

AMES AUDUBON

NEWSLETTER

Vol. II, No. 5

Ames, Iowa

October 5, 1969

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Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, ISU Memorial Union. Two-hour full-color and sound motion picture on "Three Young Americans; In Search of Survival". Free film program on problems of the environment, presented thru the courtesy of the 3M Company of Minnesota and sponsored by the Ames Audubon Society and the Iowa State Ecology Group. See elsewhere this issue for more details.

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. in Kildee Auditorium, ISU. Repeat showing of the above 3M film program.

October Birding Trips. Nothing definite is scheduled as of this date, but individuals and small groups will be going out periodically. The Steve Hanselmann's have recently moved to Nevada, so Jim Rod has kindly agreed to serve as "anchor man" for birding trips. His number is 232-4869, in Ames. It is likely that several members and friends will be going to the Ledges near Boone on Sunday, October 12. Others have indicated a desire for a trip on Oct. 19. If you would like to be included on one of these days, or wish other information, please call Jim. Plans are being considered to greatly expand member participation.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m., Great Hall, ISU Memorial Union. Our first Audubon Wildlife Film program, Kent Durden will present his full-color motion pictures and lecture on "Death Valley-Land of Contrast". Co-sponsored by Ames Audubon Society and Iowa State Botany Club. More details elsewhere this issue. Please reserve this date.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m., place to be announced next issue. Special business meeting and program. Several important matters need to be taken care of. More details next issue. As a special feature, Mr. Edward M. Brigham III, Upper Midwest Representative for the National Audubon Society, will be in town to visit with our group and present his very fine slide program on "Conservation Is Choices." Mr. Brigham is a highly qualified and very able man and we are very happy that he has arranged to visit with us. Please reserve that date and attend.

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"THREE YOUNG AMERICANS; IN SEARCH OF SURVIVAL"

This is the title of the 2-hour full-color film to be presented on this Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (see calendar, above) and sponsored by the Ames Audubon Society and the ISU Ecology Group. All members are urged to attend one of these programs and invite your friends, too. This film appeared on nationwide TV last March, including WCI-TV, sponsored by the 3M Company of Minn. Those who had seen the film on TV were very high in their praise. This led us to contact 3M and they agreed to loan us the film for showing at this time. We have received a brochure on the program and a question was raised at the Executive Board meeting on one section of the film. So we'd like to quote (p. 2)

CONSERVATION IS OUR CREED

(continued from page 1) from the brochure as follows: "This program is about the largest things on earth. It's also about the smallest. It's about a grand concept of philosophy. It's about life forms that refuse to become extinct as a species. It's about species that have become extinct. It's about the irreversible decisions that we make every day. It's about the lost frontier in America, and the search for a new one. This film concerns the environmental challenge of our time- and three young Americans who are trying to meet it. The first "young American" is Gary Smith, a graduate student at Utah State. Gary feels deeply about the physical world about him and is committed to the work of rationally managing our wilderness areas in order to preserve them for future generations. Harold Haskins is a gang worker. He is black and he has hope for America and his people: Within a year, he changed perhaps the toughest gang in Philadelphia into youthful Americans who see a future. The third "young American", Mary Goodwin, typifies a generation actively involved in the environmental problems of today and possibilities of the future. Her life and work revolve around the water and the complexity of man's relationship to this most vital of resources.

"It is thru these "Young Americans" that you will see a program of great diversity. It has poetry and beauty-color and controversy-drama and human emotion. The story will be told against the most spectacular scenic backgrounds in America. But the locales are mainly the backdrops for the intense struggles going on in America today-the push and pull to find a balance between the needs of people for the heritage of natural things and the needs of people for food, recreation, and modern living."

As noted above, the film includes a portion on urban problems. This is not in the realm of problems with which the Audubon Society is directly concerned. However, as we have stated in the past, just because we sponsor a film or program does not mean we endorse everything contained therein. This film was so highly recommended by very knowledgeable people for its presentation of the problems of natural environment we felt it was presenting. We urge that every member see one of the programs and reserve judgement until that time. Dr. Roger Landers, ISU Ecologist, and Dave Trauger, highly respected Wildlife Instructor, have agreed to serve as moderators for the programs. Dr. Adela Elwell, Audubon member and Prof. of Zoology at ISU, will represent our group and assist Dr. Landers at the Tuesday program. Gerald Robinson will represent Ames Audubon on Wednesday. We expect a good crowd so we urge you come early if you wish a good seat. Bring your friends too. We are confident you won't be ashamed of your organization for having the film.

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NEW MEMBERS OF AMES AUDUBON

We are particularly pleased to announce 3 new memberships. They include Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rod, of Ames, who are enthusiastic about natural history, conservation, and birding. They are members of National Audubon and the proud parents of Jim Rod, who also recently joined our group and is already one of our most active members.

Dr. Milton Weller, ISU Wildlife Biologist and recognized the world over as one of the top men in his field, also recently expressed his confidence in our group by becoming a member. Dr. Weller last year presented a slide program on his trip to Alaska, to a turn-away audience. We certainly welcome these folks to our Society and hereby pledge even greater efforts in our activities so as to fully merit their trust.

