

# Ames Audubon Society

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December Newsletter 1976

Barney Cook, Editor 517 Hayward Ave, Ames, Iowa

292-8833

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## DECEMBER PROGRAM

WHAT : Annual Christmas Party  
WHO : All of us  
WHEN : Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Unitarian Fellowship, 1015 Hyland Ave

An informal meeting is planned featuring conversation and a slide fest on nature topics. Plans for the bird count on the following Sunday will also be discussed. Bring up to fifteen recent slides if you are a photographer for us to show. They need not include only photos of birds - general scenery of places to visit are welcome. A few Christmas cookies for us to nibble would also be appreciated - except I'm on a diet. Plan to come and bring a friend.

Christmas Bird Count. The arrangements for this year's count are well along. We count a circle centered at Hyw 30 and the Interstate. The circle reaches to Soper's Mill on the north, Nevada on the east, almost to Huxley on the south and just into Boone county on the west and thus includes all of Ames. Last year 52 observers participated and a total of 49 species were seen. A Cooper's Hawk and Field Sparrow were seen for the first time during an Ames Christmas Count.

We count this year on Sunday, December 19. Our circle has been divided into eleven areas each assigned to a group leader. The group leaders are John Hill, Wilmer and Lotus Miller, Terry Quinn, Jeff Ruprecht, Sven Gafvert, Bob and Joan Jefferson, Barney Cook, Jim Wilson, Judy Rod, Erwin Klaas, and James Dinsmore. Each leader is an outstanding expert and all have participated in previous counts. Each group leader will contact each person assigned to his area as to time and place to meet. While it is more useful to count the entire day, you may limit your participation to the morning or afternoon if you prefer.

Barney Cook is in charge. If you wish to help, please call him before the count. (Tel. 292-8833) We also record species seen three days before and after the day of the count. Since I leave for California the next day, report any unusual sighting to Jeff Ruprecht (232-0124). We also want watchers at feeders. We sometimes see Brown Thrashers, Rufous-sided Towhees or Carolina Wrens in this way; however all reports are welcome. Call Barney if you wish to be a feeder watcher.



Fees. National Audubon requires each participant including feeder watchers to pay a fee of \$1.00. This fee partially offsets the publication cost of the count in American Birds. You may subscribe to American Birds at this time by paying a \$8.00 fee. The July issue containing the results of all No. American Christmas counts can be purchased separately for \$4.50.

After-count Tally. We will meet after the count at Bob and Joan Jefferson's home east of Ames for refreshments and a tally of the results. To reach the Jefferson's, drive east on old highway 30 one mile past the Interstate. The house is set back in a wood grove on the south side of the road. Come anytime during the afternoon but certainly plan to be present at the tally of species at 5:30 p.m.

Water for birds. Many in Audubon feed birds, but this year water is equally important. Lois Carr uses a heating tape to keep the water melted and reports many birds have been attracted to her yard. Sven Gafvert reminded me such tapes can be obtained from farm supply stores as farmers use them to keep water troughs open. This should be an inexpensive solution.

November Field Trip. Nine of us drove over to DeSota Bend Wildlife Refuge to help Dr. Ervin Klaas count neck collars. We were fortunate to see many thousands of geese and a few neck collars in the multitudes. Erv uses white collars with black letters on the Blue Geese and black collars with white letters on the Snow Geese. I remind you both are just color phases of the same species, the Snow Goose. Besides geese we saw Bald Eagles, Mallards, Scaup, Common Merganser, and Goldeneye as well as some passerines. Gene Bum saw a Snow Bunting on the drive over so perhaps we will find them near Ames.



Birding Story County (by Barney Cook)

All my reporters have remarked about the scarcity of birds this month. By now only the common winter resident birds can be seen with any regularity. However, a few Robins and White-throated Sparrows continue to be present. All agree that the number of Red-headed Woodpeckers are drastically below last year; however, Common Flichers are still present in some numbers. The reports of owls have been more frequent. Jeff Ruprecht noted both Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls near the Ames High prairie. I saw Great Horned Owls both at Brookside and McFarland Parks.

