

AMES AUDUBON

NEWSLETTER

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Ames, Iowa

August 10, 1969

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Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, August 12, 8 p.m., Ames Public Library Auditorium. Special full-membership business meeting. See below for more details.

Tuesday, September 9, Ames Public Library Auditorium. Regular full-membership meeting to launch the new program year. Dr. and Mrs. Wilmer Miller are scheduled to present a colored slide program on the Natural History of Western Oklahoma. More details in the September Newsletter.

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m., Great Hall, ISU Memorial Union. Two-hour full-color motion picture on "Three Young Americans: In Search of Survival". Free conservation film spectacular to be presented through the courtesy of the 3-M company of Minnesota. More details later.

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m., Kildee Auditorium, ISU. Repeat showing of above 3-M film.

Tuesday, October, 14, 8 p.m. Place to be announced. Ames Audubon Executive Board Meeting.

Wednesday, November 5, 8 p.m., Great Hall, ISU Memorial Union. Our First Audubon Wildlife Film program, by Kent Duxden on, "Death Valley-Land of Contrast."

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SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING - TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 8 p.m., in AMES LIBRARY

Four major items of business need to be considered:

(1) Election of a new Ames Audubon Secretary to replace Miss Darlene Clark, Darlene was elected to this position at our May meeting, but she has recently moved to Des Moines because of her new job there with the Iowa Social Services Department. We will miss her very much because of her active participation and sincere support for the Audubon cause. Please attend and be prepared to vote for the candidate of your choice for this very important position.

(2) Consideration of amendments and additions to our constitution. The proposed articles were mailed to all members in the Ames area about July 25 for consideration. These were offered in the hopes of filling in some gaps and clarifying other sections mainly to improve the operation of our organization. Once this is done to the satisfaction of concerned members, we can print our completed constitution and distribute copies to all members and prospective members. Then we will all have a better idea as to where exactly we stand. We also need a completed constitution in order to apply for incorporation as a non-profit organization under Iowa Law and to qualify for tax-exempt consideration by Federal and State authorities. All members are urged to study carefully the proposals and bring their copy with them to the Aug. 12 meeting. Don't forget, it takes a 2/3 vote to win approval for any section.

(3) Membership and Financial report from Gerald Robinson, Club Treasurer. New members can sign up at this time and old members who have not yet done so can renew their memberships.

(4) Consideration of our Nature Trails project for Brookside Park. This project is not dead by any means. We intend to move ahead on it as rapidly as possible in the weeks ahead. (Continued on page 2.)

We plan to have one or more field trips in the area in the immediate future. These will be discussed at the Aug. 12 meeting. Our first job is to agree on the actual trail routes. Then we can work on individual sites and start preparing the information folders. This promises to be a most challenging and rewarding project. It is hoped that we can have full membership participation.

(5) Other business items also need to be discussed.

Please note the time- 8 p.m. Norm Hamilton currently is working on a highway project about 75 miles from Ames. He could not promise to make it back in time for the meeting (they often work late if concrete is being poured) so had to withdraw his offer of presenting a slide program at this time. (There still is a very slim chance however) The business meeting should not last over about an hour. We promise no unnecessary delays, so please make every effort to attend. Your cooperation is vital to the success of our organization and its projects.

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THE MOSQUITO PROBLEM

On Wednesday, July 16, Dr. Wayne Rowley, ISU Entomologist, presented a special timely program at the Ames Library on "Mosquitoes and Their Importance in Iowa." It was a hot and muggy typical Iowa summer evening when most people prefer to remain indoors with air conditioning. So, the attendance of about 30 adults might be considered a good turnout, taking everything into account.

Dr. Rowley discussed the biology of the mosquito, its distribution and activity in Iowa, and some on control. His talk was reported in fine, detailed stories by the Ames Daily Tribune (Thursday, July 17) and by the Des Moines register (Sunday, July 20) with an article by Otto Knauth, one of Iowa's foremost nature writers, who attended the program. We will list only a few of the highlights here.

Mosquitoes are very prolific and lay eggs mainly on ponds, stagnant pools, new excavations, tree crotches, bird baths, cans, etc., where water is not flowing. Individuals can help greatly in keeping down mosquito populations by changing bird bath water often and getting rid of other standing water sites on their premises. But we can't ever hope to eliminate completely the mosquito without destroying all other forms of life on earth, including man. They are a part of our natural environment, although no useful purpose is known for them.

Only the female mosquito bites animals, including man, according to Rowley- as a blood meal apparently is necessary before she can lay her eggs. Mosquitoes zero in on human victims with finely tuned sensory organs. The welt is caused by the salivary juices injected into the skin preceding the withdrawal of blood. Some diseases are caused by viruses carried by certain species in Iowa. While this danger generally is small, Dr. Rowley strongly urged that people should take precautions. The best way is to apply one of the common mosquito repellents to exposed skin whenever one is in an area where mosquitoes are present.

