

Ames Audubon Society

November Newsletter 1976

Barney Cook, Editor

517 Hayward Ave. Ames, Iowa

292-8833

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Invite a friend or neighbor

WHAT: Lake Saylorville Resources

WHO: Jerry Brite
Chuck Lebeda

WHEN: Tuesday, November 9, 7:30 pm

Where: Room 122, Killdee Hall, ISU

Mr. Jerry Brite, Saylorville Project Manager will describe facilities planned at the Saylorville dam. These will include hiking trails, boating ramps, fishing opportunities and picnic areas. The project will make an important addition to the recreational potential in central Iowa. Mr. Chuck Lebeda, Wildlife Management Biologist for the Saylorville Wildlife Unit will also join us. The state will control the upper two-thirds of the river valley as far as Frazer. He will summarize the plan of the Conservation Commission for the area. Maps and slides will be shown. The program should have a broad appeal for many persons not necessarily our members.

November Field Trip: Our outing on Saturday Nov. 13 is unique. We have an opportunity to participate in a research project involving Snow Geese at DeSota Bend Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Erwin Klaas has marked 200 geese with neck collars and dyed 60 geese pink. He has asked us to spot these birds and identify individual birds by reading the number on the collar. The refuge is closed to the public at present so we will be alone there. However the Snow Goose migration should peak at this time. Other birds seen this fall include Ross Geese, White-fronted Geese and a Peregrine Falcon. Coyotes can also be found. At least one car will drive over Friday evening leaving about 6pm. Another will leave about 7am Saturday morning. Travel time is about three hours. Motels can be found at Missouri Valley. We will meet at 11am at the refuge headquarters if you plan to drive over in the morning. Call Barney Cook for rides or other details.

Christmas Bird Count: The bird count will be on Sunday December 19. Barney Cook will be the compiler again this year. We count a 15 mile diameter circle centered at the junction of Hwy 30 and the interstate. Participants of all ability are welcome. We typically find 45-50 species of birds on the count so joining in the count is an excellent way to learn our winter birds. Watchers at feeders are also needed. Set aside the date now and plan to help. Have a fun day.

Visitor Center - Office?
415 or come up from Johnston

880 1 in 10 yrs.
870 1 in 5 yrs.

45-50,000 ac. after spring rain
50-75 yrs breakout into flood pool
upto 16,000 acs.
2-3 wks at a time Corps of Eng. petitioned
Congress, accepted this fall - to buy corridor
thru D.M.

ASCIS?
Beone

Irr

Wildlife Biologists
Infiltrate the Corps

Birding Story County(by Barney Cook)

Dry-even my favorite waterhole in Brookside Park has dried up- but birds can still be found near water. This is the picture of birding this past month. McFarland Park has continues to attract birds. Near the lake, the spring on the west side, and the new tract along the river are all good. Birds sighted there include A Great-blue Heron, Lesser Scaup, Am. Coot, Bobwhite, Am. Woodcock, Purple Finch, Common redpoll, Rufous-sided Towhee, Harris and fox Sparrows. Since Sven Gafvert has seen Lapland Longspur in his lawn, Don Mollison found a Rough-legged Hark at Anderson's marsh and I have seen redpolls already, this year may prove to be outstanding for the more uncommon winter birds. The Brewer's Blackbird was seen at McFarland near the pothole (now dry) in the restored prairie north of the lake. Harris Sparrows and other sparrows congregate there in excellent numbers.

The LeConte's Sparrows were present in good abundance at Hendrickson's Marsh on the day of the field trip. Sven Gafvert added them to his life-list that morning. We also saw No. Harrier and Red-tailed Hawks. To most of you, the No. Harrier would be called the Marsh Hawk, for the name has been changed only recently. The marsh is completely dry near the dam but Sven found water at the west end. He says Common Snipe as well as numerous sparrows can be found near the water.

Winter Wrens occurred more commonly than is usual at Jefferson's and in Brookside. A Bewick's Wren was located in Brookside near the woodpile at the edge of the woods. As I had seen many Winter Wren only a few days before, I expected to find another. The prominent eyestripe alerted me that I had a different bird. After many minutes I finally got a good glimpse of the breast- all white no buff color. Thus I added a bird to my Iowa list. All warblers except the Yellow-rumped have left. However Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets are still here. You can still find White-throated and Fox Sparrows, Brown Creepers and Hermit Thrush. Many Robin can still be seen in the woods. Many of you must have noticed the Cedar Waxwings on campus. I was a large flock near Lake LaVerne. Don Mollison tells me that several flew into his classroom.

Sightings were reported to me this month by Don Mollison, Sven Gafvert, Jeff Ruprecht and Joan Jefferson. I made my usual number of calls but most have seen only common winter birds.

October Bird List

1. Great Blue Heron
3. Red-tailed Hawk
5. Rough-legged Hawk
7. Bobwhite
9. Am. Woodcock
11. Rock Dove
13. Red-bellied Woodpecker
15. Downy Woodpecker
17. Am. Coot
19. Common Crow
21. Black-capped Chickadee
23. Brown Creeper
25. Winter Wren
27. Hermit Thrush
29. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
31. Starling
33. Nashville Warbler
35. House Sparrow
37. Brewer's Blackbird
39. No. Cardinal
41. Common Redpoll
43. Rufous-sided Towhee
45. Dark-eyed Junco (slate-colored)
46. Tree Sparrow
48. White-throated Sparrow
50. Lincoln's Sparrow
52. Lapland Longspur
2. Lesser Scaup
4. Broad-winged Hawk
6. No. Harrier (Marsh Hawk)
8. Ring-necked Pheasant
9. Common Snipe
12. Common Flicker
14. Red-headed Woodpecker
16. Hairy Woodpecker
18. Blue Jay
20. White-breasted Nuthatch
22. Tufted Titmouse
24. Bewick's Wren
26. Am. Robin
28. Golden-crowned Kinglet
30. Cedar Waxwing
32. Orange-crowned Warbler
34. Yellow-rumped Warbler
36. Meadowlark (sp.)
38. Common Grackle
40. Purple Finch
42. Am. Goldfinch
43. LeConte's Sparrow
- 45a. Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
47. Harris Sparrow
49. Fox Sparrow
51. Song Sparrow



Wilma & Lester Miller
218 Parkridge Circle
Ames

3. Lesser Scaup
4. Broad-winged Hawk
5. No. Harrier (Marsh Hawk)
6. Ring-necked Pheasant
7. Woodcock
8. Red-bellied Woodpecker
9. Downy Woodpecker
10. Blue Jay
11. Red-bellied Nuthatch
12. Tufted Titmouse
13. Bewick's Wren
14. Am. Robin
15. Golden-crowned Kinglet
16. Cedar Waxwing
17. Orange-crowned Warbler
18. Willow-trooped Warbler
19. Meadowlark (sp.)
20. Common Grackle
21. Purple Finch
22. Am. Goldfinch
23. Leconte's Sparrow
24. Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
25. Bart's Sparrow
26. Fox Sparrow
27. Song Sparrow

Blue Heron
Calded Hawk
Red-legged Hawk
Am. Woodcock
Rock Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Am. Coot
Common Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Brown Creeper
Winter Wren
Hermit Thrush
Rufous-crowned Kinglet
Starling
Ashville Warbler
House Sparrow
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