

AMES AUDUBON

NEWSLETTER

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Ames, Iowa

January 11, 1970 Page 1

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m. Auditorium, Ames Public Library, 6th and Douglas Sts. Full-membership business meeting plus slide program by Normand Hamilton, on "Call of the Open Road". See details below.

Sunday, January 18, 2 p.m. Study session and field trip on Winter Identification of Trees and Shrubs. Meet at room 112, Bessey Hall, ISU. Conducted by Dr. Lois Tiffany of ISU. More details elsewhere this issue.

Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m., C. Y. Stephens Auditorium, ISU. Illustr. lecture by Ian McHarg, world famous landscape architect, writer and lecturer. He is a leader in trying to bring the science of ecology into consideration in all regional and city planning. His latest book, "Design with Nature", explains his ideas. Don't miss his program if at all possible. Sponsored by ISU Lecture Committee and Design Center. (Note on this was furnished by Prof. Jim Sinatra of ISU Design Center.)

Thursday, January 29, 8 p.m., Kildee Auditorium. 2nd annual Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture, sponsored by Ames Audubon. This year's speaker, Dr. J. A. Klun, USDA and ISU research Entomologist, is one of the world's top scientists working on new methods of insect control. His talk, "The New Horizon of Insect Control" is most timely. You won't want to miss this program. See elsewhere this issue for more details.

Thursday, February 5, 8 p.m., Elect. Engineering Audit. Dr. Stan Smith, Sr. Investigator, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, will present an illustrated lecture on the effects of pollution and other factors on fish populations in the Great Lakes. A free program, timely and should be very interesting. (This note from Dr. Carlander of Wildlife Biol.)

Tuesday, February 10, 8 p.m., Kildee Auditorium. Illustrated program on East African Wildlife, by Mr. R. J. G. LeBreton, ISU graduate student from Kenya. This promises to be a most interesting and educational program you won't want to miss. More details in Febr. Newsletter.

Friday, February 20, Kildee Auditorium. Our second Audubon Wildlife Film program. Entitled "The Vanishing Sea" and presented in person by its producer, Mr. Robert W. Davison. It will feature, with full color and sound motion pictures, the story and present status of wildlife in the Great Basin area centered on western Utah, site of a former vast inland sea. Please reserve that date. More details next Newsletter.

"CALL OF THE OPEN ROAD"

Ames Audubon will hold its first meeting of 1970 this Wednesday, January 14, in the Auditorium of the Ames Public Library at 6th and Douglas Sts. We have held a number of meetings there and everyone enjoyed the location very much. A short but important business meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. All members were sent an agenda. Included are a discussion of plans for our upcoming Audubon Wildlife Film and consideration of 3 proposed constitutional amendments, copies of which were sent to members before Jan. 1. Following this, at about 8 p.m., Normand Hamilton, Audubon V-Pres., will take us along on a colored-slide trip to Arkansas, Arizona, and California, and to the Superior National Forest

(Call of the Open Road - continued from page 1)
and lakes area of northeastern Minnesota. We believe you will enjoy this one-hour break from the snow and s cold of Iowa in January. Following this, we plan to have refreshments for all, in the form of hot spiced tea and cookies. We are asking each family to bring along a few cookies for the event. This will be our last regularly scheduled full-membership business meeting before the Annual Election meeting in May. It will be a good chance to get acquainted with one another, especially with our recent new members, whom we especially urge to try and attend. Both the business meeting and program are open to the public, as usual.

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Winter Identification of Trees and Shrubs

On next Sunday, January 18, Audubon members and others will be able to receive almost a full academic quarter of instruction condensed into one afternoon. Dr. Lois Tiffany, popular ISU Professor of Botany, will present a short, short course on winter identification of local trees and shrubs. Dr. Tiffany has taught such a course for about 10 years here at Iowa State and has graciously agreed to discuss this very interesting subject. There is a great deal more to it than one might imagine. Those interested should meet at 2 p.m. on the above date in room 112 of Bessey Hall, using the west door near the adjacent parking lot to enter the building. Bessey Hall is the large new grey building with the many windows, just southwest of Kildee Auditorium. A laboratory demonstration will be presented first, followed by a short field trip around the campus or elsewhere, if the weather permits. This program will involve a considerable amount of work on the part of Dr. Tiffany. We do hope we can have at least a dozen people attend to make her efforts worthwhile and to show our appreciation to her. This program also marks the renewal of our efforts to develop a marked nature trail in Brookside Park. Please try to attend and bring along a friend. We believe you'll enjoy it

