



PILEATED DRUMMING

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Reflections on Paraguay By Pat Fisher

My husband, Dave, and I had the opportunity to join with ten other Dubuque Audubon members on a trip to Paraguay. Dr. Gerry Zuercher from the University of Dubuque led us on a fascinating excursion to the country where he has been conducting research for the past 14 years. His love of the country and its peoples were evident and provided insights into the riches and challenges in the struggle to preserve natural treasures.

An upcoming program will highlight our trip in detail. As we anticipate sharing this grand adventure with our membership, I would like to reflect on some of the lasting impressions this trip had on me.

The wonderful birds have to be first on my list. Seeing more than 130 new species was quite an experience. As always, birding in a group is loads of fun and creates immediate bonds between people. If you don't see the bird, someone is sure to help you locate it. And once seen, people are calling out the salient features to help in the identification. Once identified, someone is naming the plate and number in the bird guide so everyone gets it marked. Communal birding, on home territory or foreign ground, is a gift for all involved!

I will name just a few of my personal avian favorites. The Bare-throated Bellbird was heard more than seen (although we all got a stupendous look). The unmistakable metallic call was with us throughout many of our jungle walks. The Surucua Trogon was kind enough to come and sit in full view for a long period, as did the White-necked Puffbird; both great finds. Some of the smaller birds were just as fun. These included two cardinals; the red-crested and the yellow-billed. But names of birds don't mean much without pictures, so I'll save the rest for the upcoming presentation.

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I found it so interesting that something that is a “Wow!” the first time it’s seen can quickly become a ho-hum by the tenth time. This happened with the Plush-crested Jay, a stunning, brightly-colored large bird seen at Iguazu Falls. How fickle are we humans and how difficult to retain appreciation for the wonders around us.

The diversity of cultures was as interesting as the birds. We were immersed in a Mennonite community in the Chaco, interacted with the native Ache Indian tribe in the Mbaracayu Reserve, as well as with the native Paraguayan peoples, the Guarani, throughout the country.

The way the new juxtaposed with the old was especially evident in the capital city of Asuncion. People carrying baskets on their heads, no-handed, with warm chipas (a delicious bagel-like bread), would board the buses to sell their goodies. Horses and carts travel the highways next to myriads of cars, trucks, buses and motorcycles.

Red was the color of the land. Red sand melded into red roads which melded into red sidewalks which melded into red brick buildings. It was beautifully easy on the eyes!

QUESTIONS KIDS ASK

By Wayne Buchholtz

Studying backyard birds is the easiest type of kids’ birding project, as well as one of the most rewarding. All you will need is a couple of feeders and a birdhouse and young birders can study their backyard guests. They can watch from a window or go outside on the deck and they can get answers to many questions about backyard birds. Questions like, why do birds come here, why does this bird do certain things while another does the opposite and are there habitats or areas in our yard that the birds like best.

While your back yard is convenient, it is not always the best place to see a lot of bird species and it does not answer questions about native

habitats. Have your kids visit different habitats by taking them to public areas to see what lives in a forest, prairie, or wetland. Finding a new place to observe birds may be as simple as visiting a local pond, lake, or park. Families may want to take birding walks or hikes together so young birders can answer questions. They will begin to ask questions and find the answers as to why certain birds like water areas and why some birds eat fish rather than seeds, or why certain birds are found during the winter but they are not seen in the summer. Kids can learn a lot from birds and the experience will be rewarding for them as they grow. Birds can be educational in topics such as diversity (over 300 different species can be found at the Mines of Spain, teaching children that any species can coexist), geography (why some species live in Iowa while some live only to the south) and the food chain (all birds eat, kids need to eat, not all birds eat the same thing). They will also learn about predators, prey and natural balance.

Take a kid out doors and go bird watching, take a hike, sit down and watch the river go by. Some close places to enjoy birds include the Mines of Spain, Swiss Valley, Bergfeld Pond, Heritage Trail, the Dubuque Arboretum, Eagle Point Park, walking areas along the river, any state or county park and more. Visit today, but take a kid along.



E.B. LYONS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

By Wayne Buchholtz

There is something new at the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. It is a new computer, furnished by the Dubuque Audubon Society. The computer was made possible through the Dale Ernsen Memorial Fund. The funds purchased a new computer and a birding program. The Thayer Bird Program allows you to explore the world of birding. This comprehensive Guide to Birds of North America includes over 900 birds found in the US and Canada. This interactive CD-ROM contains over 2,700 top-quality photos with zoom capability for crystal-clear close-ups. Compare two or more birds side-by-side for accurate identification. Range maps and abundance maps show you where to find the birds. The Field Guide view displays all of the information about a bird on one page for easy viewing. There are quizzes you can take, areas to log in sightings and observations and much more. The computer can be found in the NEW Dubuque Audubon Society, Jane Ward's Bird Nest. While searching the computer program, you can sit, watch and listen to birds right outside at the numerous feeders. A new pond and several plantings have been added to enhance the bird watching experience.



