

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 28, No. 6

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

February 1993

MONTHLY MEETING

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

TY SMEDES- Photographer, Des Moines

Thursday, February 18, 7:30 PM

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

Ty Smedes is an accomplished nature photographer. Raised on a farm where he learned to appreciate nature, he uses photography as a way of learning more about the natural world. His work has appeared in the Iowa Conservationist and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation calendars, the Iowa Tourism Guide, as well as the Des Moines Register's former "Picture Magazine." His program will focus on getting started in nature photography.

FIELD TRIPS

OWL PROWL

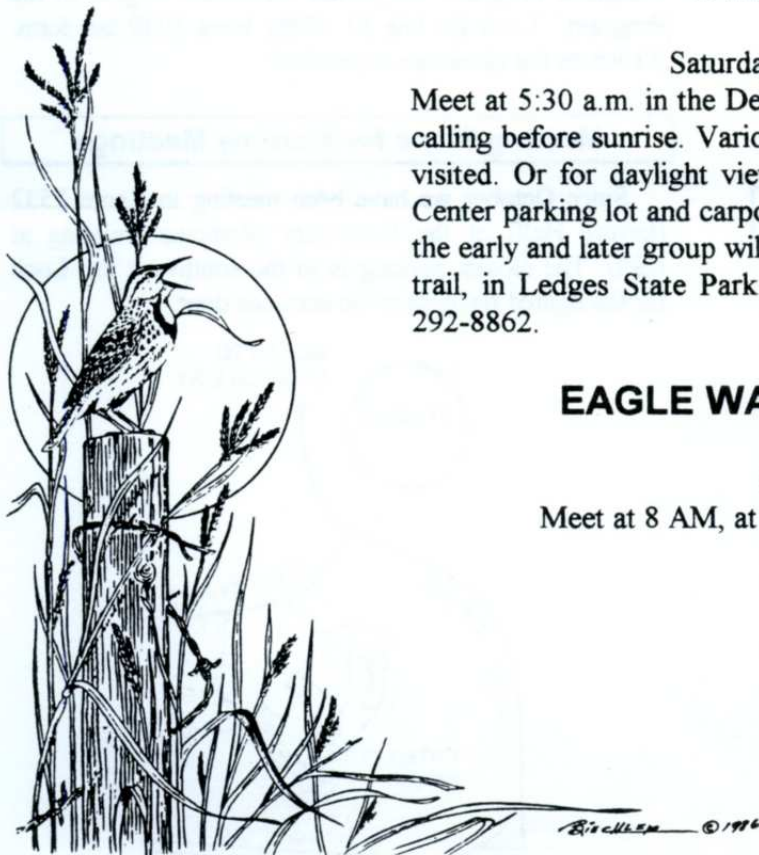
Saturday, February 20

Meet at 5:30 a.m. in the Design Center parking lot, I.S.U., for owl calling before sunrise. Various sites near Ledges State Park will be visited. Or for daylight viewing, meet at 7:30 AM at the Design Center parking lot and carpool to Ledges State Park. At 8 AM both the early and later group will meet at the parking area for Lost Lake trail, in Ledges State Park. For information contact Paul Ovrom 292-8862.

EAGLE WATCH- RED ROCK LAKE

Saturday, March 6

Meet at 8 AM, at the Design Center parking lot, I.S.U.



Join the E-Team! Report Signs of Environmental Crime

The "E-Team" (Environmental Crime Team of the Iowa Attorney General's Office) was created to bring criminal charges against polluters of Iowa's environment. The team relies on tips from citizens and local authorities in order to stop environmental crimes and prevent further damage to the environment. You can help by reporting: dumping of suspicious fluids in wells or sewers, suspicious barrels near streams or rivers, fish kills, and contaminated waters. Call the Attorney General's Office at 515-281-3648.

1993 Spring River Conference Kearney, Nebraska

Timed to coincide with the spectacular gathering of many thousands of sandhill cranes along the Platte River in central Nebraska, the annual Audubon Spring River Conference sponsored by our West Central Regional Office will be held March 19-21 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney, Nebraska.

The Conference will include field trips to see cranes and other wetland birds, speakers, slide presentations, and workshops. Approximately 500,000 sandhill cranes depend upon the Platte River as a spring staging area in March and early April each year. Bald eagles near the river, and large numbers of waterfowl at wetlands in the Rainwater Basin can also be seen throughout most of March.