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"THE NEW HORIZON OF INSECT CONTROL"

The second annual Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture will be held on Thursday, January 29, starting at 8 P.M. in Kildee Auditorium at ISU. This annual program series was set up in honor of the famed author of "Silent Spring" and other popular books on ecology. Miss Carson probably did more than anyone else to shock America and the world into recognizing what man is doing to our natural environment. Our aim is to sponsor, each year, a program on some critical problem pertaining to our natural environment. Our first event last year featured Dr. Roger Landers, well-known ISU Ecologist, who presented an outstanding program on the "Environmental Crisis". This year, we have contacted another recognized scientist who has agreed to discuss a very timely topic. Dr. Jerome A. Klun is a Research Entomologist with the USDA and Assoc. Professor of Entomology at ISU. He has agreed to present an illustrated lecture on "The New Horizon of Insect Control and the 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse." Dr. Klun is a native of Ely, Minnesota, and earned his B.S. degree at the University of Minnesota. He came to Iowa State in 1961 and went to work on the corn borer problem for his PhD research. He earned his PhD in 1965 and continued his research with the USDA corn borer research station at Ankeny. He has a most distinguished record of achievement in the past 9 years. He isolated the so-called sex pheromone of the corn borer and was able to synthesize it for use in control programs. This product is emitted by the female to attract her mate, and it can be used to isolate males

(New Horizon of Insect Control - continued from page 2)
 and thus reduce or eliminate the next generation. (Dr. Klun will try to present a demonstration on this process.) He also determined the chemical factor in corn which contributes to resistance by the plant to borer damage, and developed a test for same. Dr. Harold Gunderson has characterized Dr. Klun as a "brilliant and original scientist". He will discuss the above work and other facets of biological controls being investigated. He also will present his ideas on the current ecological situation and what he feels needs to be done to hold off the not-so-legendary "4 Horsemen of Apocalypse". We predict his message will be most significant and that it will have a major impact on current thought on the subject. Please try to attend. It is free and open to the public

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A SUCCESSFUL AMES BIRD SURVEY

(Information supplied by Jim Rod)

The Christmas Bird Count, sponsored annually (since 1990) by the National Audubon Society, was conducted in the Ames area on last Dec. 21 by members of the Ames Audubon Society and other interested persons. The count was successful in many respects. As long as records have been kept in Iowa, there have never been more than 17 screech owls reported in the entire state by cooperating groups. Using tape-recorded owl calls and counting the owls that responded, several of the Ames group recorded a total of 18 screech owls within the 15-mile diameter count circle that centers on I-35 and U.S. 30. The group checking the owls included Jim Rod, John Faaborg, Steve Hanselmann, Myron Swenson, Doug Rod, and Mrs. Hanselmann. Last year's Ames count of 35 species also was exceeding by 11 with the total of 46 species identified in the recent count.

The following numbers of these species were reported between 5 am and 12 midnight: One rough-legged hawk, two Buteo species, one marsh hawk, 2 sparrow hawks, 28 bobwhite, 49 ring-necked pheasants, 29 mourning doves, 18 screech owls, 9 great horned owls, 2 barred owls, 1 short-eared owl, 3 belted kingfishers, 18 yellow-stafted flickers, 21 red-bellied woodpeckers, 3 red-headed woodpeckers, five hairy woodpeckers, 56 downey woodpeckers, 59 horned larks, 73 blue jays, 103 common crows, 154 black-capped chickadees, 7 tufted titmouses, 51 white-breasted nuthatches, 15 red-breasted nuthatches, 19 brown creepers, 1 brown thrasher, 1 eastern bluebird, 11 golden-crowned kinglets, 20 cedar waxwings, 2 shrike (sp.), 770 starlings, 1440 house sparrows, 26 meadowlarks(sp.), 2 red-winged blackbirds, 9 common grackles, 76 cardinals, 24 purple finches, 45 common redpolls, 2 pine siskins, 19 American goldfinches, 20 red crossbills, 2 white-winged crossbills, 640 slate-colored juncos, 52 tree sparrows, 4 Harris' sparrows, 1 swamp sparrow, 20 song sparrows, 227 Lapland longspurs, 110 snow buntings. Also seen during the 2-week count period, but not on count day, were a red-tailed and a pigeon hawk. This makes a total of 4244 individuals (some numbers estimated).

