

# Big Bluestem Flyer

Volume 23 No. 5

January 1989

## Monthly Meeting

**BIRD SHELTER AND NEST BOXES**

Pat Schlarbaum, DNR Nongame Officer

Tuesday, January 17, 7:30 PM, Rm 181, Design Center, ISU, Ames

## Field Trip

**OWL WALK**

Saturday, February 18, 1989

Ledges and Big Creek State Parks

Meet at 7:30 AM in ISU Design Center

Parking Lot for carpooling

Be prepared for moderate difficulty walking  
in brushy and wooded areas.

## **BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS**

1988-1989

President: Mike Meetz, 382-2534

Vice-President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Conservation Chair

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner, 292-4014

Executive Board

Elizabeth Carbrey, 292-2404

Steve Dinsmore, 292-1038

Field Trips

Andy Fix, 296-7554

Barbara Heikens, 296-2999

Education Chair

Tom Rosburg, 292-2361

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790





## BIRDING NORTHWEST WISCONSIN

Now in its sixth year, this event has attracted participants from beginner to expert. The sole requirement is that they must love birding enough to get up at 4 AM for five consecutive days. The group travels between 100 and 300 miles per day to locations in the Chequamegon National Forest, Crex Meadows, Douglas County, Bayfield County including Stockton Island by boat, plus Wisconsin and Minnesota Points at Superior. Travel is by large van and is limited to 13. The trip is led by Fred Lesher, a leader in the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Over the years 196 species have been recorded. Base is at the University of Wisconsin's Pigeon Lake Field Station just west of Drummond or 40 miles south of Bayfield. The \$315 fee includes lodging in rustic heated cabins and meals (no extra charges). BBAS members have been on the trip and recommend it highly for an introduction to Boreal Forest and northern lake birding. A copy of the brochure will be available at the meeting, or call the UW-LaCrosse at 608-785-8569.

## LEDGES STATE PARK AND THE HOG OPERATION

Our BBAS president, Mike Meetz, and several members were among the 150 concerned citizens and media people attending the public hearing conducted by the DNR at Luther on December 28. Mike presented a letter on behalf of BBAS expressing concerns about its potential degradation of the environment. Many other good arguments were also heard.

## CHICKADEE CHECKOFF

Please remember that your Chickadee Checkoff contributions are essentially the only support for the Nongame Programs of the state DNR. There are no tax-supported positions for this valuable work. It is your funds that supported the Barn Owl reintroduction program, the Otter program, Bluebird Census, Breeding Bird Atlas, Winter Bird Feeder Survey, and many other routine activities from Hawk watches and Eagle days to preparing injured raptors for return to the wild. Dozens of other routine services are delivered to the public on behalf of nongame wildlife by the staff, including for example our BBAS program this month.

This lengthy statement of what many of you already know is intended to stir your conscience at income tax time. The easiest way to make your contribution is on your tax form, on the special line. Note that this year the traditional symbol does not appear on the form and appeal for another fund has been added. If you work with a professional tax preparer, that agency will have a free poster for you, the poster featuring one of the otters released by the Nongame Program. You may also request a poster from the program office by including \$2.50 for postage and handling: Nongame Program, DNR, Wildlife Research Station, Route 1, Ledges Road, Boone, IA 50036.

## WINTER BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

The annual feeder survey this year is to be done on two consecutive days during January 26-29, 1989. If you need a form, call Mike Meetz. Copies will be at the January meeting.



## BIRD FEEDER SANITATION

The Nongame News (another service from your Chickadee Checkoff dollars) has an informative article in its Winter 1988 issue on the need to periodically clean feeders. There are diseases that are spread by inadvertent poor sanitation, either by accumulated bird wastes or by spoiled food. The solution is perhaps obvious, but two further notes are in order. Disinfect feeders with a solution of dilute bleach, and keep yourself protected from contact with the waste materials. To get on the newsletter mailing list, write to Wildlife Research Unit, DNR, Rte 1, Ledges Road, Boone, IA 50036

## STATE PARK PERMITS

The annual permits are now on sale for \$5.50. You can get them from any state park office but they are usually more convenient to purchase at any store where hunting/fishing licenses are sold. In Ames, places like KMart and Carr Hardware have them. The fee goes toward park improvements (the fines for violations do not -- Ledges violations are subject to a \$15 fine and \$20 court costs). Ledges State Park funds reworked the north rim trails last year.

## WHAT IS THE NORTHWOODS AUDUBON CENTER?

Periodically we have passed along notices of activities at the Northwoods Center. What is Northwoods? Here is their answer.

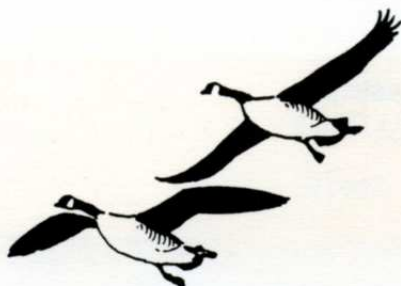
Established in 1969 as a non-profit education facility on land bequeathed to the National Audubon Society by Dr. Marguerite Schwyzer, Northwoods is dedicated to fostering the preservation, understanding, and enjoyment of nature.

Located on the east shore of Grindstone Lake near Sandstone Minnesota, the 535-acre Audubon Sanctuary offers a diverse habitat. There are 33 acres of pine plantations, 200 acres of hardwoods, including sugar bush for maple syrup production. White pines tower over the rustic main lodge and along the nearby lake shore. In spring trillions of white trillium peek out through the understory of the center's grounds.

Trails are being brushed and mown to promote access and use of the beautiful grounds by the public for hiking and cross-country skiing. Beginning later in 1989 sponsors to support trail upkeep will be sought with trails named after the sponsors. Trail head signs will include the trail's name and a map.

## ACID RAIN

Mike reports three "precipitation events" this month, one rain, one snow, and one slush. The first two measured a pH of 5.5. The slush was 4.2, before the flavoring.



**CALENDAR**

- February 4-5 - Northwoods Audubon Center CROSS COUNTRY SKI AND WINTER ECOLOGY \$65 each. 612-245-2648 [see info note in this issue]
- February 18 - BBAS OWL WALK, Ledges/Big Creek State Parks
- February 21 - BBAS public meeting, PRAIRIE RESTORATION, Dorothy Baringer
- March 17-19 - NAS Spring River Conference, Kearney, NE
- March 18 - BBAS WATERFOWL WATCH, Bay's Branch
- March 21 - BBAS public meeting, MAMMALS, Jim Pease, ISU Extension
- April - AUDUBON MONTH. Theme: Rivers and Wildlife
- April 8 - BBAS WOODCOCK WATCH, Izaak Walton Park
- April 18 - BBAS public meeting, SHORE BIRDS, Hank Zaletel
- April 22 - BBAS, SHORE BIRDS, Hendrickson's Marsh
- May 6 - BBAS, WATER BIRDS, Saylorville reservoir
- May 13 - BBAS, WARBLERS, Brookside Park
- May 16 - BBAS public meeting, HIGH SCHOOL PRAIRIE RECLAMATION, Judy Shearer, Nature Conservancy
- June 3 - 2ND ANNUAL BBAS BIRDERS' BREAKFAST, Ledges State Park
- June/July - BBAS CANOE TRIP to Big Wall Lake
- Sep 11-16 - NAS Biennial Convention, Tucson, AZ

The public is invited to attend any BBAS sponsored event.

**BIRDER'S HOTLINE**

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.

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

BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 131 AMES, IOWA
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