

# BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

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

Volume 25, No. 2

October 1990

## MONTHLY MEETING

### A TRIP ALONG THE UPPER DES MOINES RIVER

Lance Kinseth, Iowa Author

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 p.m., Room 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

## FIELD TRIPS

### WATERFOWL WATCH

Desoto Bend, IA or Squaw Creek, MO Refuge

November 16-18 to be arranged

## BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS 1990 - 1991

President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Vice-President: Andy Fix, 233-4956

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrechner, 292-4014

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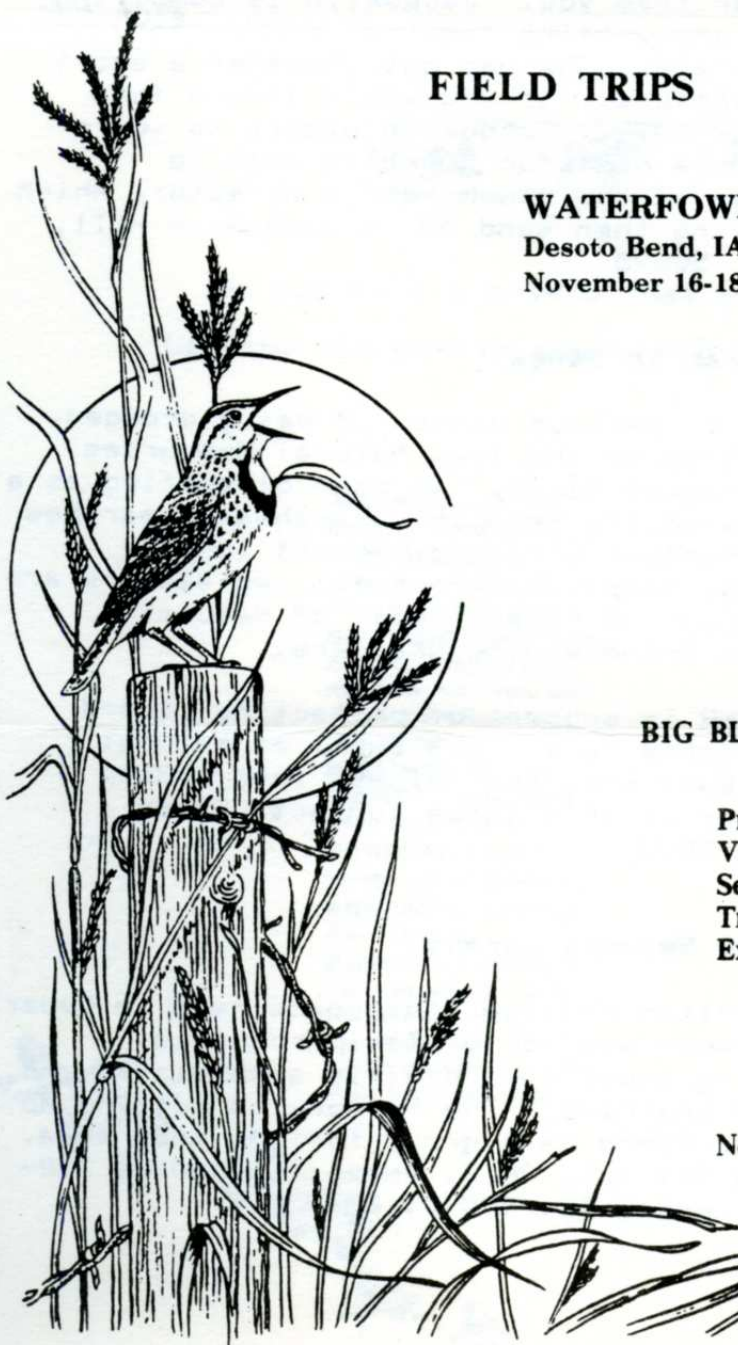
Diane Hellwig, 232-8185

Judy Shearer, 296-7512

Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790



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## September Field Trip

On September 22nd, 10 people visited the Marietta Sand Prairie in Marshall Co. near Albion. The weather was pleasant with a brisk breeze. The prairie was in fine condition after such a wet spring and summer. Grasses, such as Big Bluestem and Indian Grass, were tall and lush, in full bloom. Other attractive flowers included: Closed Gentian, Sunflowers, Heath Aster, and Polygala. The prairie sits on a sloping sand mound which accounts for its great diversity of micro-habitats from dry sand dune to moist aspen thicket. On the way back to Ames the group stopped at another Marshall Co. Conservation Board site, French's Grove, a small woodland. Two people observed Wood Ducks here.

