

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 28, No. 8 Newsletter of the Mid-Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society April 1993

MONTHLY MEETING

GEOLOGY OF NORTHEAST IOWA

JEAN PRIOR

Senior Research Geologist, Iowa DNR, Iowa City

Thursday, April 15, 7:30 PM

Room 2226, Veterinary Medicine Building, I. S. U., Ames
(Please note-this is a change from our usual meeting room.)

Jean Prior is the author of the 1991 book, Landforms of Iowa. She is a native of Ohio and a graduate of Purdue University and the University of Illinois with twenty-five years of research, service, and writing experience focusing on Iowa's geology. She guided viewers in the Iowa Public Television series "Land between Two Rivers", served on the State Preserves Advisory Board, and edits Iowa Geology. You won't want to miss this special presentation.

FIELD TRIPS

LOCAL MARSHES

WATERFOWL AND SPRING MIGRANTS

Tiegs Marsh and Little Wall Lake

Saturday, April 17

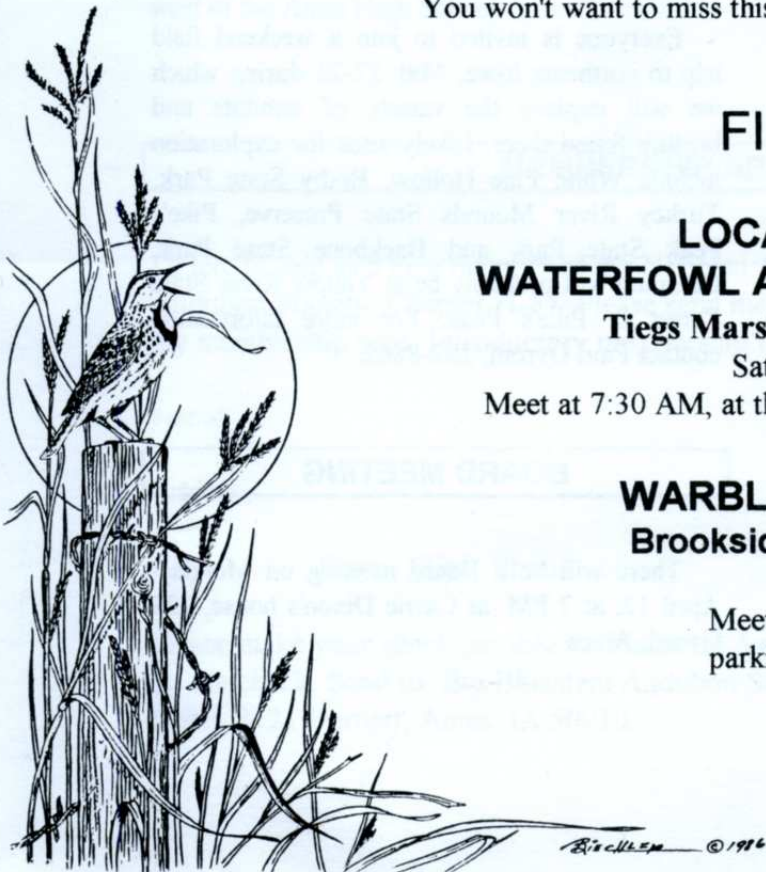
Meet at 7:30 AM, at the Design Center parking lot, I.S.U.

WARBLERS AND WILDFLOWERS

Brookside Park and Ann Munn Woods

Saturday, May 9

Meet at 7:30 AM at the back (north) parking lot at Brookside Park, Ames



BIRDING CLASS

The final session of an introductory birding course will take place on Tuesday, April 13, at 7 PM, at the Story County Conservation Center in McFarland Park. Topics to be discussed include: Birding by habitat, basic shorebird identification, and personal birding experiences of some long time birders. The class is free and open to anyone. Just call the Conservation Center at 232-2516 and let them know you would like to attend. Sponsored by our Big Bluestem chapter and the Story County Conservation Board.

FUN(D)RAISER FOR CHICKADEE CHECKOFF

On Friday, April 16, Dugan's will be the site for a fundraiser for the Nongame wildlife program (Chickadee Checkoff). Starting time is 7 PM, music by "Spareparts" will start at 9 PM. Admission will be \$2. Dugan's is located just west of the ISU campus at 2900 Campus St.

