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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

Hello again. By the time you'll be reading this, it should be about mid-April. My winter coat should be tucked away in the closet developing a fine layer of dust on it, because I won't touch it for another 7 or 8 months. The weather should be beautiful with sunshine every day (we can hope). And migration will be in full swing. A lot of the sandpipers should be back. Some waterfowl should still be around, and we will have the warblers to look forward to at the end of the month. There is going to be lots to see and lots to do. Remember to just get out and enjoy it and don't get frustrated if you can't identify every bird you see. You can't figure every bird out especially if it's at a glance. Just like fishing sometimes, the best stories are about the ones that got away or when you didn't get the right one in the first place. Did I ever tell you about the Snowy owl that Olivia and I didn't see? Possibly but a great story bears repeating and sometimes grows in the retelling.

This was about three years ago when we had one of those Snowy Owl explosions in Iowa. Olivia and I were determined to see one, so we drove to White Water Canyon with our cameras and binoculars. This was in January so it was cold out,

and there was plenty of snow on the ground. We were sitting in the parking lot scanning with our binoculars when one of us saw something white perched on top of a fence post about half a mile away. Something white on a fence post... Well this time of year it could be a hawk or barred owl, but they aren't usually completely white so odds were decent for a Snowy. So we got out of the car and slowly walked toward the bird. In these situations you want to move slowly so you don't scare the bird. Walk 25 steps. Look with your binoculars (can't i.d. it yet). Walk 25 more steps and repeat until you can make out the i.d. At one point we got down on our bellies and did the army crawl to try to sneak up on it better. Ok, we didn't really do the army crawl, but I did say these stories can grow with retelling them. Anyway, after a short time we got to where we thought we could see the bird well enough to make out its field markings. We laughed giddily knowing we were in position to get a great look at a rare bird and raised the field glasses to our eyes. That first look was phenomenal. The detail that close was amazing. That white paper bag that someone put on that fence post looked so close through our binoculars that we thought we could touch it. We could see the folds in the bag and where it said "Mc Donald's" in bright red! I guess the





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moral of the story is: stuff happens. Be ready to laugh when you don't see what you thought you saw. Someday I'll tell you how I once stared at some duck shaped decoys for 10 minutes trying to i.d. them. Hey, I knew they were just decoys all along (yeah, right). So most of all, just have fun out there. It's April and things are happening. Go out and see them. I'll see you in the field.

The Duck Waddle 2017

At 7:00 a.m. on March 18th nineteen members of the Dubuque Audubon Society met at Green Island for our annual Duck Waddle. The morning started out cold with temperatures in the low 30's and didn't get much warmer than that. Green Island as always was its usual special place producing a hundred plus Sandhill Cranes for us to see, over sixty Snow Geese, five Ross Geese and almost every Duck possible. It was amazing. From there our teams split in two - half of them heading toward Bellevue and the other half working their way to Lock and Dam 13. The fun went on until midafternoon. If you weren't able to attend, then you may still get a chance to see some of these birds. A lot of them will be around through late April if not all year-round.



Birds on the Duck Waddle:

- Green-winged Teal
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Gadwall
- American Black Duck
- Ring-necked Duck
- Mallard
- American Wigeon
- Bufflehead
- Ruddy Duck
- Redhead
- Common Goldeneye
- Wood Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Hooded Merganser
- Canvasback
- Canada Goose
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Ross's Goose
- Snow goose
- Tundra Swan
- Trumpeter Swan
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- American Coot
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Killdeer
- Sandhill Crane
- Ring-billed Gull
- White Pelican
- Mourning Dove
- Rock Dove
- Kingfisher
- Turkey Vulture
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Northern Harrier
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Shrike
- Kestrel
- Northern Flicker
- Downy Woodpecker
- American Robin
- American Crow
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Song Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Eastern Starling
- House Sparrow

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

If you have questions or comments, please contact us!

- President: Craig Kruse 563-582-7215
 V. President: Wayne Buchholtz
 Secretary: Oliva Kruse / Joe Tollari
 Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308
 At-Large Members:
 Brent Groesch Latith Jayawickrama
 Terri Stanton Angie Jansen Allie Schmalz
 Gretel Winterwood Michele Zuercher
 Field Trips: Terri Stanton
 Membership: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
 Newsletter: Michele Zuercher
 Conservation: Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783
 Programs: Allie Schmalz / Angie Jansen
 Iowa Audubon Liason: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
 Web-Master: Jan Friedman janfrdmn@gmail.com
 Web-site: www.audubondubuque.org



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SATURDAY April 1st	Birdwatching at the Bee Branch	11:30 am. Meet in the Dairy Queen parking lot on 16th Street. This is a joint venture with the City of Dubuque to promote wildlife viewing in the Bee Branch corridor.
FRIDAY April 7th	Woodcock Walk	7:00 pm, Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area. The woodcock mating ritual is truly a remarkable sight. This small, camouflage, timber nesting bird has a few strange attributes and will amaze hikers with its aerial acrobat moves.
THURSDAY April 13th	Program Dubuque Audubon: Living with Ticks	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Brian Preston, Executive Director of DCCB, will speak on everything you need to know about ticks. This should be one of our more practical programs.
THURSDAY May 11th	Program Dubuque Audubon: Pollinators	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Chris Hiher from Pheasants Forever will speak on pollinators.
SATURDAY May 13th	Spring Species Count	Mark your calendar for the fun spring event.

HUMMINGBIRD MIGRATION

If you are anticipating the arrival of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, you may want to go the following website: <http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>. Observers report the arrival of hummingbirds in their area. You can watch on a daily basis how the birds are making their way north. It can be a fun activity with children.



Dubuque Audubon Society

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DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you are a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of the local Audubon Society and do not need to sign-up separately.

Do NOT use this form to renew a membership in National Audubon Society. Use the form mailed to you by the National Audubon. There are two categories of memberships in the Dubuque Audubon Society.

CATEGORY A: This category includes membership in National Audubon Society and the local chapter. You will receive 6 issues of Audubon Magazine and 9 issues of the local chapter newsletter, Pileated Drummings.

National Audubon Society Free Membership **INTRODUCTORY ONLY – FIRST TIME MEMBERS ONLY**

CATEGORY B: This category of membership is local chapter only. You will receive 9 issues of the local chapter newsletter, Pileated Drummings. All funds will remain with the local chapter. Membership year is from July to June.

Local Chapter Dues \$10.00

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

STREET _____ E-mail _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CODE: C1ZH600Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

**Dubuque Audubon Society
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