Field group leaders were Jim Rod* and Steve Hanselmann*, project co-chairmen, John Faaborg, Doug Rod*, and Myron Swenson. Others participating in the field counts were Ben Bereskin*, Roger Birkeland, Mr. and Mrs. Don Garr, Mrs. Hanselmann*, Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Maloy* and son, Brian*, Dr. and Mrs. Wilmer Miller*, Mrs. Paul Rod*, Cecil Spatcher, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trump. In addition, the following reported their feeder observations: Mrs. Bereskin*, Mrs. Percy Carr, Mrs. Ned Disque, Mrs. C. R. Elder, Mrs. Edwin Kline, (cont'd next page)

(Christmas Bird Count - cont'd from page 3)

Mrs. C. P. Lechner, Mrs. C. E. Morrison*, Paul Rod*, and Mrs. C. E. Sellers*. (*indicates Ames Audubon member)

It is obvious the co-chairmen and group leaders, as well as all who participated, did an outstanding job with this project. The significance of the event also should not be forgotten. As noted in the Cedar Rapids Newsletter (Audubon), these surveys mark the replacement of the gun by the binocular for bird study and recreation. People can face more of a challenge and gain more satisfaction in finding and identifying bird species than in using them for target practice. Also, this represents action for conservation, as compared with just talk. Incidentally, Jim Rod will discuss his experiences in the counts on the radio program, "Conservation Items", with Bill Horine on WOI (640 kc.) at 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, January 17 or 24. Give a listen.

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WHAT FUTURE FOR THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK?

The above was the subject of a public information program sponsored by Ames Audubon, in cooperation with the ISU Ecology Group, on Thursday, Dec. 11, in Kildee Auditorium. Over 300 persons attended. Featured were an excellent film on the park and talks by 4 panel members on various aspects of threats to the park. These were Dr. Jean Wooten, a native of Florida, now of the ISU Botany Dpt., and Ames Audubon members Jim Rod, Mrs. W. J. (Lotus) Miller, and Ben Bereskin. Dave Trauger, of the ISU Wildlife Biology Dept. and a leader of the ISU Ecology Group, ably served as moderator. Normand Hamilton, representing Ames Audubon, opened the program by welcoming the audience and introducing Mr. Trauger.

A new feature available to the audience was a questionnaire for comments on the program and related topics. A total of 123 questionnaires were partially or wholly answered and left after the program. Of these, 105 persons expressed an opinion that they felt the program was worthwhile, 10 did not, and 8 expressed no opinion. 96 favored giving top priority to protecting the park, in any future decisions; 3 favored giving top priority to non-park development; 22 favored a compromise solution; and 2 gave no reply. Only 11 persons replying had previously visited the Everglades Park, but 109 indicated they would like to visit it in the future. Both Dr. Wooten, with her outspoken views on the situation, and Jim Rod, with his excellent slides he took of wildlife in the park, were very favorably received by the audience. The others are also to be commended for their efforts. We wish to thank all who helped in one way or another. It was a most useful experiment and the experience will be used to improve our programs in the future. A supplementary report on the Everglades situation is now being prepared and copies will go to Audubon members when completed.

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Correction: In last month's newsletter, we listed the names of members who had helped out on our Audubon Wildlife Film program on Nov. 5, but forgot to mention that Dr. W. J. Miller did an excellent job in opening the program and welcoming the speaker, Mr. Kent Durden.

According to the US Automobile Assog., motorists in this country accidentally kill about 1 million animals daily. For example, a recent survey in Florida showed that in one day, 1000 quail, 250 wild turkeys, and about 2000 squirrels, songbirds, rodents and reptiles of all kinds. Over 22,000 deer were killed by cars in one yr. in Pennsylvania. The moral is, Drive with Care.

NEW MEMBERS

This month we are particularly happy to report six new family memberships plus 2 new adult memberships in Ames Audubon. The word is getting around to more and more of our concerned citizens, both young and young at heart--Ames Audubon is a responsible conservation organization with a program geared to meet the needs of the times. Persons, as individuals, more and more have the feeling of utter frustration when faced with the increasingly difficult environmental problems of our day. They are now beginning to appreciate that their best hope, perhaps only hope, to make their voice heard lies in an organization such as Audubon which is nationwide in scope and action. Over 300 groups such as ours, from one end of the nation to the other, are organizing for the great conservation battles that lie just ahead.

