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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

February 12th marked the first day of the Great Backyard Bird Count and 8:20 a.m. that morning found me standing in front of Swiss Valley's bird watching window with Joe Tollari counting birds. We did pretty well that morning. I counted 14 species, 49 birds in all including a Tufted Tit-Mouse and a White-breasted Nuthatch. Joe did a little better because I was running about 15 minutes late. By 9:00ish we hopped into my car and headed west to Ring-Neck Ridge to look for a Long-eared Owl that I had seen earlier in the week. We found him in a tree not too far from the parking lot. He didn't like us too much and took off almost right away, but it was still a good sighting. The fun part is on the way there we spotted a Great Horned Owl sitting in its nest just off Highway 20. We got two owls in one day during the Great Backyard Bird Count - what a hoot.

For February 13th, I attempted to count those in my backyard. Note, I said *I attempted to count*, and I did get one confirmed bird. Just as I went to the window, a Cooper's Hawk dove and made a pass at the feeders. Everything scattered, of course, and I

was able to confirm one Cooper's Hawk for the day. Then it was off to my job.

Despite the snow Sunday, I went to look for the Peregrine Falcons that were reported earlier in the week. The snow was blowing too hard to see anything, so that didn't pan out. On the upside, driving toward home on Kerper Blvd., I saw a group of 47 Robins, so I stopped and did a 15-minute count right there.

The Great Backyard Bird Count ended for me Sunday morning with another attempt at my backyard before work. Luckily, this time I timed it right and counted 14 House Finches at my feeders at one time. I think that's a record for me. I'm curious as to what cool stuff everyone else saw on the count. If you have a moment and wish to show something worth sharing, why don't you drop us a line on our Facebook page? We'd like to hear from you.

Our next meeting will be on March 10th at the usual time, 7:00p.m., at E.B. Lyons. Scott Gritters will be joining us for "Fishing over 50." A while ago we were contacted by the Carnegie Stout Library to do a intro birding class for them. (cont'd on pg 2)





If you haven't seen the program that Nick Courtney has put together, check it out. It's really fun. That will be on March 12th at 1p.m. at the Library. Our big event for March, of course, is always the Duck Waddle and this year that will fall on Saturday, March 19th.

If you haven't been to a duck waddle, it's a good time. We meet at the Banworth and Udelhoven parking lot (9396 Bellevue Heights Rd) and caravan to Green Island. Once there, we observe all of the waterfowl and other species. By then, spring migration is well underway, and all the ducks and geese are heading north. We usually see plenty of birds, so I hope you can make it. If not, then...

...I'll see you in the field.
Craig Kruse, president

MARCH PROGRAM: FISHING AT FIFTY



Scott Gritters, Fisheries Biologist for the Iowa DNR, will present a program entitled "Fishing at Fifty." This is the story of what one Iowa DNR Fisheries Biologist did to celebrate the milestone of turning fifty years old - that being catching fifty different fish species during his birthday year. Scott will take a humorous look at getting "old" and discuss various adventures during the quest. Scott Gritters is a Mississippi River Biologist located in Bellevue Iowa. Scott will also allow opportunity to discuss DNR fisheries questions you may have on and off the Big River for the coming year.



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT UPDATE

By Joe Tollari

As of 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 14, 2016, nine area citizens are participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count in Dubuque County. Thirty-eight checklists have been submitted representing data collected at Linwood Cemetery, Eagle Point Park, the Retention Basin, Swiss Valley Nature Center, as well as several backyards. Thirty-two species have been identified. Water fowl lead the way in numbers. High counts include:

- ◆ 375 Canada Geese
- ◆ 286 Mallards at the Retention Basin
- ◆ 47 American Robins
- ◆ 37 House Sparrows
- ◆ 34 House Finches
- ◆ 27 American Tree Sparrows (the next most numerous.)

It has been a fun weekend, but it is not over. I am looking forward to one more day of counting.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President: Craig Kruse birder1972@hotmail.com

V-Pres.: Brent Groesch

Secretary: Nick Courtney

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Programs: Jenny Ammon

Iowa Audubon Liaison: Joe Tollari

Web Master: Jan Friedman: Janfrdmn@gmail.com

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DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS




THURSDAY March 10th	Dubuque Audubon Program: Fishing at Fifty	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 p.m. – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Scott Gritters, Fisheries Biologist for the Iowa DNR, has a different take on bird watching’s “Big Year.”
SUNDAY March 13th	International Crane Foundation	1:00 p.m. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA. In the fall of 2015, an endangered Whooping Crane flew into Dubuque, IA and made a temporary home in front of a popular chain restaurant. Why did this 5-foot tall bird land where it did? Where is he now? By examining the near extinction of the whooping crane species and its subsequent slow recovery, Andy Bingle of the International Crane Foundation will explore the plight of the whooping crane and shed light on why Kevin visited Dubuque.
SATURDAY March 19th	 Annual Duck Waddle	6:00 a.m. – Meet at Banworth and Udelhoven Furniture parking lot, junction of US 61/151 and US 52. We will leave promptly at 6:00 a.m. and drive to Green Island Wildlife Area to observe the spring migration of waterfowl. Dress warmly. After our adventure we will have breakfast at the Riverview Café in Bellevue, IA, to compile our list and share stories of bird adventures.
SATURDAY April 2nd	Waterfowl at the Detention Basin	8:00 a.m. Meet behind 16th street Dairy Queen to observe waterfowl in the Detention Basin. This is a joint venture with the City of Dubuque to promote wildlife viewing in the Bee Branch corridor.
THURSDAY April 14th	Dubuque Audubon Program: Birds of Peru	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 p.m. – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Doug Harr, Iowa Audubon President
SATURDAY May 7th	Spring Species Count	Mark your calendar for this annual birding event. More information will appear next month.

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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Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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