Ames Audubon Society

October Newsletter - 1977

Barney Cook, Editor

517 Hayward Ave., Ames, IA

292-8833

October Program

WHAT: Tomorrow's Energy: Where Will it Come From?

WHO: Dr. John C. Hill, Associate Professor of Physics

and Physicist in the Ames Laboratory

WHEN: Tuesday, October 11, 1977 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Horticulture 205

Note the changed location

John is a member of our group and his talk will cover a wide range of energy possibilities - "far out" as well as conventional. He will discuss the environmental consequences as well.

The Horticulture building is behind Bessey Hall (new botany building). Bessey Hall is across Osborn Drive from Kildee, our usual meeting place. It is a little to the west of Kildee.

October Field Trip. The field trip this month will be to the Izaak Walton League park east of town. Plan to meet by the clubhouse at 9:00 AM. The park is on Stagecoach Road and can be reached from Thirteenth Street. It is just beyond the Skunk River bridge. The park is on the east side of the road. The habitat is varied so we should see late migrants and perhaps water fowl on the lake.

Getting to Know Your Members - Barney Cook - Barney is a member of the executive board and is editor of the newsletter. He has written a column in the newsletter on the birds found here for several years. While he has been interested in birds since Scouting days (Bird Study Merit Badge was his favorite), he became an avid lister while in Los Alamos, New Mexico five years ago. He tries to get out every day for a short while, eating his soup and sandwich from an old black lunch pail. Since returning to Ames, he has served as field trip chairman, program chairman, and President of our club. He also compiles the Ames Christmas Bird Count and is a member of the Iowa Ornithologists Union. While not birding, he finds time to teach physics at the University where he is an Associate Professor of Physics. His research interest is in nuclear physics.

IOU Fall Meeting. The fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists is in Council Bluffs, October 29 and 30. They will meet on Saturday at DeSota Bend at 1:30 PM at the park headquarters to see geese, ducks and eagles. Registration is from 5:30-6:30 PM in Council Bluffs at the Holiday Inn. The IOU welcomes all persons interested in birds. You need not be an expert to join and attending a meeting is an excellent way to meet the bird lovers of Iowa. IOU dues are \$5.00 for which you receive their journal, Iowa Bird Life. Plan to attend. Talk to Barney Cook for further details.

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September Field Trip. The field trip at Brookside Park was somewhat disappointing as no warblers were seen. However, a total of 24 species were spotted. The high-light of the trip was a Green Heron seen flying and perching near the creek. A Belted Kingfisher's rattle was heard. Other birds seen included a Killdeer, Chimney Swift, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and American Goldfinch. While the ground was quite muddy after an early morning's shower, all who came seemed to enjoy their outing although the birding was relatively poor.

Birding Story County. Where have the birds gone? Since late August my trips have been quite dull. As an example, on a Sunday afternoon trip to McFarland I saw only six species of birds - the <u>Tufted Titmouse</u> was the only bird noted at all uncommon and of course they are resident. One unidentified warbler was seen briefly which I didn't include among the six species.

Following the field trip, Gene Burns and I spent the afternoon at Hendrickson's marsh. The August rains have filled it again. My impression is that the level is presently a little higher than that used in recent years. The trip was notable for my best view of Sora rails and a Cooper's Hawk. We saw five Sora's at close range from the road through the east end of the marsh. The Cooper's hawk cooperated by landing in a tree near the road. Other birds seen included Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-wing Teal, Red-tailed Hawk, No Harrier (Marsh Hawk), American Kestrel, American Coot, Great-crested Flycatch and a Magnolia Warbler. As we pulled away several thousand ducks were circling the marsh but we didn't make the effort to identify them.

Besides the birds noted in the field trip, an <u>Eastern Phoebe</u>, <u>Brown's Creeper</u>, and <u>Solitary Vireo</u> were seen at Brookside. This report comprises my list only. I hope others of you have had better luck. If so, let me know where the birds are to be found.

- Pied-billed Grebe
- 3. Blue-winged Teal
- 5. Cooper's Hawk
- 7. Northern Harrier
- 9. Ring-necked Pheasant
- 11. American Coot
- 13. Rock Dove
- 15. Chimney Swift
- 17. Common Flicker
- 19. Red-headed Woodpecker
- 21. Downy Woodpecker
- 23. Eastern Phoebe
- 25. Blue Jay
- 27. Black-capped Chickadee
- 29. White Breasted Nuthatch
- 31. House Wren
- 33. Brown Thrasher
- 35. Swainson's Thrush
- 37. Starling
- 39. Red-eved Vireo
- 41. Canada Warbler
- 43. Red-winged Blackbird
- 45. Northern Cardinal
- 47. American Goldfinch

- 2. Green Heron
- 4. Canada Goose
- 6. Red-tailed Hawk
- 8. American Kestrel
- 10. Sora
- 12. Killdeer
- 14. Mourning Dove
- 16. Belted Kingfisher
- 18. Red-bellied Woodpecker
- 20. Hairy Woodpecker
- 22. Great-crested Flycatcher
- 24. Barn Swallow
- 26. Common Crow
- 28. Tufted Titmouse
- 30. Brown Creeper
- 32. Gray Catbird
- 34. American Robin
- 36. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 38. Solitary Vireo
- 40. Magnolia Warbler
- 42. House Sparrow
- 44. Common Grackle
- 46. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- 48. Song Sparrow

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