Final Report
Lakes Grant

For Alma Area School
Prepared by Betty Glander

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December 2001

We have worked hard this year putting together an environmental science curriculum for the sixth grade students in Alma. It is incorporated with the local naturalist and is done in conjunction with the "Swan Watch" activity and the "Water Festival". We also work very closely with Fisheries and Buffalo County Land Conservation Department.

During the "Swan Watch", the sixth grade students participated in activities such as "Ducks on a Stick" which included duck identification. Then the students went to the platform and identified the different birds that were at Rieck's Lake Park for that day. The information was then posted on a Website. (Print out of that information is enclosed.) They also did a feather activity, that included identifying different feathers and looking at the characteristics of a feather. The students also participated in a sample count on how the scientist count the number of birds per square acreage.

During the "Water Festival", we do a variety of activities. We used dip nets to survey the macro invertebrates in Rieck's Lake Park and we tested the water quality and temperature. This information was also posted on a Website for others to see. We collected plant samples and dried them. We then used reference books to identify the different plants that we collected from the lake. The students also take a bus tour of the Buffalo Watershed. They discuss the impacts that the farmers and community members have on the lake. We also visit Mirror Lake to discuss the differences between the two lakes and how what happens in their lake effects us in Alma at Rieck's Lake Park.

The Buffalo County Land Conservation Department sets up the tour.

I also had two students participate in the annual crane count. They were located at various points on Highway 37. The crane count coordinator assigned these. (Enclosed are the results from our area.)

There was also a student that participated as a Swan Watch Volunteer. She was also asked to participate in a taping of a Wisconsin Environmental Television Program, *Into the Outdoors*. It will be airing in January 2002.

This is a very educational experience for the students. They learn a lot about the lake and the impacts that the lake has on nature. The students also became more active in their community by volunteering in the Swan Watch and the Crane Count. It is so rewarding to see youth take an interest in the environment around them.

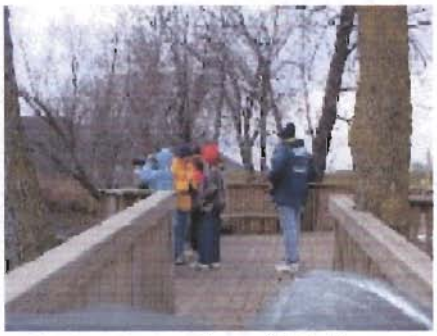
Rieck's Lake Park Water Quality

Welcome to the Sixth Grade Rieck's Lake Park Water Quality Testing Website. Each Fall a Sixth Graders from Alma Elementary will conduct tests for the water quality at Rieck's La will also take a sample and look for the different invertebrates that are found in the wat

- Calendar
- Lake Site Monitoring Data
- Pictures of the Activites

Testing the Water

With the help of Laura, the students tested the acidity and the dissoved oxygen of the wa took the temperature of the water.



Sixth Grade Swan Watch

On Friday, October 26, the sixth graders from Alma the swan watch at Rieck's Lake Park. The first activ was ducks on a stick. We learned about ducks and h dichotomous key. From the key we learned how to i ducks. Next we went to the observation platform. T lot of beautiful birds. We saw a tundra swan, bald e heron, Canada goose, northern shoveler, mallard, w duck, and a coot. There were about 77 swans there inside to the history of Rieck's Lake Park. There we park was once a farm field. It was formed when the lock and the dam was put in. All of t valley is washing into the lake. Next we went learned about counting waterfowl. There w that would tell us how many swans are in an area on an average. We learned how to the do counts of waterfowl. Next we learned about feathers. We learned about different kin how they are used. We learned how they keep them warm, how they use them for flying, are shaped.

Go back to: Wisconsin Communities < Alma Community

Home Page

Calendar
Lake Site Monitoring
Rieck's Lake Park

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Pictures of the Activites - Rieck's Lake Park Water Quality

Water Walking

The students used dip nets to collect specimens f Park.

Looking for Invertebrates

The students looked through the water to find th invertebrates that are found in the water.

Identifying the Invertebrates

After finding the invertebrates the students had to identify them and count how many of each that they found.

