



PILEATED DRUMMING

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Two years ago – has it really been that long?

By Maggie O'Connell, President

When I started this journey as your president, I believe I timidly suggested the theme of encouraging volunteers to come forward to become involved in our activities. I had high hopes that we would see increasing attendance at our good (sometimes GREAT) programs and that we would continue to grow as an organization. Looking back over the last two years, I am a little bit ashamed of how PUNY my aspirations were – you guys have accomplished SO MUCH MORE than that. There have been times when I have felt like I have just needed to hang on to the saddle horn and not fall off the racing horse – WHAT A RIDE!!!

We have the distinction of being an “Audubon” society. To us, it is just our name – “yeah, we’re Audubon – so what’s your point?” The point is this. Worldwide, the name “Audubon” carries instant name recognition of who we are and what we do – I remember sitting at a conference once hearing that it is the MOST recognizable name out there – but since I can’t remember the conference or the speaker, let’s just settle for it being a name to be proud of. The name carries with it the commitment to the natural world, but an equal commitment to the people in that world, in terms of education and of service. Just look at our mission statement on the back of this newsletter – this is who we are! AND, the last two years, Dubuque Audubon has, as Nita likes to say, “walked the walk!” I am proud to have been along for that walk. Heavens –just look at how this is changing – last paragraph it was a “ride” – this paragraph a “walk” – I can hardly wait to see what it will turn into in the next paragraph.

(Continued on Page 2...)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Continued from Page 1...



We have a new slate of officers and board members joining us for the year ahead. Pat has graciously agreed to assume the role of President again. (Any tale she tells you of arm twisting is a complete fabrication!) Roseann will continue as Secretary – how did we ever function without her in that role? I will be serving as Treasurer and have bought a little adding machine – figuring 10 fingers and 10 toes probably wouldn't suffice. We are also welcoming to the Board Michele Zuercher – you will probably recognize her from when she volunteered (there's that word again!) at the conference and from other events. **So, stay with us as we VAULT (didn't think I could come up with another one, did you?) into the future.**

For all of those of you who have been asking – actually begging for NO MORE remodeling stories – I gotta tell you, it's ALMOST done. Of course there is still cedar siding to go on one outside wall and I really think those outlets are supposed to have covers, and is that bag of concrete really supposed to be in the entryway?

But the rooms are finished, and I can find books in my bookcase and there are places to sit down and cook and everything! But just one more story – last fall as one of the first acts of this insanity, I had a waterline put in from the house to the horse barn. Loved it this winter, but as the grass covered the rest of the yard this Spring, I was left with this 12 foot barren swath which quickly became covered with anthills. I was looking out the



kitchen window at this disaster, plotting my next move, when this incredibly white crown caught my eye. Within half an hour, the anthills were covered with White-crowned Sparrows. I may have hated my anthills, but they loved them! There is always a silver lining, isn't there? – even to remodeling!

So what's ahead? Well, first get out and go birding – that's what we are all about! By the way, did any of you get down to Bellevue to see the purple martins (see last month's newsletter), or to Sunfish lake or Green Island or even your own back yard? They are all there for you to enjoy. And of course, stay tuned for the future exploits of the Dubuque Audubon Society – who knows

what we will be up to next (maybe Pat?). In the words of Frank Sinatra "Oops, there goes another rubber tree plant!!!" You just gotta have high hopes – and WE DO!

Maggie (I'll NEVER remodel a house again) O'Connell

DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY WEBSITE

You may have noticed that the website has not been updated in recent months. We now have a new webmaster who will maintain the website. Check out the website in June for the new look.

AUDUBON SHADE-GROWN COFFEE

By Dave Fisher

We have Audubon Premium Coffee for Summer Sipping!

"To add to your summer fun, Audubon Premium Coffee will be available for purchase.

To order, just call Dave at 563-542-0864."



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June, July, August, 2009

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| June 11 – Thurs. | Potluck Supper | 6:00 pm at Gerda Preston Hartman's at 7569 old Massey Rd., near the entrance to Mines of Spain. Bring your own table service, beverage, and a dish to share. A tour of the Preston Heritage Museum will follow the potluck supper. |
| July 10 – Fri. | Butterfly Count | 1:30 pm Butterfly Gardens, Bellevue State Park North. Nets provided. Children welcome to help run down and net the butterflies. |
| July 12 – Sun. | Butterfly Count | 1:00 pm at Swiss Valley Nature Center and EB Lyons Interpretive Center. Nets provided. Children welcome to help run down and net the butterflies that we cannot identify with binoculars. 4:30 pm E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center Bring a picnic supper to enjoy while we compile the results. |
| July 23 – Thurs. | Board Summer Retreat | 5:00 pm Potluck Supper and Board Retreat at Maggie O'Connell's home 2829 210th Street, Earlville, IA. Call Joe Tollari (563.583.2077) or Pat Fisher (563.556.5814) to carpool. |
| Aug. 13 – Thurs. | Picnic | 6:00 pm. Mud Lake Park Bring your own picnic supper. The young osprey should be present and flying (feeding?) for your entertainment. |
| Aug. 29 – Sat. | Iowa Audubon Pelican Gala | 5:00 – 9:00 pm White Oak Vineyards, Elkhart, IA See article elsewhere in the newsletter for details. |
| Sept. 10 – Thurs. | Potluck and Program | 6:00 pm Potluck Bring your own table service, beverage, and a dish to share. 7:00 pm Program |
| Sept. 18-20 –Fri. to Sun. | Upper Midwest Audubon Conference | Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena, IL. See article elsewhere in the newsletter for details. |

