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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

Happy September and welcome to another year with Dubuque Audubon. I hope you had a good summer; I did. I finally got to participate in the Butterfly Count. I've been trying to make it to one of those for the last five years! One day in July every year a butterfly count is held simultaneously at Swiss Valley and The [Mines of Spain](#). It was a good experience and a lot of fun.

My daughter, Emily, went with me and together we joined Allie Schmalz's group at Swiss Valley. The threat of rain didn't stop us as seven of us headed up stream into the park with our nets. The first butterfly we observed was a Monarch as we entered the tall grass prairie by the second suspension bridge. Shortly after that, one of the young ladies made our first catch netting herself a Cabbage butterfly. If you're reading this and thinking [Cabbage butterfly](#) (?), don't feel bad. I couldn't have identified one before the Butterfly Count. I bet you've seen one. They are a mostly white-looking little guy with black forewing tips and small black spots. I also learned that they are



one of the most common butterflies around here. The rain hit shortly after that and ended our day, but Emily

and I had so much fun that we've gone out a few times since then on our own. Emily has caught and released [Tiger Swallowtails](#) (pictured),



[Eastern-tailed Blues](#), her own Cabbage (pictured) and a bunch of stuff I'm still working on identifying. If you ever get the chance, I suggest trying it out or at least joining a Butterfly Count. I think you'd like it.

Once of the other fun things I got to do this summer is participate in the Dubuque Audubon Board Member's retreat. One day every August we get together for an evening and plan our goals for the coming year. There is always a lot of good food around when we do this, and, of course, the company is great. Many stories are told of our summer adventures but eventually we get down to business. I don't want to give too much away, but we have some exciting stuff planned for you this year. Lots of great programs that I can't wait to see and maybe a trip or two. Nothing is definite, but I'm thinking [Great Grey Owl](#). But I'm getting ahead of myself. First up is our **September potluck**. That will be coming up here before you know it, and I hope to see you there. Check out the calendar section of the newsletter for the details. Until then, we'll see you in the field.





PELICAN FESTIVAL

The Coralville Lake Pelican Festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The location for this event is at the DNR headquarters at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area, 2564 Amana Road N.W., Swisher, Iowa 52338. Come to observe and learn about these magnificent birds. Hopefully, you will see several waves of pelicans spiral down and land in the water right in front of us. We are inviting groups involved in conservation and environmental areas to set up booths, with information about their group, merchandise to sell and/or activities for kids. This is the sixth fall we have held the festival at this location. Four different programs will rotate through the afternoon starting at 12:30 p.m. with American White Pelican repeated at 3:00 p.m. Other programs include Fish of Coralville Reservoir (1:00 p.m.), Ornate Box Turtle (1:30 p.m.), and Osprey (2:30 p.m.). This program is hosted by Iowa Audubon, Iowa City Bird Club, Cedar Rapids Audubon Society, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Why Some Puffin Colonies Thrived and One Barely Survived This Summer

By Jonathan Carey

The following article was re-printed, with permission, from the National Audubon Magazine. Baby puffins in the Gulf of Maine faced drastically different fates this breeding season when warmer ocean waters caused a shortfall in fish.

Don't miss a thing on Audubon's live cams. Sign up for alerts from the nests of cormorants, Ospreys, and Atlantic Puffins in Maine. Sign Up for Bird Alerts

As the summer breeding season winds down for Maine's seabirds, baby Atlantic Puffins are getting ready to hit the high seas. But on Machias Seal Island, near the border of New Brunswick and Maine, the burrows have been strangely quiet this month. Home to the largest puffin colony in the region, the island hosts anywhere from 5,000 to 6,000 breeding pairs each summer. Typically, 60 percent of the colony's newborns make it to the end of the season, but this year, only 12 percent were left after hundreds of chicks starved to death. It's the lowest

survival rate on record since scientists began monitoring the colony in 1995, the Portland Press Herald reports.

