

Ames Audubon Society

1979

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Volume XII

No. 1

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A goldfinch nest in the middle of September? . . . Fairly common, I understand, for this designer of thistle-down beds. But it was great to find one so near the biology labs at Ames High -- only one dip of goldfinch flight from the bee hives.

It was knee-high, woven tight against the sturdy stem of a field thistle -- a source of food as well as bedding, and protected by an armor of spines.

When I mentioned to my classes that I could show the nest of our state bird to anyone interested, Lisa said that she would like to see it. "I guess I've never looked into a bird nest," she added.

For Lisa, this discovery led to several hours of watching from behind the hawthorne blind. She was determined to see the nestlings at feeding time. And one day I heard her telling a friend, "You should see how big their mouths are!"

Well, this is why there is an Audubon Society. When a sensitive person gets a glimpse of life, she -- or he -- wants to share it. . . . Mike Roughton has put together a fine schedule of programs for this year's meetings. Come and share!

Richard Trump
Richard Trump

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

What: FALL MUSHROOMS
Who: Dr. Lois Tiffany, Professor
Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Iowa State University
When: Tuesday, September 11, 1979 at 7:30PM
Where: Room 122, Kildee Hall, ISU

THE SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

What: Looking for Shorebirds
Who: Hank Zelatel, director of field trips, and helpers
Any questions, please call Hank either at work (296 1200) or at home (292 7082)
When: Saturday, September 8th at 9:00AM
Where: Leave from the Stage Door of the C.Y. Stephens Auditorium; destination "Ames and Ankeny Ponds". You have to be with the group in order to find out where these ponds are!

NESTING OF SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN IOWA

The scissor-tailed flycatcher, which is native to the southern United States, was first observed by Ames Audubon members Hank Zaletel, Michael Roughton, and Gene and Marilyn Burns on July 31, two miles south of Lincoln Way on State Ave. The female bird with its long, forked tail was quite easy to see as it perched on nearby wires and treetops. It was only after the mother bird had disappeared for some time that the nest was discovered, and this occurred only because of the baby's chirping. Alex Thierman, who will give a November program on nesting birds, climbed the tree and discovered the baby. The bird was then brought down from the nest and banded by Gene and Marilyn Burns.

On August 1st, members from the Waterloo Audubon came to Ames and viewed the mother bird and the baby, the latter sitting on the edge of the nest.

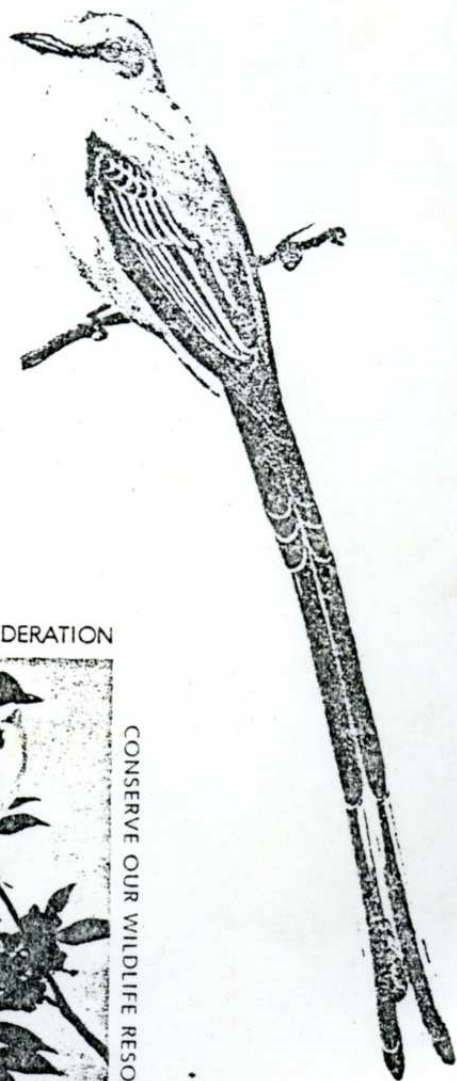
The following day, the baby bird was no longer in the nest. After a half-an-hour search the baby was located nearby on the ground, being fed by the mother. This was the last time the bird was seen, even though that weekend many people from throughout the state came to view the birds.