So far as control is concerned, this apparently is very difficult due to extensive breeding sites and increasing genetic resistance by mosquitoes to pesticides. Dr. Harold Gunderson, ISU Extension Entomologist present, belittled the role of birds, especially the purple martin, in mosquito control, and also the dangers of DDT to humans. However, he did not claim DDT would control mosquitoes. Distinguished ISU Entomology Professor Paul Dahm made a strong case against the use of DDT and other so-called hard pesticides for mosquito control. He (Cont'd p. 3)

(cont'd from p. 2) recommended pyrethrum and some of the new lethal but non-persistent products such as Abate and Dibrom. The latter is presently being used for mosquito spraying in residential areas in Ames. (Note: Dibrom is a deadly poison-don't let it settle on people and pets. The birds also likely are adversely affected. The only good feature is that it readily decomposes in nature. It can also affect plants. Severe damage was noted on some leaves of trees. It is recommended that these be hosed down after the aerial spraying.) We certainly appreciate Dr. Rowley's efforts and the participation of all who attended. Following the program, everyone enjoyed ice-cold fruit punch and cookies. It was a lively and interesting program and another in our series dedicated to our efforts in promoting a sane approach to nature through education.

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Letters to Ames Audubon

The following three letters were received over the past several months. We believe every Audubon member can gain much satisfaction from them. Their messages should strengthen our common resolve to pursue with even greater effort the conservation activities of our Society in the critical period ahead. We would like to share them with all readers of our Newsletter.

Ames, Iowa April 25, 1969

Ames Audubon Society:

The Conservation Award given to me by the Ames Audubon Society is much appreciated and most highly valued. Thank you very much for this distinguished recognition. ... The heading, "Conservationist", has its value too in calling attention to our Park Commission program for preserving these natural and historic areas for the Ames Community.

As I have mentioned in the past, one could name 25 additional people who have made a sizeable personal and monetary contribution in helping to develop the Ames park system and have a share in the accomplishments.

As a Park Commission, we have very much appreciated the interest of the Audubon Society and its members in these areas. By virtue of their activities they have called attention to the purpose which the parks can serve in our recreational and educational processes.

I wish the Ames Audubon Society continued success in their programs.
Sincerely, (signed) Lloyd S. Kurtz.

Ames, Iowa June 10, 1969

Members of the Ames Audubon Society:

I accept the Honorary Membership in the Ames Audubon Society with great pleasure. It has not been without some urging by members of the Society to speak out on these conservation issues, or as I prefer to call them, that I have begun to seek a wider audience. The response has been very gratifying and yet rather sobering that there is such a large segment of our society greatly concerned, in some cases alarmed, at the situation we find ourselves in with regard to our environment. Yet little is being done about it in proportion to the amount that should be done about it.

The Ames Audubon Society in the past year is doing something about it. I'm sure it will continue. It must, on all environmental issues, or our legacy to the next generations will be a hollow mockery of life itself. Sincerely, (signed) Roger Q. Landers, Iowa State Univ.

(the environmental issues)

(cont'd page 4)

(cont'd from page 3) The following is in response to a request for an appearance in Ames as speaker for upcoming Rachel Carson Lecture.

New York, New York July 18, 1969

Dear Audubon Society of Ames:

I am delighted to hear of your efforts to help clean up the mess we've made in America. Air pollution, dirty water, devastation of the land and its wildlife all come in the same bag as far as I'm concerned.

What encourages me is to hear from good people like you who are doing something about it. If there is an answer to the forces of devastation, it is going to come from the grass roots, from aroused citizens such as you who are banding together for concerted action on all levels.

Now I am going to ask your indulgence and understanding. I know that the presence of someone in public life serves to attract more people to the effort. I wish I could attend in person all of the hundreds of such gatherings around the country every week, and lend my support.

Unfortunately, I am already in a position where my time is not my own. I hope you'll agree that I should devote my energies and resources to reaching the greatest number of people possible, which means radio and TV. When the broadcasting schedule permits, I use what time and influence I have to bear down hard on the movers and shakers, in government and industry. Believe me, the first thing I tell them is about you and others like you: the concerned, dedicated, and frequently outraged people.

Keep in touch. Let me know what positive actions and ideas you come up with. Your letters are read, I can assure you of that, and I am grateful. Every one I open refreshes my spirit. If we can just hang on to what precious resources we have left, then we can begin the fight together to restore the quality of life in our lovely land.

With all good wishes, (signed) Arthur Godfrey.

There's not much that can be added to the above letters. Perhaps all we can do is to invite our passive friends and bystanders to take this opportunity to "get into the water" so to speak and join with us in our activities. Why not drop by at our meeting this Tuesday, or next time at the latest. We need your help. We invite visitors at all meetings.

A NOTE TO NON*MEMBERS OF AMES AUDUBON

We would be happy to continue sending our newsletters to you, under no obligation to you, 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

Name _____
St. or other no. _____
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____ Check here if you also wish membership information.