

Big Bluestem Flyer

April, 1995

Vol. 30, No. 7

Monthly Meeting

Iowa's Watchable Wildlife Guide by Bruce Ehresman

**Thursday, April 20, 7:30 pm, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building,
Iowa State University**

Please join us for a presentation on a new guide which will be available this fall on Iowa's Watchable Wildlife. The guide covers 77 of the best areas in the state to watch wildlife. Bruce Ehresman will describe some of the sites and what to see at them and also tell us about how sites were chosen. Look for the guide this fall from Falcon Press.

Bruce Ehresman is a Wildlife Diversity Technician with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at the Wildlife Station at Ledges State Park. Bruce is an Animal Ecologist and has been with the Wildlife Diversity Program (formerly Nongame Program) since 1980. He spent six field seasons working on the Breeding Bird Atlas Project for Iowa. Recently, in addition to the Watchable Wildlife Project he has been working on the Trumpeter Swan reintroduction project and a study of northeast Iowa neotropical migrant birds.

Field Trips

Saturday, April 8, 8 am, Waterfowl and Shorebirds at Hendrickson's Marsh & Colo Ponds- Meet at 8 am at the Design Center Parking lot on the ISU campus

Saturday, April 8, 7:30 pm, Woodcock Walk at 7:30 pm at the Izaak Walton League Park on Stagecoach Rd. Meet at the gate at 7:30 pm, Call Mike Meetz for details at 382-2534.

Big Bluestem Audubon Society- Board Members

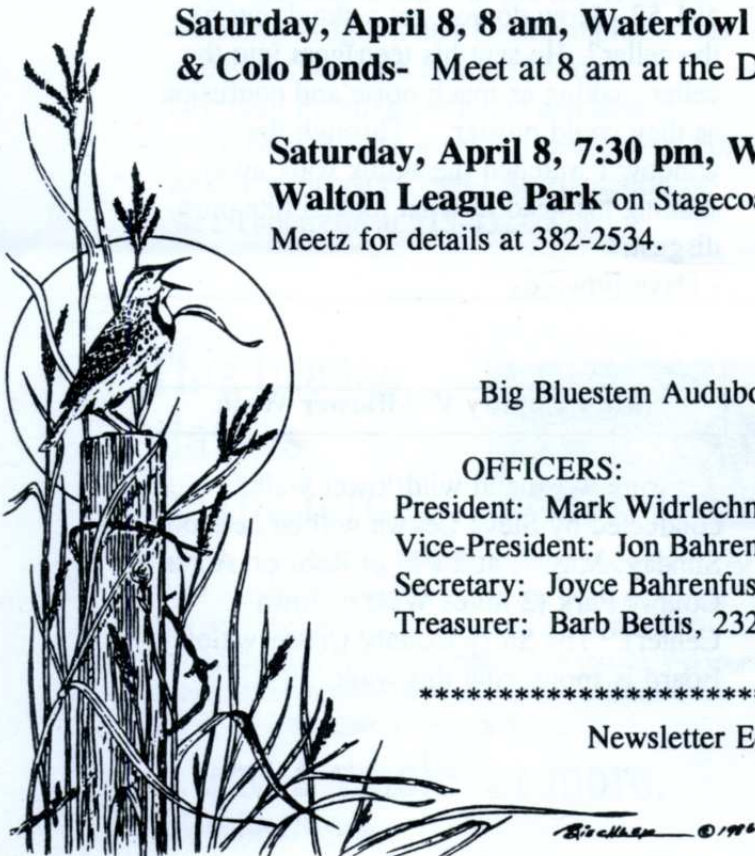
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March 18 Field Trip Report

Saturday, March 18 was a rainy, cold morning but eleven Big Bluestem members turned out for a morning of birding at Little Wall Lake, Hallett's Quarry and Tieg's Marsh. The group was successful in viewing 17 species of waterfowl. They were: Canada and Snow Geese, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser and Ruddy Duck. Thanks to Jon Bahrenfus for leading the group, and to the hardy birders who turned out for this trip.

Steve Dinsmore reports that on March 25, he had 20 species of waterfowl, including a Black Duck, on Anderson Lake, Tieg's Marsh and Little Wall Lake.