Go back to: Wisconsin Communities < Alma Community

Home Page

Calendar

Lake Site Monitoring

Rieck's Lake Park

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Lake Site Monitoring Data

Lake Site Monitoring Data from 9/20/20

Time: 12:30 p.m. Weather conditions: Hazy sunlight, warn calm, water surface is calm, lake level normal Water appe grey, bottom coating along the shoreline is brown. Lake bc black mud, sticks, sand Plant covering shoreline 25% Trees shrubs Water temperature 64 degrees pH level 6.0 Dissolve mg/ml 5.0 Immature Aquatic Invertebrates: Dragonfly Nym Nymph,Whirligig Beetle, Midge Larva Mature Aquatic Organisms: Scud, Aquatic Sow Bug, Beetle, Dragon Fly, Damsel Fly

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Midwest Sandhill Crane Count 2001 Results

The next four pages contain the results of Crane Count 2001 (all data returned to ICF by November 1st are included).

Map

Pages 6-7 contain the map of the five-state Crane Count area. The map illustrates total crane sightings by county (how many cranes were seen or heard in each county during the two-hour Crane Count period). Counties that participated in the Count are shown in varying shades of grey, depending upon how many cranes were observed.

Remember that the number of cranes observed or heard during Crane Count does not tell us precisely how many cranes are found in any given county. Factors such as weather conditions during the Count, number of sites counted, and number of counters must also be considered when we use Crane Count data to estimate crane population trends.

Tables

Pages 8-9 contain a table for each Crane Count state: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The tables provide a county-by-county interpretation of 2001 Crane Count data. Statistics presented are: number of cranes (seen or heard), number of pairs (determined by unison calls heard), number of observers, and number of sites.

Below is a table showing state-by-state and overall totals.

***Please note that early morning thunderstorms throughout Wisconsin may have significantly affected this year's total of cranes observed.

Crane Count State Totals

State	Pairs	Cranes	Observers
Wisconsin	2,116	9,615	2,090
Michigan	89	265	154
Minnesota	12	37	14
Illinois	30	103	120
Iowa	3	19	69
Total:	2,250	10,039	2,447

Crane Count 2001 Results By County
Wisconsin

County	Cranes	Pairs	Observers	Sites
Adams	76	22	20	11
Ashland	0	0	4	4
Barron	33	11	16	9
Bayfield	5	1	8	6
Brown	29	8	50	32
Buffalo	35	11	36	17
Burnett	77	14	50	27
Calumet	96	24	32	19
Chippewa	92	23	36	19
Clark	156	35	58	31
Columbia	970	137	139	68
Crawford	75	28	21	10
Dane	594	107	168	88
Dodge	406	86	108	55
Door	78	13	39	19
Douglas	3	0	17	12
Dunn	41	14	32	16
Eau Claire	36	13	18	10
Florence	4	0	5	4
Fond du Lac	97	21	14	8
Forest	25	11	9	7
Grant	26	9	9	7
Green	41	17	19	15
Green	207	34	33	19
Iowa	82	18	35	17
Iron	14	6	8	6
Jackson	105	47	28	15
Jefferson	470	124	101	61
Juneau	183	55	39	27
Kenosha	36	14	13	8
Kewaunee	2	1	7	5
LaCrosse	39	13	23	11
LaFayette	7	3	3	3
Langlade	28	10	1	1
Lincoln	64	14	23	14
Manitowoc	60	22	17	10

County	Cranes	Pairs	Observers	Sites
Marathon	255	65	50	28
Marinette	71	20	25	12
Marquette	989	212	143	81
Milwaukee	2	1	8	4
Monroe	167	31	35	17
Oconto	141	53	24	22
Oneida	84	34	44	26
Outagamie	394	54	45	25
Ozaukee	17	8	3	1
Pepin	3	0	10	6
Pierce	0	0	12	12
Portage	164	30	88	62
Price	45	10	63	32
Racine	13	3	3	3
Richland	107	26	37	20
Rock	261	18	56	21
Rusk	74	27	18	8
Sauk	213	70	83	42
Sawyer	5	1	13	8
Shawano	288	37	12	9
Sheboygan	49	9	29	14
St. Croix	10	4	33	15
Taylor	60	18	23	15
Trempealeau	100	34	47	26
Vernon	9	2	5	4
Vilas	4	1	10	5
Walworth	53	14	26	14
Washburn	21	10	24	18
Washington	2	1	1	1
Waukesha	170	38	42	24
Waupaca	31	7	7	6
Waushara	859	180	103	70
Winnebago	441	80	59	33
Wood	223	52	46	25