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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

Why hello! It's been a while. I hope you had a good summer -- I know I did. It was a very busy and project-filled but hopefully that opened up some time for some serious birding this fall. It's now September and that's always a fun-filled time of year. Fall migration's ramping up, and we should be seeing some of our friends passing through that we haven't seen in a while. We all love Spring Migration but I'm very fond of Fall Migration, too. It seems like in the fall, the birds aren't in such a hurry, and they are willing to stick around a little longer. September 10th is our Fall Pot Luck at E.B. Lyons, and following that later in the month, we have a new activity we are calling Dubuque Audubon's Big Sit. The fun doesn't stop there, in early October we have our annual Hawk Watch at Nelson Dewy State Park (see calendar for details). The Hawk Watch is a great opportunity to witness raptors during their fall migration. Our Big Sit is something exciting and new for us.

We are going to pick a spot and sit on it from sunrise to sunset and record what we see for the day (date to come soon). For our first time out at this, we've picked the Julien Dubuque Monument which is accessible to everyone. It also gives us a great viewpoint to see things. It's going to be a fun day. Check out the event calendar of this issue of our newsletter for dates. As always, we'll see you in the field!

Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee is the official coffee of the National Audubon Society. It is available at local chapter meetings and events sponsored by the Dubuque Audubon Society (DAS) or at the gift shop of the EB Lyons Center at the Mines of Spain or at Swiss Valley Nature Center.



**You can order coffee from
 Dubuque Audubon Society member
 "Christine" by calling**

The Newsletter is available on-line as an electronic version. You can receive a monthly reminder to go look through an e-mail attachment or a reminder to visit our web-site:

www.audubondubuque.org





DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



THURSDAY September 10th	DUBUQUE AUDUBON POTLUCK	6:00 p.m. at EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA. Bring your own beverage, table service, and a dish to share. Come early to walk the nearby trails or sit in the bird observation room.
SATURDAY September 12th	THE BIG SIT!	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Julien Dubuque Monument at Mines of Spain Recreation Area. This event is perfect for families & individuals, veterans and beginners. THE BIG SIT! Invites visitors to count as many birds as possible within a defined circle over a 13-hour period. The public is invited to come for as little or as long a time as you like. Experienced birders will be on hand to help out.
SUNDAY September 13th	PELICAN FESTIVAL	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Hawkeye Wildlife Area, 2564 Amana Road NW, Swisher, IA 52338. Celebrate the American White Pelican. Educational programs, exhibitors and a food vender are available. See article elsewhere for specifics.
September 12th - 13th	NATUREFEST	12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA. Celebration of all things nature at the Mines of Spain. All ages can join us for fun activities, hikes & arts celebration.
SUNDAY September 20th	MONARCH TAGGING	1:00 p.m. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta. Monarchs are on the move! Join us to tag the monarchs prior to their long migration to Mexico. We will have the tags, nets, and naturalists present.
SATURDAY September 26th	DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY HAWK WATCH	Hawk Watch at Nelson Dewey State Park in Cassville, WI. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at 16th Street Basin and Carpool to watch raptors on fall migration. Bring binoculars, a hat, sunscreen and water.
SUNDAY October 4th	DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY HAWK WATCH	10:00 a.m. Meet at the Balltown Ridge overlook in Balltown, IA. Bring binoculars, a hat, sunscreen, and water. This is your chance to see locally rare hawks like the red-shouldered and broad-winged as they pass through our area on their annual fall migration to southern wintering grounds. Members of the Dubuque Audubon Society will help identify birds and provide insight about hawk habits.



THE TRUMPET CALL:

**How can a dozen Iowa swans
meet 5,000 students in 5 days?**

by Margaret Smith Executive Director

The Trumpeter Swan Society

How do 5,000 students in less than a week learn about trumpeter swans? Just ask any of the Iowa partners who teamed up in early May to bring a dozen swans to outdoor education programs, into schools, and to four different Iowa swan release sites.

Students from preschool through college participated. From hands-on capture, to seeing swans "up close and personal" at a wide array of education programs, trumpeters captured the hearts and attention of children and adults of all ages.

The Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS) congratulates all involved including the partnership leader, Dave Hoffman (TTSS Vice President), of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Dave reports, "The TTSS partnerships and expertise of experienced professionals has provided a tremendous exchange of knowledge, information, support, and international networking to make these programs so successful."

Here's the amazing story. Tuesday, May 5. College students capture a dozen swans. It was overcast and rainy when Hawkeye College students, majoring in Natural Resources, arrived to capture a dozen trumpeter swans. This was going to be a hands-on education experience in wildlife identification and techniques.

The trumpeter cygnets had spent the winter at a private supervised captive holding facility in north central Iowa. Five of the cygnets were from the Minnesota Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville, Minnesota. The others were from Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago and the Northeast Wisconsin Zoo in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Dave showed the students how to use nets to capture the swans and how to hold them after capture. Then, Dave and the students came up with a game plan to capture the swans! Ten swans were

corralled on land and were easily caught. Two swans, however, fled to the nearby pond, where they were caught after a brief, but exciting power boat chase.