A good sized flock of Mourning Doves was seen feeding on the sand in Squaw Creek just north of Brookside. A Kingfisher and Harris sparrow was also seen there. The creek had open water there while by Brookside it was completely dry. Joan Jefferson still has Harris sparrows in her yard in the country. McFarland Park continued to be a good birding site - at least to the freeze-up this last week. Titmice, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Fox Sparrows, Robins and White-throated sparrows were all seen there. Lois Carr has had Purple Finch at her feeder. The Red-winged Blackbird were seen in cat-tails along the road to the Ames Treatment Plant.

Reports were received from Jeff Ruprecht, Lois Carr, Joan Jefferson, Sven Gafvert and myself. A total of 31 species were noted, and no truly outstanding sightings were made. I have included a list of birds found on the last six Christmas counts. You may use this to get a good idea of what birds can be found in winter around Ames.

| MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY   | AMOUNT ENCLOSURE |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Junior (10 and under) | 1.00             |
| Student (any age)     | 2.00             |
| Adult (single)        | 3.00             |
| Student family        | 7.50             |
| Adult family          | 14.00            |

Fill out the form below, make a check payable to Ames Audubon Society, and send both to Mrs. John Carr, 619 5th Street, Ames, Iowa 50010

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT ENCLOSURE \_\_\_\_\_



November Bird List

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rock Dove                | 2. Mourning Dove          |
| 3. Screech Owl              | 4. Great Horned Owl       |
| 5. Belted Kingfisher        | 6. Common Flicker         |
| 7. Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 8. Red-headed Woodpecker  |
| 9. Hairy Woodpecker         | 10. Downy Woodpecker      |
| 11. Blue Jay                | 12. Common Crow           |
| 13. Black-capped Chickadee  | 14. Tufted Titmouse       |
| 15. White-breasted Nuthatch | 16. Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| 17. Brown Creeper           | 18. Winter Wren           |
| 19. Am. Robin               | 20. Starling              |
| 21. House Sparrow           | 22. Red-winged Blackbird  |
| 23. No. Cardinal            | 24. Purple Finch          |
| 25. Am. Goldfinch           | 26. Slate-colored Junco   |
| 27. Tree Sparrow            | 28. Harris Sparrow        |
| 29. White-throated Sparrow  | 30. Fox Sparrow           |
| 31. Song Sparrow            |                           |

The objectives of the Ames Audubon Society are two-fold:

1. To engage in and encourage the enjoyment and study of birds, other wildlife, plants, and the many other facets of nature in order to gain a broader understanding and a deeper appreciation of the world we live in.
2. To engage in educational and similar activities directed toward safeguarding and improving the quality of our natural environment.

Dues for 1977 are being received. Membership categories and dues are as follows:

| <u>CATEGORY</u>       | <u>DUES</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Adult family          | \$4.50      |
| Student family        | 3.50        |
| Adult (single)        | 3.00        |
| Student (any age)     | 2.00        |
| Junior (16 and under) | 1.00        |

Fill out the form below, make a check payable to Ames Audubon Society, and send both to Mrs. Lois Carr, 619 8th Street, Ames, Iowa 50010

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_



BIRDS SEEN DURING LAST SIX AMES CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Code: First No. - number of counts in which the species was observed

