

## November Monthly Meeting

**"The Nature Conservancy in Iowa: Identifying and protecting rare plant and animal species and communities" presented by Jerry Selby**

**Thursday, November 9, 7:30 pm, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.**

Jerry Selby is the Director of Science and Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Chapter. He will provide us with an overview of Nature Conservancy projects in Iowa including Loess Hills prairies, algific talus slopes of northeast Iowa, fens and forests. We will learn about areas the Nature Conservancy has acquired and how they decide what to acquire.

## November Field Trips

### I.O.U. Trip - Saylorville Reservoir.

**Saturday, November 4, 7 am, Meet below the dam at Saylorville.** Steve Dinsmore will lead this trip, BBAS members are welcome.

### Bays Branch and Dunbar Slough

**Saturday, November 18, 7:30 am. Meet at the Design Center Parking lot, I.S.U.** (take Sheldon Ave. north from Lincolnway past Union Dr. and Oakland St. The Design Center is the white multi-story building on your right.) We will be looking for waterfowl primarily on this trip, bring your scope if you have one.

## December Monthly Meeting

**Holiday Meeting: Member's Slides & Treats. Thursday, December 14, 7:30 pm, Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park, Ames**

It's treats for us and treats for the birds night! We will be collecting donations of seed, suet and money to purchase same for the birds at the Conservation Center. For the program bring some of your slides to share (about 10 please, so everyone can have a chance). Also, bring along a "people treat" to share.

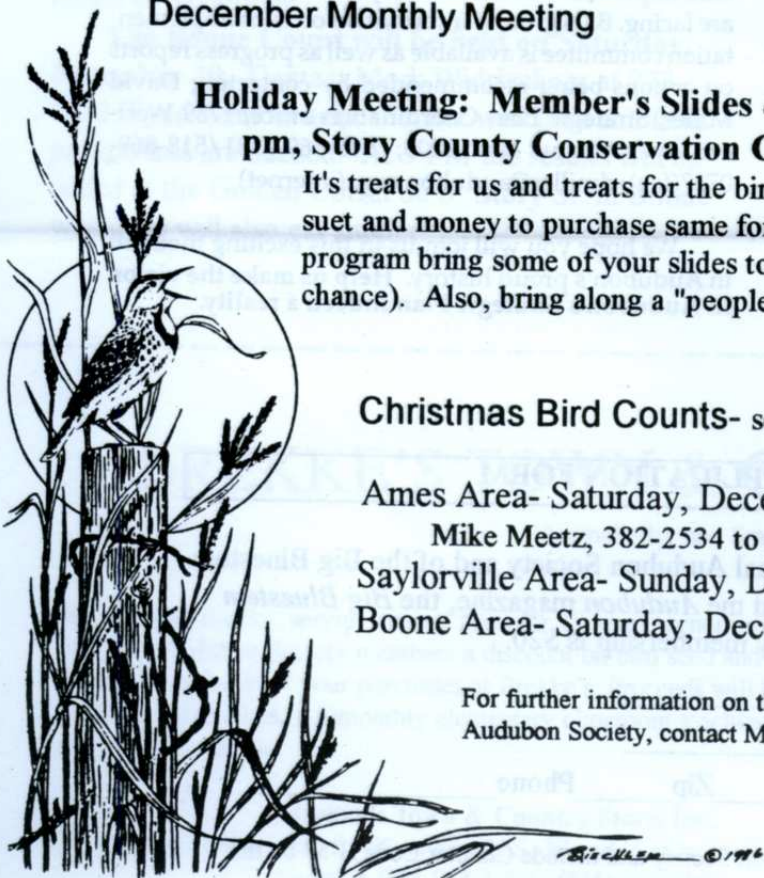
**Christmas Bird Counts-** see details inside this newsletter

Ames Area- Saturday, December 16, contact Dave Edwards, 292-3790 or Mike Meetz, 382-2534 to participate.

Saylorville Area- Sunday, December 17, contact Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152

Boone Area- Saturday, December 30, contact Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532

For further information on the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, contact Mark Widrlechner, 515-233-1532.





