

AMES AUDUBON

NEWSLETTER

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Ames, Iowa

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OUR FIRST ISSUE!

This newsletter marks the inauguration of a new project for our group. It is intended to be a monthly publication containing news and other items of interest for our members. It is hoped that an editor and staff can be selected at our June 18 meeting. If you are interested, don't hesitate to speak up.

NATURE OUTING IN AMES' RIVER VALLEY PARK

Our first nature outing and picnic certainly was considered a success by those who attended. It was held on Sunday May 19, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Gun-der Woods area of Ames' new River Valley Park, along the Skunk river. A total of 13 different families, including about 25 persons in all, participated. Mr. and Mrs. L.F. McConnell, Dr. and Mrs. W.J. Miller, and Dr. and Mrs. Barton Morgan ably served as naturalist-guides in our tour of the unspoiled and interesting wooded area. A number of uncommon birds were noted. Afterwards, everyone ate too much of the delicious pot-luck picnic. We all were able to get a little better acquainted with one another and with the beautiful park. It was an enjoyable experience and certainly was a good omen for the future of the Ames Audubon Society. We expect to have much more of such activity in the future. The Ames Park Board is to be highly commended for acquiring the park and maintaining it as a nature preserve.

National Affiliation

We recently received a note from Mr. Ralph T. Jones, director of branch service, confirming our affiliation with the National Audubon Society as of June 1. We will be receiving the Audubon magazine and

NEXT MEETING--TUESDAY, JUNE 18

The Ames Audubon Society will hold a meeting on Tuesday evening, June 18, at 8:00 p.m. in room 124, Kildee Hall, on the ISU campus. The program will consist of one side of a phonograph record, obtained from our National Audubon Society, on the heritage of Audubon. It runs for about 15 minutes and is an interesting account of the work of John J. Audubon and of the history and work of the Audubon Society. We believe you will enjoy this record. Another 15-20 minutes will be devoted to presenting some further interesting items on the life of Audubon, plus a few samples of his remarkable work.

The business meeting will concern a number of important items, including the following:

1. Constitution- a sample is being prepared at present. It is hoped that copies can be sent to members prior to the meeting. We need to adopt a sound constitution as our very first order of business so as to get our organization and activities on a broader base with maximum participation by all members.
2. Election of a Board of Directors and other unfilled positions.
3. Evaluation and possible adjustment of membership dues.
4. Setting a permanent regular meeting date each month.
5. Scheduling and organizing further nature outings.
6. Discussing and starting work on other vital conservation projects.
7. Miscellaneous items of interest.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend. We do need your help! Note the time-8:00 rather than 8:30 as was stated on the card recently sent to members.

-Conservation Leaders' Guide, which will be made available to all local members.

DDT BANNED IN AMES!

Surely the Spring of 1968 will be remembered as the time when the people of Ames won a big battle with the "insecticide interests". For this marked the official banning of DDT from all public spraying by the city. We of the Ames Audubon Society, along with other persons and groups, can surely be proud of our substantial contribution to those efforts. The main local conservation events of the spring were outlined in our letter to the Ames Tribune on May 14. In that letter we also presented our resolution on DDT to the Ames City Council. The ban was announced at their meeting of May 21 and was noted as follows the next day in the Tribune: "Received a letter from the Ames Audubon Society urging the discontinuing of the use of DDT for mosquito and Dutch elm disease control.....City Manager Castner said methoxychlor had been used in the elm program, and that they have no future plans to use DDT in the city..."

The Ames Audubon Society dared to take a stand in the public interest and we have gained stature and friends for our efforts. The Ames City Council is to be commended for its action on this matter. However, we must realize that there will be many more such opportunities in the future- on the local and broader levels. We need to enlarge and strengthen our group so that we might better be able to uphold our motto: "To safeguard and improve the quality of our natural environment." Won't you help?

We'll miss them-----

Mr. and Mrs. L.F. McConnell, who call Webster City home (she is a member of the Ames Aud. Soc.) have recently departed to continue their Audubon work. They will be helping the Rhode Island Society set up a wildlife sanctuary area and then will be heading for Florida to do similar work. They hope to be back in about a year and have promised to present a program for our group when they return. We certainly wish them the very best and a safe return!

ALONG THE
NATURALIST
TRAIL

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON (part 1)

Born in what is now Haiti on April 26, 1785, son of a Royal French Naval officer and his island mistress. Young John was taken to France in 1793 where he was reared by his father's wife. The lad developed an early passion for drawing birds. In 1803 he was sent to Pennsylvania to help care for some of his father's property. In the same year he became the first person known to have tried bird banding in America. He married Lucy Bakewell in 1808 and moved to Louisville, Ky., where he and a partner set up a general store. After a visit by ornithologist-artist Wilson, Audubon vowed to surpass Wilson's work. He then spent more and more time hunting and painting and less on business, which soon failed. He tried other business ventures, but they also failed. In 1819, was put in a debtor's prison. The sheriff took everything of Audubon's except his portfolio of bird drawings which the sheriff considered worthless. When released from jail, Audubon worked as a sidewalk artist, drawing while-you-wait portraits with great skill. In 1820 he sat out on the Ohio river, determined to draw all the birds of N. America life-size. He succeeded and in 1826 he went to Europe to seek a publisher. From 1827 to 1838 he published his monumental 5-vol. work on the Birds of America, including 435 magnificent plates, plus an accompanying 5-vol. Ornithological Biography.

He returned to America world famous and with means. The works were republished in America from 1840-1844. In 1843 Audubon sailed up the Missouri R. for material on the mammals of N. Ame., but was forced back by hostiles in N. Dak. With his sons' help, the 2-volume work on the mammals was completed and published in 1845-1848. His eyesight failed in 1847 and he died in 1851.

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"No work of mine shall be other than true metal- if copper, COPPER; if gold, GOLD--but not COPPER GILDED!"

John James Audubon