



FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION

Published Monthly
 Except January,
 July & August
 Volume XXI - Number I

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Happy Valentine's Day

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

There is so much great stuff for me to talk to you about in this article that I don't even know where to begin. Do I start with all of the cool bird sightings in the area over the last few months? Or maybe the great biography I'm reading on Victor Emanuel (a well-known birder)? No, we'll get to that later. I'm still floating after last week's program, so we have to start with that. If you remember, we had a big program set for January.

We lined up the Iowa Raptor Project (from the Iowa City area) to bring some live birds



JANUARY RAPTOR PROGRAM photo by C. Kruse

and Bob Walton to do a owl prowl before the main program. Then the weather hit, and I got nervous. I don't remember how much snow we got that Thursday, but it was enough to make driving difficult. They didn't close the schools, so we were still on for the night, and the Raptor Project emailed me that they were still coming. The question was how many people would show up. I shouldn't have worried. We had over 60 people brave the cold and snow to come to our program! And all ages were there. We had kids under five-years-old in attendance, young Girl Scouts,

and teenagers with their parents and grandparents. Bob ended up having a great owl prowl with three barred owls responding to his call. Then, to top it off Laura Semken and Shawn Hawks from the Raptor Project were great speakers, full of knowledge that they were ready to share. They brought two live birds to share with us, a Great Horned Owl and a Kestrel. It was a lot of fun, and the crowd was so engaged. It was such a good program for us that we are talking about having them back next year around the time of our "Hawk Watch." It would be a big treat for everyone to have them bring a few hawks to share with us before we go looking for different raptors. All in all, I think that January's program is one of my favorites that we've ever had.



Molly Smith

So, have any of you been out birding lately? If not, there is a lot of exciting stuff going on. There is an eruption of Snowy Owls migrating through Iowa right now as well as many Red Crossbills and Redpolls. Also, there have been a few Townsend's Solitaires in the area. These are all not very common species that have been turning up. So, if you get the chance, throw on an extra layer or two and head outdoors for a bit. Winter can be a great time to see new things. Stay tuned for next month's President's Corner, and I'll tell you a bit about that book I'm reading. Also, before I forget, **please note that all of our programs moving forward will start at 6:00** to better accommodate families. Till then, I'll see you in the field.



2017 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Cackling Goose 7	Northern Flicker 5
Canada Goose 1171	Pileated Woodpecker 2
Trumpeter Swan 15	American Kestrel 19
American Black Duck 5	Northern Shrike 1
Mallard 1031	Blue Jay 88
Canvasback 27	American Crow 93
Ring-necked Duck 2	Black-capped Chickadee 134
Lesser Scaup 41	Tufted Titmouse 24
Common Goldeneye 44	Red-breasted Nuthatch 6
Common Merganser 4	White-breasted Nuthatch 50
Ruddy Duck 12	Brown Creeper 7
Wild Turkey 9	Carolina Wren 7
American White Pelican 5	Golden-crowned Kinglet 1
Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 4	Eastern Bluebird 26
Northern Harrier 1	American Robin 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	European Starling 1134
Cooper's Hawk 4	Cedar Waxwing 27
Bald Eagle 38	Yellow-rumped Warbler 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 1	American Tree Sparrow 120
Red-tailed Hawk 29	Dark-eyed Junco (Slatecolored) 324
Rough-legged Hawk 3	White-throated Sparrow 1
Ring-billed Gull 3	Song Sparrow 6
Herring Gull 1	Northern Cardinal 57
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 180	Red-winged Blackbird 1
Mourning Dove 62	House Finch 107
Eastern Screech-Owl 1	Purple Finch 5
Great Horned Owl 1	Red Crossbill 1
Belted Kingfisher 6	Pine Siskin 37
Red-headed Woodpecker 6	American Goldfinch 76
Red-bellied Woodpecker 59	House Sparrow 515
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1	Total Individuals 5723
Downy Woodpecker 67	Total Species Reported 63
Hairy Woodpecker 4	

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Ben Houghton, an Aquarist II, will present "Conservation Efforts at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium." Aquariums and zoos are dedicated to saving species from extinction. No other conservation-based organization is better equipped to save species at the species level. The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium is no different. With the opening of the new Conservation Lab, we are able to showcase some of the things we have been doing behind the scenes for years to help save species. It also lets us celebrate Project Piaba, a little-known conservation operation taking place in the Amazon basin that makes it possible for you to help preserve the dwindling Amazon rain forests, simply by owning a home aquarium! The program starts at 6:00PM.

