

# AMES AUDUBON

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. II, No. 6

Ames, Iowa

November 2, 1969

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### Calendar of Coming Events

Wednesday, November 5, 8 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union, I.S.U. Our first National Audubon Wildlife Film program, featuring Mr. Kent Durden, eminent nature photographer. He will present his full-color and sound film, "Death Valley-Land of Contrast." See elsewhere this issue for more details.

Thursday, November 11, room 124, Kildee Hall, I.S.U. This meeting was announced in our October Newsletter. A special business meeting of our full membership will start at 7:30 p.m. At 8:30, Mr. Ed Brigham, Northern Midwest representative of the National Audubon Society, will present his timely talk and color-slide program entitled, "Conservation is Choices." See elsewhere this issue for more details.

December, first week, exact date and time to be decided at Nov. 11 business meeting. Christmas Bird Count and other timely items.

Monday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., Kildee Auditorium, I.S.U., Program on the Everglades National Park in Florida. This will be sponsored by Ames Audubon and will focus on one of the major conservation controversies in the nation today. This is a perfect example where conflicting interests and philosophies clash head-on. Do the American people want to save a unique subtropical National Park to be enjoyed by people and wildlife today and in years to come, or will it be destroyed to make way for new industrial and housing developments, or are there alternate solutions?? The issues are quite clear-cut. We are working on lining up a first-class program, including information on the history and natural features of the area and on the latest activities. The aim is to provide the information so that those in attendance can better decide what stand they wish to take on the matter. We have ordered 2 films available on a loan basis and Jim Rod has agreed to show and discuss some of his slides that he and his brother Doug took last summer. We hope to have a member of the I.S.U. Ecology Group discuss the Ecology.

December, Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Ames area. With more experienced birders than ever in our group, this year's effort promises to be a most interesting and useful project that all can participate in. More detailed plans will be made at the Dec. Ex. Board Mtg.

### "DEATH VALLEY \*- LAND OF CONTRAST"

with Kent Durden

On Wednesday evening of Nov. 5, Ames Audubon will sponsor the first National Audubon Wildlife Film program ever shown in Ames. These are produced by the National Audubon Society and are now in their 27th successful season. Over 1500 such programs will be shown in about 250 No. American cities, large and small, this season. Included are 8 Iowa communities. Without question they are, as a group, the very highest quality programs on wildlife, wilderness, and conservation available anywhere today. We sincerely and deeply feel that our club can take great pride in bringing these films to Ames for the enjoyment (cont'd on p. 2)

(cont'd from p. 1) and inspiration of area residents.

Mr. Durden has had a distinguished career in nature photography. A native Californian with a B.S. degree in Biology, he has contributed footage to Walt Disney and "Lassie" TV productions. He has produced 2 documentaries, "Deserted Island" and "Sky Skipper", which have been on nationwide TV. He currently also produces educational nature films. In addition, Kent Durden has lectured throughout So. California with 2 of his productions, "Eagle Sense" and "Deserted Island".

The program will last about 90 minutes or more, depending on audience participation in a question-and-answer session at the close. The actual running time of the films is about 70 min., in 2 reels. They are in full color with a sound track of natural sounds and amusical background. Mr. Durden will narrate the program in person.

Proceeds go to support local conservation programs of the Ames Audubon Society and the I.S.U. Botany Club, which will share any net receipts. We are cautiously optimistic about a good turnout, so we advise that you come early for better seats. The program starts at 8 p.m. and the doors will open at 7 p.m. We are confident about the sound system. A major problem is with parking, as meters around the Union are only for 1 hour. The Union ramp is available, however, with easy access to the Union. Rates are 15¢ for the first hour and 10¢ per additional hr. Free parking is available at the foot of the hill east of the Union, if you don't mind a little walk. Please try to attend and bring your friends. We promise you an enjoyable and interesting evening.

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FULL MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING AND PROGRAM - Tuesday, Nov. 11 in Room 124, Kildee Hall, I.S.U. A number of urgent items need to be considered by the full membership at that time. These include attendance at meetings of the Executive Board, a report on the Audubon Wildlife Film program on Nov. 5, a consideration and a vote on contracting for the Audubon Wildlife Films for next season, a vote on incorporation, and consideration and a vote on a proposed constitutional amendment to lower adult and family membership dues. Decisions on the above are very crucial for the continued successful growth of our club. The vote of every member will be vital. A note will be sent to all members before Nov. 11, giving more details. We hope we can line up some useful door prizes.

We also have a very fine program lined up for after the business meeting. Mr. Edward Brigham, Northern Midwest representative of the National Audubon Society, has agreed to come to Ames on that date to meet with our group and to present his talk and color-slide program, "Conservation is Choices." Mr. Brigham is a very able and highly respected leader in the conservation movement, and we are indeed happy that he will be here. Space does not permit listing all of Ed's background and training. Before assuming his present position, he was president of the very active Michigan Audubon Society. He is Editor of the fine publication, "The Trail", of the North Central Audubon Councils. He is active in the controversy over DDT, pollution in the Great Lakes and the plans to establish a National Park in the No. Minnesota canoe country. He also is trying to organize an Audubon Council for the state of Iowa.