## Audubon's Strategic Plan: Implementing Its Vision

Last June the National Audubon Society Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan for the organization. This Strategic Plan, which was developed in partnership with Chapter leaders, State Council members and staff, provides an exciting vision for Audubon's future. A vision where Audubon's focus is birds, wildlife and habitat. A vision that puts the emphasis on public policy advocacy and education through increased support and programs to our Chapters, State Councils and Field Offices. A vision which calls for a seamless Audubon where all parts are working together from member to chapter to national board. A vision that makes Audubon the most effective conservation organization in the country whether on a local, state, or national level. A vision that takes us back to our roots and makes us stronger.

In the plan, there are many exciting initiatives, from establishment of Audubon centers in communities to state field offices being created across the country; from increasing the reach and capacity of our technological communications to building a solid science program which will reinforce our education and grassroots advocacy campaigns. In these and other areas outlined in the plan, implementation actions must be put forward to turn the plan into a reality.

A Strategic Plan Coordination Office has been established to work with ten implementation committees to get this plan off the shelf and into budgets, staffing and programs. These changes will benefit our work on the ground for birds, wildlife and their habitat. As Audubon President John Flicker points out, "these implementation committees are where the rubber meets the road."

The following ten committees were selected based on major themes in the Plan:

1. Field Implementation Committee
2. Grassroots Implementation Committee
3. Campaigns/Issues Implementation Committee
4. Education Implementation Committee
5. Audubon Centers Implementation Committee
6. Science Implementation Committee
7. Communications Implementation Committee
8. Membership/New Revenue Implementation Committee
9. Human Resources Implementation Committee
10. Finance/Fundraising Implementation Committee

Each committee has National Audubon Society board, staff and chapter representatives. Their charge is simple - to propose specific actions to the full National Audubon Society board which will result in the successful implementation of the plan. Already, early actions have been given the green light. The first prototype field office is scheduled to be established in California this fall. New grassroots communication technologies involving computers and conference calling are being field tested in the States of Washington and New York. A new National Campaign selection process for Audubon is being developed for use prior to our 1996 convention.

Your continued involvement is key. You are invited to participate by sharing your ideas on the specific implementation issues anyone of the committees are facing. Background information on each implementation committee is available as well as progress reports on actions being recommended by contacting David Miller, Strategic Plan Coordination office, 1789 Western Ave. Albany, NY 12203; 518-869-9731/518-869-0737(fax); dmiller@audubon.org. (internet)

We hope you will join us in this exciting moment in Audubon's proud history. **Help us make the vision in Audubon's Strategic Plan indeed a reality.**

### NEW MEMBER 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 \$20.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: National Audubon Society and include Chapter Code H-57 on the check. Send to: Mark Widrlechner, Membership Chair, 2121 Burnett Ave. Ames, Iowa 50010



## Christmas Bird Counts

The 96th Annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held at over 1600 locations from mid-December to early January. You are invited to join with more than 43,000 birders in all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda and the West Indies.

Experienced leaders are placed in charge of an area and other birders will be assigned to them. Participants identify each bird seen by species and note the number seen. Groups vary in size depending upon the area to be covered and how many wish to participate. A final tally is scheduled at dark. Bird feeder watchers in the count circle are also needed on the same day as the field count.

Three Counts will be conducted in our area this year. **The Ames Count will be held on Saturday, December 16.** Contact David Edwards (292-3790) or Mike Meetz (382-2534) if you would like to participate. Field participants and feeder watchers are needed. At the end of the day we will meet at the home of David & Jeanne Edwards, 2308 State Ave. for a tally and chili supper.

**The Saylorville Count will be Sunday, December 17.** Contact Steve Dinsmore at 292-3152 if you want to participate. At dark the results will be tallied at Saylorville.

**The Boone Count will be held on Saturday, December 30.** Contact Mark Widrlechner at 233-1532 if you want to help. Feeder watchers and field participants are needed. At 5 PM the results will be tallied at the Golden Corral on S. Story St. in Boone where we will also eat supper.

## Bird Counts (cont.)

Field participants are charged a fee of \$5 to cover the costs of publishing the results-an important data base for studies of bird populations. There are no fees for feeder watchers.