A REPORT ON THE RECENT MEETING OF THE ICWA ORNITHOLOGIST UNION

By Jim Rod

Shore-birds and ducks by the thousands greeted early morning birders at Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Missouri on Sunday, Sept. 21. Nearly 40 members of the Iowa Ornithologist Union attending the annual fall meeting elected to visit the marsh, located about 50 miles south of Shenandoah, Ia., while an equal number scoured the area around Waubonsie State Park, near Shenandoah, for other fall migrants.

Those of us who visited the marsh under the able guidance of Mr. Harold Burgess, refuge manager, discovered interesting birds at every stop. There were a few early geese but the majority of the waterfowl were ducks, nine species in all, including the black duck, not a common migrant through the central states. Many mud flats were swarming with shorebirds including American golden plovers, a marbled godwit, and the more common Hudsonian godwit, avocets, and the uncommon northern phalarope. Twenty species of shorebirds were identified through the telescopes and binoculars that lined the bays. All the species of swallows found in the eastern states were darting in mixed flocks over the water. Also present was a small flock of white pelicans and a few common egrets. Harold Burgess spotted a red-shafted flicker, the western counterpart of our yellow-shafted flicker.

Meanwhile, the birders in the park back in Iowa were doing well with the landbirds. Warblers were scarce, only 4 species being seen, but hawks, owls, sparrows, and flycatchers gradually built up the list. After the noon lunch on Sunday, the birds seen by both groups were compiled on one list and the total was 108 species. The birds were there and the variety of habitats visited by sharp eyes resulted in a good cross-section of fall migrants through Iowa. A prelude to the winter birds soon to come.

(Ed. note: The above is a very fine article and is the kind we have invited from our members since we started the Newsletter. How about you?)

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Coming Soon: Audubon Wildlife Films, To Ames, IowaNov. 5: Death Valley-Land of Contrast, Presented by Kent Durden.

The reception by the people of Ames of this first film will surely go a long ways in determining the success of our efforts to bring this high calibre entertaining and educational type of program here on a regular basis. These programs are produced by the National Audubon Society and this is their 27th consecutive season for them. This year, some 1500 programs will be presented in over 250 North American communities, including 8 in Iowa, by 41 top-flight nature photographer-lecturers. The National Audubon Society states: "These are film-lecture programs featuring all forms of wildlife and plant life in color and dramatic action in their natural environment. They are presented in person by naturalists and wildlife photographers with the purpose of furthering knowledge and understanding of natural history and promoting the conservation of our natural resources in relation to human progress."

In other words, these are not merely travelogues, but bring a new dimension and meaning in nature photography to the audience. We believe our Nov. 5 program is an excellent one and merits your support. We need volunteers to help in various ways to put this show over successfully in all ways, including financially. Proceeds will be shared by the Ames Audubon Society and the ISU Botany Club. Call 232-1198 or 232-7287 if you wish to help in any way.

Reports on Recent Events

An enthusiastic group of about 30 adults turned out on September 9 to enjoy a fine program by Dr. and Mrs. W.J. Miller on "Southwestern Oklahoma", home of Dr. Miller in his boyhood and youth. These fine folks are keen observers of nature and their program fully reflected this. They took turns narrating different portions on the geology, plants, wildlife, and human inhabitants of the area. Considerable time and effort went into preparing the program and it is too bad that more of our members and others didn't attend to enjoy it. They were the real losers. Spiced hot apple cider and donuts provided the refreshments. Those members who were gracious enough to bring these items deserve a further token of thanks. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed it. You don't have to be an Audubon member to attend any of our events. And you are under no obligation and you won't be high pressured, ever.

A total of 13 avid birders participated in a trip that included stops at Hendrickson marsh near Colo, the Chichaqua Wildlife refuge, in northeast Polk County, and Anderson (Goose) marsh and Little Wall Lake near Jewell. Sightings included some common shorebirds, hawks, ducks, one Canadian Goose (resident) at Chichaqua, and one magnificent osprey at Little Wall (he may still be there). Steve Hanselmann has reported sightings of red crossbills in the Nevada cemetery. Jim Rod is on the trail of owls reported to be in certain areas and if he finds them, we can all go out and look for them too.

Too early

Our project on the Nature Trail in Brookside is progressing slowly but steadily. Our target date is for a field trip to dedicate it next May 2 or 3. Contact us if you are interested in helping on this very interesting and worthy project. Call 232-1198. Prof. Dyas conducted a very fine tour of the area on Sept. 13 and gave us a host of great ideas. We certainly appreciate his efforts and expect to consult with him on the project in the future.

We plan to have our incorporation details worked out for the Nov. 11. business meeting when members will have a chance to vote on it.

A NOTE TO ALL NON-MEMBERS OF AMES AUDUBON:

We would be very happy to continue sending our newsletters to you, under no obligation, whatsoever. All we ask is that you send us the following form with your name and address filled in. If you have already sent in such a form, ignore this reminder. Thank you.

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Yes, I would like to continue receiving the Ames Audubon Newsletter in the future with the full understanding there will be no obligation, whatsoever, to me or to my family.

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