This is only the second time this year that this specie of bird has been seen in Iowa. Previous to these sightings, the last time a scissor-tail flycatcher had been seen in Iowa was in 1969.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Common in open country. Note long streaming tail of adult. Young similar to the Western Kingbird, but have pink sides and a whiter tail. Calls suggest Western Kingbird's. Fork-tailed Flycatcher is similar, with long streaming tail, but underparts are white and crown is black. Immature is brownish. A casual visitor in eastern U.S.

— from BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA
A Golden Field Guide
Golden Press, New York



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



FORK TAILED FLYCATCHER



AMES AUDUBON SOCIETY
PROGRAMS FOR 1979/80

All programs are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of the October meeting which will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. All meetings are in 122 Kildee Hall with the exception of the December meeting. The time and place for the December meeting will be announced at a later date.

- SEPT. 11 Dr. Lois Tiffany FALL MUSHROOMS
- OCT. 2 Larry Stone TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED (Remember! First Tues.)
- NOV. 13 Alex Thiermann Photographing Midwestern Birds
- DEC. 11 Our annual Party. Place and time to be announced later. The program will consist of club talent--slides and commentary by all members.
- Jan. 8 Robert Moorman Animals I Have Known
- Feb. 12 Steve Lekwa Iowa's Prairie Heritage
- Mar. 11 Dr. William Franklin South American Wildlife
- Apr. 8 Ken Fraser Educational Approach To The Study Of Birds In Central Iowa
- May 13 I'm leaving this one open for now.

FIELD TRIPS FOR 1979/80

All trips, unless otherwise indicated, will leave at 9:00 a.m. Please meet near the stage door at C.Y. Stephens Auditorium. Questions?? Call Hank Zaletel: work 296-1200; home 292-7082, evenings best

- Sept. 8 Shorebirds Ames, Ankeny Ponds
- Sept. 22-23 Iowa Ornithologist Meeting - Keosauqua, Iowa
- Oct. 27 All day trip to Desoto National Wildlife Refuge to watch migrating geese and ducks
- Nov. 10 Ledges State Park, lower nature trail
- Dec. 22 Christmas Count
- January No trip
- February No trip
- Mar. 29 Hendrickson Marsh
- Apr. 26 Brushy Creek and Dolliver State Park
- May 17 Brookside Park

Note: Additional trips may be scheduled depending on the weather and the availability of a trip leader.

