

# Ames Audubon Society

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 1975

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## IT'S PICNIC TIME AGAIN

Our June meeting will be the annual picnic at Brookside Park. We'll eat at 6:00 Sun. evening June 15th. Come and bring your own service and supper. We'll eat by the fire engine on the north side of the park. For those with an abundance of energy take a stroll through the park and listen to the vesper songs of the birds. There will probably be a group watching the grass grow so take your pick.

## SUMMER FIELDTRIPS

Our hearty troop leader Sven Gafvert has come up with a couple of fine sounding trips for the summer so try to make both of them. Sven gets frightened when he is out in the wilds alone so come along and help keep him company. Bring a friend or two!

July 12th - We'll be taking another look at more of our fine Greenbelt system. We'll walk the old stagecoach road north of the H tree. This winds along the river so we should have some fine opportunities for bird and flower looking. We'll meet at the northeast corner of the North Grand parking lot (in front of the Penney store) at 9:00 Sat. morning and share rides from there.

August 16th - We'll be taking a walk through a summer prairie east of Ellsworth. The flowers should be at their best so bring your plant guides and get ready for a treat. Since this is approximately 30 miles away we will be meeting and sharing rides. We'll gather at the same place as our July meeting, North Grand parking lot, and leave from there at 9 o'clock Sat. morning.

Also, try to take a couple of trips to our own Ames prairie this summer. Usually they have a guided tour around July 4th and sometimes another one on Labor Day. Watch the Ames paper for the exact time. Also, we go out by ourselves several times each summer. We can't identify everything but we do enjoy the walk. Don't forget some sulfur in your shoes. Chigars line up right on the east boundary line and wait for dinner so be prepared.

## JUNE BOARD MEETING

The officers and board will meet Thursday June 12 at 7:30 PM at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Ruprecht, 1429 16th (near the high school). Thirteenth Street is an insurmountable barrier so plan to use either Grand or 24th. We will determine how many meetings and other activities we will hold next year and discuss programs.

## BIRDING IN STORY COUNTY by B. Cook

This month's report is confined almost entirely to my own sightings except for a few made by Jeff Ruprecht (JR). Since I spent the best of the spring migration in the hospital, my birding was somewhat limited. However, in spite of this rotten luck a "birdoholic" rested in bed in early May, I sighted 65 species in six trips.

Mallards, blue winged teal were sighted in East Riverside Park while Wood Ducks were seen at McFarland Lake.

JR reports the Am. Kestrels are still at Old Botany while a turkey vulture was seen above E. Riverside Park. Chimney swifts are abundant in town during the day and Nighthawks are seen at dusk. Red-headed Woodpeckers are abundant this year. Flycatchers noted included E. Kingbirds, Great Crested, Willow and E. Wood Peewee. I missed most swallows but noted Barn and Purple Martin. Winter friends seen included Blue Jays, Black-Capped Chickadees and a Tufted Titmouse in Brookside. Red and White-breasted Nuthatches also.

Catbirds and especially Brown Thrashers are seen and heard in good numbers.

Of the Thrushes Swainson's and the Gray-Cheeked were seen at the end of the migration while a Veery was recently noted in Brookside.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Black & White W., Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll and Wilson's Warblers were all seen the second week in May during late migration. Yellow Warblers and Yellowthroats are nesting at McFarland Lake and Am. Redstarts in Brookside. JR noted a Northern Waterthrush at the Ledges.

A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at E. Riverside during migration while Brookside has several Red-Eyed asking and answering questions. Also seen were Bobolink and Baltimore (Northern) Orioles, Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White Throated, White-crowned and Song Sparrows.