



# PILEATED DRUMMING

*Dubuque Audubon Society*

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## **L**ooking Back...Looking Ahead By Pat Fisher

Having just finished the Dubuque Audubon Society fiscal year, it was very interesting to have treasurer, Maggie O'Connell, present a summary of the financial records. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the annual appeal drive along with 2 member memorials provided DAS with just over \$4,000. DAS also pursued and received 2 grants for a combined total of just shy of \$5,350. That provided DAS with almost \$10,000 this year.

The Audubon Board was able to channel this money into the following worthwhile projects:

- Purchase of seeds for prairie restoration
- Purchase of osprey chicks in 2009 and 2010
- Purchase of webcam hardware for viewing the osprey
- Support of conservation education for minority young people
- Support of the annual Bald Eagle Watch
- Support of education programs through Iowa Water and Land Legacy
- Support of research and bird surveys along the Mississippi River
- Support of citizen science for bird and butterfly counts
- Support of the bird viewing area at the expanded and remodeled E. B. Lyons Nature Center
- Purchase of bird identification programs that will be available for public use in the new bird viewing area

Thanks to you, our membership, and to your dedicated board members, for making these things happen. We are looking forward to bigger and better things in the year ahead!

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# Looking Back... Looking Ahead

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Michelle Zuercher, program chair, had an outstanding array of speakers last year and is working on an exciting year of speakers starting in October. But first, we will start the membership year with a potluck at the Arboretum. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy good food and friendly conversation all in a beautiful setting!

## NEW PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Holt Thrasher, Chairperson of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, recently announced that the Board of Directors has appointed a highly experienced, accomplished and committed conservation leader to serve as Audubon's new President and CEO.

David Yarnold is currently the Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Fund and President of its Environmental Defense Action Fund. Prior to that, he was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor at the San Jose Mercury News.

David possesses an extraordinary array of skills and expertise that will enable him to lead the Audubon network to new levels of conservation success. Thrasher stated "This is an exciting moment for Audubon and for our cause. We have found the right person to build Audubon's legacy of conservation results well into the future and to educate and empower the next generation of conservationists who will protect and restore the health of birds, other wildlife and the resources on which we all depend."

The Dubuque Audubon Society extends a hearty welcome to David. We look forward to working with him.

## E.B. LYONS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

By Wayne Buchholtz

The Friends of the Mines of Spain and park staff have been busy the last few years in the EB Lyons Interpretive Center expansion project. We have been even busier the past few weeks. The Center is

up, the exhibits are up, and an open house has been planned for the new center.

To give you a break down of the new facility we start at the entrance. As you walk into the new atrium you will discover that you have a choice to go left, right or down a flight of stairs open to the forest view behind the center. To the left takes you into either the office or the elegant Friends' Auditorium where wildlife hangs and programs will be provided in the future. To the right of the atrium are the Cultural, Natural and Environmental exhibits. Here you will learn about the Meskwaki, Julien Dubuque, forests, prairies, wetlands, lead mining, and you have the opportunity to watch birds in the Dubuque Audubon, Jane Ward Bird's Nest.

Now going down stairs you have the opportunity to make another left or right. To the right at the bottom of the stair case is the Kehl Library/Conference Room, the Doug Olk Family Archives or the Alice Butler Science Resource Lab. If you decided to go left you would enter the Zivognivich Children's Exhibit Area. This area has information about lead mining, Smokey Bear, a mine shaft, a Burr Oak canopy, aquariums and more.

Can't wait to visit the center and make those lefts and rights to explore the new rooms and exhibits? The center's exhibits are open as of August 7. A ribbon cutting for the facility will be September 22 at 4:30 pm. A grand opening is scheduled for September 26. The event runs from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm with programs and speakers at 2:00 in the Friends Auditorium. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Mines of Spain, and hosts will be available at each room to explain how they will be used for programming and by you. Come explore the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center all over and then head out to the 1387 acres of the Mines of Spain Recreation Area or one of the twenty one miles of trails cutting through forests, prairies, wetlands or rock.

