

Big Bluestem Flyer

January / February 1996

Vol. 31, No. 3

January Monthly Meeting

"Prairie Reconstruction" presented by Carl Kurtz

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 pm, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.

Carl Kurtz is a photographer, prairie enthusiast and naturalist who has been reconstructing prairie on his farm in Marshall county for the past twenty years. Carl will talk about and show slides of his prairie reconstruction efforts. You won't want to miss Carl's outstanding photos and expertise on prairie.

February Monthly Meeting

"Exploring the Des Moines River" presented by Larry Stone

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 pm, Room 2532, Veterinary Medicine Building, I.S.U.

Larry Stone is a reporter with the *Des Moines Register* where he covers the outdoors. In August and September of 1994 he took a trip down the Des Moines River and wrote a series of articles about that trip. Larry will accompany his memorable stories with slides.

February Field Trip

Hike at the State Forest Nursery in Ames

Saturday, February 17, 9 am, Meet at the parking area for the State Forest Nursery located immediately west of the Administration Building. To get to the Nursery, take Duff Ave. (Hwy 69) to Airport Rd., turn east and then quickly south following the drive into the parking area.

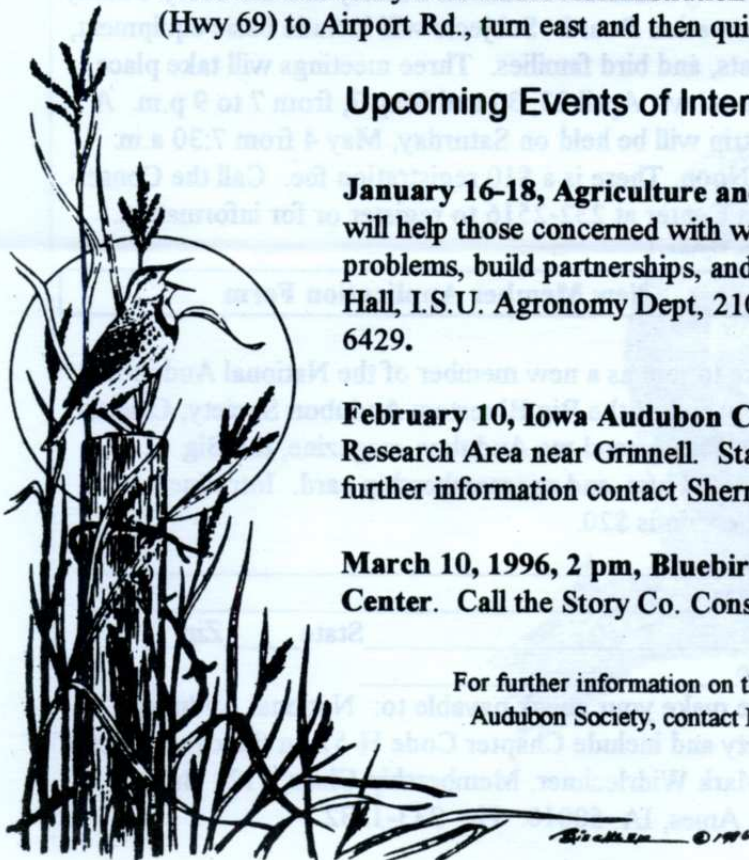
Upcoming Events of Interest

January 16-18, Agriculture and Environment Conference, I.S.U. This conference will help those concerned with water quality (lake, stream or faucet) identify the problems, build partnerships, and plans of action. For more information contact Elaine Hall, I.S.U. Agronomy Dept, 2104 Agronomy Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011, Ph. 294-6429.

February 10, Iowa Audubon Council Meeting, at Conard Environmental Research Area near Grinnell. Statewide environmental issues will be discussed. For further information contact Sherry Dragula at 233-1532.

March 10, 1996, 2 pm, Bluebird Workshop, McFarland Park Conservation Center. Call the Story Co. Conservation Board for more information, 232-2516.

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



AMES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1995

CANADA GOOSE	110
MALLARD	35
GREATER SCAUP	cw
COMMON GOLDENEYE	cw
NORTHERN HARRIER	1
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	4
COOPER'S HAWK	2
RED-TAILED HAWK	35
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	1
AMERICAN KESTREL	22
GRAY PARTRIDGE	3
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	147
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	7
RING-BILLED GULL	8
HERRING GULL	cw
ROCK DOVE	408
MOURNING DOVE	150
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	4
GREAT-HORNED OWL	11
BARRED OWL	2
SHORT-EARED OWL	1
BELTED KINGFISHER	14
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	1
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	63
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	1
DOWNY WOODPECKER	171
HAIRY WOODPECKER	43
NORTHERN FLICKER	10
HORNED LARK	7
BLUE JAY	176
AMERICAN CROW	9500
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	537
TUFTED TITMOUSE	25
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	81
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	171
BROWN CREEPER	24
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	6
AMERICAN ROBIN	11
CEDAR WAXWING	87
NORTHERN SHRIKE	3
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	1
EUROPEAN STARLING	2854
NORTHERN CARDINAL	208
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	402
SONG SPARROW	26
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	3
HARRIS' SPARROW	11
DARK-EYED JUNCO slate form	609
MEADOWLARK SP.	3
COMMON GRACKLE	140
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	10
PURPLE FINCH	28
HOUSE FINCH	108
PINE SISKIN	66
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	264
HOUSE SPARROW	1598
NUMBER OF SPECIES SEEN	51
TOTAL BIRDS COUNTED	18213

