

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

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

Volume 24, No. 9

May 1990

MONTHLY MEETING

PRAIRIE FORAY

Tom Rosburg

Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Room 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

FIELD TRIPS

WARBLERS AND WILDFLOWERS

Brookside Park, Ames

Saturday, May 12, 8:00 a.m. IN THE NORTH PARKING LOT.

ANNUAL BIRDERS' BREAKFAST AND BIRD WALK

Ledges State Park, Boone

Saturday, June 2

Meet in the upper picnic area at 7:30 for Birding

Bring your Breakfast at 9:30 in the lower stone shelter

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

1989-1990

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534

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

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

Executive Board

Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152 Field Trips

Andy Fix, 233-4956

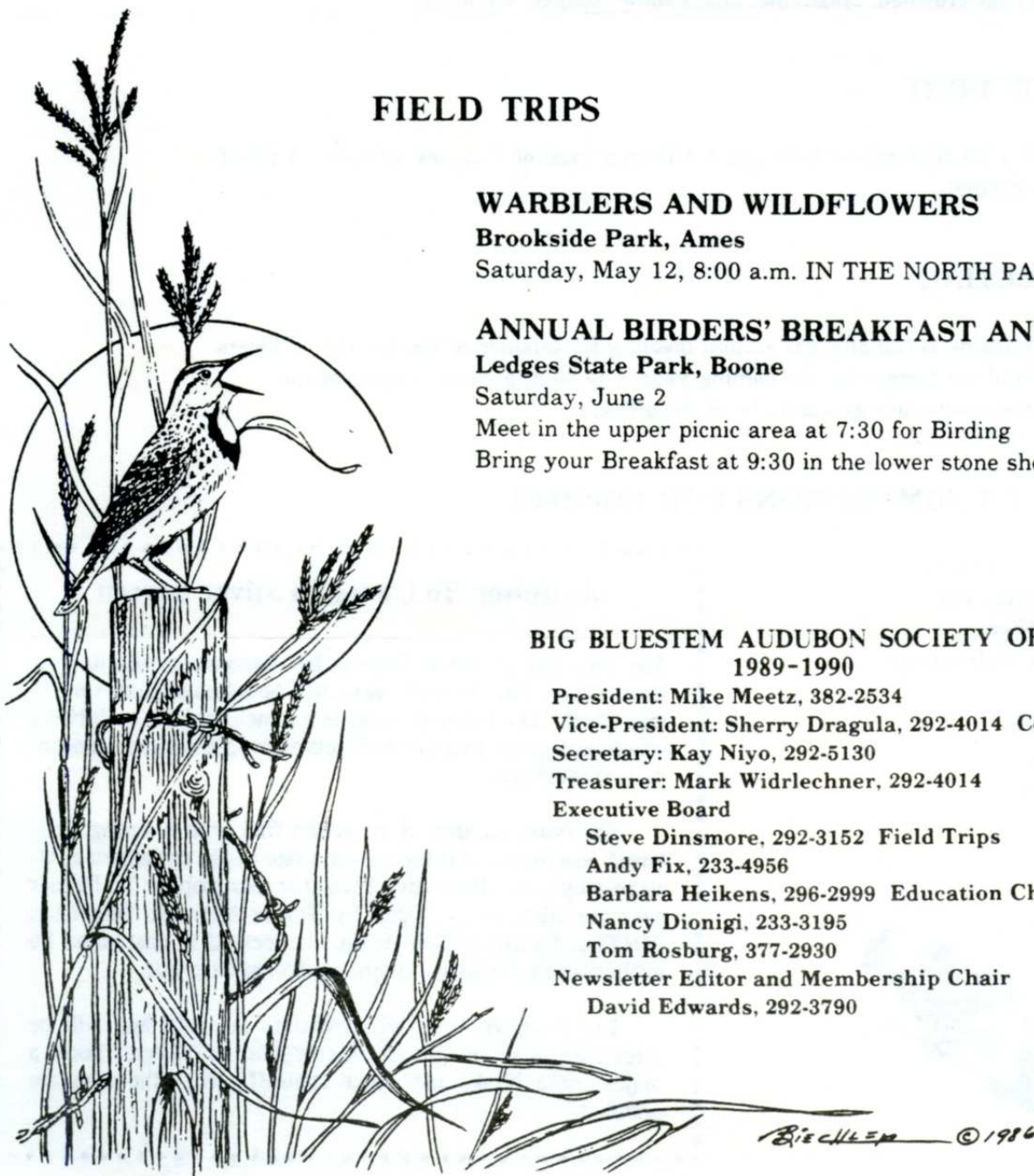
Barbara Heikens, 296-2999 Education Chair

Nancy Dionigi, 233-3195

Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790



SHORE BIRD FIELD TRIP REPORT

Fourteen people sighted fifty two species on the April 28 trip to eastern Story County. Most of the time was spent at Hendrickson's Marsh, and then quick stops were made at the dry Colo ponds, Larson's Marsh, and Kettlesen's Marsh. Among the more interesting birds seen were Pied-billed Grebe, Cormorant, Snow Goose, ten species of ducks, Song, Swamp, and Chipping Sparrows, Phoebe, Snipe, Woodcock, and Tree Swallow. But no shore birds.