Call Wayne Buchholtz at 563-556-0620 for further details or go to [www.Minesofspain.org](http://www.Minesofspain.org)



## **ON A WING AND A PRAYER: MONARCHS**

**By Jenny Ammon**

I began marking the return of the first monarch in the calendar 3 years ago thus beginning my obsession with the gorgeous insect. It is such an awe inspiring event; it is hard not to get wrapped-up in the astonishing life of the Monarch. Just imagine traveling up to 3,000 miles without a map or GPS and only weighing .25-.75 grams!

The Monarch got its name from early settlers who came to North America from Europe, particularly those from Holland and England. They were impressed by the sight of the butterfly. So, they named it "Monarch," after King William, Prince of Orange, state holder of Holland, and later named King of England. The monarch's color suggested the name (monarchwatch.org). Monarchs belong to a group of insects known as Lepidoptera which means an insect with scales on its wings.

Lepidoptera includes moths and butterflies; there are around 112,000 known species in the world. Monarchs host plant is milkweed; common milkweed, swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed...they seem to lay eggs on them all. The butterfly goes through 2-3 generations while here during the summer months, during the last week of August they will begin to cluster and around September 4<sup>th</sup> they will begin the trip south of Mexico

Monarchs, like other butterflies, go through metamorphosis in order to become adult insects. Every summer I look forward to watching the lime green and gold chrysalis form and await the emergence of the orange beauty. After they emerge, they feed on nectar from plants like blazing star, milkweeds and other flowering plants. They carry pollen from one individual plant to another as they seek nectar. Their ability to pollinate plants is one of nature's many miracles.

In order to learn more about the Monarch an organization called Monarch Watch was developed out of the University of Kansas. Their goals are to further science education, promote the conservation of Monarch butterflies, and to involve thousands of students and adults in a cooperative study of the Monarchs' fall migration. Their website is fantastic

and I highly recommend visiting the link, [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). Like most people, I have goals to learn more about nature, conserve special places and pass on a land ethic to the next generation...when something as small as a butterfly can bring all these big issues to light there is respect that forms for the winged beauty.



## **JANE WARD MEMORIAL**

**By Nita Wiederaenders**

On Sept.26, the Mines of Spain will hold an Open House for the newly expanded E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center. The Jane Ward Bird's Nest will be dedicated in memory of Jane Ward, longtime friend and member of the Audubon Society. Jane's love for the natural world and her concern for its preservation found focus in her participation in the Dubuque Audubon Society. She served on the board for a number of years as membership chair and as treasurer. She expanded these jobs to include fundraising and handling the finances for the Bald Eagle Watch. They say actors and birdwatchers have no business sense, but with Jane, our books were in the hands of a professional accountant and teacher of accounting.



## OSPREY UPDATE

By Jenny Ammon

Jane was also very concerned about environmental issues. She and her husband Don attended an Alaska Wilderness League seminar in Washington D.C. and met with legislators to lobby for the permanent protection of the coastal plain of America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and to request that the Forest Service cease road building in the Tongass National Forest. She was creative and generous in her efforts to reach people with Audubon's message of conservation and education, and that is what the Bird's Nest is all about. People can enjoy watching the birds, satisfy their curiosity, gain awareness of the importance of preserving this natural world for tomorrow's curious birdwatchers and be motivated to do their part in preserving the future of this planet.

Jane would not choose to be singled out for this honor, but family and friends knew of her interest and work with the Dubuque Audubon Society and made generous memorial gifts in her name. We felt that The Bird's Nest would both acknowledge and further her passion for conservation and education. We invite you to visit and learn at The Jane Ward Bird's Nest at the Mines of Spain, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA.



