

2121 Burnett Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010
515-233-1532

Hank
Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Boone County Christmas Bird Count! Whether you will be watching your feeders or joining up in the field, we sure are glad to have you aboard.

The Boone County Count will be held on Wednesday, January 1, 1997. Any wild birds seen or heard on this day from 12:01 am to midnight are eligible for inclusion.

At about 5:00 pm after the count, there will be a get together at the Golden Corral Steak House, 1312 S. Story St., in Boone, so we can share stories, have a warming meal, and compile the results. I'm looking forward to meeting you there.

Everyone, except feeder watchers, should have a copy of the count circle map showing the area that you will be working. Your area recordkeeper has a more detailed version of this map. If you are an area recordkeeper, you will also find enclosed forms for reporting your group's activities and the birds your group has seen. Reporting forms are also enclosed for feeder watchers.

The Boone County Count is required to give the National Audubon Society five dollars for each field participant but not for feeder watchers, unless feeder watchers wish to have their names listed in National Audubon Society Field Notes, a new magazine for reporting Christmas Bird Count results. As you probably already know, the five dollar fee helps defray the costs of publishing the results of all 1500 counts. It would be easiest if you could bring the fees along with any report forms to the Golden Corral. If for some reason you are unable to make this donation, please let me know.

Let's all hope for fine weather on count day. But we all know what Iowa winters can bring, so please keep safety in mind as you hit the roads and walk the trails. Another safety point worth mentioning is that there are many hunting areas along the Des Moines River. Blaze orange hats or vests help make us more visible to hunters.

Best wishes for Joyous Holidays and Good Birding!

Mark
Mark Widrlechner
Compiler, Boone Co. Xmas Bird Count