



Big Bluestem Audubon Society
Ames, Iowa

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For membership information,
contact one of the officers
listed above.

Bluestem Flyer

Vol. 20, No. 5

January, 1986

Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Room 181-1 (Jury Room), College of Design, ISU campus
TOPIC: "The Upper Mississippi--River in Turmoil"- a slide-tape
program from National Audubon Society

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Legislative Workshop -- Sponsored by the Sierra Club on Saturday,
Jan. 18, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., in Room 116, State Capitol, Des Moines.
Everyone welcome.

Crane Field Trip -- For the second year, Bill Horine of Nevada
will lead a field trip to Nebraska in mid-March to see Sandhill Cranes.
See additional details on page 4.

Newsletter Deadline -- The last day for submitting
items for the February newsletter will be Feb. 3. Send
articles or artwork to Judy van der Linden, 610-9th
St., Ames.

Tax Time! -- Once again it's income tax time.
Please don't forget Iowa's non-game wildlife.
Contribute to the "Chickadee Checkoff" program
on your Iowa tax form.

CHICKADEE CHECKOFF!



BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Bluestem chapter members participated in two Christmas Bird Counts this year -- the traditional Story County count on Dec. 21 and the newly organized Boone County count on Jan. 1. Despite deep snow that hindered many observers on Dec. 21, a record 53 species of birds were seen in Story County. Unusual sightings that day included an Eastern Bluebird and a Hermit Thrush. In addition, all winter finches, five species of owls and a Northern Shrike highlighted the sightings. Twenty-nine persons participated.

The New Year's Day count in Boone County was blessed with warmer weather and somewhat less snow. Most of the 33 participants met in Boone afterwards to tabulate results over dinner. A total of 36 Wild Turkeys and two Northern Saw-whet Owls highlighted the day's sightings.

Hank Zaletel and Mark Widrlechner organized the Story County and Boone County counts respectively. Birds seen are listed below (ST=seen in Story County; BN=seen in Boone County).

<u>Species</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>BN</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>BN</u>
1. Wood Duck		x	31. Red-breasted Nuthatch	x	x
2. Mallard	x		32. Brown Creeper	x	
3. Sharp-shinned Hawk		x	33. American Robin	x	x
4. Cooper's Hawk	x	x	34. Hermit Thrush	x	
5. Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	35. Eastern Bluebird	x	
6. Rough-legged Hawk	x	x	36. Golden-Crowned Kinglet	x	
7. American Kestrel	x	x	37. Cedar Waxwing	x	x
8. Gray Partridge		x	38. Northern Shrike	x	x
9. Common Bobwhite	x		39. Shrike sp.		x
10. Ring-necked Pheasant	x	x	40. European Starling	x	x
11. Wild Turkey		x	41. House Sparrow	x	x
12. Rock Dove	x	x	42. Meadowlark sp.	x	x
13. Mourning Dove	x		43. Red-winged blackbird	x	x
14. Eastern Screech Owl	x	x	44. Rusty Blackbird	x	
15. Great Horned Owl	x	x	45. Common Grackle	x	
16. Barred Owl	x	x	46. Brewer's Blackbird		x
17. Long-eared Owl	x	x	47. Brown-headed Cowbird	x	
18. Short-eared Owl	x		48. Northern Cardinal	x	x
19. Northern Saw-whet Owl		x	49. Evening Grosbeak	x	x
20. Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x	50. Common Redpoll	x	
21. Red-bellied Wdpker	x	x	51. Pine Siskin	x	x
22. Downy Woodpecker	x	x	52. Purple Finch	x	x
23. Hairy Woodpecker	x	x	53. American Goldfinch	x	x
24. Common Flicker	x	x	54. Dark-eyed Junco	x	x
25. Horned Lark	x	x	55. American Tree Sparrow	x	x
26. Blue Jay	x	x	56. Harris' Sparrow	x	x
27. American Crow	x	x	57. White-throated Sparrow	x	x
28. Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	58. Song Sparrow	x	x
29. Tufted Titmouse	x	x	59. Lapland Longspur	x	x
30. White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x	60. Snow Bunting	x	

Story County field observers and feeder counters were: Barb Bettis, Betsy Bricker, Griffith Buck, Cele Burnett, Barnett Cook, Tom Davis, Steve Dinsmore, Sherry Dragula, Dave Edwards, Jeanne Edwards, Fritz Franzen, Pat Heimes, Stewart Huntington, Barbara & Kevin Krans, Nick Kubik, Ray Lebo, Paul Martsching, John & Katie Mayfield, Mike Metz, Lotus Miller,

(Cont. on p. 3)



BIRDER'S NOTES

Those of you who feed birds might consider participating in a statewide bird feeder survey sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologist's Union and the Iowa Conservation Commission on Jan. 23-26. Participants will be keeping track of the birds that come to their feeders during a 48-hour period within the 4-day survey time.