FIELD TRIP REPORT- MARCH 6

The fog was dense when we left Ames to head for Red Rock Reservoir in pursuit of bald eagles. The fog was still thick as we started our walk along a trail near the spillway. Here we saw two male bluebirds eating berries at the edge of the woods. Before long we were able to pick out an adult bald eagle perched downstream from the spillway. We were still shrouded in fog. Just as we started to make our way back to the parked cars, the fog lifted and we enjoyed a sunny and warm end to the morning. We saw three more bald eagles plus: Killdeer, Common Merganser, Goldeneye & Hooded Merganser (30 Species in all).

KAY'S BOOK REVIEW

Gore, Al. 1992. Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York. 407 pp.

Vice President Al Gore, as a former democratic Senator from Tennessee, spent 15 years leading the fight in Congress to save the global environment. He was a journalist for seven years before winning a seat in the House of Representatives in 1976. He has written a provocative book in which he argues that only a radical rethinking of our relationship with nature can save the earth's ecology for future generations. He demonstrates that the quality of our air, water, and soil are at grave risk and problems that were once local or regional are now global. Gore discusses the roots of the crisis and argues that only a worldwide mobilization can save us from disaster. He believes that the severity of the environmental crisis will require a bold and visionary response.

KAY NIYO

NORTHEAST IOWA TRIP

Everyone is invited to join a weekend field trip to northeast Iowa, May 22-23 during which we will explore the variety of habitats and birdlife found there. Likely sites for exploration include White Pine Hollow, Bixby State Park, Turkey River Mounds State Preserve, Pike's Peak State Park and Backbone State Park. Camping will probably be at Yellow River State Forest or Pike's Peak. For more information contact Paul Ovrom, 292-8862.

BOARD MEETING

There will be a Board meeting on Monday, April 12, at 7 PM, at Carrie Dixon's house, 722 Grand, Ames.

PRAIRIE ACTIVITIES

Burning and/or brush cutting of the Mortensen Road and Ontario Road Prairies in Ames will be conducted this spring by BBAS member, Tom Rosburg. If you would like to help with this endeavor give Tom a call (377-2930) and he will let you know when the work will be done.

The Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club is holding a workshop and outing on Prairie Restoration on April 3 & 4. On April 3, an afternoon workshop at Camp Sunnyside in Des Moines, will feature speakers from: the Walnut Creek Refuge near Prairie City, IA, the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, the Preserves Board, and the University of Northern Iowa. On April 4 there will be an outing to the Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge. For more information call the Sierra Club at 277-8868 or Debbie Neustadt at 265-2018.

At the Ames High Prairie we will cut brush on Saturday April 3 from 1-3 PM at the northwest part of the prairie. Bring your gloves and any cutting tools you have. Take precautions against poison ivy. The prairie is located just west of the Ames High School.

AUDUBON REGIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER

Mark your calendars now to attend the West Central Region's biennial conference to be held June 10-13, in Manhattan, Kansas. Field trips are planned for Thursday and Sunday including visits to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge to see nesting Least Terns and other wetlands wildlife. Trips are planned to Lawrence, KS to see nesting bald eagles and the extensive collection of bird skins at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, and to the Manhattan area for a tour featuring limestone architecture.

Friday and Saturday will be filled with short morning field trips, a variety of workshops and seminars, and a Friday evening picnic on an 8600 acre, tall grass prairie preserve maintained as a research site by Kansas State University. Some seminars on bird identification will be available.

For more information contact the National Audubon Society at its regional office: 200 Southwind Pl., Manhattan, KS 66502 (913-537-4385), or Patty Field, Kansas Audubon Council, 1748 W. 3rd St., Lawrence, KS 66044 (913-749-3592).

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 \$23

Name

Address

City State Zip Phone

Please make your check payable to: **National Audubon Society** and include chapter code **H-57** on the check. Send to: Big Bluestem Audubon Society, c/o Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett, Ames, IA 50010.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Birders' 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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April 1993
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