

AMES AUDUBON

NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 8

Ames, Iowa

March 10, 1969

Page 1

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 13. Regular monthly meeting in Auditorium of Ames Public Library, 6th and Douglas. At 7:30 p.m., a short business meeting devoted primarily to up-coming waterfowl fieldtrips and Ames park survey. At 8 p.m., Robert Finneke, Exec. Dir. of Story County Conservation Board, will present an illustrated talk on "The Story County Parks and Preserves System." See this newsletter for more details. Refreshments.

Sunday, March 16. About 2 p.m. at north parking area of Brookside Park. Make initial survey of the park as part of our new Ames Park Survey project. See elsewhere this newsletter for further details.

Monday, March 24. 8 p.m., Kildee Auditorium at Iowa State University sponsored Errington Memorial Lecture. Dr. Homer Swingle of Auburn Univ, will speak on the subject of fish production for human food needs.

March 22 to about April 13. Period of field trips to observe waterfowl migration. At least 2 outings are presently being planned. One is to Hickory Grove park lake, near Colo, at the invitation of Bob Pinneke. The other is an all-day trip to Little Wall and Wall Lakes north of Ames and likely other points further north. Exact dates will depend on the weather and the arrival of the waterfowl. Keep in touch with Steve Hanselmann or Mrs. W. J. Miller, who have agreed to serve as coordinators for both events.

Tuesday, April 15. Des Moines Audubon Society. 7:45 p.m. at Friends House, 4211 Grand Ave., just off the new freeway. Robert Vane of Cedar Rapids will present an illustrated program on "The Birdwatchers' Summit-a report on the 14th Intern. Ornithological Congress."

April. Ames Audubon Society meeting. Mr. Harry Harrison, Chief Biologist of the Iowa Conservation Commission will present an illustrated talk on the work of the Conservation Commission in promoting wildlife in Iowa. Exact date not yet set but probably either April 22 or 24.

Tuesday, May 13. Ames Audubon annual election and other vital business. Program not yet set. At Ames Public Library.

"The Story County Parks and Preserves System."

People are flocking to our various city, county, state, and national parks and preserves in ever increasing numbers. These sites are maintained for a multitude of recreational, sporting, and educational uses. Too often we take these areas for granted. We rarely give a second thought to the foresight and initial difficult struggles by concerned citizens to set aside these areas or to the great amount of planning, work, and funds required to maintain and develop them. It is the Audubon view that an informed public is more likely to go along with public policies that are conducive to the wise use of our natural resources. In line with this, Ames Audubon is happy to sponsor a detailed report on the Story County situation. Robert R. Finneke, Exec. Dir. of the Story Co. Conservation Board, will present an illustrated talk on "The Story County Parks and Preserves System", starting at 8pm. on Thursday, March 13, at the Ames Public Library. (continued next page)

1935 1st County Conservation Board? + carryover
mill levy could \$100,000 .679 \$103,000
\$35,000 4. -- --> Hickory Grove

"Story County Parks--" (continued from page 1)

Pinneke, who has been conservation director here for 2 years, will discuss the county's 5 year comprehensive conservation plan. This plan will include recommendations for green belts and considerations on the proposed Ames reservoir. Plans for upland game and waterfowl management areas will also be discussed.

① Hickory Grove Park, a 368 acre multirecreational area containing a 110 acre lake has been the site of extensive development by the Board the past 5 years, and is the site of the Board's central offices. The lake will be impounded to a depth of 43 feet. Future development of this park will be discussed at length.

Other development plans being considered by the Board include ② McFarland Lake Park, a 99 acre tract now owned by the county. It will border on the Ames Reservoir and I-35, and plans presently being considered center around a nature education theme.

Other sites under Pinneke's supervision include ③ Dakin's Lake Park, near Zearing, a picnicking and camping area; ④ Robison's acres, a 60 acre wildlife preserve northwest of Maxwell; ⑤ Sopers Mills Access, along the Skunk River, about 5 miles northeast of Ames; and ⑥ 3 roadside parks.

Funds for the program are provided by a county-wide property tax, with a 1-mill maximum levy authorized by state law. The current yearly budget is slightly over \$100,000. It is hoped that some matching federal funds will become available to assist in the development of the program.

Pinneke is a native of the Mason City-Clear Lake area. He studied Wildlife Biology at Iowa State and has worked for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He is widely recognized as one of Iowa's most capable young conservation leaders. Bob and his wife presently reside at Hickory Grove Park.. Dave Lysne, Dick Meyers, and Forrest Turner assist Pinneke in his duties.

This promises to be one of our most interesting and informative programs to date. All members and other local residents are urged to attend.

A New Project- Survey of Ames Parks Features

Ames Audubon is initiating a new project which combines public service and an experiment in self-education in the natural history of Ames. We hope to commence the task of taking an inventory of several of our fine city parks. The ultimate objective is to determine the various species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds in season, wildlife, etc., present in each area. These would then be listed in a brochure, along with a map of the major landmarks and points of interest. These would be made available to those interested for use in exploring the parks and learning more of their features. Mr. Lloyd Kurtz, Ames Parks Commissioner, has heartily endorsed the project and promises full backing in preparing any material for public distribution. Our first preliminary session will be on Sunday, March 16, at about 2 p.m. Anyone interested is asked to meet at the north parking area in Brookside Park. For further information, contact Ben Bereskin, 232-1198.