## Calling all Bluebirders

If you maintain a bluebird box (or boxes) then Jacquelyn Hill of Ellsworth, Iowa would like to hear from you. Jacquelyn is compiling information on bluebirds in Iowa and putting together a Directory of people maintaining boxes in the state. She has put together a short report form for bluebirders to complete. If you would like a form please contact Sherry Dragula, 292-4014. Jacquelyn wishes to share the latest information on what works best for bluebird nesting success. If you would like a copy of the bluebirder's directory which will be available about Thanksgiving then send \$3 to Jacquelyn Hill, Route 2, Box 61, Ellsworth, Iowa 50075

## Iowa Marsh in Danger

A state-owned Iowa marsh is in serious danger of being dredged, in spite of the unanimous opposition of the Iowa Natural Resources Commission. Lizard Lake in Pocahontas County has been classified as a type 4 marsh by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Freshwater marshes of this type provide the best waterfowl breeding habitat in the country. Nevertheless, some local people and powerful legislators are pushing to have Lizard Lake dredged. A recent Dept. of Natural Resources hearing was packed with pro-dredging speakers.

Letters are needed to the DNR in support of protecting Lizard Lake as a type 4 marsh. Send letters to: Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. If you would like more information on this issue contact: Cindy Hildebrand, RR 2, Ames, Ia. 232-3807

## Iowa Prairie Network Formed

In August, at the North American Prairie Conference held in Cedar Falls, Iowa the Iowa Prairie Network was born. Its purpose is information sharing and networking among Iowa prairie enthusiasts and public education and advocacy on prairies. The Network is setting up local groups around the state and there is a group for the Ames area. Local contact people are: Trish Patrick, RR 2, Ames, Ia. 50010, 382-2802 and Cindy Hildebrand, RR 2, Ames, Ia. 50010, 232-3807.

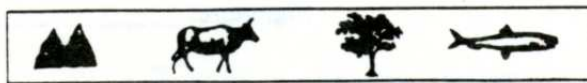




## News from the Iowa Audubon Council

At its September meeting in Marshalltown, the Iowa Audubon Council defined its goals and set objectives for the next few years. Among its goals are: strengthening and building Audubon Chapters in Iowa, voicing Audubon's concerns to governmental entities in Iowa, encouraging communication, coordination, and mutual support among Audubon Chapters in Iowa and serving as a link to National Audubon. Plans call for putting out a regular newsletter to Chapters and supporters and for funding a legislative program.

Each Chapter is encouraged to send four representatives to the next meeting of the Council. The meeting will be held Nov. 10 & 11 in Cedar Falls. There will be a program on Roadside Prairies, a discussion of Iowa legislative issue priorities on Saturday and committee meetings on Sunday. There will also be a field trip and time for socializing. If you are interested in coming to the meeting or being involved with Audubon on the state level please call Sherry Dragula, 292-4014.



Do you have a friend that would like to join Audubon?  
Use the membership application below to sign them up!

### Join today and receive:

- **A YEAR — 6 BIMONTHLY ISSUES** — of the stunning photography and absorbing articles in AUDUBON magazine.
- **MEMBERSHIP** in one of the 500 local Audubon chapters nationwide (if there is one in your area), with access to field-trips and other activities.
- **FREE OR REDUCED ADMISSION** to Audubon nature centers and sanctuaries.
- **INVITATIONS** to Audubon's ecology camps and workshops.
- **ELIGIBILITY** for wide-ranging Audubon tours.
- **DISCOUNTS** on nature books, collectibles, and gifts. And with your membership you're supporting the National Audubon Society's vital efforts at protecting wildlife and the environment.

Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits—and AUDUBON magazine—at a special new-member rate of \$20.

Local Chapter:

**BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY  
CHAPTER H57**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed  Bill me

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Allow 4-6 weeks for first issue of AUDUBON.  
Membership dues include \$20 for AUDUBON magazine.

**NEW MEMBERS ONLY!**

Please send application and check to

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001



# AUDUBON ACTIVIST



## Help make a difference!

Joining the Audubon Activist Network has never been easier--or more urgent! By signing the Activist Pledge—a commitment to write two letters and make two phone calls during the year for Audubon issues—you can be part of a growing corps of Audubon activists who want to make their voices heard. By making the Pledge, you will receive the newly designed and monthly *Audubon Activist*, as well as *Action Alert* bulletins on key votes in Congress. Simply fill out the form below and send to: *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022.

YES, I'd like to be an Audubon Activist. I'll receive a complimentary subscription to the *Audubon Activist* news journal, plus *Action Alert* bulletins when my letter or phone call is needed, plus the chance to be part of a telephone network, and access to the Actionline phone number with taped updates on late-breaking environmental news. *For my part, I pledge to take action by writing at least two letters and making at least two phone calls for Audubon each year.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## BIRDERS' HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.  
712/262-5958 for northwest Iowa sightings.

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October 1990

**Big Bluestem Audubon Society**  
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