Bath, John & Elaine 524 Forest Glen	292 5864	Morrison, Clarence & Marjorie 1525 Wilson	232 4771
Bond, Miriam 111 Sheldon	292 4737	Mosman, Dean & family RR #1 Box 112A Elkart	967 2951 50073
Brown, Nancy 3614 Story	292 3388	Nuss, Richard Botany & Pl Path ISU	294 3522 50011.
Buck, Griffith & Ruby 1108 Scott	292 2460	O'Keefe, Judy Botany & Pl Path ISU	232 3450 50011.
Burns, Gene & Marilyn Box 32 Jamaica 50128	429 321.5	Prescott, James & Scott 2810 Ross Road	292 6588
Carlander, Ken & Julia 2322 Knapp	292 7154	Prestemon, Jeff 1214 Garfield Cir	292 1652
Carr, Lois 619 8th St	232 6797	Quinn, Loyd & Jeanette 226 Stanton	292 6346
Charles, Don & Ann RR #3	292 7375	Rah, Beulah 1104 Harding	232 3636
Cook, Barnett (Bus 294 5630) 517 Hayward	292 8833	Roughton, Michael 621 Northwestern	232 4919
Cowan, Mary 2303 Hayes	233 1482	Schworm, Bill & Bette 835 Beach	233 3342
Coy, Janice RR #3	292 8119	Sellers, Ruth 823 Burnett	232 7287
Dellman, H. Dieter & family 1026 Gaskill	232 6020	Skadeland, Terri 305 So. Webster #3 Mt Ayr Iowa 50854	
Erdman, Lynn 507 Hayward	292 4542	Trump, Richard & Lorene 1511 13th St	232 3331
Flack, Tom Bus. RR Cambridge 50046	232 3161.	Vinograde, Bernard & Ann 1206 Michigan	292 2150
Gafvert, Sven Woodview Drive	292 8554	Wilcox, Florence 510 7th St	232 3556
Getz, Austin & Loya RR #1	733 2269	Whalen, Ramona 1009 Haywood Greensboro North Carolina	27403
Gorder, Greg & Nancy 1503 Grand	233 2049	Young, Marlys 925 Beach	232 9383
Hempstead, Jean & Edna 126 24th St	232 4364	Zaletel, Hank & Linda 667 Pammel Ct. (Bus. 296 1200)	292 7082
Jarvis, James & Johanna 1915 Bel Air Dr	232 1309		
Jefferson, Bob & Joan RR #1, Box 18 Freeman, Missouri 64746			
Karas, George & Shirley 336 Hickory	292 1589		
Ladd, George & Marlys 1408 Coolidge	232 7621		
Lane, Kenneth 4804 Dover Dr	292 4122		
Love, John & family 307 Washington	232 6152		
Martsching, Paul 1120 Marston	232 0472		
McWilliams, Mrs. Wiltse Scotch Acres Paton 50217	968 4441		
Miller, Wilmer, Lotus & family 218 Parkridge Cir	292 2308		
Morgan, Margaret 917 Ridgewood (November to June at 505 Calle De Oro, Green Valley Arizona 85614	232 4197		

President - Dick Trump
 Programs - Michael Roughton
 Treas., Membership - Lois Carr
 Secretary - Ruby Buck
 Field trips - Hank Zaletel
 Newsletter - Jean Hempstead
 Mailings - Marlys Ladd

Bd. members - G. Burns, Love,
 H. Zaletel, Nuss, Gafvert

IF YOU HAVE A SLIDING GLASS DOOR, YOU CAN DO THIS TOO !!

Our Mary Cowan used to live in South Carolina. Her home there was in the midst of many trees and she always had plenty of birds. One of her friends of South Carolina recently wrote about her birds and Mary thought that it would be nice to share her letter with all of you. Here it is:

7-23-79

Dear Mary:

Just had to share this pleasure with someone, and you seemed to be the perfect one.

We have had two families of Titmice this year and the babies are constantly hungry. I removed the regular feeder and started to put sunflower seeds at the sliding door of the den. They now have gotten so used to feeding there that I can now open the door about 6" and put my hand out with some seed in it. To feel their feet perch on my finger is a real thrill. It takes patience, but it was worth it. Now the hummingbird buzzes the titmice as they come on the porch! It's a busy place these days.

How is your summer going? I have two grandsons, 9 and 10, who will be in Muscatine during the month of August, so I'll think of you and Iowa then.

Love and prayers,
Frances

BIRDING AREAS OF IOWA

The Iowa Ornithologist's Union is planning to compile the series of articles from Iowa Bird Life into a book titled Birding Areas of Iowa. The book will be about 140 pages in length and will include updates for some locations, a list of the seasonal "hot spots" in the state, a master map to permit rapid location of the desired area as well as location and species index. The book will not be published unless 330 copies are ordered.

The pre-publication price is \$3.50 per copy, postpaid. After publication, it will cost \$4.50 plus postage.

To insure that the book is published, and to reserve your copies, send your check, payable to the Iowa Ornithologist's Union, to

Peter Peterson
235 McClellan Blvd
Davenport Iowa 52803

THIS SHOULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY. Hopefully, the book will be ready by the end of the year.

IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST UNION FALL MEETING

The Fall Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologist Union will be held on September 22-23 at Keosauqua, Iowa, Van Buren County. Keosauqua is located in extreme southeast Iowa near the historic steamboat towns of Bonaparte and Bentonsport on the Des Moines River. In addition, the Lacey-Keosauqua State Park is located across the river from the steamboat Hotel Manning, where the meeting will be held.

Send for details and reservations in care of Cneita Fisher, RR #2, Keosauqua, Iowa 52565. PLEASE SEND A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RETURN MAIL.

Notes from Here and There...

ORV Destruction. An Audubon chapter in Indiana has taken steps to save a thousand-year-old Indian mound just outside Vincennes that has become a favorite haunt of motorcyclists and other off-road-vehicle drivers. It is one of the largest of these sacred sites in the state. There has been severe erosion, but the mound is not yet beyond repair. The Illiana Cypress Audubon Society has persuaded the Indiana State Highway Department, owner of the property, to give it to the Knox County Parks and Recreation Board, and there are plans for restoring the soil and vegetation and fencing the property. Restored, it could be a valuable natural area for more suitable recreation, the chapter says.

Wetlands Report. As much as 40 percent of the original wetland acreage of the lower 48 states has been irreversibly altered or destroyed, and losses are continuing at the rate of about 300,000 acres per year, according to an interagency report that has been released by the President's Council on Environmental Quality. The report, *OUR NATION'S WETLANDS*, explains the value of these areas, describes the problems they are facing, and tells about steps being taken to protect them. Copies are available without charge from the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Printing and Management (PM-215), 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460; enclose a self-addressed mailing label.

Help the Condors. T-shirts with a picture of a California condor and the legend "Nothing is quite so final as total extinction" are being sold for the benefit of the California Condor Fund. They come in small, medium, or large sizes and may be purchased from the society's Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, California 94920. The price is \$6.95, plus \$1.25 for postage and handling. The profits go toward research to save the great birds.

State Secrets? New York State has passed a bill limiting the state's Freedom of Information Act. It was passed at the request

of the Department of Environmental Conservation and empowers the commissioner to withhold information on the whereabouts of rare and endangered species of plants and wildlife when giving out that information could lead to disturbance.

Case Histories Needed. A national magazine is looking for stories about conservationists of high school senior or junior age who through some Audubon Society project have "helped make democracy work" by directly or indirectly influencing a government decision bearing on the environment. Perhaps documenting a pollution problem that led to local clean-up action, or helping campaign for a national wilderness area. Send information to Richard Beamish at Audubon headquarters in New York.

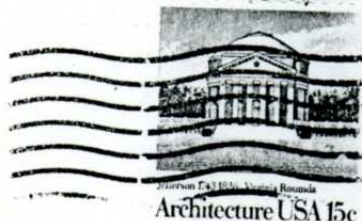
Air Pollution Information. Nonprofit citizen environmental groups are among the organizations entitled to use the Environmental Protection Agency's library services without charge. If you are trying to locate an EPA air pollution document, learn the status of an EPA regulation, or find the answers to other such questions, write or call the Library Services Office, MD 35, EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; (919) 541-2777.

Boost for Railroads. The gasoline shortage helped Amtrak this June to achieve its first two-million-passenger month. The exact figure was 2,050,000, whereas in June, 1978, the total was 1,651,000. . . And last week, when President Carter had a speech to make in Baltimore, he made a point of taking the Metroliner instead of going by helicopter.

Rivers and Dams. The synopsis of the 1978 Conference on Rivers, Dams, and National Water Policy is available for \$2.95 per copy from the American Rivers Conservation Council, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Fuel Stamps? Economic forces tend to encourage conservation when fuel becomes scarce and prices go up. A problem is that it also puts the heaviest burden on the people who can least afford it. The poor then may not be able to keep their homes warm or buy the gasoline they need to get to work. The *Washington Post* suggests an answer: fuel stamps, patterned on the food stamp program.

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