
AMES AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

Ames Audubon Society

December, 1972

DECEMBER MEETING

Room 122 Kildee

7:30 P M

Tuesday, December 19

Kildee Hall is located on the northeast corner of the ISU campus and may be easily reached from either 13th or 6th Streets. A map is included with the newsletter. Enter through East door.

A recent meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Ames Audubon Society focused attention on several areas of concern of our club. These include membership, Wildlife Films and future goals. In addition, several suggestions were put forth, some of which will be implemented immediately.

The agenda for the Tuesday night meeting will include the following items:

1. Save Ledges State Park proposal.
2. Capsule life history of Cerulean Warbler.
3. Report of Christmas bird count results.
4. Officers
5. Audubon Wildlife Films and ticket sales.
6. Membership
7. Future goals

Several of these items will be elaborated upon below.

LEDGES STATE PARK: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SAYLORVILLE DAM AND

RESERVOIR LEDGES STATE PARK. A group of concerned citizens has recently formed a group called "The Iowa Citizen's Alliance to Save Ledges State Park". This group and the Sierra Club has filed suit in Federal Court against the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers on the grounds that an Environmental Impact Statement has not been filed on the third and final phase of construction of the Saylorville Dam. Such a statement is required under the National Environmental Protection Act which went into effect 1 Jan., 1970. A temporary restraining order has been granted and the preliminary hearing on an injunction to halt further construction pending completion of the Impact statement and development of alternatives to protect Ledges from inundation by flood waters will take place in Des Moines Monday, Dec. 18. A representative of the Iowa Citizen's Alliance will bring us up to date on the action they are taking and what Ames Audubon can do to help should we vote to support the Alliance. Ledges should be vitally important to all of us in central Iowa so be sure to attend.

CAPSULE LIFE HISTORY OF CERULEAN WARBLER: This is a result of a suggestion put forth by Dr. Miller that at each meeting a short life history of a bird of interest to us in the central part of the state should be presented. The Cerulean Warbler was selected because it is a fairly rare warbler in most of the state but breeds rather commonly in Ledges State Park and will certainly be affected if Ledges is flooded.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: The date for our Christmas Bird Count this year is DECEMBER 17. We desperately need people willing to join the count for all or part of the day. All participants will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jefferson, 1516 Curtiss Ave. at 7:30 AM Sunday morning, Dec. 17. Our fifteen mile diameter count circle has been broken into four sections with a group leader assigned to each. Group leaders are the Jeffersons, Jim Rod, Doug Rod and the Millers, and Norm Ward. Our count circle centers on new Highway 30 and Interstate 35 and we will do our best to cover our areas thoroughly. Instead of breaking formally for lunch this year we urge participants to either pack a lunch and eat in the car along the way or feel free to return to town for the noon hour on your own. At 4:30 PM Sunday afternoon we shall meet again at the Jefferson home for the final compilation of species. Those who will only be able to help with the count in the afternoon may meet at Mr. Donut shop on Soxuth Duff at 12:30. PM. Group leaders will be there to pick up those wishing to join then. We want to emphasize that you need not be an expert birder to help out. The Christmas Bird Count is a lot of fun and we need your eyes. Anyone is welcome to join whether member of Ames Audubon or not. Equally important as observers in the field are those persons with bird feeders as this is often the only place we get such species as Purple Finches or Evening Grosbeaks. If you have a feeder or have a neighbor with a feeder please have someone keep track of the visitors Sunday noting both species and number of individuals. These reports may be phoned in to 232-4869 between 4:30 and 5:30 PM. Often such birds as Robins, Brown Thrashers, Grackles, Towhees, etc. visit feeders in the winter and it is important that these be recorded.

Results of our Christmas Count are published in "Iowa Bird Life" and "American Birds" a journal of the National Audubon Society. Unfortunately, we must collect a \$1.00 fee from each observer in the field to help defray publication costs. For further information on the count phone either 292-1897 or 232-4869.

OFFICERS: For a variety of reasons, elections were not held last May with the result that we must vote at our Tuesday meeting to either continue the present slate until May, 1973 or elect new officers and directors to remain in office until May and our next regularly scheduled elections.

MEMBERSHIP: This is one of our big issues. Our membership has fallen off drastically the past year and steps must be taken to build it back up. Our Tuesday meeting will focus on suggestions along this line. If you have any, please bring them.

A subject that is directly concerned with membership is that of dues. Quite a number of members have not paid 1972 dues at this late date. An outline of membership categories and current dues is included with this newsletter and can be considered as a gentle nudge. Our fiscal year begins Jan. 1, 1973 and 1973 dues will be gladly accepted by our treasurer at this time also. Make this information available to a neighbor or friend. Surely you know someone who would like to join us.

FUTURE GOALS: In recent years the National Audubon Society has begun to de-emphasize birds somewhat and concentrate its attention on the environment generally. Discussion at our Board meeting seemed to favor the idea of our chapter continuing to put our major emphasis on bird life. We presently have a delegate to the Ames Conservation Council from our club and since this is an active environmental action group perhaps our affiliation with them will allow us to be heard on those environmental issues that concern us and at the same time keep Audubon emphasis on birds. Suggestions along this line and suggestions as to what YOU would like to see in Ames Audubon in the future will be solicited at our Tuesday meeting. Interesting and informative programs through May have been tentatively planned including a breakfast and bird walk in Brookside Park early in May to see Spring in. Let us know what you would like to do.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS: We have two films remaining in the series this year, the next on Jan. 23. We must initiate an intensive ticket sales program for these two films to insure the continuance of the series. The series of three films costs us \$700.00 plus added expenses of auditorium rental and publicity. The possibility of finding a co-sponsor in one of the local Service Clubs will be discussed for next year. We must appeal to every member and friend to really sell these next two films.. Tickets and more information will be forthcoming shortly. Last year two of our families sold over \$100.00 worth of tickets each. With a little legwork, phone calls, and buttonholing of friends and neighbors it can be done. Plan to pitch in and help.

Don't forget: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 -- CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 -- MEETING IN KILDEE HALL