Experts are tying this mass starvation event to warmer ocean surface temperatures in the Gulf of Maine, which may have pushed the puffins' preferred food items farther north in search of deeper, cooler waters this summer. In the absence of Atlantic herring, white hake, and other large fish, the birds on Machias were forced to turn to less nutritional sources, including northern puffins, a species that's completely foreign to their diet. But just 90 miles south on Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge, the story was quite the opposite. Puffin colonies on three islands near Bremen, Maine, posted healthy numbers, says Steve Kress, the director of Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program. Though these birds also experienced a food shortage, they got a major boost from managed perch populations. By protecting stocks of endangered Acadian redfish, local fishermen also helped save a new generation of puffins, Kress says. "It's an important message on fisheries management, and a great example of success."

Nonetheless, the events on Machias still serve as a warning sign of larger climatic trends. Earlier this year, Kress and a team of researchers from Project Puffin discovered that post-fledging survival rates in Maine's Atlantic Puffins have declined annually by 2.5 percent since 1993. A key part of their research involved weighing pufflings and finding how variations in diet were affecting mortality levels, the results of which showed how important the constancy of prey is. As Kress noted in previous interview with Audubon, it's a factor that needs to be considered when conserving any species: "You can protect the islands where puffins nest, but that's not enough if the forage fish and marine habitat are not protected as well."

And to that end, the disparate fates of North American puffin colonies this summer serve as a stark reminder of the importance of big-picture conservation.

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 Michele Zuercher
Lalith Jayawickrama
Allie Schmalz

Field Trips:

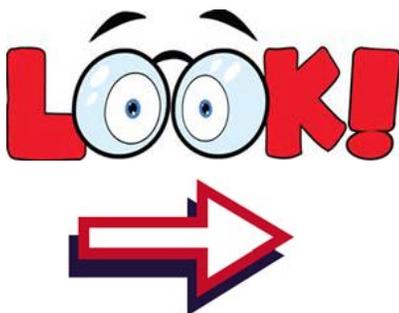
- Membership: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
Newsletter: Michele Zuercher
Conservation: Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783
Programs: Allie Schmalz / Angie Jansen
Iowa Audubon Liaison: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
Web Master: Jan Friedman: Janfrdmn@gmail.com
Website: www.audubondubuque.org



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September 3rd Saturday	MONARCH TAGGING	1:00—2:00 pm at Hurstville Interpretive Center 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, Iowa. Join a naturalist every Saturday as we capture & tag monarch butterflies in their famous migration. This fun and simple task helps scientists learn more about the amazing journey of these mysterious insects! This program is repeated every Saturday in September—same time, same place.
September 8th Thursday	DUBUQUE AUDUBON FALL POTLUCK	5:30 pm. Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in the porch area. Bring your own beverage, table service, and a dish to share. Come early to walk through the gardens.
September 11th Sunday	PELICAN FESTIVAL	11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area , 2564 Amana Road NW, Swisher. Iowa 52338. Celebrate the American White Pelican. Educational programs, exhibitors and a food vendor are available. See article in this newsletter for more details.
October 1st Saturday	DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY HAWK WATCH	10:00 am 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.
October 13th Thursday	DUBUQUE AUDUON PROGRAM: THE LIFE OF BEES	EB Lyons Interpretive Center , 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Bill Johnson will speak on bees. More information next month.



E-Newsletter Available

In an effort to control costs and save resources, Dubuque Audubon Society is offering an electronic version of this newsletter to our members. **We encourage you** to take advantage of this option!

...and when you read the Newsletter on-line you will have the advantage of following [links](#) that will provide more in-depth information for various items. Try it with this newsletter and follow the links!

You can receive the Newsletter as an e-mail attachment or as a prompt to go to the Dubuque Audubon Web-Site to view the Newsletter.

E-Mail your request to be added to this program to:
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Dubuque Audubon Society

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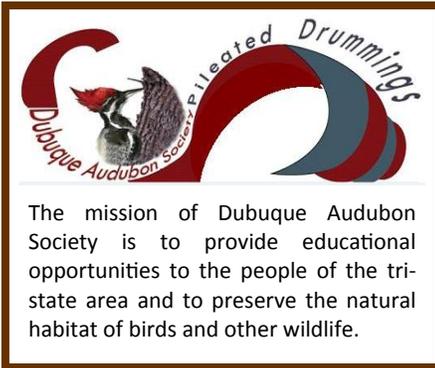
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DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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