Hank Zaletel will have survey forms at the Jan. 21 chapter meeting for anyone who wishes to take part. Those unable to make the meeting may contact Hank (377-2889, evenings) for a form.

Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, American Goldfinches and even one House Finch have appeared at Ames bird feeders. Redpolls also have been seen around Ames but are less common at feeders. Keep an eye out for these winter visitors.

For yet another year, a Northern Saw-whet Owl is roosting in cedar trees lining the path to Lost Lake in Ledges State Park.

COUNT RESULTS (Cont. from p. 2)

Bruce & Erik Munson, Marlene Richard, Burt Shepard, Judy van der Linden, Mark Widrlechner and Hank Zaletel.

Boone County counters were: Mark Ankeny, Jon & Joyce Bahrenfus, Jerry Baughman, Gordon Brown, Barnett Cook, Steve Dinsmore, Sherry Dragula, Dave & Jeanne Edwards, Bruce Ehresman, Ken Frazier, Marnie & Walter Goeppinger, Edward Goodman, Charles Hackett, Rex Heer, Sue Kemmerer, Ben & Erwin Klaas, Beverly & Thomas Klamm, Paul Martsching, Erik Munson, Kevin Pape, Catharine Raffensperger, Doug Reeves, Judy Shearer, Sue Sidmore, Jim Sinclair, Sharon Thompson, Mark Widrlechner and Hank Zaletel.

CONSERVATION/THE ENVIRONMENT -- Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Preserves Board in Danger -- A portion of Gov. Terry Branstad's plan to reorganize the state government is of particular concern to conservationists -- the proposed elimination of the State Preserves Advisory Board. The Board preserves examples of Iowa's natural plant and animal communities and oversees research on preserves, recovery plans for certain species and a registry of endangered species and their habitats. To adequately preserve natural areas the Board needs more funding and staffing, not less. Our state legislators need to hear from you. Ask them to support an improved state preserves system for Iowa. Ames senator Charles Bruner is on the State Government Reorganization Committee, so a note to him at the State Capitol Building, Des Moines, IA, 50319, would be especially helpful. His telephone number is 515-281-3371.

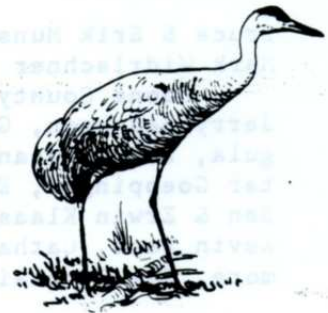
(Cont. on page 4)

Superfund Passes House -- The Superfund bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 10. Audubon members across the country wrote letters that made a real difference. The House bill provides \$10 billion for cleanup; requires 600 cleanup starts in the next five years; creates a national community right-to-know program; requires cleanups to meet standards of other federal laws, and gives citizens the right to sue the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up waste sites. Congressman Neal Smith of Iowa deserves thanks from us for supporting the bill at each point during the legislative process. Audubon letter writers deserve thanks, as well.

Crane Field Trip -- A field trip to Nebraska to see migrating Sandhill Cranes has been tentatively set for a weekend in mid-March. Participants will carpool, leaving Ames on Friday evening and staying at the Holiday Inn in Grand Island, Nebraska, that night. Saturday will be spent birding in the vicinity of the Platte River, specifically looking for cranes and other water birds. The group will return on Sunday, possibly stopping at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge to see migrating geese. Trip leader Bill Horine needs to make hotel reservations as soon as possible, so if you are interested, please call him immediately (382-4150, 811 9th St., Nevada). More details of the trip will be discussed at the chapter meeting on Jan. 21.

January Bird Puzzles -- Which birds are described by the short phrases below? Answers will be given at the January meeting:

1. Old fool
2. Arctic runner
3. Give a letter a bath
4. Must precede the gastric digestion
5. What bucks have when they celebrate



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