We of Ames Audubon sincerely welcome our new members and renew our pledge to continue to do all we can to merit their continued support. New members are: Michael Bondi, an ISU student in Forestry and Wildlife Biology, interested in doing something to help save a part of the great American Heritage for his generation to enjoy. Dr. and Mrs. Walter Hearn and family, charter and founding members of Ames Audubon. Gone for a year, but now back to lend their support and encouragement to our efforts. Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Lawrence and family, of Ames, avid conservationists and strongly for protecting our wildlife from the predation of man. Mr. and Mrs. John Love and family, of Ames. John is a particularly able and dedicated conservationist. We are very pleased to have these fine folks as new members. Dr. and Mrs. William C. Mc Cormack and family, of Ames, conservationists and lovers of God's great out-of-doors. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Morrison, of Ames, interested and concerned about all facets of our deteriorating natural environment. Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Quinn, of Ames, longtime concerned conservationists. Mrs. Preston Turner, sister of Mrs. C. E. Sellers, Ames Audubon Director, and like her sister, deeply concerned about current environmental trends.

We want to acknowledge the efforts of Mrs. C.E. Sellers in helping to gain new members for our group. New members are the life-blood of any organization such as ours. Each of our members needs to make a greater effort to help out in this respect. How about you?

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DANGER TO PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

Bills are now pending in the US Congress which could have far-reaching and serious consequences on wildlife management practices in this country. The Senate version of the bill, S1232, was passed by voice vote on last Dec. 9. The House bills, H171 and H196, are now awaiting action by the House committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. According to Charles Callison, Executive Vice-President of National Audubon, "This bill purports to protect the authority of state governments to set public hunting and fishing regulations and to license sportsmen. If that was all it did, National Audubon would have no quarrel with it (although we presently see no need for such a law). This law could, instead, be a wedge that would open the door to hunting in the national parks, and also cripple other federal wildlife programs, by giving state officials new authority over wildlife on federal lands. For these reasons, we strongly oppose it. We urge citizens to contact their representatives at once to defeat this dangerous bill."

The great new January issue of Audubon, National Audubon magazine available to all Ames Audubon members, (cont'd on page 6)

(Congressional Wildlife bills - cont'd from page 5)
 elaborated further on the bill: "... This bill could force public hunting into the national parks and superimpose state authority over federal policy in the more than 300 national wildlife refuges. For example, if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wanted to live-trap and move some bighorn sheep from one refuge to another, it would have to go hat-in-hand to the state game dept. for permission. The state game commissioner could simply say, 'Nothing doing. If you have too many bighorns in one place, you'll just have to let our hunters go in to thin them out.' This bill also would nullify the law that makes it a federal offense to kill a bald or golden eagle. This bill has been called the 'states rights' wildlife bill. Actually, it has nothing to do with states rights, in a constitutional sense, but rather is a thinly disguised grab by some state game departments (and the ever-ready hunting lobby) for control over wildlife in the national parks and refuges."

According to the Congressional record, in Senate committee testimony, not a single reputable wildlife or conservation organization supported the bill. However, as far as we have been able to learn, only National Audubon has come out strongly against the bills, alerting the American people to the threats involved to the present progressive federal policies on wildlife management. We fully concur with the concern and sentiments expressed by our national organization on this potentially dangerous bill. Something can still be done, but the hour is growing late.

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News from Ed Brigham, North Midwest National Audubon Representative. As we predicted earlier, Ed is really moving into high gear in his conservation efforts in our region. Besides editing the very fine publication of the North Central Audubon Council, The Trail, Ed has a dozen other projects under way. These include being Program and Development chairman for a big new Audubon Nature Center near Minneapolis, working to save a 19,000 acre national forest in Michigan, organizing an Audubon Council of Iowa, and now organizing a drive to save the Keokuk Pool on the Mississippi R. between Fort Madison and Keokuk. This is a major feeding area for ducks on the Miss. flyway and is threatened by proposed dredging. More on this big story next issue.

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A NOTE TO NON-MEMBERS OF AMES AUDUBON

We would be 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.

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