

Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 22 No. 6

February 1988

Monthly Meeting

FEBRUARY

CENTRAL IOWA'S GEOLOGY, or A PEEK AT DESMOINES' LOBE

Jean C. Prior, State Geologist

Tuesday, 16th, Room 181, College of Design
(Refreshments by Judy Shearer and Linda Brown)

Field Trip

OWLS Saturday, 20th

Carpool from the Design Center Parking lot,
7:30 AM or meet us at the Ledges' south (Lost
Lake) nature trail about 8:00 AM

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: David C. Edwards, 292-3790
Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor

Vice-President: Michael Meetz, 382-2534
Program Chair

Secretary: Barbara Bettis, 232-4863

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

Executive Board

Stephen Dinsmore, 292-3152
Field Trips

Sherry Dragula, 292-4014
Conservation Chair

Andy Fix, 296-7554

Barbara Heikens, 296-2999
Education Chair

Kay Niyo, 292-5130



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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS
AMES 12/19/87 AND BOONE 01/01/88
STEVE DINSMORE AND MARK WIDRLECHNER

| | AMES | | BOONE | TOTAL | | AMES | | BOONE | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| CANADA GOOSE | 12 | 1 | | 13 | RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH | | | | |
| MALLARD | 50 | 3 | | 53 | WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH | 126 | 122 | | 248 |
| NORTHERN HARRIER | 1 | 1 | | 2 | BROWN CREEPER | 19 | 4 | | 23 |
| SHARP-SHINNED HAWK | 1 | 1 | | 2 | WINTER WREN | 1 | | | 1 |
| COOPER'S HAWK | | 1 | | 1 | CAROLINA WREN | | 1 | | 1 |
| RED-TAILED HAWK | 12 | 40 | | 52 | GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET | 16 | 6 | | 22 |
| ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK | | 9 | | 9 | EASTERN BLUEBIRD | | 1 | | 1 |
| AMERICAN KESTREL | 6 | 16 | | 22 | AMERICAN ROBIN | | | | |
| BUTED SPECIES | 2 | 4 | | 6 | BROWN THRASHER | | | | |
| GRAY PARTRIDGE | | 83 | | 83 | CEDAR WAXWING | 9 | 19 | | 28 |
| RING-NECKED PHEASANT | 62 | 75 | | 137 | NORTHERN SHRIKE | | | | |
| WILD TURKEY | | 132 | | 132 | LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | | 1 | | 1 |
| NORTHERN BOBWHITE | | 10 | | 10 | SHRIKE SP | | 1 | | 1 |
| COMMON SNIPE | 8 | | | 8 | EUROPEAN STARLING | 2590 | 936 | | 3526 |
| KILLDEER | 1 | | | 1 | NORTHERN CARDINAL | 145 | 276 | | 441 |
| ROCK DOVE | 316 | 284 | | 600 | RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE | | | | |
| HERRING GULL | 1 | | | 1 | AMERICAN TREE SPARROW | 425 | 336 | | 761 |
| MOURNING DOVE | 11 | 8 | | 19 | FOX SPARROW | | | | |
| EASTERN SCREECH-OWL | 8 | 2 | | 10 | SONG SPARROW | 18 | 32 | | 50 |
| GREAT-HORNED OWL | 7 | 7 | | 14 | SWAMP SPARROW | | | | |
| BARRED OWL | 2 | 1 | | 3 | WHITE-THROATED SPARROW | 5 | 6 | | 11 |
| LONG-EARED OWL | | 1 | | 1 | HARRIS' SPARROW | 15 | 12 | | 27 |
| SHORT-EARED OWL | 1 | 1 | | 2 | DARK-EYED JUNCO | 489 | 878 | | 1367 |
| NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL | | 2 | | 2 | LAPLAND LONGSPUR | | 22 | | 22 |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | 2 | | | 2 | SNOW BUNTING | | 225 | | 225 |
| RED-HEADED WOODPECKER | 1 | 1 | | 2 | RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD | 13 | 28 | | 41 |
| RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER | 44 | 58 | | 102 | MEADOWLARK SP | 9 | 11 | | 20 |
| YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER | | | | | RUSTY BLACKBIRD | | | | |
| DOWNY WOODPECKER | 115 | 96 | | 211 | GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hairy WOODPECKER | 23 | 29 | | 52 | COMMON GRACKLE | 2 | 6 | | 8 |
| NORTHERN FLICKER | 5 | 4 | | 9 | BROWN-HEADED COBIRD | | | | |
| HORNED LARK | 8 | 307 | | 315 | PURPLE FINCH | 19 | 12 | | 31 |
| BLUE JAY | 209 | 110 | | 319 | PINE SISKIN | 5 | 3 | | 8 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 3000 | 265 | | 3265 | AMERICAN GOLDFINCH | 106 | 258 | | 364 |
| BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE | 392 | 326 | | 718 | HOUSE SPARROW | 3152 | 1928 | | 5080 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 11 | 30 | | 41 | TOTAL | 11496 | 7032 | | 18528 |