The Ospreys have arrived! The Osprey (*Pandion haliaeetus*) chicks arrived at Mud Lake Park on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. The 4 chicks (ranging in age from 40 to 50 days old) were placed in the hacking tower that morning. Prior to their arrival at Mud Lake they were picked up in Wisconsin and taken to the Raptor Center in Minnesota for evaluation and health status. They then traveled south to imprint on their summer home at Mud Lake Park. Volunteers from University of Dubuque's Web of Life group, Telegraph Herald Reporter Wendy Pauly, Urban Youth Corp members, Wildlife Photographer Les Zigurski, Roosevelt staff and students, Dubuque County Staff members Chris Clingan, Kurt Kramer and Jenny Ammon were in attendance for the introduction of the birds. The four chicks were marked with a silver leg band (federal) and a purple leg band (state) as well as shoulder paint for identification and observation while in the hacking tower. After the 4 chicks were placed in the tower, news came that there was a 5<sup>th</sup> bird for our hacking tower. So that evening we had all 5 chicks in the tower eating catfish and settling into their temporary home.

The purpose of the Osprey Project is to reintroduce the raptor as a nesting species. Eleven states have released Ospreys, and Iowa's effort complements a coast-to-coast linkage of the birds. Ospreys are a phenomenal raptor as well as a trusted water quality indicator. Locally, young Osprey from Wisconsin and Minnesota are being relocated to areas with suitable habitat in southern Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio. Projects are designed to place young in areas where Ospreys do not currently nest. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has assisted with many Osprey projects including at Coralville Reservoir, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Jester Park, Don Williams Lake, Clear Lake, Wickiup Hill, Elk Rock State Park, White Rock Conservancy, Spirit Lake, and most recently Mud Lake Park in Dubuque County.

The Ospreys from 2008 should be returning this year to nest along the Mississippi. Male Osprey show strong fidelity to ancestral breeding areas, preferring to nest colonially where adults originated. Females may disperse hundreds of miles from their origin to nest; however, males will

generally return within 20 miles of origin. This reintroduction strategy will ultimately improve nesting survival and complete historic distribution.

If you are interested in bird watching along the river, DCCB would love your help with observation of the returning male 'fish hawk'. If you would like more information about this project please call Swiss Valley Nature Center, 563.556.6745.



From left to right: Roosevelt student, U of D Web of Life President-Lisa LaBudde, Web of Life member & DCCB Naturalist Intern-Megan Goesse, Web of Life member and DCCB

## HOW WHITE PINE HOLLOW STANDS WITH ME

By Howard Higley

I first came to this place nearly 70 years ago. It was then a solitary place, far removed from the places people went on weekends. There was no access, not even a trail. The Hollow and I had a long time to get to know one another on a personal basis. It was my father who first brought me here. There was no place else quite like this for either of us. It took miles of hiking to reach this place. There was very little evidence that many ever visited here.

In succeeding summers, springs and autumns, I hiked into Pine Hollow many times alone. It became something of a holy place to me. A place free from all of the things I disliked about the then world. I held this spot in awe for it was truly both a serene and wild place.

The challenge of the snow and ice gave me even greater pleasure here than the warm seasons. The great pine, first silent and then whispering in the unbelievable cold of winter is an experience not forgotten.

As the seasons came one upon another, I shared many things with the Hollow: cool drinks from the crystal running springs, the cold dampness of autumn mist, the first wet snows of fall, the cold silence of heavy winter, and the rebirth of the green world come late spring.

When I married, I took my wife to the Hollow, and she too grew to love the enchantment that lives here. We had three children, and they each had their turn at meeting the Hollow. First they rode comfortably in my arms, and then later, they hiked in on their own feet. It was here in this place that they learned the lessons of life and respect for the world of nature. It was here that they developed attitudes and skills that will be an eternal part of their personalities. It was here, more than any one place, where the bonds of love and family unity were nourished and solidified. Much that they will remember of their childhood happened here in Pine Hollow.

I've taken friends here. Some were grasped by the power and the unique personality of the place. Some were entirely out of place and saw it only as a place to blaze a trail, shoot a deer, or cut a Christmas tree.

