

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 29, no. 7  
March 1994

## MONTHLY MEETING

### A Country so Full of Game: The Story of Wildlife in Iowa

**Dr. James J. Dinsmore**

Dr. Dinsmore is an ornithologist and Professor of Animal Ecology at Iowa State University. He is the Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. His talk will be about changes in wildlife and its abundance from the times of the early settlers.

**Thursday, March 24th, 7:30 PM**

Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U., Ames

**\*\*Please note that this date is one week later than originally planned due to I.S.U. Spring break\*\***

## FIELD TRIP

**Tieg's Marsh and Little Wall Lake**

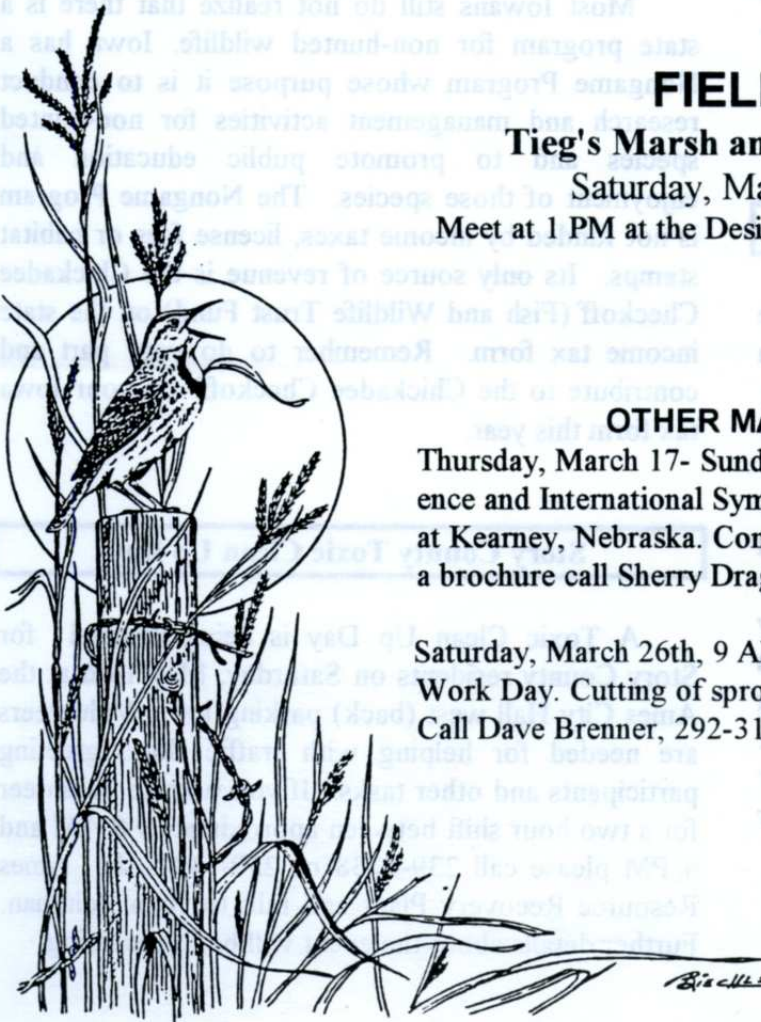
**Saturday, March 26th, 1 PM**

Meet at 1 PM at the Design Center parking lot, I.S.U.

## OTHER MARCH EVENTS

Thursday, March 17- Sunday, March 20: Spring River Conference and International Symposium on People, Water and Wildlife, at Kearney, Nebraska. Come for one, two or all days. To obtain a brochure call Sherry Dragula at 233-1532.

Saturday, March 26th, 9 AM - Noon: Ames High School Prairie Work Day. Cutting of sprouts from stumps. Bring tools and gloves. Call Dave Brenner, 292-3114 for further information.





### **Saylorville Comments Being Taken**

The Corps of Engineers at Saylorville Lake is accepting comments on management of the area. You can send your concerns by March 10th to:

Mr. Jerry De Marce  
Saylorville Lake  
Army Corps of Engineers  
5600 NW 78th Ave.  
Johnston, IA 50131

Following are some points of concern to area environmentalists that you might want to consider. There should be a policy of no unnecessary cutting of trees. More asphalt trails are not needed. Regarding wildlife protection, it is a good idea to close the Lakeview and Acorn Valley access roads in the winter. Eagles are disturbed by too many people. Cooper's Hawks have nested in this area in past years and may have left due to human intrusion. Boat exclusion or low speed rules should be put in place in beach areas so that shorebirds, ducks, gulls and terns pelicans, etc. have a place to rest and forage without being harassed by high speed boats. The snowmobile trail needs to be moved farther from wintering Long-eared and Short-eared Owl sites near Big Creek.

### **Wildlife Shrubs and Trees Available**

Rebecca Shivers has generously donated five types of wildlife shrubs and trees to Big Bluestem Audubon for a fundraiser. The types and sizes are: Nanking Cherry 3-4 foot, American Cranberrybush-18-24 inch, Red Splendor Crabapple- 3-4 foot, Red-osier Dogwood 3-4 foot, Serviceberry - 18-24 inches. The plants will arrive around the first week of April and they are bare root. These plants are excellent for attracting birds. If you are interested in obtaining any of the above, suggested donations are \$3 for shrubs and \$5 for trees. All proceeds will go to our Big Bluestem Audubon Society. You may contact Rebecca Shivers at 294-3481 from 7 AM - 3 PM or at 233-2733 other times. You may also contact her during the March meeting.

