

BIG BLUESTEM FLYER

Volume 26, No. 9

Newsletter of the Mid-Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May 1991

MONTHLY MEETING

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK or All "A LOON" ON AN ISLAND

Michael C. Meetz, Past President,
Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Thursday May 16, 7:30 PM,
Room 181 Design Center, ISU

FIELD TRIPS

WARBLERS & WILDFLOWERS

Brookside Park
Saturday May 11. Meet at 7:30 AM
in the north parking lot at Brookside Park,
off 6th St. in Ames.

BIRDERS' BREAKFAST

Ledges State Park
Saturday June 8.
Meet in the upper picnic area at 7:30 AM for birding.
Bring your breakfast at 9:30 AM to the lower stone shelter.

For more information on Field Trips,
call Mike Meetz 382-2534

BIG BLUESTEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

1990-1991

President: Sherry Dragula, 292-4014

Vice-President: Andy Fix, 233-4956

Secretary: Kay Niyo, 292-5130

Treasurer: Mark Widrechner, 292-4014

Executive Board

Jon Bahrenfus, 432-3396

Nancy Dionigi, 233-3195

Diane Hellwig, 232-8185

Maridel Jackson, 964-0140

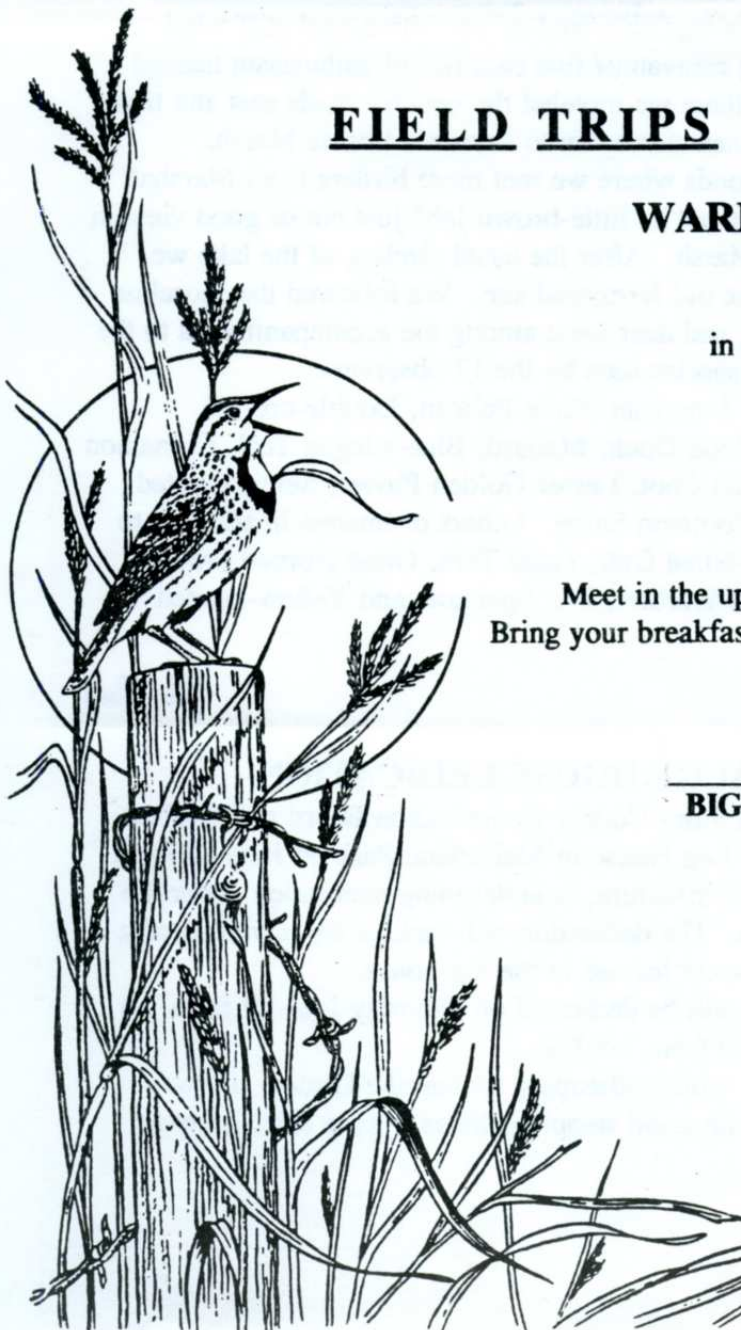
Tom Rosburg, 377-2930

Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

David Edwards, 292-3790

Field Trips Chair

Mike Meetz, 382-2534



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WOODCOCK WATCH REPORT

The evening of April the sixth was warm and clear. Some of the early birders did hear the "peet" of a single bird as they gathered near the gate to the Izaak Walton Chapter Park. That was to be the only demonstration of the evening. We "iked" to the northeast end of the pond and talked about what we would expect to hear. The wind proved too strong for much real woodcock activity, but those present enjoyed the clear night sky and seeing Jupiter and its four visible satellites. Background songs came from robins, cardinals, wood ducks, and a pair of passing blue herons.

Mike Meatz

APRIL SHOREBIRD FIELD TRIP REPORT

Friday night's rain "shore enuf" spread Saturday morning's waders and waterfowl all over the Story County countryside. The day was clear and sunny with a cool stiff wind blowing from the southwest. Our traveling caravan of five cars full of enthusiasm headed first to Ketelsen Greenwing Marsh. From there we traveled the country roads east and then south past the Holub's nursery "lake" and then east again to Larson's Prairie Marsh.

