

# Ames Audubon Society

Barney Cook, Acting Editor

MAY NEWSLETTER 1976  
517 Hayward Ave., Ames, Iowa

292-8833

## MAY PROGRAM

Invite a friend or neighbor

WHAT: The Pacific Golden Plover  
WHO : Ben Okimoto  
WHEN: Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Room 122, Kildee Hall

The Parking lot north of Kildee Hall has been torn up, so park EAST of the Old Meat Laboratory. This can be reached either via 6th Street or from Pammel Drive.

Ben Okimoto, a member of Ames Audubon since last August comes to Ames from Hawaii. He is a student majoring in Pre-vet Medicine. He has a MS degree in biology from the University of Hawaii. His talk (with slides) is based on his MS dissertation entitled "use of Parasites in the Study of Distribution of the Pacific Golden Plover in Hawaii".

Mary Buck will also show her slides on several nature topics.

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SLATE OF OFFICERS. Griffith Buck and Lotus Miller acting as a nominating committee offer the following slate of officers for next year.

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| President                     | Jeff Ruprecht |
| Vice-President                | Sven Gafvert  |
| Secretary                     | Marlys Ladd   |
| Treasurer                     | Lois Carr     |
| Directors (two to be elected) |               |
|                               | Barney Cook   |
|                               | Judy Shearer  |

Nominating can be made from the floor. The election will be held this month

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MAY OUTING. Our bird walk this month will be at Soper's Mill at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 15th. This should be near the height of the spring migration so be sure to come. To find Soper's Mill drive north on highway 69 to the Gilbert road. Turn east on gravel until you reach the river. There is parking on both sides of the river. We will follow the Green Belt trail and see the old bridge which we hope to restore. Sven Gafvert will be the leader.



APRIL OUTING. Sven Gafvert and Barney Cook alone braved the rain but we were rewarded by sighting our first Brown Thrasher for the year. Walking in the rain is not bad - why not try it sometime?

SPRING IOU MEETING. Several members of Ames Audubon will attend the spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists Union on May 15-16 at Davenport. Gene Burns, Barney Cook, Jeff Ruprecht and Pat Lanaghan plan to attend. This is a chance to bird with the outstanding birders in Iowa as well as make a few new friends. The IOU is a friendly group so don't let the high-flown name deter you from going. They welcome all persons interested in birds. See Barney Cook if interested.

BIRDING STORY: (by Barney Cook) If you have not been out birding yet, do so now. In the last several days many species have moved into Ames. Good spots are Pammel Woods and Brookside. Warblers, No. Orioles (Baltimore) Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived about two days ago while White-throated sparrows and House Wren have been here about a week. Catbirds and small Flycatchers were also recent arrivals. Harris Sparrows, Lincoln Sparrows, White Crowned Sparrows are all present in good number but by far the most abundant bird in Brookside now is the White-throated Sparrow. But come prepared to be patient - the trees are almost in summer foliage after our unusually warm April. Early morning is especially rewarding this year before the renowned Iowa winds come up.

The Black-crowned Night Heron was seen at McFarland Park as well as the Virginia Rail and a Solitary Sandpiper. The LeConte's Sparrow was also spotted at McFarland while trying to flush Bobwhite north of the parking lot. Most of the shore birds were seen in flooded fields east of Ames along 13th Street past the interstate. Today I saw Killdeer, a Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers in the area. American Golden Plover have been seen by students earlier. Mallards and Blue-winged Teal are still present. A Long-eared Owl nested in the pine forest near the high school and the Barred Owls were seen both in Pammel and Brookside. Chimney Swifts are abundant - just look up - but the report of a Whip-poor-will is certainly early. Golden-crowned Kinglets were common early in the month but by now they have been replaced by Ruby-crowned Kinglets which still outnumber warblers at Brookside. In spite of the warm weather Warblers were scarce most of the month - only Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen with any regularity. Fox Sparrows were abundant early but none were noted in recent weeks. Janice Coy has a Towhee coming to her feeder. The Cedar Waxwings were seen in the ISU gardens by Grif Buck. He reports that Chipping Sparrows have arrived and will be nesting thickly in the shrubbery all summer. He states about every five feet there is a nest.