AMES COUNT PARTICIPANTS

BART BALLARD
BARB BETTIS
GEORGE BROWN
GORDON BROWN
CECELIA BURNETT
JASON BURRIS
BARNETT COOK
JAMES DINSMORE
STEVE DINSMORE
SHERRY DRAGULA
DAVID & JEANNE EDWARDS
FRITZ FRANZEN
BARBARA HEIKENS
FAY HILL
JOHN HILL
STU HUNTINGTON

PEGGY JOHNSON
CAROLINE LEWIS
PAUL MARTSCHING
JOHN MAYFIELD
MICHAEL MEETZ
LOTUS MILLER
DIANE MUMM
BRUCE MUMSON
KAY NIYO
A PAUL OVROM
JOHN RICHARD
JUDY SHEARER
JON SCHMABACH
STEPHANIE WAGGONER
SAND WEBER
MARK WIDRLECHNER
HANK ZALATEL

FEEDER WATCHERS

GRIFFITH & RUBY BUCK
ERV KLAAS
RAY & MARJORIE LEBO
ROBERT LEWIS
JOYCE RAMSEY
MICHAEL SONDALL
WALTER SMITH
ROBERT & DEANNE SUMMERFELT
BERNARD & ANN VINOGRAD

BOONE COUNT PARTICIPANTS

MARK ANKENY
JON & JOYCE BAHRENFUS
BARB BETTIS
JOE BORICH
STEPHEN COMPTON
BARNEY COOK
GAYLAN & LLOYD CRIM
SHERRY DRAGULA
DAVID & JEANNE EDWARDS
BRUCE EHRESMAN
ELLEN FAIRCHILD
DARRELL & JANE HAMEL
REX HEER
CINDY HILDEBRAND
DAVID JONES
SUE KEMMERER
BEVERLY & THOMAS KLAMM
KIM McDERMOTT
MICHAEL MEETZ
DIANNE MUMM
BRUCE & ERIK MUMSON
BETTY LOU MEYERS
KAY NIYO
DOUGLAS REEVES
JOHN RICHARD
LILLIAN ROSS
BILL & DONA RYAN
SHARON THOMPSON
MARK WIDRLECHNER
HANK ZALATEL

**SPRING RIVER CONFERENCE
MARCH 24-27, 1988
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 the West Central Regional Office will be held on the weekend of March 24-27 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney, Nebraska.

The conference will include featured speakers, slide presentations, films, workshops and field trip opportunities. Approximately 500,000 sandhill cranes depend on the Platte River as a spring staging area in March and early April each year. In 1987 many participants also observed a whooping crane. Bald eagles, and large numbers of eaterfowl, can also be seen in this part of Nebraska throughout most of March.