The main objective was the east Colo ponds where we met more birders from Marshall county. After spending time here arguing about a "little-brown-job" just out of good view in a field we headed south to Hendrickson's Marsh. After the usual circling of the lake we walked the trail from the west road up to the old farmstead site. We followed the shoreline and hedgerows back. Frogs, toads, turtles, and deer were among the accompaniments to the good variety of birds. There were 58 bird species seen by the 17 observers.

Among the target waterbirds seen were American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Coot, Lesser Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, and Common Snipe. Others of interest in addition to the expected and common birds were Ring-billed Gull, Least Tern, Great Horned Owl, Horned Lark, Water Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Mike Meatz

CONSERVATION CENTER & BAUGE HOUSE DEDICATION

The Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board will hold an open house/dedication at the Bauge Family Log House in McFarland Park on June 30 from 2-4:30 PM. The Bauge Log Home, an 1866 structure, is undergoing restoration under the direction of the Ames Heritage Association. The dedication will include the unveiling of a quilt made by the Neta Snook Questers Chapter for use in the log house.

The Story County Conservation Center will be dedicated on Saturday June 29 from 1-5 PM. It will also be open on Sunday June 30 from 1-5 PM.

BBAS members will be helping in May with landscaping around the Center. If you would like to lend a hand by laying wood chips and stepping stones, please call Sherry at 292-4014.

AUDUBON EXPANDS THE ACID RAIN NETWORK

The passage of the reauthorized federal Clean Air Act in November of 1990 has inspired the formation of the Citizen's International Acid Rain Network. This program is still in the planning stages. It is being designed to involve citizens from other nations in gathering and comparing data to demonstrate the need for international clean air legislation.

On the local scene, pH measurements taken at the Nevada collection station from 1/28/91 to 4/29/91 were 7.0, 5.5, 5.5, 5.25, 6.0, 5.5, 5.5, 5.7, 6.0, 5.0, 4.75, 4.25, 5.5, and 5.5. Remember that 5.6 is considered normal and the lower readings are acidic.

ANNUAL MEETING

The May 16 BBAS meeting is the official annual meeting of the society. Officers and 3 Board Members are to be elected and the budget for the coming year is to be approved. Please plan to attend. BBAS nominations for 1991-1992 are:

President: Sherry Dragula

Vice-President: Tom Rosburg

Secretary: Nancy Dionigi

Treasurer: Mark Widrlechner

Board Members: Kay Niyo, Mark Dobbe, Paul Ovrom

(Board members whose terms expire in 1992: Maridel Jackson, Jon Bahrenfus)

AMES HIGH PRAIRIE MAINTENANCE

One of the best local prairie natural areas is just west of the Ames High School. Join prairie preservationists for Wednesday evenings of weeding out invasive plants to encourage native prairie species. Work starts at 6 or 7 PM from May 15 - September 25. Volunteers will be asked to fill out forms for insurance reasons. If you have questions, call David Brenner at 292-3114.

SAYLORVILLE CLEAN-UP AND HIKE

There will be a litter pick-up (with beverage container proceeds going to BBAS) and hike at Saylorville Reservoir on Saturday July 13. We will meet at 7:30 AM at the Design Center parking lot to carpool to Saylorville. Plans are to be back at noon.

PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 91/92

There will be a Program Committee meeting in late May to plan the programs for next year's monthly meetings. If you have ideas for programs please contact a Board member.

THANKS

to Tom Rosburg, Mike Meetz, Kay Niyo, Nancy Dionigi, Paul Ovrom, & Mark Widrlechner for helping with the Ontario Cemetery Prairie burn and Mortensen Rd. Prairie clean-up; and to Nancy Dionigi and Wolfgang Oesterreich for handing out BBAS materials at the Earth Day Environmental Fair.

BBAS INCOME & EXPENSES

1 MAY 1990 TO 30 APRIL 1990

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 1991-92

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD

PROPOSED**90-91 91-92****INCOME**

NAS REBATE	2155.00	1950.00
DONATIONS	16.00	20.00
PROJECTS:		
AUD. ADV.	266.00	300.00
T-SHIRTS	261.00	25.00
BLUEBIRD	37.71	50.00
TOTAL	2735.71	2345.00

EXPENSES

COMMITTEE & CHAPTER PROJECTS		
PUBLICATIONS	1396.88	1270.00
PUBLICITY	27.52	40.00
CONSERVATION	1.26	50.00
EDUCATION	330.00	330.00
MEMBERSHIP	0.00	20.00
FIELD TRIPS	0.00	20.00
BIRD COUNTS	0.00	0.00
PROGRAM	43.00	50.00
T-SHIRTS	198.40	0.00
BLUEBIRD	37.71	50.00
MISC.	38.17	0.00
MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS		
IOWA AUDUBON COUNCIL	150.00	100.00
NATURE CONSERVANCY	35.00	35.00
STORY CO. CONS. BD.	75.00	75.00
OTHER		
INSURANCE	220.00	250.00
TOTAL	2552.94	2290.00

**NEWSLETTER
SCHEDULE**

This is the last newsletter you will receive until September when we resume our activities. Don't forget to come out for the June and July events listed in this newsletter.

Thanks are in order for Dave Edwards, our editor, for another year of assistance in getting the newsletter out to all of our members, and for keeping our membership list current.

Have a great summer!

Sherry Dragula

BIRDERS' HOTLINE

319/338-9881 for state-wide sightings.
712/262-5958 for northwest Iowa sightings.

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