## Teaming with Wildlife

The Board of Directors of the Big Bluestem Audubon Society has endorsed the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. Also known as **Teaming with Wildlife**, this program will generate state dedicated funds for fish and wildlife conservation, recreation and education. A small surcharge would be placed on the wholesale cost of outdoor recreation equipment and supplies used by outdoor enthusiasts.

Letters are needed from individuals to businesses that sell and manufacture outdoor recreation equipment, particularly Cabela's Inc.(c/o Mr. Dick Cabela, CEO, 812 13th Ave., Sidney, NE 69160) and L.L. Bean (c/o Leon A. Gorman, President, 1 Casco St., Freeport, ME 04033). These businesses need to know their customers support this initiative.

If you would like to support this initiative send your name and address along with a statement that you support **Teaming with Wildlife** to: Sara Berg, Wildlife Research Station, 1436 255th St., Boone, IA 50036.

## Help Audubon Adventures-Use Brekke's Coupon

Brekke's will make a donation to our Audubon Adventures environmental education program from proceeds from the coupon printed below. So please use the coupon and receive a discount while helping Audubon. Thanks to Brekke's for their generosity!

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# BREKKE'S TOWN & COUNTRY STORE, INC.

"Animals Big and Small, We Feed Them All"

Sue and Mel Brekke, serving central Iowa for 18 years, generously offer Big Bluestem Audubon Society members a discount on bird seed and other products. So plan to make all of your purchases at Brekke's. Proceeds will be used to fund Audubon Adventures, a bimonthly elementary classroom teaching program, in central Iowa schools.

**Brekke's Town & Country Store, Inc.**

1½ miles east of I-35 on new U.S. 30 and ¼ mile north, Ames

Hours: 8-6 M-F, 8-4 Sat., (515) 232-7906

**Bring in this coupon and save!**

Purchase	Discount
up to \$15	\$1.50
\$15 and over	\$3.00
\$35 and over	\$5.00
over \$70	\$7.50

Offer good until February 29, 1996.



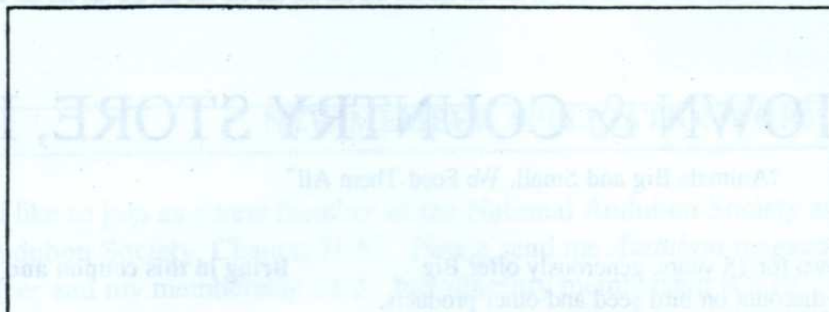
**Future Events**

- November 9 Meeting: Jerry Selby of the Nature Conservancy, Iowa Chapter
- November 18 Field Trip to Bay's Branch and Dunbar Slough
- December 14 Holiday Meeting at Conservation Center-McFarland Park
- December 16 Ames Bird Count-Call Dave Edwards, 292-3790
- December 17 Saylorville Bird Count-Call Steve Dinsmore, 292-3152
- December 30 Boone Bird Count-Call Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532
- January 11 Meeting: Carl Kurtz, Photographer and Naturalist
- February 8 Meeting
- March 7 Meeting
- April 11 Meeting
- May 9 Meeting: Erwin Klaas on Restoration Ecology

**Big Bluestem Audubon Society Board Members**

- President: Mark Widrlechner, 233-1532
- Vice-President: Stan Cyran, 292-4876
- Secretary: Joyce Bahrenfus, 432-3396
- Treasurer: Barb Bettis, 232-4863
- Kay Niyo, 233-8803
- Rebecca Shivvers, 292-0691
- Lloyd Crim, 432-5026
- Don Sanderson, 232-2227
- David Guy, 232-8825

**Iowa Bird Sightings Hotline- 319-338-9881**



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