

Big Bluestem Flyer

January, 1995 Vol. 30, No. 4

Monthly Meeting

1995 Farm Bill- Implications for Fish & Wildlife by Jim Pease
Thursday, January 19, 7:30 PM, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building,
Iowa State University, Ames

Jim Pease, Extension Wildlife Biologist and Assistant Professor of Animal Ecology at I.S.U. will present an overview of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills and the changes they brought to Iowa agriculture. He will also examine the Conservation Reserve Program and what it has done to benefit Iowa's wildlife. And, perhaps most importantly, what will the future be for wildlife in the next Farm Bill?

Future Events

- February 16, Meeting: Natural Areas of Ames by Bill Norris
- March 16, Meeting: California Desert by Wolfgang Oesterreich
- April 20, Meeting: Wildlife Diversity Program by Bruce Ehresman
- May 18, Meeting: Entomology by Ken Holscher

(Meetings are held in Room 2532 of the Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.)



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Ames Bird Count Results

1994 AMES CHRISTMAS COUNT	
TRUMPETER SWAN	1
CANADA GOOSE	423
MALLARD	13
NORTHERN PINTAIL	2
LESSER SCAUP	5
COMMON GOLDENEYE	3
BALD EAGLE	5
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	3
RED-TAILED HAWK	17
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	5
AMERICAN KESTREL	13
GRAY PARTRIDGE	7
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	83
ROCK DOVE	190
MOURNING DOVE	71
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	2
GREAT-HORNED OWL	6
BARRED OWL	3
SHORT-EARED OWL	1
BELTED KINGFISHER	2
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	3
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	44
DOWNY WOODPECKER	86
HAIRY WOODPECKER	15
NORTHERN FLICKER	8
HORNED LARK	161
BLUE JAY	208
AMERICAN CROW	7800
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	325
TUFTED TITMOUSE	6
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	99
BROWN CREEPER	18
CAROLINA WREN	CW
WINTER WREN	1
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	2
AMERICAN ROBIN	6
CEDAR WAXWING	29
EUROPEAN STARLING	2271
BROWN THRASHER	CW
NORTHERN CARDINAL	170
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	230
FOX SPARROW	1
SONG SPARROW	17
SWAMP SPARROW	2
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	2
HARRIS' SPARROW	13
DARK-EYED JUNCO slate form	730
LAPLAND LONGSPUR	15
SNOW BUNTING	2
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	27
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	4
MEADOWLARK SP.	14
PURPLE FINCH	6
HOUSE FINCH	58
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	110
HOUSE SPARROW	1317
group totals	14656
species seen	54

Results from the Ames Count, held on December 17, 1994 are printed to the left. It was a good count and a mild day. Thanks go to all those who participated in the field or at feeders. Thanks also to Dave Edwards for compiling the count and to Dave & Jeanne Edwards for hosting the after count chili supper.

Annual I.O.U./D.N.R. Bird Feeder Survey

Printed on the third and back page of this newsletter is the 1995 Winter Bird Feeder Survey. We print this survey as a service to our members who want to participate and as a favor to our friends in the Iowa Ornithologists Union and the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The survey takes place January 27-30, 1995. Please follow the instructions on the back page and mail the completed form by February 12 to the address listed on the form.

Results from last year's survey show that 14 species had significant increases while only 3 significantly decreased. Mourning Dove, Robin, Goldfinch, House Sparrow and House Finch had ten year highs. Tree Sparrows decreased reaching a ten year low. Dark-eyed Juncos, House Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays and Cardinals were all seen by over eighty percent of the participants. Goldfinches and Downy Woodpeckers were seen by over seventy percent of the participants. Participation in the survey was lower last year so mark your calendar and don't forget to join in this year!

Note of Thanks for Audubon Adventures

This from Nancy Kurrle to BBAS members: "Thank you for your continued support of the Audubon Adventures series for the Ames classrooms. The series is pertinent and useful in supporting our science and environmental curriculum. Your financial support to just our district over the past nine years comes to over \$2000. That's a big investment in our youth for tomorrow's environment."

Stan Cyran of Ames has been chosen by the Board to fill a vacant Board slot. Welcome aboard Stan!

