



**NOVEMBER 2016 EDITION**

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Craig Kruse

I have a confession: as of this morning I haven't been able to get out birding since the big sit. I know, a month without getting out...it's a bummer. Sometimes life gets in the way. But the good news is that I set aside a couple of hours today for a nice walk at Deere. It was perfect. Lots of birds and lots of butterflies.



Common buckeye Photo by Craig Kruse

When I was driving down Riverside Road, I saw a lady under an umbrella painting the fall colors. Shortly after that, I ran into "Bud" who invited me to walk the river in his backyard. I always seem to run into people on the trail near the channel who are interested in what I'm doing. The people out there are so friendly. I got to see a lot of songbirds, sparrows, Great Egrets and Coots. It was good to reconnect after a short absence.

By mid-November, fall migration will be winding down. With any luck there will be some water fowl lingering.



Coots Photo by Craig Kruse

Most of our winter friends will be here getting situated for the winter. Start looking for Rough-legged Hawks by the Dubuque Airport and checking your feeders for Pine Siskins and Purple Finches. Things slow down this time of year, but they never stop. As long as the roads are clear and you bundle up, you can still get outside. Some of my favorite sightings have been in the late fall/winter. It's a good time to use your field guide and brush up your identification skills or even buy a cd on bird calls and do a little studying. This will help you in the spring.

Our next program will be on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, and Andy Benson will be joining us to talk about wild edibles. I'm especially looking forward to this program. I don't know how many times I've been birding and someone plucks something from a tree or bush and always seems to say, "Oh, yum." I always think that they are going to get a bellyache, but they never do. They know something I don't, and after Andy's presentation hopefully I'll catch up. Until then I'll see you in the field.



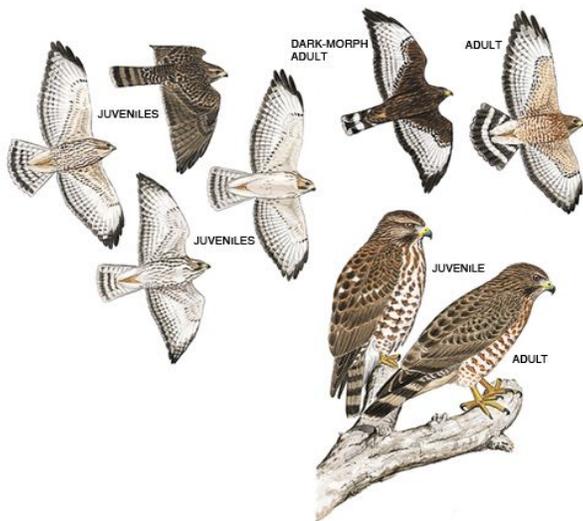


### Three Basic Ways to Identify Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, and Other Raptors

By Peter Dunne, National Audubon Society Newsletter

Birders trained to ID birds by their plumage are typically mystified by their first hawk-watching experience—from a distance, raptors may be near impossible to tell apart. Focus on the traits you *can* make out: size, shape, overall color or tone, and the manner and cadence of the bird’s wing beats.

My advice: Don’t be intimidated, but don’t be dismissive either. If you want to play in the hawkwatching arena, you’re going to have to rethink your concept of a field mark. Distant IDs aren’t made instantly—they’re built, by piecing together multiple clues that favor one species over another.



#### Size and Shape

Most birds of prey fall into four major categories. (Northern Harrier, Osprey, and kites are a few exceptions.) These are the core attributes for each:

- Buteos are the large, broad-winged, short-tailed lugs with spare and labored wing beats.
- Accipiters are small, narrow-tailed forest dwellers with short, rapid, bursting flaps, punctuated by a glide.
- Falcons are slender- and pointy-winged speedsters with steadier wing flaps.
- Big Black Birds (eagles and vultures) are the super-size, darker-plumed titans that make spare use of their wings.

#### Complexion

Once you've sorted your groups, it's time to narrow down the candidate species. Look for specific features—though fine distinctions in plumage might still be hard to pin down. For instance, the signature double ‘stache on an American Kestrel’s face may not be so obvious, so rely on its overall paleness to help distinguish it from the slightly larger and darker female and juvenile Merlin.

#### Motion

Manner of flight can also be a defining feature. The American Kestrel’s flight is batty and flat, for example, while the Merlin’s wing beats are fast, powerful, and piston-like. Kestrels float when they glide; the heavier Merlins sink. Peregrine Falcons, on the other hand, have shallow, elastic wing beats—you can practically see the motion rippling down the falcon’s long and tapered wings.

As the bird approaches, make sure to test your hypothesis; other clues will become more obvious as the distance closes. And don't worry, even the experts get fooled. It’s what keeps them coming back, season after season.

### Hawk Watch Results October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

- Bald Eagle 1
- Turkey Vulture 10
- Broadwing Hawk 8
- Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

#### 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
- Angie Jansen Gretel Winterwood
- Lalith Jayawickrama Michele Zuercher
- Allie Schmalz

#### 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](mailto:janfrdmn@gmail.com)
- Website:** [www.audubondubuque.org](http://www.audubondubuque.org)



# DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November 10th Thursday	Dubuque Audubon Program: Wild Edibles	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Andy Benson
November 12th Saturday	Birdfeeder Workshop	1:30 pm, Hurstville Nature Center, 18670 63 <sup>rd</sup> St., Maquoketa, IA. Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instructions to build your own suet feeder.
November 18th Friday	Nature Tales: Talking Turkey	10:00 am. Hurstville Nature Center, 18670 63 <sup>rd</sup> St., Maquoketa, IA. Learn about turkeys in Iowa, what they eat, where they live and more.
November 19th Saturday	Turkey Tails	10:00 am, Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA. Let's talk turkey! We will talk about wild turkey adaptations and turkey hunting. This program is free and open for the whole family.
December 17th Saturday	Christmas Bird Count	Reserve the date. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.
January 21st Saturday	Bald Eagle Watch	Reserve the Date. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.



NOVEMBER 8th, 2016

**Dubuque Audubon Society**

PO Box 3174

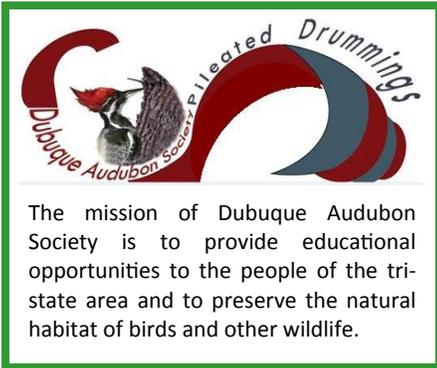
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**DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**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

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