SPRING BIRD COUNT

By Maggie O'Connell

The Spring Bird Count totals are in and we had a VERY successful day May 9. **The hot spots were Green Island and the Bellevue area with John Deere Dike coming in a close second.** A total of 128 species was seen – this despite very brisk wind which made holding binoculars still a real chore. **Warblers were the star of the day with 21 Wood-Warblers being counted.**

For those of you who like to keep track of the changes from year to year, the list follows: Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, Sora (Pat and I got to see this one up close and personal posing on a slender limb about 3 feet off the ground – made my day!!), Common Moorhen, American Coot (tons of these), Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, N Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-

and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch AND House Sparrow. **WHEW! Trust me – FINDING the birds was a lot more fun than TYPING them!**

IOWA AUDUBON PELICAN GALA

By Joe Tollari

Iowa Audubon has made two changes in the Pelican Gala for 2009. First, the event has been moved from a weekday to a weekend evening. This year the Gala will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009 which is the evening before the Pelican Festival at Saylorville Reservoir. Hopefully, people from outlying Audubon chapters will consider making a weekend trip to attend both events.

Second, the event has been moved to White Oak Vineyards near Elkhart, Iowa located just north of Ankeny, Iowa. The vineyard is just two miles east of I-35. The costs and restrictions at Jester Park have made that location unworkable for our event. We obviously will not see pelicans at the new location, but there is plenty of space to set up some scopes on the veranda for guests to scan for birds in the line of woods surrounding the immediate vineyard. If you stay over for the Pelican Festival on Sunday, you will see plenty of American White Pelicans at the nearby Saylorville Reservoir. Iowa Audubon President Doug Harr has sampled some of the White Oak wines and said, "I tested a few of their wines, and I can honestly say they are among the best I've tried from any Iowa winery." For a glimpse of the facility visit www.whiteoakvineyards.com.

I encourage you to attend this Iowa Audubon event to meet Audubon members from across Iowa. If you are a member of Iowa Audubon, you will receive registration material in a forthcoming newsletter. If you are not currently a member, contact Joe Tollari at 563.582.2077 for registration materials.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President: Pat Fisher 563-556-5814

V-Pres.:

Secretary: Roseann Wiederholt 608-748-4770

Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308

At-Large Board Members:

Jenny Ammon

Wayne Buchholtz

Joe Ingram

Nita Wiederaenders

Charlie Winterwood

Michelle Zuercher

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Conservation: Wayne Buchholtz 563-582-7215

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Editor: Lois Theisen: ltheisen@mchsi.com

Dubuque County Conservation Board website
www.dubuquecounty.org.)

Each summer for the next four years 4-5 Osprey chicks will be placed in the hacking tower at Mud Lake Park to grow and be released along the Upper Mississippi River. The grant for the camera and equipment will allow all sectors of the public to participate in this conservation effort. Thanks again to the Dubuque Racing Association for the opportunity to reach out and educate the public here in the tri-states and beyond!

2009 UPPER MIDWEST AUDUBON CONFERENCE

This year's Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference, with the theme "Hope, Action and a Sense of Place," will take place at Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena on September 18-20. Audubon from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa will gather on this weekend not only to learn more about crucial issues and fascinating topics of natural history, but also to become inspired and re-dedicated to the important work that our chapters do. The conference is sponsored by the Audubon Council of Illinois.

Keynote presenters include outstanding nature photographer David Olson, noted author Scott Russell Sanders (who will also lead a writer's workshop), and grassland bird authority Dr. Jim Herkert. In addition, a luncheon address will be provided by National Audubon Society President, John Flicker.

There are a variety of Saturday morning field trips to choose from which focus on birds, geology, natural history or wind energy. The many concurrent session options on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning are included in the topic tracks of Bird Conservation, Restoration and Management, Connecting People With Nature, Protecting Our Water Resources, Energy and Climate Change and Chapter Roundtables.

An early registration fee of only \$75 includes a Friday night reception, Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday lunch, all sessions and keynotes, and most field trips. By registering early, participants not only will pay the reduced fee, but also will have a better opportunity to obtain a placement in their first choice field trip and the "Wild Imagination" writing workshop. Chestnut Mountain lodging rates are reduced, as well, if reservations are made early.

Conference brochures will be available at our chapter's meetings and events or by calling Mary Blackmore, conference co-chair, at 815-938-3204. The brochure can be obtained electronically by e-mailing Kara Gallup, conference co-chair, at karagallup@msn.com. Or locally, contact Joe Tollari at 563.583.2077. We hope you can join us!

OSPREY GRANT RECEIVED
By Jenny Ammon

Thank you DRA! The Dubuque Racing Association has awarded the Dubuque Audubon Society a grant for the Osprey Camera! The goals of the project are to make these birds and their development more accessible for all demographics of the public, to educate the public on the connection between water quality and wildlife, and to allow for more frequent and easier monitoring of the health of the Osprey.

The timeline for the project will begin the third week of June and continue until the work is finished and the Osprey arrive around the third week in July. This project is such an exciting one that it is hard to put into words how much the grant means! The Osprey Reintroduction Project is only in its second year here in Dubuque County, however, having the opportunity to view the birds from the ground at the Mud Lake Pavilion as well as on the web is a big step for year number two! (You can access the web camera later this summer through the



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

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.

Introductory Dues \$20.00
 Student/Senior Dues 15.00

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: C9ZH500Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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