If you would like a conference brochure which includes a registration form contact Sherry Dragula, 233-1532.

Boone Christmas Bird Counts

Due to treacherous roads, the January 2 Boone area Bird Count was cancelled. Therefore, no results are printed in this newsletter. We hope for better conditions next year.

However, David Edwards and Mark Widrechner collated the data from the past counts, and we present the record on the facing page. The notation "cw" means it was seen during the count week but not on the count day. The "Species" rows at the bottom are birds not further identified. Neither of these categories are counted in the yearly species totals.

Also, one of our outlying correspondents noted some corrections to the Ames 20-year lists published recently. These will be reported later, perhaps as part of a narrative history of the Ames count that is presently being considered.

Birding Class Offered

The first of three birding classes, taught by BBAS member Mike Meetz, will be held on Tuesday, February 16, at 7 PM at the Story County Conservation Center in McFarland Park. The first session will deal with "Getting Started". Call Cele Burnett at the Conservation Center, 232-2516, and let her know if you would like to participate.

Chickadee Checkoff Iowa's Nongame Program

At our January meeting Pat Schlarbaum of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Nongame Program presented a fascinating program on river otters in Iowa. Over 200 otters were re-introduced to Iowa during 1985-1991. Forty five reproduction sites have been found and more than 180 sightings have been recorded.

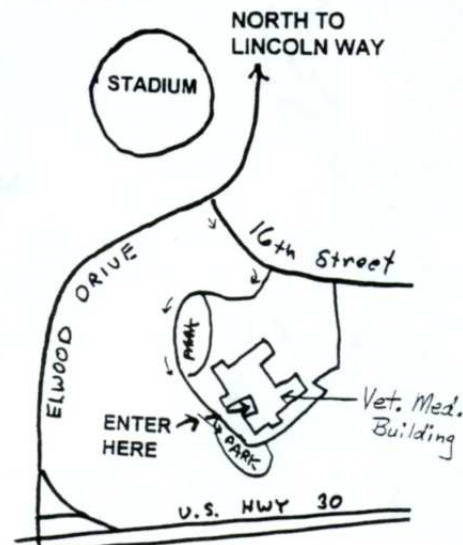
This successful project is just one of many projects of the Nongame Program. A study of neotropical birds in Iowa (which represent nearly half of the bird species in the state) will help manage these species and lead to a book about Iowa's breeding birds.

In 1992, the Nongame Program completed its peregrine falcon reintroduction program, helped release prairie chickens and did research on red-shouldered hawks and piping plovers.

Your donation is the only source of funding for the Nongame Program. So, please remember to give to the Program. Look for line 61 of the Iowa 1040 tax form. It's where the chickadee is perched!


Meeting Place for Monthly Meetings

Since October we have been meeting in Room 2532 (lecture Hall) of the Veterinary Medicine Building at I.S.U. The closest parking is in the southwest lot. Look for the lighted flagpole at the entrance door.