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

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Angie Jansen

Terri Stanton

Lalith Jayawickrama

Michele Zuercher

Allie Schmalz

Field Trips: *Tony Moline*

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



Chickadee Check-off

by Stephanie Shepherd, Iowa DNR

Since 1982, when the Iowa legislature created the Fish and Wildlife Fund Tax Check-off, Iowans have been able to bring a little wildness into the tax season. The Fish and Wildlife Tax Check-off, affectionately called the Chickadee Check-off, was created to allow people to make a charitable donation to wildlife conservation in Iowa out of their tax refunds or by tacking a few dollars on to any taxes owed. When filling out the state income tax form, just look for the contribution line (usually somewhere between lines 55-60) and write in any dollar amount next to Fish/Wildlife.

All the money contributed through the chickadee check-off helps support the Wildlife Diversity Program at the Iowa DNR. This program has statewide responsibility for all the wildlife that can't be hunted, fished or trapped from Peregrine Falcons to Poweshiek Skipperling butterflies. You can learn more about the program on their website: www.iowadnr.gov/wildlifediversity.

Please consider donating to the Chickadee Check-off this tax season and supporting wildlife conservation in Iowa! For more info, Stephanie may be contacted at 515-432-2823 ext. 102 or stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov.



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2018

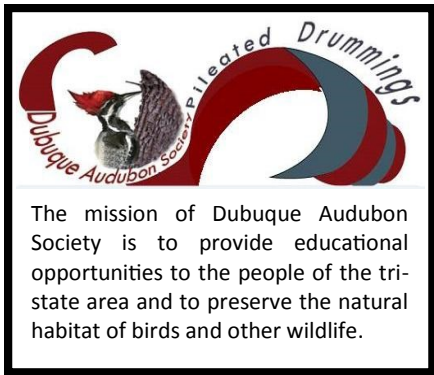
NOTE OUR PERMANENT PROGRAM TIME CHANGE TO 6PM.

February 4th	HIKE/ SNOWSHOE/ SKI	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts. Dubuque, IA. Arrive at the EB Lyons Center for a hike or at the South Parking lot for snowshoe/cross country skiing. There will be a limited number of snowshoes & cross country skis for you to try. Dress appropriately for the weather!
February 8th Thursday	DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: Conservation Efforts at the National MS River Museum & Aquarium	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, Iowa 5:00 PM – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00 PM – Program: Ben Houghton will present “Conservation Efforts at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.”
February 11th Sunday	HIKE & HYGGE	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Prairie Creek Recreation Area, 1215 East Summit Street Maquoketa, IA. Pronounced Hoo-ga, hygge is a Danish concept of creating time & space for all things comforting. Warm drinks, soft light, food made with love, cozy clothes and a good book or friend make for a hygge time. You should feel safe and warm. We'll strive to have a bit of hygge time at the PCRA Paviliion with a fire, warm drinks and unhurried conversations. Registration is not requested but appreciated: 563-652-3783.
February 16th Friday	STAR PARTY	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, Iowa. Amateur astronomers are welcome to join us the second Friday of the month for monthly star parties. Bring your telescopes along and together we will discover the night sky! No telescope? No Problem! The nature center will also have our telescopes for viewing.
February 18th Sunday	BIRD BANDING WINTER PROGRAM	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, Iowa. Join Dave Shealer for mist nesting of our avian friends.
February 22nd Thursday	NATURE TRIVIA BEE	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, Iowa. Swiss Valley Nature Center challenges you to create a four person team to participate in the Nature Trivia Challenge. Area businesses, organizations, and groups are invited to join us for a fun night of competition. All proceeds benefit Friends of Dubuque County Conservation. Cost is \$40/team. Register at: https://secure.getmeregistered.com/SVNC

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Dubuque IA 52004-3174

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Permit # 459



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: CIZH700Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

**Dubuque Audubon Society
PO Box 3174
Dubuque, IA 52004-3174**