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A Total of one hundred eleven species were noted this month.

Reports were received from Janice Coy, Pat Lanaghan, Jeff Ruprecht, Judy Shearer, Griffin Buck and Jim Dinsmore (reporting for the ISU Ornithology class). I saw ninety-nine species during this month.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Pied-billed Grebe     | 2. Great Blue Heron          |
| 3. Green Heron           | 4. Black-crowned Night Heron |
| 5. Cattle Egret          | 6. Snow Geese                |
| 7. Mallard               | 8. Green-winged Teal         |
| 9. Blue-winged Teal      | 10. Northern Shoveler        |
| 11. Wood Ducks           | 12. Ring-necked Duck         |
| 13. Lesser Scaup         | 14. Bufflehead               |
| 15. Turkey Vulture       | 16. Sharp-shinned Hawk       |
| 17. Cooper's Hawk        | 18. Broad-winged Hawk        |
| 19. American Kestrel     | 20. Bobwhite                 |
| 21. Ring-necked Pheasant | 22. Virginia Rail            |
| 23. Sora                 | 24. American Coot            |
| 25. Killdeer             | 26. American Golden Plover   |



27. American Woodcock
29. Solitary Sandpiper
31. Greater Yellowlegs
33. Pectoral Sandpipers
35. Mourning Dove
37. Long-eared Owl
39. Whip-poor-will
41. Belted Kingfisher
43. Red-bellied Woodpecker
45. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
47. Downy Woodpecker
49. Eastern Wood Pewee
51. Tree Swallow
53. Barn Swallow
55. Blue Jay
57. Black-capped Chickadee
59. White-breasted Nuthatch
61. House Wren
63. Brown Thrasher
65. Hermit Thrush
67. Grey-cheeked Thrush
69. Golden-crowned Kinglet
71. Cedar Waxwing
73. Warbling Vireo
75. Orange-crowned Warbler
77. Yellow Warbler
79. Black-throated Green Warbler
81. Ovenbird
83. House Sparrow
85. Eastern Meadowlark
87. Yellow-headed Blackbird
89. Northern Oriole
91. Brown-headed Cowbird
93. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
95. Pine Siskin
97. Rufous-sided Towhee
99. Le Conte's Sparrow
101. Dark-eyed Junco
103. Chipping Sparrow
105. Field Sparrow
107. White-crowned Sparrow
109. Fox Sparrow
111. Song Sparrow
28. Common Snipe
30. Willet
32. Lesser Yellowlegs
34. Rock Dove
36. Great-horned Owl
38. Barred Owl
40. Chimney Swift
42. Common Flicker
44. Red-headed Woodpecker
46. Hairy Woodpecker
48. Eastern Phoebe
50. Horned Lark
52. Rough-winged Swallow
54. Purple Martin
56. Common Crow
58. Tufted Titmouse
60. Brown Creeper
62. Grey Catbird
64. American Robin
66. Swainson's Thrush
68. Eastern Bluebird
70. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
72. Starling
74. Black-and-white Warbler
76. Nashville Warbler
78. Yellow-rumped Warbler
80. Palm Warbler
82. Northern Waterthrush
84. Bobolink
86. Western Meadowlark
88. Red-winged Blackbird
90. Common Grackle
92. Cardinal
94. Purple Finch
96. American Goldfinch
98. Savannah Sparrow
100. Vesper Sparrow
102. Tree Sparrow
104. Clay-colored Sparrow
106. Harris Sparrow
108. White-throated Sparrow
110. Lincoln Sparrow

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Wilmer & Lotus Miller  
218 Parkridge Circle  
Ames, Iowa