

# AMES AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

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## BUSINESS MEETING

Our December business meeting will be Thursday night, Dec. 17, Room 124 Kildee Hall on the campus. Meeting time is 7:30. A vacancy has occurred on the Executive Board that will require a vote of the membership to fill. Other items to be discussed include the status of the Audubon Wildlife Films and the Christmas Count which will be held Dec. 27. If you have a tape recorder and wish to help census owls either before dawn of count day or after dusk bring it to the meeting and records will be available for you to tape owl calls for use on your machine. A report on recent activities of the Ames Conservation Council will also be presented. Ames Audubon provides a delegate to the Conservation Council. We will also have a short brush-up on winter bird identification. Coffee and cookies will be served.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT

Christmas Bird Counts have been conducted nation-wide since 1900. They take place during the last few days of each year and must adhere to certain rules. Each count must be contained within a fifteen mile diameter circle and be at least eight hours long. The center of the circle for the Ames count is the intersection of I-35 and new 30. Last year participants observed a total of 48 species, a record for the Ames count. Results of our count are published in Audubon Field Notes, a journal devoted to field investigations in ornithology, and Iowa Bird Life, the magazine of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. The technique of using tape-recorded owl calls was used last year with great success to induce owls to call in return so they could be counted. We need more participants willing to spend a couple of hours early in the morning or in the evening with tape recorders. Bring your recorder to the meeting if you are interested.

Full details concerning meeting times and location and group leaders will be available at the meeting Thursday night. Anyone with a basic knowledge of winter birds is welcome to participate, if even for only half a day. A count is being planned this year for the first time in the Red Rock area with the cooperation of Gladys Black. Members of the Ames and Des Moines clubs are conducting the count with a tentative date of Dec. 29. More information will be available Thursday.

## DUES

All memberships expire Dec. 31 and dues for 1971 are payable at any time to Mrs. Carr, our treasurer, who will be at the meeting.

## BIRD FEEDER REPORTS

All persons in the Ames area who maintain bird feeders and wish to turn in a report of species visiting your feeder on the day of the Christmas Count may do so by calling Mrs. Ruth Sellers who has graciously agreed to act as our telephone coordinator on count day. She would appreciate receiving your reports of species and individuals between 3:00 and 5:00 PM on Dec. 27. Only birds observed on that day should be included. If you have what you consider to be an unusual species visiting your feeder be sure to make special note of that in your report. Thank you. Mrs. Sellers telephone number is 232-7287.

## FROM THE AUDUBON LEADER

The Audubon "Leader" is published by the National Audubon Society. In a recent issue we are informed that the Open Space Institute's popular guidebook for landowners, Stewardship, is again available after being out of print. Price is \$3.00, discounts in quantity, and further details may be obtained from the Institute at 145 East 52nd. St., New York, N. Y., 10022.

A news release from the Army Engineers announces the designation of the Eagle Roost Area of Fort Randall Dam in Nebraska as a registered national landmark. The 600 acre tract sustains one of the largest wintering concentrations of bald and golden eagles in the U. S.; as many as 283 have been counted there, (predominately golden eagles). The area is closed to the public during the time the eagles use it.

Whooping cranes have arrived at Aransas Refuge in Texas. At least 50 adult and 6 young have arrived with some late birds still a possibility. The total arrived last year was 56.

## MEXICAN BIRDS

I recently received a letter and information from Earnest P. Edwards of Sweet Briar, Va. about his book Finding Birds in Mexico. Quantity discounts are available to members who may wish to purchase the book which is an excellent guide to bird finding and habitats over the entire country. I used the book two years ago and found it very helpful. A copy will be available at the meeting Thursday night.

## NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend our welcome to the following new members and thank them for their support: Sue Stodden, Dolly Wolfskill, Barbara Gulden, and Judy Totemeier. Surely you know someone else who would like to join us. Phone 232-4869 or 232-6797 for details.



Dr. & Mrs. W. J. Miller  
218 Parkridge Circle  
Ames