

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 26, No. 7

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

March 1991

MONTHLY MEETING

PRAIRIE CHICKENS IN NEBRASKA

Roger Hill, Photographer, Roland, Iowa

Thursday **March 21**, 7:45 P.M., Room 280

Town Engineering Building, ISU Campus.

Town Engineering is located directly N.E. of the Design Center.

Parking is available N. of the building and E. of the building across the St.

FIELD TRIPS

WATERFOWL WATCH

Bays Branch, Greene County.

Saturday, **March 30**, meet at 7:30 A.M.

in the west parking lot of the Design Center, ISU Campus

WOODCOCK WATCH

Ames Izaak Walton League Park

Saturday, **April 6**, meet at 7 PM,

at the Stagecoach Rd. entrance to the Park off of 13th St.

For more information on Field Trips,
call **Mike Meetz** 382-2534

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY 1990-1991

President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Vice-President: Andy Fix, 233-4956

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrechner, 392-4014

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Maridel Jackson, 964-0140

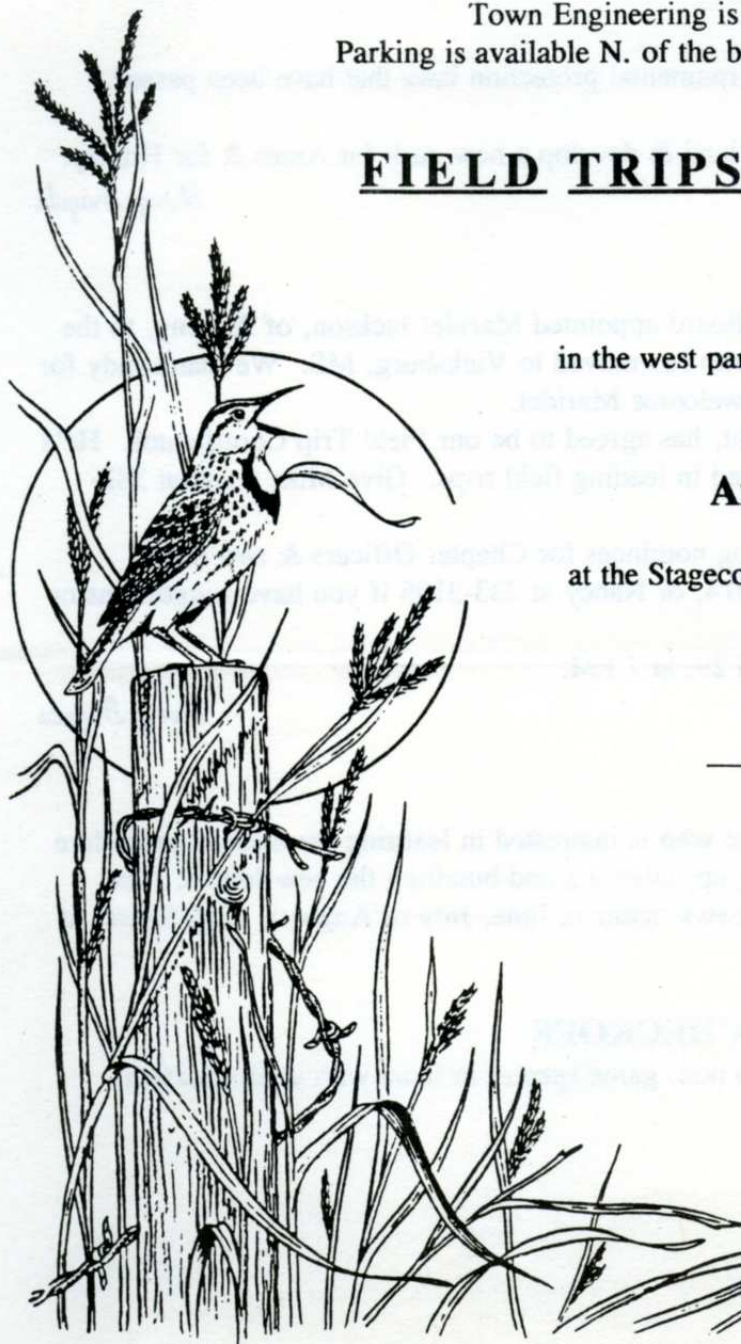
Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790

Field Trips Chair

Mike Meetz, 382-2534



REAP- RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION PROGRAM

It's not too late to write a letter or make a phone call to your state legislators (if you don't know who they are just call your County Courthouse) and the Governor to help save the REAP program. The address is: State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319. Senate Phone: 281-3371, House Phone: 281-3221.

Refer to the articles in the February newsletter for information. Some main points you might make in your letter/call:

*REAP funds support land acquisition & development, soil and water conservation, conservation education and other natural resource programs.

*REAP has wide public support. Polls consistently show that Iowans support funding for environmental protection programs.

*Funding has not kept pace with environmental protection laws that have been passed.

*Locally REAP is helping to acquire land & develop a new park for Ames & for Huxley.

Sherry Dragula

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At its March meeting, the Executive Board appointed Maridel Jackson, of Ankeny, to the Board. Maridel replaces Judy Shearer, who has moved to Vicksburg, MS. We thank Judy for her dedicated service to the Chapter and welcome Maridel.