PROGRAM

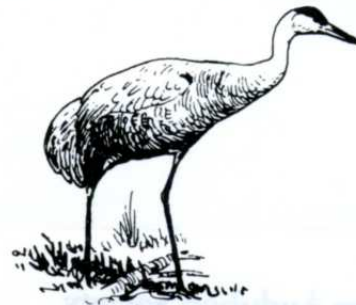
As in the past the focus of the 1988 Spring River Conference will include the Platte and Niobrara River ecosystems and the associated wildlife with special emphasis on sandhill cranes. The program will begin on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. with hospitality festivities, slide presentations and speakers.

The Saturday session will begin with guest speakers at 9:30 a.m., include a featured luncheon speaker and continue until 4:00 p.m. National Audubon Society president Peter A.A. Berle will either address the conference Saturday morning or at the Saturday luncheon. The evening banquet is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. with a keynote speaker. The Sunday morning program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude with a special luncheon speaker. So please plan to stay with us until at least 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

FIELD TRIP RESERVATIONS AND SCHEDULES

Field trips to see the cranes from the observation blinds at the Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary will be scheduled for early morning hours (leaving at 5:00 a.m.) on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and for late afternoon to early evening (4:15 to 7:30 p.m.) on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Trips to see cranes at the Gibbon Bridge and the Hike Bike Trail will leave 15 to 30 minutes later Friday p.m. through Sunday a.m.

Detailed additional information and registration forms are available from David Edwards (292-3790 and at the next meeting). Costs for the full program amount to about \$92.50 per person (two in a room) plus transportation to and from Kearney. (\$10 for registration, \$41 for two nights motel, \$26.50 for three meals and a box lunch, and \$15 for blind trip expense.) It is likely that some members of Big Bluestem will be attending.



**Audubon Adventures Grows
By Leaps and Bounds,
New Education Networks Expand**

As of October of this school year, *Audubon Adventures* reached a high-water mark in enrollment, with more than 6,000 youth clubs signed up. More than 200,000 students are expected to participate in the program within the current school year.

At the same time, two newer education initiatives are gaining momentum. An inner-city network is growing in New York City and in major urban areas of New Jersey and Connecticut. Inner-city teachers of grades 3 through 6 have been participating in open-space workshops led by Audubon educators. The workshops are being directed at key teachers—those in charge of curriculum or who teach other teachers. Audubon's approach is to integrate environmental education and natural history with language, math, and other skills. Eventually, this program will expand to other regions of the country.

JANUARY CROSSWORD

GODWIT MAINS
OWE REINDEER
OLEO UGLY V A
SSTS CROW ETI
E POKE HERON
SORA THEN F
FILET ARAMUS
EDDY REWER A
RES RAK LOON
R QUACK SEWED
EMU VENOM IDE
TRADE OCEAN R
SWAN TOWAGE

CHAPTER OFFICERS

At the end of the 1987 calendar year, Marianna Loy moved to Indianapolis. We will miss her service in our chapter and wish her success. Stephen Dinsmore was appointed and approved by the Board to fill the remaining portion of her term on the Executive Board.

It is drawing near to the time for the election of chapter officers and board members for the 1988-1989 year, to be elected and take office after the May meeting. The following positions must be filled:

President: two-term limit has been reached by incumbent
Vice-President: one-year term (currently Michael Meetz)
Secretary: one-year term (currently Barbara Bettis)
Treasurer: one-year term (currently Mark Widrlechner)
Executive Board: two-year terms

three of the five positions are to be filled this year,
(those currently held by Stephen Dinsmore,
Sherry Dragula, and Barbara Heikens)

A Nominations Committee will be appointed soon; please talk to a chapter officer or board member if you are interested in serving on the nominations committee or as one of the nominees.



SPOTTING SCOPE

A reminder that the society's spotting scope is available for member use. Contact David Edwards at 292-3790.

Big Bluestem Audubon Society
2308 State Avenue, RR 5
Ames, Iowa 500 10

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