Story County Bird Sightings Needed

Steve Dinsmore, who has recently completed a compilation of *The Birds of Polk County* (available for \$3 from the author or the Des Moines Audubon Society) is now researching *The Birds of Story County*. It will contain information about all bird species' status in the county, seasonal abundance, breeding records, and other information. Information on uncommon or out-of-season birds in Story County is needed. Please send information including: species and date seen, location, and observer to Steve Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

"Critters" - A Review

Does a skunk in the cellar, raccoons in the garbage, squirrels in the bird feeder, or rabbits in the garden sound familiar? How about problems with Canada geese, gulls, mockingbirds, bats, or swans? These are the chapter topics of a wonderfully readable new book by A.B.C. Whipple called, *Critters: Adventures in Wildest Suburbia*, published by St. Martin's Press in 1994. Each chapter is crafted in an engaging style, beginning with some practical experiences of the species in its human encounters. The author weaves a narrative examining the life history of the species and eventually presents a good practical philosophy of peaceful coexistence. His home is Connecticut, but much of his situation and attitude transplants well to Iowa and similar problems of people taking over animal habitat and vice versa. The ISU Parks Library has a copy at QH 541.5 C6W48 1994. I didn't check the Ames Library, but if it's there it should be at 591.52. How do you get a skunk out of the cellar? He sent his teenagers into the cellar making as much noise and confusion as they could muster. "Through the window I watched the skunk walk away, shaking his head in what looked like pure disgust."

- Dave Edwards

Story County Wildflower Walk

A spring woodland wildflower walk conducted by Steve Lekwa will be held on Sunday, May 7, at 2 PM at Robison Acres County Park (2 miles West of Iowa Center). The Story County Conservation Board is sponsoring this walk.

Nominations Sought for BBAS Board

A Nominating Committee has been formed to find nominees for Officers and expiring Board positions. The Committee consists of Don Sanderson (232-2227), Lloyd Crim (432-5026) and Jeanne Edwards (292-3790). If you have a suggested nomination please contact one of these Committee members before April 19th.

Wildlife Diversity Program Funding

The Wildlife Diversity Funding Coalition is working to gain support from the general public for a stable funding source for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. Members of conservation organizations are invited to attend the **Coalition's next meeting on Monday, April 10, at 7 pm at the Jester Park Barn in Polk County.**

Wildlife enthusiasts are invited to come to the meeting to learn about the Wildlife Diversity Program and its accomplishments in the last 10 years and the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative and how it could benefit Iowa's natural resources. For further information call Lisa Hemesath or Sara Thompson at 515-432-2823.

An Environmental Bill of Rights

Did Americans intend to vote for dismantling 25 years of environmental legislation last November? Surveys would indicate that they did not, but a majority in Congress is acting as if they did. A truly alarming anti-environmental agenda is speeding through Congress, and unless there is widespread, powerful public protest, 25 years of environmental protection may be in shreds by year's end. At stake are protections for clean air and water, wetlands, and endangered species.

The National Audubon Society is joining with other groups to organize a citizens' campaign for an Environmental Bill of Rights. The goal of this campaign is to collect one million signatures pledging support for this Bill of Rights and to present Congress with this petition in the summer.

There are five main points in the Environmental Bill of Rights, all dedicated to the principle that every American has the right to a safe and healthy environment. They are: to prevent pollution, to preserve our natural heritage, to end give-aways of public resources, to conserve resources through sustainable technologies, and to reduce the influence of large contributors on the political process.

This petition will be available for your examination at our April chapter meeting. Copies are available from Mark Widrlechner 515-233-1532 or from 800-542-2748.

This license
plate is
for the birds...



When you buy a REAP license plate, you help provide habitat for fish and wildlife, restore Iowa's historic treasures and improve city parks. Since 1989, REAP has funded programs in each of our 99 counties, making Iowa a better place to live - no matter where you live. Visit your county treasurer's office and drive home your support of Iowa's natural resources, because this license plate is for the birds . . .

...and a whole lot more.

The REAP Alliance

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

Upcoming Events

May 7, Sunday, Wildflower Walk, Robison Acres

May 14, Sunday, Warbler viewing at McFarland Park

May 18, Thursday, Meeting: Entomology by Ken Holscher

May 20-21 Campout & Birder's Breakfast at Springbrook State Park

June 2-4 Loess Hills Seminar

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