Mike Meetz, former Chapter President, has agreed to be our Field Trip Coordinator. He's looking for people who would be interested in leading field trips. Give Mike a call at 382-2534 if you can help.

The Nominations Committee is seeking nominees for Chapter Officers & two Board member positions. Call Sherry at 292-4014, or Nancy at 233-3195 if you have suggestions or if you would like to serve.

The next Board Meeting will be April 29, at 7 PM.

Sherry Dragula

MAILING HELP WANTED

Sherry Dragula is looking for someone who is interested in learning the mailing procedure for our newsletter. This involves picking up, labelling and bundling the newsletters. The process takes about 2 hours a month (no newsletter in June, July or August). Call Sherry at 292-4014 if you want to help.

DON'T FORGET CHICKADEE CHECKOFF

on your state income tax forms. Help non-game species in Iowa with your donation.

IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL NEWS

The next meeting of the Iowa Audubon Council will be Sat. April 13, at the State Forest Nursery in Ames. Big Bluestem members are welcome and encouraged to attend. A special workshop called "The Armchair Activist" will be presented by Jeff Lippert of the Thorn Creek Audubon Society of Illinois. Jeff has been highly successful in developing this program which involves chapter members in activities such as the: "Letter of the Month Club", "Media Masters" and "Village Voice". The Armchair Activist program is a tool for Chapter growth and if you want to help our Chapter grow in this way then call Sherry for details on this meeting.

Sherry Dragula

PRAIRIE CHICKEN BOOMING GROUND

Roger Hill, our speaker for March 21st, has kindly shared the following information on the booming area he frequents in Nebraska. The Burchard Lake Wildlife Management Area is located 3 miles East and 1 1/4 miles North of Burchard, Nebraska (about 4 hours SW of Ames). It is 560 acres of refuge with a booming ground located about 1/2 mile West of the Dam. Two observation blinds are in the booming area. All of March and April are good months to see and hear the prairie chickens. It is important to be in the blinds by 4:30 AM to not disturb the birds. If you would like a map of the W.M.A. call Sherry.

Sherry Dragula

FIELD TRIP REPORT EAGLE WATCH of March 2, 1991

[Recall that the roads were ice-coated and it was a cold, very-windy day. These are Mike's notes.]

- Eight fools in two cars
- drove to Hallett's, no open water, scanned the trees but no eagles
- skidded, slipped and slid to Colo ponds looking for the Tundra Swan that were seen earlier in the week; no luck
- drove next to Hendrickson's Marsh, spotted the Woodcock here; open water along the creek entrance and down along the first bridge; one pool about the side of a Volkswagen bus located dead center with one Golden-eye attached
- from there we checked sheet water along the way to Saylorville
- from Saylorville one car zig-zagged along the river acrosss the bridges up to the Ledges State Park and home to Ames
- 27 species seen including Canada Goose, Mallard, Golden-eye, Northern Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Bald Eagles, Woodcock, along with the usual residents.

Mike Meatz



Classroom Corner

by Robert P. Rye

The Governor's Conference on Environmental Education identified changes in lifestyles as a priority for the next 10 years. The programs, projects and individual efforts needed to assist Iowans in understanding the choices they have in lifestyles include: 1) reducing energy usage; 2) protecting land and restoring the environment so that its climate-stabilizing mechanisms are maintained; 3) increasing individual participation in governmental and economic decisions; and 4) making a personal commitment to caring for the earth.

Start today by doing one of the items on the following list. Each day, add another item until you are following as many as possible.

- ❖ Buy products that are recyclable or can be easily recycled -- avoid disposables.
- ❖ Reject over-packaged food and non-food items.
- ❖ Turn the faucet off when the water is not in use when showering, shaving, brushing teeth or hand-washing clothes.
- ❖ Carry and use reusable cups, dishes and flatware.
- ❖ Take extra plastic and rubber pots back to the nursery.
- ❖ Compost leaves and yard debris.
- ❖ Get involved in local tree planting activities.
- ❖ Roach killer: mix baking soda and powdered sugar; ant killer: use chili powder to hinder entry.
- ❖ Water lawns and gardens at night to limit evaporation.
- ❖ Buy plain white toilet paper, tissues and paper towels. Dyed paper pollutes.
- ❖ Make and use cloth grocery bags.
- ❖ Instead of toxic mothballs, use cedar chips.
- ❖ Buy a fuel-efficient car. Aim for 35 miles per gallon.
- ❖ Use recycled paper for any printing needs.
- ❖ Plant compact shrubs by foundations to help insulate.
- ❖ Air-dry laundry when possible.
- ❖ Clean lint screen in clothes dryer.
- ❖ Walk or ride a bicycle whenever possible.
- ❖ Use latex and other water-based paints instead of toxic enamel or oil-based paints.
- ❖ Clean lamps and lighting fixtures regularly.
- ❖ To clean rugs and upholstery, sprinkle on cornstarch, then vacuum.
- ❖ Repair leaks and drips as soon as they occur. A moderate drip wastes two gallons of water or more per hour.
- ❖ Take showers instead of baths to save water and energy.
- ❖ Plant marigolds to repel insects. Other "natural" pesticides are available from garden supply stores.

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BIRDERS' HOTLINE

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

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