Jorrie Ciotti

WESTERN TANAGERS LOVE SHADE GROWN COFFEE

When travelling in the western U.S., you may have seen the beautiful Western Tanager. The wings are black, the breast is yellow and the head is bright red! These birds love shade grown coffee because these coffee trees are planted underneath the taller

forest trees. Western Tanagers rest and feed in these taller trees of Mexico and Central America when they migrate. When Birders drink genuine Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee, they know they are preserving the habitat for these gorgeous migrants. So when you see the Western Tanager return in the spring, you know you've played a part in preserving their habitat. You can try a sample of Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee at monthly meetings of the Dubuque Audubon Society and at other DAS events. Coffee is also available for purchase.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IOWA VOTERS

On this November 2, Iowans will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to determine the future for our water, land, birds and other wildlife and natural resources. Questions #1 on this year's general election ballot will be a constitutional amendment that would create a "Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund", a permanently protected account to preserve Iowa's resources and outdoor recreational opportunities. Revenue placed in that trust fund would be dedicated to conserving our agricultural soils, improving water quality, enhancing parks and recreational trails and the protection of critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Farmers, county conservations boards, private conservation and recreation-based groups as well as the Iowa Department of Natural Resources would all realize benefits.

As members of Iowa Audubon, you are well aware of the issues facing Iowa's natural resources, but here are some facts to communicate how important this measure is:

--Over 500 of Iowa's waters, in 99 counties, are considered "impaired by the EPA and Iowa DNR. These are waters where we fish, recreate and get our drinking water.

--Iowa has lost over 5 million acres of wetlands and has less than 10% of our original wetlands left. Funding for wetland restoration is critical for the prevention of future flooding and the protection of critical habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife.

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Voting Yes on Question #1 this fall for Iowa's Water and Land Legacy amendment would protect the natural resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, as well as provide important accountability measures to ensure funding is properly spent. There will be oversight by a citizen's committee, a detailed spending plan that tells Iowans exactly how money will be spent and politicians won't be able to divert funding to any other purpose.

Iowa Audubon is a member of Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Coalition, a group of nearly 100 conservation organizations, businesses, farm groups, recreational interests and others supporting this constitutional amendment - possibly the largest assemblage of conservation interests ever assembled behind a single natural resource cause in Iowa's history. Audubon's role is one of providing

public education about the benefits of this ballot measure. This vote means more to the conservation of birds and bird habitat than anything since Iowa conservationist Ding Darling's efforts in the 1930's. But as individual citizens and voters, it will be up to you to decide how to cast your vote this fall—but we hope you will vote YES on Question #1. Your choice will determine if we continue to pursue conservation as we have in the recent past, or if we dare to step off in a new direction with tremendous potential to save natural resources for our children and grandchildren. Whatever you decide, be sure to vote on November 2.

If you wish to become involved, or if you just want to learn about what all is a stake, visit:

www.YesOn1ForIowa.com

(Reprinted from Iowa Audubon, July 2010, Volume 6, Number 2)

MEETING SITE

The construction is complete, the Open House is over and the new facility is ready for use. Beginning with the October, 2010 meeting, Dubuque Audubon Society will return to E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Come and enjoy interesting programs and lively conversations.



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October, 2010

Oct. 2 – Sat.	Insect Galore	1:00 pm at Hurstville Interpretive Center, 18670 63rd St., Maquoketa. Learn about some amazing adaptations and the roles insects play in our lives. We'll introduce you to a website that will help you identify who is buzzing or crawling around your neighborhood. Participants will also have the option to make a bee block to encourage pollinators in their yard. Pre-register by Sept 28 if you want to make a bee block. No charge thanks to Clark Saw Center for donating the wood!
Oct. 10 – Sun.	Chris Braig Memorial Program: The Driftless Land	1:00 pm Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA Kevin Koch, a Professor of English at Loras College, will speak on his book The Driftless Land which tells of his search for the spirit of place among the bluffs, woodlands, and prairies of the upper Mississippi River Valley.
Oct. 14 – Thurs.	White-nose Syndrome in Bats: the Coming of an Epic Natural Disaster	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Jeff Huebschman from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Oct. 23 – Sat.	Toddling into Leaves	9:00 am Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta. The popular Toddling into Nature series is back! Children ages 3-4 are welcome to attend with an adult. We will discuss how and why leaves change, how leaves help the environment and we will take a hike to see leaves up close. Please call and register 556.6745
Oct. 29 – Fri.	Halloween Hike 'Nature at Night'	6:00 pm Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta. This event is for all ages, but made especially for families with young children, to have fun in a non-scary outdoor setting for Halloween. We encourage everyone to wear costumes, but make sure you are dressed for the weather. The theme is Nature at Night, the first hike starts at 6 pm and hikes will take place approximately every 15 minutes, last hike departs at 8 pm. You will need to call to reserve a hike time for you and your family. Crafts and treats will be offered in the nature center. Call 563.556.6745 to reserve a time slot.

Dubuque Audubon Society
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Peter Van Zoest

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 _____

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