### **Nominations for BBAS Officers and Board Members**

Nominations are being taken for Board member and Officer slots for the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. If you would like to serve on the Board please contact Nominating Committee member Sherry Dragula 233-1532 or Maridel Jackson 964-0140. Elections will be held at our May meeting.

### **Don't Forget Iowa's Nongame Program on your Tax Form**

According to a new survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa residents spent \$124 million on recreation such as bird watching, bird feeding and wildlife photography in 1991. These activities were enjoyed by over 66 % of the state's adults. During 1991, 426,000 adult Iowans took trips in the state to observe, feed or photograph wildlife. Meanwhile, 1 million adults enjoyed wildlife right in their own residential area.

Most Iowans still do not realize that there is a state program for non-hunted wildlife. Iowa has a Nongame Program whose purpose it is to conduct research and management activities for non-hunted species and to promote public education and enjoyment of those species. The Nongame Program is not funded by income taxes, license fees or habitat stamps. Its only source of revenue is the Chickadee Checkoff (Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund) on the state income tax form. Remember to do your part and contribute to the Chickadee Checkoff on your Iowa tax form this year.

### **Story County Toxic Clean Up Day**

A Toxic Clean Up Day is being planned for Story County residents on Saturday, May 14th at the Ames City Hall west (back) parking lot. Volunteers are needed for helping with traffic flow, greeting participants and other tasks. If you wish to volunteer for a two hour shift between approximately 8 AM and 4 PM please call 239-5238 or 239-5137, the Ames Resource Recovery Plant and talk to John Pohlman. Further details about the event will be forthcoming.



### Birding Class March 8th

A beginning birding class will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, at 7 PM, at the Story County Conservation Center in McFarland Park. Subjects to be covered include: Basic Bird Vocalizations, Common Grassland Species, Waterfowl Basics, Raptors, and the Iowa Nongame Program. A class fee of \$2 per person will be charged. Call the Conservation Center during the day at 232-2516 or Mike Meetz in the evening at 382-2534.

### CRP Campaign (cont.)

Permanent grass cover planted on CRP lands has provided important nesting benefits for many grassland species. Species otherwise in decline that have clearly benefited include: lark bunting, bobolink, dickcissel, meadowlark, sedge wren, yellowthroat, grasshopper and savannah sparrow, clay-colored and Baird's sparrow.

But it is very likely that Congress will cut these wonderful wetland and grassland restoration programs from the 1995 Farm Bill in order to reduce the Federal deficit. It would be a tragedy if the 18 billion dollars expended in 10 year set-aside contracts between 1985 and 1999 failed to have a lasting conservation impact on the landscape. So our challenge is to transform the CRP and other federal farm supports into less costly programs that promote sustainable land uses with maximum benefits for wildlife. With more than 15 million acres enrolled in the CRP in our region, and 2.2 million acres in Iowa, this is perhaps the most significant private land conservation issue to be addressed in the 1990's.

Audubon will sponsor several regional CRP workshops and involve local chapters and state councils. You are invited to participate in these events and in the process that will shape farm programs in the future.

If you would like to help with this campaign contact the: National Audubon Society, West Central Regional Office, 200 Southwind Pl., Manhattan, Kansas 66502, 913-537-4385

### Audubon Regional Office Launches C.R.P. Campaign

The National Audubon Society's West Central Regional Office has launched a major two year campaign to document and inform the public and elected officials about the importance of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program for wildlife, and to help transform the CRP into a range of less costly programs with maximum benefits for wildlife and waterfowl.

The positive impact of the CRP on nesting waterfowl in the northern prairie pothole region has been dramatic. In fact, CRP fields provide more secure nesting habitat than similar habitat on Waterfowl Production Areas for northern pintails, mallards, shovelers, blue-winged teal and gadwall.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: National Audubon Society and include chapter code H-57 on the check. Send To: Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010



## CURRENTLY PLANNED EVENTS

*April 9, Saturday	I.O.U Trip to Cone Marsh
April ?	Field Trip to Hendrickson's Marsh and Colo Ponds
April 21, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Walnut Creek Wildlife Refuge"
May 8, Sunday, morning	Warbler Watch at McFarland Park and Peterson Pits
May 19, Thursday, 7:30 PM	Meeting: "Photographer's View of Trees", Betty Stanley
*May 20-22, Friday-Sunday	Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting, Ames
June 11, Saturday	Birders' Breakfast and Hike, Ledges State Park

Unless otherwise specified, the location for BBAS meetings is Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U., Ames, Iowa.

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

### BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY 1993-1994 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Maridel Jackson, 964-0140

VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532

SECRETARY: Joyce Bahrenfus, 432-3396

TREASURER: Barb Bettis, 232-4863

Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Jon Bahrenfus, 432-3396

Hank Zaletel, 382-5427

Paul Ovrom, 292-8862

Rebecca Shivers, 233-2733

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Sherry Dragula, 233-1532; David Edwards, 292-3790

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