This will be a full evening, so we plan to start at 7:30 p.m. Hopefully we can conclude it by 8:15 or so. After a short break, we can then hear Mr. Brigham. That's Nov. 11 (Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m. in room 124 of Kildee Hall, I.S.U. Please plan to attend. This meeting is urgent.

A Short Note on Membership

The life-blood of any organization such as ours are the members we have and the new members we attract. We certainly need to make a greater effort to improve and enlarge our activities and projects so as to merit getting more new members from the community. But, it takes active member participation to accomplish this. Each of us needs to critically ask ourself if we are really doing all we could to boost and improve our club and to get our friends to join with us in our efforts. You can ask yourself, "How many new members have I helped to bring into Ames Audubon?" Several members are doing an excellent job. How about you? You can start now by bringing a friend to the Wildlife Film this Wednesday or to our Nov. 11 meeting. Give a friend a copy of the Newsletter or tell us their names and we'll be happy to send them each issue. Thanks.

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NEW MEMBERS

We are most pleased to announce and sincerely welcome to our club Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Zinober and Doug Rod of Ames. Dr. Zinober is a Scientist with the Nat. Animal Disease Lab. and has long had a deep interest in the conservation movement. Doug Rod graduated from Iowa State last May in Landscape Architecture and is the co-author of a very fine research report entitled, "A Historic Preservation Program for the Community of Ames, Iowa". We all certainly look forward to meeting them personally at our next event and extending a most cordial welcome. We also pledge our best effort to merit their expression of confidence.

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NOTES ON RECENT EVENTS

Our major events in October were the 2 programs featuring the 3-M films, "Three Young Americans: In Search of Survival", relating to today's environmental problems. An estimated 300-350 persons attended on October 6 and close to 400 on October 8. We had some sound trouble the first night which detracted from the program, but the second night was excellent in all respects. The response of the audience was very gratifying. It was generally agreed that the second night was by far one of our best programs to date, along with Dr. Landers' Rachel Carson Lecture last year. We certainly wish to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Adela Elwell, Gerald Robinson, and Jim Rod of Ames Audubon for their active participation. Also, we want to thank Dr. Landers and Prof. Trauger of the I.S.U. Ecology Group for serving so ably as moderators. Their group co-sponsored the programs with Ames Audubon.

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Dr. Milton Weller, world famous wildlife scientist (and Ames Audubon member) recently departed for Antarctica where he will do some work with penguins. We understand he will return to Ames about Dec. 1 after a stop in Hawaii. Last year Dr. Weller travelled to Alaska and the area of the North Sea.

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When our club is able to do so, financially, we may wish to consider expanding our contacts with other recognized and reputable conservation organizations. Two of those that might be considered are the following: The Iowa Ornithologists Union, a non-profit corporation, devoted to encourage the study of, interest in and protection of birds in the state. Membership includes a subscription to their fine publication, "Iowa Bird Life." Also, The National Parks Association, a non-profit corporation devoted to defending and enlarging our parks system. A publication is included with membership.

Ames Election Notes

On Tuesday, November 4, local citizens will vote in the municipal elections. Many of the candidates for office have stressed conservation and related problems in their statements. This certainly reflects a growing awareness of the environmental needs in Ames and elsewhere in the country. We sincerely believe Ames Audubon has made a major contribution during the past 18 months in helping to alert local people- both young and old- to the need for protecting wildlife and our parks, conserving our natural resources, and improving our natural environment, in general.

This year marks the retirement from the Park Commission of Mr. Lloyd Kurtz after 18 years of distinguished and dedicated service. Mr. Kurtz was recognized last spring by Ames Audubon in being selected for our first annual "Conservationist of the Year" award. Ames will sorely miss Mr. Kurtz' active role in park development.

Mr. George Clark III is the only announced candidate for the vacating position on the Park Commission. His recent statement in the Ames Tribune certainly merits repeating here. In part, it is as follows:

"The citizens of Ames can be justly proud of the accomplishments of our present Park Commission. The park system of the city of Ames is second to none. As a member of this commission I would therefore propose to continue its current plans and activities with the same goal of providing an ever-increasing acreage of park facilities.... Situated at the confluence of 2 beautiful streams Ames enjoys a natural location for the improvement and expansion of public park facilities. I would therefore propose to do all within my power to insure that these flood plains and contiguous wooded areas are preserved for recreation and enjoyment.. Foresight and planning at all levels of government, coupled with the cooperation of all citizens, are necessary in this regard."

This very fine statement certainly speaks for itself.

We believe Ames is very fortunate to have a man of Mr. Clark's ability and sentiments ready to step into Lloyd Kurtz' big shoes. The future looks bright for the Ames park system. We of Ames Audubon pledge our cooperation in these efforts in any way we can. We believe our Nature Trail project in Brookside Park is a step in this direction.

A NOTE TO ALL NON-MEMBERS OF AMES AUDUBON:

We would be very happy to continue sending our newsletters to you, under no obligation, whatsoever. All we ask is that you send us the following form with your name and address filled in. If you have already sent in such a form, ignore this reminder. Thank you.

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Yes, I would like to continue receiving the Ames Audubon Newsletter in the future with the full understanding there will be no obligation, whatsoever, to me or to my family.

Mail to; Ames Audubon Newsletter  
2414 Kellogg  
Ames, Iowa 50010  
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\_\_\_ Check here if you also wish membership information.