



MARCH 2017 EDITION

Published Monthly
 Except January,
 July & August
 Volume XX - Number 2

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Craig Kruse

Everybody has a bird story. That's one of the things I like most about telling people about Dubuque Audubon. Birder or not, they usually come back with a story of something they once saw. Working in retail, I get to talk to a lot of people, and I hear a lot of stories. For instance one day a few years ago, I was at work, doing what I do and made the comment to someone that I was going to go out looking for owls in the near future. The person I was talking to was not a birder by any means. Still, his response was to tell me how he was running one morning a few years ago and came upon this "HUGE" owl sitting on its prey just off the side walk where he was running. As he ran past he startled the bird and it took to the air prey and all. It was a good story filled with lots of hand gestures and dramatic statements. I remember it to this day. I get to hear a story like that every week. It's fun.

I got to thinking about bird stories this morning, because recently I heard a bird story that just might take the cake. Once again I was at work, and I was talking to a coworker who had recently moved

from Kansas. Down south he worked at a grocery store, and one day they had left the receiving door open with no truck pulled up to it. The receiving door is a very big doorway, and just outside there were some small birds pecking at the cement looking for food that might have been dropped. While they were distracted, a hawk flew in and nabbed one of them and took off again right into the warehouse of the grocery store through the open door! It was a small hawk so it was possibly a juvenile or a Sharp-shinned Hawk and it didn't like being in the building any more than the employees liked having it there. It would sit in the rafters, and every once in a while it would dive at an employee or two when they walked by it. What were the workers supposed to do? They called the local DNR who, of course, told them it's a protected species so it was hands-off. They left the door open, but it wouldn't go anywhere near it. So the little guy stayed put until someone had a smart idea. They worked in a grocery store that had a meat department. So someone grabbed a handful of meat scraps, set them just inside the open receiving door and got

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everyone out of the back room for a while. When they came back in the hawk was gone with the meat scraps. That's a good story that I'm happy to share with you.

Every one mark your calendar for March 18th. It's Dubuque Audubon's annual Duck Waddle, and it just might be my favorite event we have. We will be meeting at the Banworth & Udelhoven parking lot at 6:00 a.m. (double check our website in case the time changes). From there we caravan to Green Island to observe the waterfowl that have recently stopped on their migration route.

At our March 9th meeting, Bob Walton will be doing a presentation on waterfowl to help us prepare for this event. I hope to see you at the meeting and the Duck Waddle. I think you'll have fun at both. Until then, I'll see you in the field.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President: Craig Kruse 563-582-7215

V-Pres.: Wayne Buchholtz

Secretary: Olivia Kruse / Joe Tollari

Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308

At-Large Board Members:

Brent Groesch Lalith 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 Liaison: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077

Web Master: Jan Friedman: Janfrdmn@gmail.com

Website: www.audubondubuque.org

Photographing Birds with a Smartphone

*You already own a powerful tool for snapping birds.
Here's how to make the most of it.*

*Information for this article was obtained,
with permission, primarily from an article
in May-June Audubon Magazine*

Phones are handy for taking photos. Great shots require great timing, and for that a smartphone has two big advantages: You carry it everywhere, and you intuitively get how it works. The camera app on most smartphones can autofocus and even track a subject. But for more precision and power you'll want to have manual control. The ProCamera app (for iPhones) and the Camera FV-5 app (for Android) let you adjust the following key functions. (*Tip: Experiment with them in your backyard, so they become automatic before you head into the field.*)

Timed Shutter: If you're using a scope to zoom in on a bird, the slightest touch of your camera can cause a vibration that will blur the image. Set the timer on your phone's camera to delay the shot. Another option is to remotely trigger the shot using the volume-down button on your headphones.

ISO: By default, smartphones automatically set the ISO (a measurement of the camera's sensitivity to light). If your subject is in the dark underbrush, increasing the ISO will make the camera more receptive to available light.

File Size: Larger images contain more information, which gives you more to work with when you go to edit them later. Set your phone to save photos with the highest pixel dimensions and in the TIFF format, so they remain uncompressed.

Shutter Speed: To capture a fast-moving bird, you'll need a fast shutter speed (and a higher ISO to maintain an even exposure). By playing with the shutter speed you can also attain different effects, such as a crisp body with blurred wings.



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS




SUNDAY March 5th	A Visit with Ding Darling	1:00 pm. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA. Tom Milligan will portray Jay N. "Ding" Darling as Darling tells about his career beginning in Sioux City where he became aware of the natural world and developed his skills as an editorial cartoonist. He won two Pulitzer Prizes for his cartoons. From the introduction of the Duck Stamp to the creation of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Darling's influence was felt not only through his cartoons but his actions as well.
THURSDAY March 9th	Dubuque Audubon Program: Water Fowl on Migration	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Bob Walton will review field markings for water fowl as we prepare for the Duck Waddle.
SATURDAY March 18th	<p>Annual Duck Waddle</p>	6:00 am – meet at Banworth and Udelhoven Furniture parking lot, junction of US 61/151 and US 52. We will leave promptly at 6:00 am and drive to Green Island Wildlife Area to observe the spring migration of waterfowl. Dress warmly. It's always cold down there! 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 1st	Birdwatching at the Bee Branch	12:00 pm, Meet in the Dairy Queen parking lot on 16 th Street. Mark your calendar.
FRIDAY April 7th	Woodcock Walk	7:00 pm, Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area. Mark your calendar.
THURSDAY April 13th	Dubuque Audubon Program: 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 how to deal with ticks.

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Dubuque, IA 52001
Permit # 459



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

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

STREET _____ E-mail _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CODE: C1ZH600Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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