BOONE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	sum
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	
	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	
CANADA GOOSE			1	21			2	24
MALLARD			3	26	3	4	3	39
WOOD DUCK	1							1
BALD EAGLE		1		3	3	2		9
NORTHERN HARRIER			1	6	1			8
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	2	cw	1	1		5	1	10
COOPER'S HAWK	2	1	1	1				5
RED-TAILED HAWK	16	29	40	64	25	77	10	261
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	4	44	9	9	3	15	1	85
AMERICAN KESTREL	8	3	16	10	7	10	16	70
GRAY PARTRIDGE	8		83		33			124
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	34	14	75	32	92	145	12	404
WILD TURKEY	36	9	132	154	150	245	18	744
NORTHERN BOBWHITE			10			13		23
COMMON SNIFE		1			2	1		4
ROCK DOVE	194	131	284	199	930	365	228	2331
MOURNING DOVE	cw	2	8	19	19	22	1	71
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	10	38	2	15	11	13		89
GREAT-HORNED OWL	22	10	7	14	20	9	2	84
BARRED OWL	5	6	1	9	4	4	2	31
LONG-EARED OWL	1	21	1	10	2	1		36
SHORT-EARED OWL	2	1	1	1			1	5
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL	2	2	2	5	3	6	2	22
BELTED KINGFISHER			cw	10	3	9	1	23
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	46	1	1	5	24	85	13	155
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	52	53	58	102	98	101	46	510
DOWNY WOODPECKER	84	128	96	137	107	119	43	714
HAIRY WOODPECKER	31	31	29	50	36	49	24	250
NORTHERN FLICKER	12	17	4	10	11	21	4	79
HORNED LARK	44	2	307	cw		75	7	435
BLUE JAY	317	83	110	120	164	293	79	1166
AMERICAN CROW	278	204	285	406	371	486	276	2266
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	352	480	328	639	387	485	219	2848
TUFTED TITMOUSE	32	50	30	52	37	41	16	258
RED-BREADED NUTHATCH	1	5		2	2	2	1	13
WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	130	200	122	215	210	194	84	1155
BROWN CREEPER		1	4	13	15	1	7	41
CAROLINA WREN			1	1				2
WINTER WREN		1		2	2			5
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET								0
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET			6	2	3			11
EASTERN BLUEBIRD		2	1	6	cw	29		38
AMERICAN ROBIN	3	1		7	22	1		34
CEDAR WAXWING	36	51	19	200	275	81		662
NORTHERN SHRIKE	2			3	1	1		7
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE			1		1			2
EUROPEAN STARLING	670	1054	936	956	1142	1363	713	6834
NORTHERN CARDINAL	259	271	278	257	185	370	161	1779
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE		cw		1	3			4
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	470	125	336	381	262	186	79	1839
FOX SPARROW					1	1		2
SONG SPARROW	30	33	32	16	18	22	2	153
SWAMP SPARROW		3			2	1		6
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	2	2	6	1	0	1		12
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW		3			6			9
HARRIS SPARROW	18	10	12	4	39	12		95
DARK-EYED JUNCO slate form	961	452	878	982	445	625	284	4627
LAPLAND LONGSPUR	19	cw	22					41
SNOW BUNTING			225			18		243
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	5	2	28		1	1		37
MEADOWLARK SP	3		11		2	3		19
RUSTY BLACKBIRD		3			25			28
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	6							6
COMMON GRACKLE			6			7		13
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD		cw			25			25
PURPLE FINCH	125	85	12	13	15	39		269
HOUSE FINCH							2	2
COMMON REDPOLL		cw					36	36
PINE SISKIN	36	44	3	2	19		7	111
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	332	270	258	283	195	182	91	1611
EVENING GROSBEEK	7			1				8
HOUSE SPARROW	1812	1614	1928	1901	1761	2832	804	12652
GROUP TOTALS	6520	5555	7027	7379	7223	8613	3298	####
Number of Species	46	48	53	52	55	51	38	72
Number of Participants	33	35	29	32	27	26	20	
Duck Species		24						24
Accipiter Species		2	3	3	2			10
Buteo Species			4		3			7
Owl Species		1						1
Shrike Species			1	1		1		3



Otters, peregrine falcons, bluebirds, box turtles, bullfrogs, monarchs, bats, bloodroots, big bluestem, kestrels, anemones, toads, bald eagles, marsh wrens, mushrooms, mudhens, shooting stars, salamanders, swallows.....

chickadee checkoff, chickadee checkoff, **CHICKADEE CHECKOFF!**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 26-28, Friday-Sunday	DNR Eagle Days at Red Rock Lake
March 18, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Dick Trump, Woodchucks
*March 19-21, Friday-Sunday	National Audubon's Spring River Conference in Kearney, NE, includes trips to see migrating sandhill cranes and waterfowl
March 27, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Hendrickson Marsh and possibly Saylorville, Bear Creek and Bays Branch
April 15, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, Jean Prior, Geology of NE Iowa
April 17, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Local marshes north of Ames including Tieg's and Little Wall Lake
May 9, Sunday	BBAS Field Trip, Warbler Wander at Brookside Park and newly protected Ann Munn Woods
May 15 and 16	Saturday and Sunday, IOU Spring Meeting, Keosauqua, IA
May 20, Thursday	7:30 PM, BBAS Meeting, To be announced
*June 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday	Loess Hills Seminar
June 12, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Annual Birder's Breakfast at Ledges State Park
June 26, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip, Bluebird Box Hike with local experts
July 10, Saturday	BBAS Field Trip to Elkhart, IA to watch purple martins
August 14, Saturday	BBAS Prairie Field Trip



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