The Cardinal surely merits consideration to be voted our club bird. Soon his songs (along with those of the female) will fill the early morning hours for all to enjoy. John J. Audubon many years ago commented thus: "During the love season, the song is emitted with increased emphasis by this proud musician, who, as if aware of his powers, swells his throat, spreads his rosy tail, droops his wings, and leans alternately to the right and left, as if on the eve (contd on page 3.)

Audubon's comments on the Cardinal's song. (cont'd from page 2)

of expiring with delight at the delicious sounds of his own voice."
(Some listeners prefer the female's softer music.)

Notes on recent activities

The program by Philip Cox of Ames (formerly of England) on "The English Rural Scene", presented at our February 12 meeting, was thoroughly enjoyed by approximately 30 persons who attended. Phil did a great job in mixing scenes of the beautiful Southern England countryside, archeological sites, and some from the Ames area. He worked up an interesting dialogue which contained a goodly amount of dry English humor. His wife, a native Iowa belle, ably assisted in the presentation. Thanks again, folks, for a superb evening. Those Audubon members and others who did not attend were the real losers this time.

As planned, 2 field trips provided great pleasure to those hardy souls who were fortunate enough to participate. The first was on Sunday Febr. 16 at Brookside Park. Featured were a sighting of a barred owl and a dead raccoon. A roaring fire at a park shelter was the scene of a hearty weiner roast and toe and finger warming. Firewood was provided by the Ames Park Commission. We certainly wish to express our thanks to them for sending a man over especially to bring some logs to the shelter for the event. Then, on Saturday, March 2, the Audubon hikers visited Barton Morgan's bird feeding station and the surrounding terrain at the Izaak Walton League Park. It was a great day with the blue sky!

A NOTE ON BIRD MIGRATION

Bird migration is perhaps the most distinctive phase of bird life and is one of the most remarkable phenomena in the animal kingdom. Recorded observations on bird migration can be traced back more than 3500 years. The many factors contributing to migration are now being studied scientifically and bit by bit our knowledge is growing. One interesting facet is the time of day for migration. Most birds appear to be more or less helpless in the dark, but the night migrants probably far outnumber those of the daylight hours. These include the majority of the small birds. Many students of birds have had the experience of finding the woods and fields one day almost barren of bird life and on the following day filled with sparrows, warblers, thrushes, and others that had arrived during the night. At favorable times and locations, telescopes pointed at the moon have revealed processions of birds that for many hours are almost continuous. One observer estimated as many as 9000 an hour at its height. Night travel is thought to be chiefly convenient from the standpoint of feeding and concealment. Long flights involve a great expenditure of energy, making it almost a matter of necessity to be able to feed both before and immediately after a long night flight. They can pause at daybreak and devote the entire period of daylight to alternate feeding and resting prior to another leg of the journey that night. Many species of water and shore birds migrate indifferently by day or night as they are able to feed at all hours and are not accustomed to seek safety in concealment. In addition to some of the ducks and geese, day migrants include the loons, cranes, gulls, hawks, swallows, nighthawks, and swifts. All of these are strong-winged birds that can alternately feed and fly or even feed in flight.

(From "The Migration of American Birds" by F. C. Lincoln.)

8:10 - 9:20

1967 Started

Play Robison prop. to Maxwell Ikes land
State Pres System?
15 acre prairie
20A timber

Eliminate on any
imp?
6hp on over 100A
No restrictions on
water at lakes
Island &
bridge

Soper's Mill - will be flooded
McFarland Lake

State Cons. Comm.

Skiunk R reservoir
County Forest
SK River Cr
Square Cr
Indian Cr
Move some young trees
Conservation Pool
Flood 3000 A

usually Log 300ft on either
side of flood stage

TAOS LAKE - 2000 geese nests
100 A industry depression west of Story City - lake? will be
SCS gave surveying help?
req 2600ft dike
Acquisition 1970? Dam 71

Green belts

5 yr. extensive studies for Story County

Sida grass

Pop. 11. A Univ 2000 yrs A

Channel cat

Overlapping county facilities where come
ALL Parks 30A per 1000 people? Projection of
now 11 A per 1000 people Harrison Assoc.

Large mouth bass

Motivating people to hike, nat. trails

Crappie

2414 Kellogg
Ames, Iowa

Beaver Creek
100 year life to
impoundment

Buyt
1/3 mile road
for \$2000 with
equipment



Beaver

Inherited from Hiram Combe

21 people

Story City Park

H.G. sewage logs

Take out (occasional) parts of Hort. Farm

Pot holes

\$213,000
road cost

→ 2nd. major county park

between I 35 Dr. & Mrs W. J. Muller

Kennie Lane

N. end of Reg

Frank Sinatra

Resting on interstate 218 Parkridge Cr

Landscaper

Nature Center on
McFarland Lake

5 streets @
50,000

Beaver Creek silt impoundment Ames, Iowa

Feed strips

195 31 sq. m watershed

Robison's Acres
40A Deer

5A Dakin's Lake Conserv?

Frank Collins
Landscape Designer

Antimycin A will be stocked

Mauf

18A
Reed's Canarygrass

R+w pine, spruce Pulled up by roots