EAST MARSHALL COUNTY FIELD TRIP REPORT

Eight people departed from Ames and met three people from Marshall County at the Grammer Grove Woods County Park about one mile south of Liscomb. The weather was not inviting with cold, 40 to 50 degree and strong and gusty winds. Among the more interesting birds of the forty-one sighted were Turkey, Great-blue Heron, Rufous-sided Towhee, Eastern Kingbird, and Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Yellow-rumped warblers.

ACID RAIN REPORT

Mike Meetz reports pH readings of 5.75 and 5.5 from a total of 2 inches of rain. A pH of 5.6 is considered normal.

ANNUAL MEETING

The May BBAS meeting is the official annual meeting for busines 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 officers.

BBAS OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 1990-1991

President: Sherry Dragula
Vice-President: Andy Fix
Secretary: Kay Niyo
Treasurer: Mark Widrechner
Board Members:
John Bahrenfus
Nancy Dionigi
Diane Hellwig
Tom Rosburg
Judy Shearer



Audubon To Come To Silver Screen

The National Audubon Society has announced that its first feature film, *The Ivory Hunters*, will be released some time in mid-1990. *The Ivory Hunters* is a benchmark in Audubon's continuing effort to touch millions of people with its environmental message.

The Ivory Hunters is an action film with a strong, fact-based environmental theme—the fate of the endangered African elephant. Executive Producer Christopher N. Palmer says the film, co-produced by Turner Network Television (TNT) and Harlech Television, is expected to cost about \$6 million and to feature a major motion picture star.

The Ivory Hunters will premiere on TNT and will be released in theaters abroad. A companion children's book, a major trade book, and other spin-offs from the film are planned.

NEXT NEWSLETTER AND MEETINGS FOR NEXT YEAR

The next newsletter will be prepared and sent to reach you at least one week before the September 1990 meeting.

Plans are being made to move the monthly meeting next year to Thursday, probably the third or second Thursday of each month. There have been increasing numbers of conflicts with other organizations which require the presence of our members on Tuesdays (including Ames City Council, Story County Conservation Board, and ISU Faculty Senate).

SUMMER CANOEING ANYONE?

Last summer members of BBAS and people enjoyed several canoe trips on nearby Iowa rivers. Though opportunities were limited by water flow, the canoeists enjoyed good times and some exceptionally good birding and nature appreciation along the Des Moines River and the Raccoon River. We have high hopes for better water flow this year. Most trips take a weekend day, floating about 12 miles with a stop for bag lunch along the way. Numbers of canoe have varied from two to nine. Rental canoes are available locally for about \$7 per person. No whitewater, no dunking, and no partying. If this appeals to you, contact Dave or Jeanne Edwards at 292-3790 to have your name put on the list of those to be notified of this summer's plans.

MORTENSEN PRAIRIE BURN

On April 22, EARTH DAY, 1990, sixteen "prairie dogs" converged on the corner of Mortensen Road and Ashmore Lane. With pruners, axes, chain saws and litter bags (found on site), they braved the "harsh elements" (75 degrees with gusty winds) in order to reclaim a small part of Iowa's past.

Within an hour the weedy berm was cropped and ready for treatment, involving the latest in pyro techniques (a safety match). Gale-force winds sent flames so high that they attracted a passerby from Peoria, Illinois who had to stop and photograph the event. One of the prairie dogs really got her money's worth out of the experience when she discovered a flaming dollar bill. "I always knew this place still had some value in it," she exclaimed.

A big thanks goes to head prairie dog Tom Rosburg for supervising the burn and to Story County Conservation Officer Carol Williams for providing additional equipment. Before and after photos of the burn will be displayed at the May meeting. Drive by and watch the changes taking place, or better yet, get involved with this project.

Mike Meetz

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

President Mike wishes to thank those who helped staff the Earth Day booth at the Memorial Union. Mike reports that 126 people stopped at our BBAS booth.

Thanks also to those who helped with the birding trip after the East River Valley Park Karl Kurtz Bridge dedication.

Mike Meetz

CALENDAR FOR THE COMING MONTHS

June 6-10, 1990 West Central Regional Audubon Conference Tulsa, OK

AUDUBON CENTER OF THE NORTH WOODS

Telephone (612) 245-2648 for information.

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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