Dave happily reported that no swans or students were injured (!). After capture, the birds were sexed, banded, and tested for avian flu (as a precaution prior to release into the wild). All swans tested negative for avian flu. The swans were put into porta-kennels for delivery the next day to various release sites and education programs.

May 6th - May 9th. An extraordinary "meet and greet" with swans! For four days, between May 6th and May 9th, the twelve trumpeter swans were shared between 16 locations. They made "star appearances" mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Some swans were taken into schools, others to outdoor locations for education programs. Some swans travelled from one location to another. One swan was even at six different locations! Twelve Iowa counties and Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge were involved in the scheduled swan education programs. The county programs were led by the county Conservation Naturalists.

More than 5,000 school children from ten to twelve schools, ranging from preschool through high school, participated in education programs and the swan releases at nearby lakes. These field days included programs on water quality, wetlands, conservation, and swans. The swans were released at Summit Lake, Viking Lake, Lake Icaria and Lake Anita. School children and ordinary citizens ranging in age from preschool to 80+ enjoyed the releases. Dave reports there were at least 150 participants at each release at the lakes in addition to the school programs.

The weekend's 20th annual Northwest Iowa Wings & Wetland Festival showcased two of the trumpeter swans. The festival offered eight educational opportunities to outdoor enthusiasts including two special programs on trumpeter swans at Lost Island Marsh and Dickinson County Nature Center.

Wow! What a remarkable and extraordinary story of partnerships and engagement of thousands of people of all ages learning about trumpeter swans and protecting their habitats. Congratulations, Iowa! Want to learn more about Iowa's Trumpeter Restoration Program? Read on.



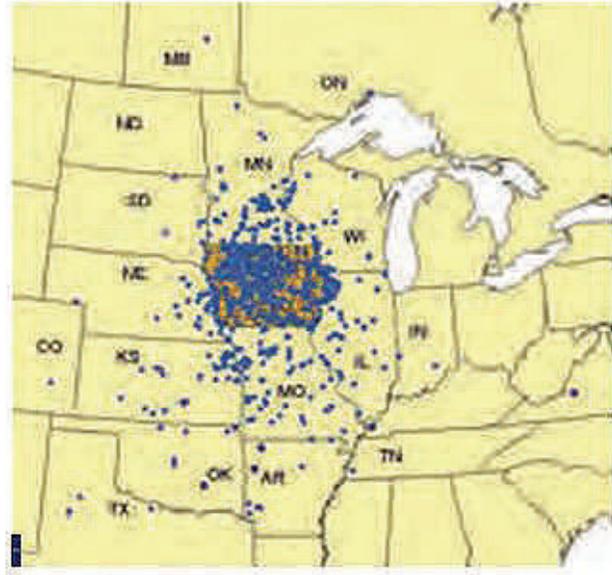
A brief history of Iowa's Trumpeter Swans and their restoration. Trumpeter swans use wetlands and shallow lakes for nesting and breeding. By 1920, 98 percent of Iowa's prairie wetlands had been drained, primarily for farmland. The last nesting pair of trumpeter swans was seen in 1883 at what would later become the Twin Lakes Wildlife Area in Hancock County. More than 100 years later, in 1993, the Iowa DNR and its local partners created a plan to restore a self-sustaining migratory population of trumpeter swans in its native range. Restoration began in 1995 in the north central region among Iowa's prairie potholes.



*Two trumpeter swans eagerly run to Viking Lake, one of four release sites in Iowa.
Photo by Holly Welch*

To date, more than 1,150 swans have been released, most in the Prairie Pothole Region. In 2014, there were a total of 582 trumpeter swans with 45 documented nesting pairs. Iowa swans are collared and tagged. Iowa swans have been reported in 17 states, as far west as Colorado, east to Virginia and in two Canadian provinces! As the swan population began to reach sustainable levels in north central and east central Iowa, the swan team reduced the number of releases. It began to focus on increasing the number of restored wetlands and getting them back to a healthy state.

The restored healthy wetlands act as natural filters to improve water quality, aid in flood control, and provide rest stops, habitat, and refueling stations to migrating birds. Iowa's shallow lakes restoration projects and renovations have been hugely successful. They have not only attracted trumpeter swans, but species that also require high quality habitat—like black terns, horned grebes, eared grebes, red-necked grebes and western grebes—and large numbers of diverse migrating waterfowl. For more information about trumpeter swans, and the restoration efforts across North America, go to www.Trumpeter-SwanSociety.org. Become a member and join in the movement to restore and sustain trumpeter swans in areas where they have not been seen in decades.



Iowa DNR map of Iowa Swan sightings in 17 states & 2 provinces.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

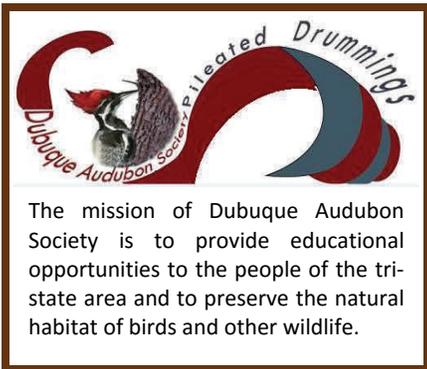
If you have any questions or comments, please contact us!

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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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