

Ames Audubon Society

October Newsletter 1976

Barney Cook, Editor

517 Hayward Ave, Ames, Iowa

292-8833

OCTOBER PROGRAM

WHAT: Skunk River Greenbelt Update

WHO: Steve Lekwa

WHEN: Tuesday, October 12, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Room 122, Kildee Hall, ISU

Steve Lekwa works for Story County as park ranger at McFarland Park. But more importantly he was raised in the Skunk River Valley and has come to love its relatively unspoiled charms. He feels strongly that the valley must be saved. Our continuing support and action by individual members will be critical now that the dam issue is at least temporarily postponed. Steve will report on progress to date and what we might do to help. Plan to attend.

October Field Trip: Our field trip this month will be at Hendrickson's Marsh on Saturday, October 16 at 10am. We will meet at the north parking lot on the east side of the marsh. To reach the marsh, drive east on highway 30 past Colo to the Marshal County line. A sign pointing to the marsh is on the corner. Turn south on the gravel road for about five miles to reach the marsh. The marsh is dry this year but no one should have any trouble recognizing it as the road crosses the marsh. Mr. Chuck Lebeda, a wildlife biologist from the State Conservation Commission will conduct a discussion on marsh management. Many of you will recall the article in the Des Moines Register a month ago in which local farmers criticized draining the marsh. We will learn the reasons for such action and what will be accomplished. No other type of habitat supports as much wildlife as marshlands. This trip should be of interest to all our members.

Some of us will arrive at 8:30 am to bird before the scheduled program. No waterfowl will be present but some shorebirds may still be found at the marsh. Hawks are oftenseen and it is good for sparrows and other song birds in trees around the marsh. Short-eared Owls have inhabited the marsh. If you need transportation, call Barney Cook (tel. 292-8833)

September field trip: We met at Brookside Park to see effects of the drought and see a few birds. We thank Mr. Jeff Dawson for his interesting observations about the drought. Twentyone species of birds were found including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-and-white Warbler, and Am. Redstart. But for many the most exciting event was the sighting of a mink in the dry creek bed. It was seen for several minutes at close range.

IOU Meeting: The fall meeting of the IOU was held in Cedar Rapids. About 75 persons were in attendance including Pete Peterson, Woody Brown, Nick Halmi and Karl Kurtz wellknown Iowa birders. The Sunday census found 88 species. Barney Cook was the only attendee from Ames.

Birding Story County (Barney Cook)

The drought worsened during the month. As a result the birds became more concentrated near water as the water holes became scarcer. Both the Skunk River and Squaw Creek are dry. A pool of water near the north end of Brookside Park has been especially good for birding all month. Among the birds noted at this one spot, I include: Eastern Phoebes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Warbling Vireos, Solitary Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated-Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow. This list does not include all sightings made. The site still continues to be good at the end of the month.

Geese have been seen flying over Ames for at least a week. John Hill reports several Red-tailed Hawks in trees in south Ames while Janet Coy still see them near her home. The Marsh Hawk was seen in McFarland Park while the Broad-winged Hawks were migrating in circles high over Ames. The Sanderling, Least Sandpipers and Water Pipit were found at Little Wall Lake along the south shore. Pete Peterson had found some pipits there two years ago when the IOU was meeting in Ames. I have returned several times since to add a bird to my Iowa list. This year I succeeded for both pipits and sanderlings were new for me in Iowa.

The most unexpected sightings this month were the Western Kingbird seen by the Millers and the Common Raven noted by John Love. Both birds are starred on the IOU checklist which means they are rarely seen in Iowa. Other more unusual sightings include the Golden-winged Warbler at Lois Carr's feeder (I saw one in Brookside as well) This species is a life bird for both of us. Other welcome sightings were the Blue-winged Warbler and the Black-throated Green Warbler found in Brooks.

Chimney Swifts and Nighthawks were abundant early but are now gone. A flock of about forty nighthawks was seen swarming near Elwood Drive. At the end of the month Dark-eyed Juncos had returned. White-throated Sparrows were abundant and other sparrows are being seen. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets are present in good number. Jeff Ruprecht reports looking out the window of Old Botany down on the trees alive with Yellow-rumped and Nashville Warblers. Orange-crowned and Nashville warblers are still here as well as Ovenbirds. Catbirds and Phoebes can still be found. The numbers of Flickers seem up while Red-headed Woodpeckers are less common than last year. The woodland have many Robins. Food must be much more available there than in the sun-baked lawns of Ames.

We Should expect good weather during October and the birds are still here. Try a little birding. Expect to see Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Kinglets, Yellow-rumped and a few other warblers, and Hermit Thrushes. Water fowl should be here if you can find water.

Observers this month include: Jeff Ruprecht, Sven Gafvert, Janet Coy, John Hill, Lois Carr, Jim Dinsmore, Terry Quinn, Lotus Miller and John Love as well as my sightings.

Species noted: September 1976

1. Canada Goose
3. Red-tailed Hawk
5. Am. Kestrel
7. Ring-necked Pheasant
9. Killdeer
11. Lesser Yellowleg
13. Sanderling
15. Gull (sp. Franklin or Bonaparte)
17. Mourning Dove
19. Black-billed Cuckoo
21. Common Nighthawk
23. Belted Kingfisher
25. Red-bellied Woodpecker
27. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
29. Downy Woodpecker
31. Western Kingbird
33. Eastern Phoebe
35. Eastern Wood Peewee
37. Bank Swallow
39. Blue Jay
41. Common Crow
43. Tufted Titmouse
45. Red-breasted Nuthatch
47. House Wren
49. Brown Trasher
51. Wood Thrush
53. Swainson Thrush
55. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
57. Water Pipit
59. Solitary Vireo
61. Black-and-White Warbler
63. Blue-winged Warbler
65. Orange-crowned Warbler
67. Magnolia Warbler
69. Black-throated Green Warbler
71. Northern Water-thrush
73. Wilson's Warbler
75. House Sparrow
77. Common Grackle
79. Northern Cardinal
81. Purple Finch
83. Rufous-sided Towhee
85. Harris Sparrow
87. White-crowned Sparrow
89. Lincoln Sparrow
91. Song Sparrow
2. Snow Goose (snow & blue phase)
4. Broad-winged Hawk
6. Marsh Hawk
8. Am. Coot
10. Spotted Sandpiper
12. Solitary Sandpiper
13. Least Sandpiper
16. Rock Dove
18. Yellow-billed Cuckoo
20. Great-horned Owl
22. Chimney Swift
24. Common Flicker
26. Red-headed Woodpecker
28. Hairy Woodpecker
30. Eastern Kingbird
32. Great-crested Flycatcher
34. Least Flycatcher
36. Barn Swallow
38. Purple Martin
40. Common Raven
42. Black-capped Chickadee
44. White-breasted Nuthatch
46. Brown Creeper
48. Catbird
50. Am. Robin
52. Hermit Thrush
54. Gray-cheeked Thrush
56. Golden-crowned Kinglet
58. Starling
60. Warbling Vireo
62. Golden-winged Warbler
64. Tennessee Warbler
66. Nashville Warbler
68. Yellow-rumped Warbler
70. Ovenbird
72. Yellowthroat
74. Am. Redstart
76. Red-winged Blackbird
78. Brown-headed Cowbird
80. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
82. Am. Goldfinch
84. Dark-eyed Junco
86. White-throated Sparrow
88. Fox Sparrow
90. Swamp Sparrow





Wilmer & Lotus Miller
 218 Parkridge Circle
 Ames

16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

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Next Tues. 8 A.M. Stevens & Dr. John P. King
 Hollistown Chronicle