

AMES AUDUBON

December Newsletter - 1977

Barney Cook, Editor 517 Hayward Ave., Ames, Iowa 292-8833

December Program

WHAT: Annual Christmas Party
WHEN: Tuesday, December 13 7:30 pm
WHERE: Unitarian Fellowship, 1015 No. Hyland

In our tradition we will gather for an informal get-to-gether for the December meeting. Bring slides on any nature subject-- vacation scenes, snow or sunsets, squirrels at your feeder - not necessarily birds. We want to share them with you. Also cookies will be most appreciated. We will supply the beverages.

The bird count will be discussed as well. If you want you may pay your \$1.50 fee. (An increase of 50 cents over last year.) All group leaders have been invited to the meeting as well as our members. This should give you the opportunity to arrange meeting Saturday.

As a special treat Richard Madson, the Assistant Regional Representative of National Audubon will attend. A few of us are joining him for dinner before the meeting. If you plan to come, call Grif Buck before noon on Tuesday.

1977 Christmas Count: Organization of the count this year has been frustrating. However as I write this, well qualified group leaders for 10 of the 11 areas usually counted have agreed to lead parties. Five new leaders had to be recruited. We have room for all of you regardless of you ability. I hope many of our members will help. The leaders include 1) Bob and Joan Jefferson 2) Sven Gafvert 3) Lotus and Wilmer Miller 4) Gene and Marilyn Burns 5) John and Fay Hill 6) Barney Cook 7) Roger Landers 8) Steve Landers 9) Erwin Klaas 10) Jim Bednarz. I still have several feelers out for one more party. One area could be combined without effecting the results too adversely. All parties need observers at present. If you cannot count all day plan to help either in the morning or afternoon. Counters at feeders are also needed.

The fee this year has been increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50. Collection of a fee is necessary to pay for the publication cost of the results of the count in Am. Birds. If you desire you may buy the July issue containing the count for \$5.50 or subscribe to Am. Birds for \$10.00 (4 issues).

The count compilation will be held at the First Christian Church, 6th Ave. and Clark St., after 4:00 pm. any unusual birds seen between Thursday Dec. 15 to Wed. Dec. 21 should also be reported I will be in town through the 21th but will leave Ames the next day. Call me promptly if you see anything not seen the count day.

Fish and Wildlife Biology Club address: Mr. Madson will speak on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7:30pm in LeBaron Hall (Home Ec Building) His topic is the Garrison Diversion Dam project. Since he is located in Jamestown, No. Dakota, his knowledge of this tragic program is at first hand. Our members are welcome to come.

News of Members: I have received a postcard from Jeff Ruprecht. His new address is 1016 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301. In Idaho he has seen magpies, golden eagles, ravens, whistling swan and canyon wren. He invites all his friends to visit if they come west. He make the invitation particularly attractive by pointing out he lives near Hagerman wildlife Preserve. "Lots of ducks."

Paul Martsching is now living in Mission, Kansas. I had hoped to recruit him as a group leader on the Christmas Count. He saw the notice in the paper last year and called me to count. He joined my party so that we birded all day together. He is an excellent birder. I wish he had stayed in Ames and hope the birding is good in Kansas as well.

Gene Burns is now a licensed bird bander. He proposes a project to band Cliff Swallows. He banded his first birds last Sunday in his back yard so that he is well on his way. Congratulations Gene.

Birding Story County: I have not been out enough this month to write an account of bird sightings this month. Mergensers were seen on the Saylorville outing as well as Harris Sparrows. Many Juncos and Tree Sparrows were found below the day. A rough-legged Hawk was seen hovering by John Hill South of Ames. A Marsh Hawk was also sighted in the same area. I will have an updated list of birds seen in the past Christmas Counts at the Christmas party. This list will help you identify what you see this winter. Jim Dinsmore tells me that 1977 may be a good year for winter finches, cross bills, and grosbecks. He has received reports from several areas across the state already. Purple Finch are coming to the Karas' feeder. If you see Crossbills please call. A white-winged would be a life bird for me and a red would a bird to my Iowa list.

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*Ames
all Parkridge Circle
Wilmer & Lotus Miller*