Ames Christmas Bird Count Held

The Ames Count was held on Saturday, December 16, 1995. More than 30 field participants and 15 feeder watchers spotted 51 species (some feeder reports not included in total). To the left you will find the unofficial tally. Many thanks to the participants, and especially to Dave Edwards and Mike Meetz for organizing the event and compiling the results, and to Dave and Jeanne Edwards for hosting the chili supper tally at their house.

1996 Winter Bird Feeder Survey

January 25-28, 1996 marks the dates of the Iowa Ornithologist's Union and Iowa Department of Natural Resources annual Bird Feeder Survey. A copy of the survey is enclosed in this newsletter. Directions are on the back of the form. Please help with this survey if you can. You need only survey your feeder two consecutive days during January 25-28.

Birdwatching for Beginners

A beginning birding class will be offered this spring by the Big Bluestem Audubon Society and the Story County Conservation Board. Subjects will include basic equipment, habitats, and bird families. Three meetings will take place on Tuesdays, April 23, 30 and May 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. A field trip will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 7:30 a.m. until Noon. There is a \$10 registration fee. Call the Conservation Center at 232-2516 to register or for information.

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, IA 50010. Ph: 233-1532

**1996 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 25-28, 1996 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 'ump-teen' or 'too many to count.'

Mail the completed form to me by February 11, 1996:

**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 Wildlife Diversity News and the I.O.U. newsletter.



BIRDFEEDER SURVEY JANUARY 25-28, 1996

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 25th to Sunday, January 28th*.
Count birds on two consecutive days only. Please record which days you counted birds for us in the space below.
Check one: ___ Thursday (1/25) and Friday (1/26),
 ___ Friday (1/26) and Saturday (1/27), or
 ___ Saturday (1/27) and Sunday (1/28).
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 1995-96? About _____
8. Comments or additional description of your feeder or yard:

HIGHEST NUMBER SEEN FOR EACH SPECIES DURING TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS

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

___ TOTAL DIFFERENT SPECIES SEEN

- ___ I want to receive the free Wildl. Diver. 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.

Mark your calendar now and be a participant in the very important 1996 Convention program that will feature political action, birds, and skills training!



**National Convention '96
June 8-12**

The American University
Washington, D.C.

Learning Labs

June 12-14, 15

Chesapeake Bay &
Important Bird Areas in PA

Registration materials available January 1996

Audubon Convention Office

4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5

Boulder, CO 80303

(303) 499-3622 • Fax (303) 499-0286

Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide Available

The new Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide is available at our Chapter monthly meetings. Don't wait too long to get your copy of this 95 page full-color paperback. It describes 77 viewing sites, viewing tips are offered, and suggestions are given on which species to look for. The price is \$8.95 with the proceeds going to Iowa's Wildlife Diversity program and our Big Bluestem Audubon. If you can't make it to our meetings and would like a copy, call Sherry Dragula at 233-1532 and she will mail you one (postage costs will be added).

While we are on the subject of Iowa's wildlife, the Wildlife Diversity Program needs your assistance. Please contact you state senator and representatives and let them know that you want wildlife diversity programs to continue and that you support the effort to find an adequate and stable funding source. For further information contact the Wildlife Research Station, 1436 255th St., Boone, IA 50036, 515-432-2823.

Audubon "Action Line"

The National Audubon Society operates an 800 number pre-recorded "Action Line" which provides a weekly update on pressing national environmental concerns. To listen to the "Action Line" call 1-800-659-2622. When you call you will also receive instructions on how you can help. It's an easy way to keep up-to-date and active on the environment.

Brekke's Coupon

A coupon appears below from Brekke's. Please note the expiration date is February 29, 1996. Use the coupon soon and remember that Brekke's has generously agreed to provide this coupon and make a donation to our Audubon Adventures Education program.

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

January 11 Meeting: Carl Kurtz, Prairie Reconstruction
February 8 Meeting: Larry Stone, Exploring the Des Moines River
March 7 Meeting: Stan Cyran & Kay Niyo, Costa Rica
April 11 Meeting: William Franklin
May 9 Meeting: Erwin Klaas on Restoration Ecology

Big Bluestem Audubon Society Board Members

President: Mark Widrechner, 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

Newsletter Editor: Sherry Dragula, 233-1532

Iowa Bird Sightings Hotline- 319-338-9881

National Audubon "Action Line"- 1-800-659-2622

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AMES IA 50010

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AMES, IOWA 50010
Jan./Feb. 1996