Second No. - total individual birds seen in all six counts

|   |                 |                                 |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ (1-3) Canada Goose                      | _____ (6-11296) | House sparrows                  |
| _____ (4-111) Mallard                         | _____ (6-218)   | Meadowlark (sp)                 |
| _____ (1-1) Sharp shinned hawk                | _____ (4-16)    | Red-winged blackbird            |
| _____ (1-1) Cooper's hawk                     | _____ (2-4)     | Rusty blackbird                 |
| _____ (5-14) Red-tailed hawk                  | _____ (6-199)   | Common grackle                  |
| _____ (5-10) Rough-legged hawk                | _____ (1-5)     | Brown-headed cowbird            |
| _____ (1-1) Marsh hawk                        |                 | Cardinal                        |
| _____ (1-1) Ferruginous hawk                  | _____ (6-579)   | Evening grosbeak                |
| _____ (5-10) American Kestrel                 | _____ (2-18)    | Purple finch                    |
| _____ (4-90) Bobwhite                         | _____ (6-111)   | Redpoll                         |
| _____ (6-483) Ring-necked pheasant            | _____ (1-45)    | Pine siskin                     |
| _____ (1-27) Common Snipe                     | _____ (3-18)    | American goldfinch              |
| _____ (3-737) Rock dove                       | _____ (6-403)   | Vesper sparrow                  |
| _____ (6-90) Mourning dove                    | _____ (1-1)     | Red crossbill                   |
| _____ (6-78) Screech owl                      | _____ (1-20)    | White-winged crossbill          |
| _____ (6-77) Great horned owl                 | _____ (1-21)    | Dark-eyed junco (slate-colored) |
| _____ (6-12) Barred owl                       |                 | Dark-eyed junco (Oregon)        |
| _____ (3-4) Long-eared owl                    | _____ (6-3899)  | Tree sparrow                    |
| _____ (2-8) Short-eared owl                   |                 | Chipping sparrow                |
| _____ (1-1) Saw-whet owl                      | _____ (5-13)    | Harris sparrow                  |
| _____ (5-14) Belted Kingfisher                |                 | White-throated sparrow          |
| _____ (5-118) Common flicker (yellow shafted) | _____ (6-1831)  | Field sparrow                   |
| _____ (1-1) Common flicker (red shafted)      | _____ (2-22)    | Fox sparrow                     |
| _____ (6-131) Red-bellied woodpecker          | _____ (5-17)    | Swamp sparrow                   |
| _____ (5-174) Red-headed woodpecker           | _____ (2-3)     | Song sparrow                    |
| _____ (3-5) Yellow-bellied sapsucker          | _____ (6-229)   | Lapland longspur                |
| _____ (6-114) Hairy woodpecker                | _____ (4-326)   | Snow bunting                    |
| _____ (6-450) Downy woodpecker                | _____ (3-112)   |                                 |
| _____ (6-215) Horned lark                     |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-691) Blue jay                        |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-857) Crow                            |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-992) Black-capped chickadee          |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-83) Tufted titmouse                  |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-391) White-breasted nuthatch         |                 |                                 |
| _____ (5-39) Red-breasted nuthatch            |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-71) Brown creeper                    |                 |                                 |
| _____ (3-5) Winter wren                       |                 |                                 |
| _____ (3-4) Brown thrasher                    |                 |                                 |
| _____ (5-8) American robin                    |                 |                                 |
| _____ (3-6) Eastern bluebird                  |                 |                                 |
| _____ (1-2) Ruby-crowned kinglet              |                 |                                 |
| _____ (5-47) Golden-crowned kinglet           |                 |                                 |
| _____ (4-40) Cedar waxwing                    |                 |                                 |
| _____ (2-2) Shrike                            |                 |                                 |
| _____ (6-5179) Starlings                      |                 |                                 |

OTHER SPECIES:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(8-2110) 2110  
 (3-3) 3  
 (8-80) 80  
 (2-21) 21  
 (1-3) 3  
 (3-8) 8  
 (2-8) 8  
 (3-7) 7  
 (3-2) 2  
 (8-17) 17  
 (2-30) 30  
 (8-307) 307  
 (8-82) 82  
 (8-85) 85  
 (8-821) 821  
 (8-887) 887  
 (8-887) 887  
 (8-830) 830  
 (8-117) 117  
 (3-2) 2  
 (2-128) 128  
 (8-131) 131  
 (1-1) 1  
 (2-118) 118  
 (2-14) 14  
 (1-1) 1  
 (3-8) 8  
 (3-8) 8  
 (8-15) 15  
 (8-11) 11  
 (8-18) 18  
 (8-30) 30  
 (8-33) 33  
 (1-1) 1  
 (8-23) 23  
 (8-20) 20  
 (8-10) 10  
 (1-1) 1  
 (2-10) 10  
 (2-14) 14  
 (1-1) 1  
 (1-1) 1  
 (8-111) 111  
 (1-3) 3

OTHER EFFECTS:

(3-115) 115  
 (8-350) 350  
 (3-2) 2  
 (8-8) 8  
 (1-1) 1  
 (3-3) 3  
 (2-13) 13  
 (3-55) 55  
 (8-1287) 1287  
 (2-13) 13  
 (8-2880) 2880  
 (1-11) 11  
 (1-50) 50  
 (1-1) 1  
 (8-407) 407  
 (8-18) 18  
 (1-22) 22  
 (8-111) 111  
 (3-18) 18  
 (8-230) 230



Wilmer & Lotus Miller  
 218 Parkridge Circle  
 Ames