

AMES AUDUBON

NEWS LETTER

Vol. 1, No. 2

July, 1968

Ames, Iowa

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NEXT MEETING--TUESDAY, JULY 30

Ames Audubon will meet on Tuesday, July 30, at 8 p.m. in room 104 Kildee Hall, on the ISU campus. The program will consist of an illustrated talk on pigeons and doves, by Dr. W.F. Hollander of ISU. (See elsewhere on this page for more details.)

Following this program, which will last about an hour, a business meeting will be held to consider various items, including the following:

(1) Final agreement on provisions in our proposed constitution dealing with membership classifications, dues, etc., needs to be reached. Once this is done, Mrs. Robinson, Society Treas., can complete individual membership cards for each member. The attractive cards are ready to go now.

The Executive Board has recommended that the constitution include a provision to separate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and that an additional Director be elected to the Exec. Board. The Exec. Board would then consist of the 4 officers plus the 5 Directors, for a total of 9 members. If the group desires, we can elect a secretary now, or wait.

The 2nd Tuesday of each month has been recommended by the Exec. Board as our regular meeting date. A decision on this is needed. The entire constitution can then be dittoed and made available early in August.

(2) We need to act now to help save the Redwoods of California. Elsewhere on this page is part of a proposed statement we might rush to our Congressmen in Washington.

(3) Consideration of an Audubon color film with lecture that is available for Ames on next March 31. Dr. John Bulger of the Nat. Audubon Lecture Dept. has an open date, with the title of his presentation "Scandinavian Saga". He has a Ph D in Wildlife Management from Cornell and has travelled throughout the world filming wildlife in their natural habitat. Other de-

tails will be presented at the meeting on July 30, for our consideration.

(4) Plans for upcoming meetings in August and September will be presented. Prospects are looking up for Ames Audubon. You can help by bringing along a friend to our meetings and programs.

(5) Announcement of several committee chairmanships will be made.

Dr. Willard F. Hollander to Speak

The program for our July 30 meeting will feature an illustrated talk on the Natural History of and Personal Experiences with Pigeons and Doves, by Dr. W.F. Hollander, Prof. of Genetics at ISU.

Dr. Hollander is an internationally recognized authority on the subject, with close to 40 years of study, research, and practical experience. At present, he maintains about 35 strains of pigeons, carrying various mutations, including color patterns and physical abnormalities, such as web feet, extra toes, and porcupine feathers. Colored slides and several live specimens will be shown. Those of us acquainted with Dr. Hollander know that his presentation will be both educational and entertaining and well worth one's time to attend. So, try to make it and bring along a friend.

PROPOSED LETTER TO OUR CONGRESSMEN:

We of the Ames Audubon Society sincerely believe that America needs and can afford a Redwood National Park as would be authorized by the U.S. Senate (S2515). On the other hand, the House version of this bill is totally inadequate and represents a callous disregard for the present and long-range inspirational, educational, and recreational needs of the American people... (Further details and the full text, for your careful consideration, will be presented at the July 30 meeting.)

ALONG
THE
NATURALIST
TRAIL

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON (part 2)

(Source of information: "Audacious Audubon" by E. A. Muschamp)

The dominating factor in shaping Audubon's career was his insatiable love of the woods. From childhood on, the "forest primeval" exercised an irresistible influence over him. He worshipped the "pathless forest, dense and solitary, carpeted by the fallen leaves of a thousand years and fretted by the sunlight that poured thru the Gothic arches of the trees; where the wild beasts slunk thru the shadows and where the campfire at night glared up into the eerie darkness of the knitted boughs."

In 1809, early in his business career in Louisville, Aud. wrote, "I shot, I drew I looked on nature only. My days were happy beyond human conception, and beyond this I really cared not...I seldom passed a day without drawing a bird or noting something respecting its habits, Rozier (his business partner) meanwhile attending shop. I could not bear to give the attention required of my business and so my business abandoned me." Later he wrote, "For a period of about 20 years I tried various branches of commerce, but this all proved unprofitable, doubtless because my whole mind was filled with my passion for rambling and admiring those objects of nature from which I received the purest gratification."

But because of this lure of the woods and birds, Audubon's genius was to do more than any other single person before or after him to show that the beauties and wonders of nature could help fulfill man's spiritual needs as well as providing for his material welfare. And, in the final analysis, this man of habitual failure became Audubon the master salesman who saved Audubon the naturalist and Audubon the artist from oblivion and complete disaster. About 130 years have now passed since Audubon's original "Birds of America" was published. It still ranks as one of the great wonders of the publishing world and still stands as the most magnificent monument which has yet been erected to the science of ornithology.

EXPLORING OUR PARKS

The Ames Public Parks offer local citizens a wide variety of recreational facilities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, woods, and streams. A total of about 470 acres are presently involved, with about 385 acres owned by the city and 85 leased. The parks are under the jurisdiction of the Ames Park Commission. The Present members are Mr. Lloyd Kurtz, with over 15 years of distinguished service, Mr. Ross Curtis, over 5 years service, and Mr. Oliver Knott, going on 2 years. One commissioner is elected to a 6-year term at each regular biennial municipal election. The first park acquired was Bandshell Park (2.6 acres) at 6th and Duff, in 1889. The major recent additions have been the 25-acre Nutty and 68-acre Gunder woods, to be included in the River Valley Park, along Skunk River, and the 70-acre Homewood golf course and adjacent woods, also bordering on the Skunk River.

Recently, Mr. Kurtz took your correspondent on an extensive tour of the major park areas, pointing out present distinguishing features and discussing future plans. A most favorable impression was conveyed. The possibilities for nature study by such groups as the Audubon Society are almost unlimited. The 3 main nucleus areas are River Valley Park, with extensive acreage to be preserved in the natural state, Brookside Park, along Squaw Creek, and Emma McCarthy Lee Park, bordering on Clear Creek, west of the ISU campus. Future plans anticipate an extension of these parks into adjacent wooded and rough areas. But one of the real gems for hikers, bird watchers, and the like, is the recently acquired Railway Park, off So. State St. This is a 100-ft. wide former railway right-of-way extending from Zumwalt station on the south-west for about a mile into a newly acquired 8-acre wooded tract south of the Ames Country Club.

In future articles we hope to discuss the various parks in more detail, along with ways Ames Audubon may help contribute to the continual improvement of particular areas.