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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

Olivia and I finally got a little time to go birding on a Sunday early this November. There wasn't much going on, but it's always a good thing to enjoy a nice Fall day outdoors. We walked to the point at John Deere Marsh looking for Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. We didn't have much luck with them, but through my spotting scope we did get to see a huge raft of Canvasback floating down the channel on the Wisconsin side of the river. With their reddish head set against their black breast and white/grey back, this is one of my favorite birds, and they were lined up as far as you could see.

On the way back, we kicked up a Sora that was creeping in the reeds at the edge of the marsh, and we had a nice Peregrine Falcon fly overhead.



Photo by Craig Kruse

Last but not least, on the south side of the island Olivia was able to pick

out an American Avocet that was probing in the shallows just off the island. I hadn't seen one of those in two years. We didn't get our Scoters before we ran out of time, but it was a good day.

Olivia was looking out the back window the other day and saw her first Dark-eyed Junco of this Fall. They always seem to be one of the first Dubuque-land winter residents to arrive. That doesn't mean we've seen the last of our migrant birds coming, though. I just checked my ebird.org reports from last year, and I reported seeing Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads and other cool birds right through December. Birding is something fun you can do all year-round, but of course in January and February, I do a lot of it in my car.

December's program is coming up shortly, and it should be a fun one. Olivia and I will be presenting a program on Dubuque Audubon's trip to Junction City, Wisconsin, last April to the Flaig Dairy Farm. We hid in their observation blinds, waiting to see the Greater Prairie Chicken. We will touch on the history of the bird and the sight we saw along the way. I hope to see you there. Until then, we'll see you in the field.





Join us and over 1700 other birding groups throughout the Americas for Audubon's 113th annual Christmas Bird Count. We will attempt to count every bird within a 15-mile diameter circle around Dubuque on Saturday, December 17th. Participants of all levels from beginner to experienced are welcome. Most routes have both group walking portions and car portions.

Come for either part of the day or for the whole day. Show up at 8:00 AM at EB Lyons Interpretive Center to be assigned a group route. This is a great opportunity to learn about bird watching. You will be with experienced bird watchers who are eager to share their love of birds. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather.

We will meet at 4:30 PM at EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA, to share a chili supper, compile results, and share the experiences of the day.



BALD EAGLE WATCH



Join us for the 29th annual Bald Eagle Watch on Saturday, January 21, 2017, at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. This free family event celebrates the American Bald Eagle with live bird programs and children's activities. Vendors will have wildlife art, books and nature items available for purchase. Exhibitors will share information about opportunities to experience nature in the Tri-State area.

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DECEMBER PROGRAM

December 8th!

Join the Dubuque Audubon Society for their monthly program series on Thursday, December 8th, at 7:00pm at the EB Lyons Interpretive Center. This month *Craig and Olivia Kruse* will be speaking about the amazingly unique Greater Prairie Chicken. The Kruses will be walking us through



their spring trip to **Flaig Dairy Farm** outside of Junction City, Wisconsin, to view the Prairie Chickens and their fantastic mating display.



They will touch on the history of the Prairie Chicken, the threats it faces, and their overall experience on their birding adventure!

BALD EAGLE WATCH, continued

This year, the Illinois Raptor Center will do three programs on raptors at 9:30 am and 12:15 and 3:00 pm. What better way to learn about bird conservation and the environment than to meet live birds of prey like hawks, owls, and the Bald Eagle? The Raptor Center always has an interesting and exciting presentation.

Our second program is presented by Hoo's Woods Raptor Center. They will do programs at 11:00 am and 1:45 pm. Hoo's Woods specializes in rehabilitation of and education about Midwest raptors.

If the eagles cooperate, we will have spotting scopes set-up for live eagle viewing at Lock and Dam #11.

This is always a fun-filled event. Bring the children (or grandchildren) and join us.



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2016
- JANUARY 2017

December 8th Thursday	Dubuque Audubon Program: <i>Greater Prairie Chickens</i>	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Prairie Chickens Galore! Craig and Olivia Kruse will speak on their trip last spring to Wisconsin to observe the mating rituals of Prairie Chickens.
December 17th Saturday	Christmas Bird Count	8:00 am EB Lyons Interpretive Center. Meet to divide into routes. 4:30 pm Meet at EB Lyons Interpretive Center to tally results and enjoy a chili supper while recounting the highlights of the day's events.
January 12th Thursday	Dubuque Audubon Program: <i>Canoe the Mississippi</i>	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Ben Hoksch will narrate his canoe trip down the length of the Mississippi.
January 21st Saturday	Bald Eagle Watch	Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque. Doors open at 9:00 am – Exhibitors, vendors, and children's activities all day. 9:30 am, 12:15 pm, and 3:00 pm – "Raptors of the Midwest" by Illinois Raptor Center. 11:00 am and 1:45 pm – Hoo's Woods Raptor Center. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Eagle viewing at Lock and Dam #11.

We are in need of volunteers who will help with **Bald Eagle Day on January 21, 2017**. We need greeters who will help direct people as they come up the escalator at the Grand River Center. It is always a fun time interacting with the children and their parents. We also need members to staff the Dubuque Audubon Society table in the main concourse. Finally, if you really want to experience Bald Eagle Day, we need volunteers to help at the spotting scopes at Lock and Dam #11. We hope to have enough volunteers to work a 2-hour shift. There is always time to visit the exhibits and to attend the programs. If you are will to give up a couple hours of your time and learn more about Bald Eagles, contact Joe Tollari at 563-583-2077.



OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us!

- President:** Craig Kruse 563-582-0328
- V-Pres.:** Wayne Buchholtz
- Secretary:** Olivia Kruse / Joe Tollari
- Treasurer:** Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308
- At-Large Board Members:**
 - Brent Groesch Terri Stanton Allie Schmalz
 - Angie Jansen Gretel Winterwood
 - Lalith Jayawickrama Michele Zuercher
- Field Trips:**
- Membership:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Newsletter:** Michele Zuercher
- Conservation:** Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783
- Programs:** Allie Schmalz / Angie Jansen
- Iowa Audubon Liaison:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Web Master:** Jan Friedman janfrdmn@gmail.com
- Website:** www.audubondubuque.org

Dubuque Audubon Society

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The mission of Dubuque Audubon Society is to provide educational opportunities to the people of the tri-state area and to preserve the natural habitat of birds and other wildlife.

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

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