

AMES AUDUBON SOCIETY

March 1978 newsletter

Barney Cook, editor 517 Hayward Ave., Ames, Iowa, 50010 292-8833

March Program  
What: The Skunk River Green Belt  
When: Tuesday, March 14 7:30 pm  
Where: Meeting Room, State Nursery  
Note the changed program and place!

Our program this month is the public presentation of the proposed Green Belt plan. We meet in the meeting room of Story County Conservation Board at the state nursery. Since preservation of habitat is of vital concern to all of us, the program planned for the month has been postponed so that many members of Ames Audubon can attend. Sven Gavvert as our representative to the advisory board of the conservation board urges all of us to come. An expression of public support for the green belt is needed now. The river valley must be reserved for wild life and public access before private development limits its usefulness. Show your concern. Please attend.

The state nursery is at the corner of hyw 69 and Airport Rd. (just south of hyw 30). Turn left (if coming from town on hyw 69) at the stop light and go straight into the entrance. The meeting room is past the house on the right side of the road. There is a large parking lot which will accomodate a large crowd.

March Outing: Saturday, April 1. Our trip this month will be to Hendrickson's March to see water fowl. Since the marsh is still frozen we are postponing the trip two weeks in an attempt to see more birds. We will meet at the north-east parking lot at 8:30 am. To reach the marsh drive east on hwy 30 to the Marshall County line. This is three miles east of hyw 69. A sign directing you to the marsh is at the corner. Go south for about 5 miles to reach the marsh. If you cross the bridge you have gone too far. The parking lot is on the west side of the road several hundred feet before the bridge.

Birding Story County: (by B. Cook) Bird populations are still down compared to recent years. The best place to find birds is at feeder but walks in the woods are more pleasant now that the weather is more mild. Redpolls, pine siskin, purple finches, Harris sparrows and am. goldfinches are still at feeders. Cedar Waxwings are all over town. I saw them on smampus feeding on juniper but the largest flock is at the horticulture farm near Soper's Mill. Several hundred birds have been seen feeding of apples. Grif Buck has confirmed that the redpoll he noted last month has a white unstriated rump; he has a photo which should confirm the sighting as a Hoary Redpoll, an Iowa first.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in the state nursery in late February, however except for a few pheasants few other birds were to be found. In particular no cardinals were seen while I usually expect to see dozens. I also checked the county roads that day for buntings and longspurs among the Horned Lark but found none. We all saw a Schreech Owl while on the Feb. owling trip. This was a life lister for several who attended. Several more birds were seen but no other species of owls answered our tapes. The waterfowl migration should begin soon and other migrants will also begin to show up. Now that the long winter has broken I hope all of you will spend more time out.

23 species were seen this month. The complete list follows:



- 1. Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 3. Screech Owl
- 5. Red-bellied Woodpecker
- ✓ Blue Jay
- ✓ 9. Black Capped Chickadee
- 11. A. Robin
- ✓ 13. Starling
- ✓ 15. No. Cardinal
- ✓ 17. Common Redpoll
- ✓ 19. Pine Siskin
- ✓ 21. Dark-eyed Junco
- ✓ 23. Harris sparrow

- X 2. Ring-necked Pheasant
- ✓ 4. Downy Woodpecker
- X 6. Horned Lark
- X 7. Common Crow
- X 10. White-breasted Nuthatch
- X 12. Cedar Waxwing
- ✓ 14. House Sparrow
- ✓ 16. Purple Finch
- ✓ 18. Hoary Redpoll
- ✓ 20. A. Godfinch
- ✓ 22. Tree Sparrow

*Heavy Woodpecker  
Brown Creeper*



*Grief & Ruby Bunk  
1108 Scott  
Ames*