JUNCO slate form	46	85	39	103	85	48	40	67	513
MEADOWLARK SPECIES					4	2			6
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD									
COMMON GRACKLE								8	8
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD					8				8
PURPLE FINCH							7	2	9
HOUSE FINCH	1	28	2			34		15	80
PINE SISKIN								2	2
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	27	25	25	5	24	20	5	44	175
HOUSE SPARROW	269	507	397	90	280	459	732	227	2961
group totals	944	1194	1680	811	1064	868	1347	713	13121
species seen	34	26	24	25	31	23	37	27	59
hawk sp.		1			2				3
owl sp.							1		1
Dark-eyed Junco, Oregon form	2				3			5	10
blackbird species		1							1

AREA 1. Squaw Creek/West Ames

AREA 2. Skunk River/North Ames

AREA 3. Worrell Creek/West Areas

AREA 4. Ballard Creek/South Areas

AREA 5. State Nursery/Central Areas

AREA 6. Indian Creek/Nevada

AREA 7. McFarland Park/North Areas



## BIRD COUNTS

The 94th Annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held at over 1600 locations from December 17 to January 3. You are invited to join with more than 43,000 birders in counting the birds in a defined area on one chosen day. (See cover for details of counts in our area.) Counts will be conducted in all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda and the West Indies.

You do not need experience to join in a count. Experienced leaders are placed in charge of an area and other birders will be assigned to them. Groups vary in size depending upon the area to be covered and how many wish to participate. A final tally is scheduled at dark. Bird feeder counters are also needed on the same day as the field count.

The results of the Counts are published in the National Audubon Society's American Birds. Field participants are charged a fee of \$5 to cover the costs of publishing the results- an important data base for studies of bird populations. There are no fees for feeder watchers.

## FIELD TRIP FEEDBACK

We would like some feedback. Let us know how you like our field trips. Are we going to places you want to go? What field trips would you like or would you attend? Are Saturday mornings a good time for you? Please let us know how we can serve you better. Also, we need leaders for field trips. Call a board member, or write Maridel Jackson, 410 SW Westview Dr., Ankeny, IA 50021.

## AMERICAN KESTREL "ADOPT-A-BOX" PROGRAM

Funds are being sought to help offset the expenses accrued while maintaining the American Kestrel nest box trail which is located along I-35 in Story and Hamilton counties. For just \$35, you or your group can adopt a nest box for one year. You will receive a nesting and fledging report of your nest box, a color photograph of one of the nestlings, banding information, a summary on the entire trail at the end of the year, and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped the American Kestrel in Iowa. Contact Mike Meetz at 515-382-2534, RR 2, Box 24, Nevada, IA 50201 for further information. Thank You!

## BEGINNING BIRDING COURSE

A beginning birding course will again be offered by the Big Bluestem Audubon chapter and the Story County Conservation Board in 1994. The location will be the McFarland Park Conservation Center. Subjects covered will include: Basic Bird Identification, Equipment Basics, Identification Guides, Field Techniques, in addition to other related information. The cost of the course is \$5 for all three sessions, or \$2 per individual session. Field trips associated with the course are free. The meeting dates are: February 8, February 22 (tentative), and March 8.

Meetings will start at 7 PM and end at 9 PM.

For more information contact the park office at 232-2516 or Mike Meetz at 382-2534.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I'd like to join as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Chapter H-57. Please send me Audubon magazine, the Big Bluestem Flyer and my membership card. Introductory membership is \$20.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **National Audubon Society** and include chapter code **H-57** on the check.

Send to: Big Bluestem Audubon Society  
c/o Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair  
2121 Burnett  
Ames, IA 50010.

## CURRENTLY PLANNED EVENTS

January 20, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "The Land forms of Marshall County", Garry Brandenburg
January 23, Sunday, 7:30 AM	Owling Field Trip, Big Creek
Jan. 27-30, Friday-Sunday	Bird Feeder Survey
February 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Environmental Education Programs", Cele Burnett
March 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: Dr. Jim Dinsmore, Ornithologist
April 21, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge"(tentative)
May 19, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Photographers View of Trees", Betty Stanley (tentative)
*May 20-22, Friday-Sunday	Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting, Ames
June 11, Saturday	Birder's Breakfast and Hike (plus bluebird trail), Ledges State Park

Unless otherwise specified, the location for meetings is Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

\* These are events of interest to Audubon members but are not sponsored by the Big Bluestem Audubon Society



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