Years brought the road and a wide trail. Soon, I found circles of stone and black ashes where a fire had been and first the occasional litter and then more. Then came, in close succession, the timber cruiser, the Boy Scouts, and the picnickers. Perhaps I'm selfish about Pine Hollow, but I think it has a special place in God's plan. What we do today is GOOD, and I thank those who had the drive and foresight to set this place aside for my children's children.

# DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September, 2010**

Sept. 9 – Thurs.	Fall Potluck	5:30 pm Dubuque Arboretum, Marshall Park. Join us to kick off the membership year with a potluck supper and good conversation. Bring your own table service, beverage, and a dish to share.
Sept. 11 – Sat.	Iowa Audubon Pelican Gala	McFarland Park Conservation Center, Ames, IA. Featured speaker is Carrol Henderson of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. His topic is “Oology and Ralph’s Talking Eggs.” This is the story of Ralph Handsaker and his collection of thousands of wild bird eggs accumulated during his life. While the egg-collecting hobby is no longer legal, the story they tell is fascinating. Reservations to the Gala are \$60/person and \$100/couple and include expanded hors d’oeuvres, homemade desserts, and a silent auction. Contact Joe Tollari (563.583.2077) for more information.
Sept. 25 – Sat.	Dubuque Audubon Society Hawk Watch	9:00 am Meet at the Audubon Overlook at the 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Retention Basin to carpool to Nelson Dewey State Park in Cassville, WI. Or meet us at Nelson Dewey at 10:00 am. Bring binoculars, a sack lunch, and a beverage. Call <a href="tel:588-2783">588-2783</a> for details or in case of foul weather.
Sept. 26 – Sun.	E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center Open House	1:00 to 5:00 pm at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA. Come and visit the new addition to the Interpretive Center. 2:00 pm Programs and Speakers
Oct. 2-3 – Sat.-Sun.	Effigy Mounds Hawk Watch	Marquette, IA. Beginning at 8:00 am Saturday, and 10:00 am Sunday. This two-day event features bird hikes, interesting programs, activities for children, bird banding/releases, and more. Enjoy all or part of the weekend at Effigy Mounds National Monument.



## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

**President: Pat Fisher 563-556-5814**

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**Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308**

**At-Large Board Members:**

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**Wayne Buchholtz**

**Joe Ingram**

**Nita Wiederaenders**

**Charlie Winterwood**

**Michele Zuercher**

**Field Trips: Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783**

**Membership: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077**

**Conservation: Wayne Buchholtz 563-582-7215**

**Programs: Michele Zuercher 563-557-3021**

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## DUBUQUE'S UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2010

By Margreet Ryan

Peace and environment are obviously linked in that wars and conflicts wreak tremendous damage on the environment. Peace benefits creatures of all kinds as well as the environment and habitat they need. Peace lies at the heart of each individual, all families, communities, territories, and nations. Peace is the dream we hope and strive for. It is possible to see a world turn from violent to nonviolent solutions within our lifetimes. A group of Dubuque-area residents invites all to create a culture of peace by participating in a city-wide celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. Please join us in promoting a collective commemoration of the day in the Dubuque area by attending a presentation by Ken Butigan, director of Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, Chicago, at the Alumni Center, Loras College at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 21. His topic is Everyone a Peacemaker: Unleashing the Power of Nonviolent Change in Our Lives, Our Community and Our World. This event is free and open to the public.

## AUDUBON COFFEE

By Dave Fisher

Did you know that coffee is the second most used product in the world besides oil? Discover why many Birders prefer the taste, freshness, and aroma of AUDUBON SHADE GROWN PREMIUM COFFEE. It's organic, fairly traded, and bird friendly! It is also full bodied and delicious! And it's available in whole bean or ground, light or dark roast.

A new shipment of Audubon Coffee will arrive by the end of August. Fresh hot Audubon Coffee will be available for sampling and purchase at the September Audubon meeting.



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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.

\_\_\_\_\_ National Audubon Society Free Membership

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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