BIRDFEEDER SURVEY JANUARY 27-30, 1995

Please fill out carefully. Feel free to copy the form for friends and patrons. Thank you and enjoy yourselves!

1. Name _____
 2A. Address _____
 2B. County _____ 2C. City _____ 2D. Zip _____
 3. The feeder survey period this year runs from Thursday, January 27th to Sunday, January 30th. Count birds on two consecutive days only. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.
 Check one: _____ Thursday (1/27) and Friday (1/28),
 _____ Friday (1/28) and Saturday (1/29), or
 _____ Saturday (1/29) and Sunday (1/30).
 4. Is your feeder in Town (including suburbs) or in the Country? Circle T or C.
 5. Check the ONE description which best describes the area within a 2-block circle around your feeder:
 _____ suburban, houses with shrubs and small trees but few trees wider than 20 inches.
 _____ suburban bordered by: (circle 1) timber, grass, field or row crop.
 _____ town, neighborhood has many mature shade and street trees.
 _____ downtown with mostly buildings, sidewalks, roads, parking lots, high rises
 _____ pasture
 _____ row crop (corn, beans, etc.)
 _____ timber
 _____ farmstead with mature trees and shrubs around house.
 6. Type and number of feeders: _____ Thistle, _____ Sunflower(only), _____ Fruit, _____ Safflower, _____ Peanuts, _____ Mixed seed, _____ Peanut Butter, _____ Suet, _____ Cracked Sunflower, _____ Corn, _____ Millet(only), _____ unfrozen water, _____ other: _____
 7. On what date did you start feeding during 1994-95? About _____
 8. Comments or additional description of your feeder or yard: _____

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES DURING TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS

_____ Ring-necked Pheasant	_____ Tree Sparrow (American)
_____ Rock Dove (Common Pigeon)	_____ Song Sparrow
_____ Mourning Dove	_____ White-throated Sparrow
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker	_____ White-crowned Sparrow
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker	_____ Harris' Sparrow
_____ Downy Woodpecker	_____ Dark-eyed Junco (All races)
_____ Hairy Woodpecker	_____ Red-winged Blackbird
_____ Flicker (All races)	_____ Grackle (Common)
_____ Blue Jay	_____ Brown-headed Cowbird
_____ Crow (American)	_____ Purple Finch
_____ Black-capped Chickadee	_____ Common Redpoll
_____ Tufted Titmouse	_____ Pine Siskin
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____ Goldfinch American
_____ White-breasted Nuthatch	_____ Evening Grosbeak
_____ Brown Creeper	_____ House (English) Sparrow
_____ Robin (American)	_____ House Finch
_____ Cedar Waxwing	_____ (other) _____
_____ Starling (European)	_____ (other) _____
_____ Cardinal (Northern)	_____ (other) _____

_____ TOTAL DIFFERENT SPECIES SEEN

_____ I would like to receive the free Nongame News. (NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY)
 _____ I would like information about the Iowa Ornithologists Union which is a statewide bird organization. If you see a rare or unusual bird, please report it to the Iowa birdline 319-338-9881.

1995 WINTER BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

SPONSORED BY THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST'S UNION

AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE'S NONGAME PROGRAM

On two consecutive days during January 26-30, 1995 observe your feeder and using this form, describe your feeder and record the birds that visited you. In the space provided, list the highest number of each species that you saw together at any one time. For example, if you saw 10 juncoes at 9:00, 11 at 12:00 and 7 at 4:00, the number you should record is 11. If males and females can be distinguished (cardinals, downy woodpecker etc.) record the combined total. For example, if you saw 3 male cardinals at 11:00 then 1 male and 2 females at 2:00, record 5 cardinals--the highest count for the males and the highest count for the females combined. Count only on the two consecutive days and record only the birds that you see at your feeder, under your feeder, or in the trees around your feeder. Do not count birds which just flew past your house and did not use your feeder area. We want information only about birds influenced by your feeders. If you cannot get an exact count, record your best estimate. An honest estimate is far more useful than 'umptein' or 'too many to count.'

Mail the completed form to me by February 12, 1995:

R. J. Hollis
3351 Lower West Branch Road
Iowa City, IA 52245

If you would like a personal reply, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and be patient; it may take 12 months before I can get back to you. Look for results in the Iowa Nongame News and the I.O.U. newsletter.

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