

Ames Audubon Society

November Newsletter

Barney Cook, Editor

517 Hayward Ave., Ames, IA

292-8833

November Program

WHAT: The Ames Coal Project
WHO: Mr. Ray Fisher, The Ames Laboratory of DOE
WHEN: Tuesday, November 15
WHERE: Horticulture 205

Note the changed location

Ray Fisher is an engineer long associated with the Ames Laboratory of DOE. He has been active in the Ames Coal Project since its inception. The University operates a model coal mine where they actively attempt to mine coal in an environmentally acceptable way and also to utilize high sulphur coal without contamination of our air and water. He will report the early experience in these techniques. Plan to attend.

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

November Field Trip. Our trip this month is combined with the Ames Conservation Council trip to the new Saylorville dam project. We will meet at the visitor's center at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday November 19. To reach Saylorville, drive 5-6 miles south on highway 415 from Polk City. The turn to Saylorville is marked. Unless the road has been paved this summer, the turn off is onto a gravel road.

October Trip. The trip was attended by a small but enthusiastic group at the Izaak Walton League Park. Birding was spotty but before the morning had closed 30 species had been seen. The details are included in the feature "Birding Story County."

Conservation Notes. Nature Conservancy is currently attempting to raise \$200,000 in Iowa for land acquisition. If you care to contribute we would be happy to see that your gift reaches them. Sven Gafvert will be glad to discuss their project more fully and receive your check. All sized contributions are welcome.

News of Members. Jeff Ruprecht, our most recent past president and currently our vice-president is leaving Ames to accept a position in Idaho Falls. Jeff has arranged our programs this year so that his influence will linger on actively this year. Best wishes, Jeff, in your new job. We will miss you.

Christmas Bird Count. The bird count will be held Saturday, December 17. Barney Cook will act as the compiler again this year. He will be contacting each of you personally for help. We count a 15 mile diameter circle centered on Highway 30 and I-30. Each of you will be invaluable to the count regardless of your ability. Set the day aside now and plan to join us for a day of good birding.

December dates. Richard Madson, the Ass't Regional Representative will address the ISU Fish and Wildlife Club on Monday ~~December 12~~. We have invited him to stay over until the next day which is scheduled for our Christmas party. As yet we do not know whether he can accept.

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Birding Story County. October was mild and conducive to birding except few birds are here. As an example a noon trip to Brookside yielded only three species: Starlings, Chickadees and Juncos. Thus my report this month except where noted is again confined to my personal observations and to the October trip to the Izaak Walton Park. I have observed that the birds are concentrated in just a few localities. The places have heavy cover so that birds are hard to see and identify. John Hill made the same remark when he reported the results of the October trip.

Among the more interesting sightings he reported, I would include the Turkey Vulture, the Red-Tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet and the Savannah Sparrow. The Barn Swallow and the Chimney Swift should be noted also as a trifle late.

On Sunday, October 30, I again visited McFarland and walked directly to the lake in order to sight water fowl. One Pied-billed Grebe was diving but no other birds were spotted. I then followed the creek below the dam where I usually see late warblers but until almost to the river I neither saw nor heard a bird. However just before the river in heavy cover, I heard sparrows and with patience I spotted many Fox Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Chickadees and Junco. Two Purple Finches were also seen, one a beautiful male. About this time a drizzle began and not wanting to be caught far from the car, I wandered back toward the parking lot planning to skirt the east end of the lake to check for Snipe. I saw no bird at all until searching the pot hole north of the prairie planting. There I found Harris and White-throated Sparrows as well as other sparrows. More sparrows were seen in the marsh east of the lake but no Snipe this year. The only new species for the day seen there was the Song Sparrow as well as a Cardinal but one would have expected to see these on any day. No birds were seen along the lake but Junco and Tree Sparrows were found in the new prairie planting at the parking lot. P.S. I never got wet but two minutes after reaching my car the rain began as I drove home in late twilight.

Sven Gafvert has Cedar Waxwings at his home while Grif Buck has White-throated Sparrows visiting his feeder. In all 39 species were seen this month.

October Bird List

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Pied-billed Grebe | 2. Canada Goose |
| 3. Duck (sp) | 4. Turkey Vulture |
| 5. Red-tailed Hawk | 6. Broad-winged Hawk |
| 7. Ring-necked Pheasant | 8. Chimney Swift |
| 9. Common Flecher | 10. Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| 11. Red-headed Woodpecker | 12. Barn Swallow |
| 13. Downy Woodpecker | 14. Common Crow |
| 15. Blue Jay | |

Rose Breasted Nuthatch



Gail & Ruby Buck
1108 Scott
Ames

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| 16. | White-breasted Nuthatch | 18. | Am. Robin |
| 17. | Black-capped Chickadee | 19. | Brown Creeper |
| 20. | Eastern Bluebird | 21. | Swainson's Thrush |
| 22. | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 23. | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 24. | Starling | 25. | Cedar Waxwing |
| 26. | Yellow-ringed Warbler | 27. | Orange-crowned Kinglet |
| 28. | Red-winged Blackbird | 29. | House Sparrow |
| 30. | No. Cardinal | 31. | Common Grackle |
| 32. | Savannah Sparrow | 33. | Purple Finch |
| 34. | Tree Sparrow | 35. | Dark-eyed Junco |
| 36. | White-throated Sparrow | 37. | Harris Sparrow |
| 38. | Song Sparrow | 39. | Fox Sparrow |

