



# PILEATED DRUMMING

*Dubuque Audubon Society*

VOL. XXXVIII—NO. 9

December 2010

Published monthly exc Jan., July, Aug.

[www.audubondubuque.org](http://www.audubondubuque.org)

## **E**xploring The Mississippi Backwaters For Birds In The Fall By Pat Fisher

Dave and I had some time this weekend to scan the backwaters of the Mississippi on the Wisconsin side. We were specifically looking for migrating tundra swans and found a large grouping at Perot State Park and a few at Alma, WI. What we saw was no match for the large numbers of swans that we have observed in previous years around Harper's Ferry, IA. But seeing any number of these large white majestic birds is enjoyable.

Spotting waterfowl was an unexpected treat. We had good looks at pintails, scaups, green-winged teal, golden-eyes, gadwalls and ring-necked ducks along with our ever-present mallards and coots. These departing beauties are headed to warmer spots of open water. Already I am looking forward to their return in March as they herald the return of longer days, moderating temperatures and spring melt.

For those of us hunkering down in the tri-state area for the cold months ahead, don't be afraid to get out and look at the winter birds that remain in the area. We have a wonderful opportunity in the upcoming Christmas Bird Count; Saturday, Dec. 18 is the day to mark on your calendars. Some routes contain a lot of walking and others contain virtually no walking. Birding-by-car is the route that I do. You can spend a half-day or a full day, it's your choice. And we always end with a chili supper at the E. B. Lyons Nature Center to tally our results. To be placed on a team, call Charlie Winterwood at 563-588-2783. We always welcome additional people. More pairs of eyes means more birds counted.

2011 is the 23rd Annual Bald Eagle Watch in Dubuque. Saturday, January 15 is the date to mark on your calendar. Time is 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. The Minnesota Raptor Center will be bringing an assortment of raptors, including a Bald Eagle. Pella Wildlife will also be doing programs showing a cougar and red and silver foxes. There will be additional exhibitors and vendors with many fun activities for young and old alike.

(Continued on Page 2...)

# Treasures in Our Midst!

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When our granddaughter, Maia, came to Bald Eagle Watch last year, I bought her a small book about eagles. One of the pictures showed the eagle that is on our quarters. Now whenever she sees a quarter, she always tells her parents she has to save it so she can show Grandma the eagle! On her last visit, she marched proudly into the house holding out two quarters for me to see the eagles! I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing real eagles with her, at the Bald Eagle Watch and at the Lock and Dam. Hope to see you there!!!

Of course, don't forget the interesting programs at our monthly membership meetings. December will be an enthusiastic presentation by the members who ventured to Paraguay this past August.

Since we don't publish a January newsletter, be sure and mark down all these dates now. There are so many opportunities to connect our lives to the natural world. Taking advantage of them enriches our lives and those around us.

## A LETTER FROM THE IOWA NATURE CONSERVANCY

Dear Dubuque Audubon Society,

We made history on November 2nd and we couldn't have done it without your help! Thanks to your generous support, Iowa's Water and Land Legacy passed by an overwhelming margin—nearly two thirds of Iowans voted "Yes" on Question 1.

Your support enabled us to take our message to every corner of the state with our rallies, phone calls, direct mail, print advertising and television & radio commercials.

And in this age of political bickering, Iowans of all political views came together to support the amendment. Over 130 organizations, representing more than 300,000 Iowans, formed a coalition to promote increased funding for conservation. I am

honored and humbled to have had the pleasure and opportunity to chair the coalition and work with Iowans like yourself who are united in purpose to forever improve the conservation of Iowa's precious natural resources.

Iowans such as you clearly see the need for clean water, ending soil erosion, restoring wetlands to protect against future flooding, improving fish and wildlife habitats and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities. As you know, there is still work to be done to fully fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund that Iowa's Water and Land Legacy successfully established. The coalition looks forward to working with you to ensure the goals of Iowa's Water and Land Legacy campaign are achieved.

Thanks, again, for your generous support that helped to make possible, the greatest conservation victory in Iowa's history!

Best Regards,  
Sean McMahan  
State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Iowa  
Chair, Iowa's Land and Water Legacy



*Perot State Park*  
Jonathan Bloy

# **D**UBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December, 2010 – January, 2011**

<b>Dec. 9 – Thurs.</b>	<b>DUB AUDUBON PROGRAM:</b> <b>Paraguay Adventure</b>	<b>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA</b> <b>5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting</b> <b>7:00 pm – Program: Join us as we share stories of our birding trip to Paraguay. Several of us will join to tell of our experiences and share our photos of the Chaco, Mbaracayu Reserve, and Iguazu Falls. Participate in our Dubuque Audubon tradition – bring a dozen of your favorite holiday cookies to share.</b>
<b>Dec. 18 – Sat.</b>	<b>Christmas Bird Count</b>	<b>8:00 am Piatagorsk Park, 16<sup>th</sup> St. and Kerper Blvd. or call route leaders identified elsewhere in the newsletter for starting points for their routes (not all routes start at the Park). 12:00 pm (noon) at Wendy’s Restaurant for the afternoon route.</b> <b>4:30 pm at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA to compile data, and share stories and a Chili Supper.</b>
<b>Jan. 13 – Thurs.</b>	<b>DUB AUDUBON PROGRAM:</b> <b>From Home to Abroad: Conservation and Research Projects of the Museum and Aquarium.</b>	<b>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA</b> <b>5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting</b> <b>7:00 pm – Program: Lee Jackson from the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium will speak on the range of conservation projects which enhance the educational mission of the Museum.</b>
<b>Jan. 15 – Sat.</b>	<b>Bald Eagle Watch</b>	<b>Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque. Doors open at 9:00 am. Exhibitors, vendors, and children’s’ activities all day.</b> <b>Raptor Programs at 9:30am, 12:15pm, and 3:00pm.</b> <b>Pella Wildlife Programs at 11:00am and 1:45pm</b> <b>9:00am – 4:00pm Eagle viewing at Lock and Dam #11</b>
<b>Jan. 23 – Sun.</b>	<b>Creatures of the Night-Bats</b>	<b>1:00 pm EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA Jeffrey Huebschman will speak about the bats that live in the area. Jeff will talk about the white noised syndrome and how it has affected bats across North American and how it could affect us in the Midwest.</b>

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

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**Secretary: Roseann Wiederhol 608-748-4770**

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

**At-Large Board Members:**

**Jenny Ammon**

**Wayne Buchholtz**

**Joe Ingram**

**Nita Wiederaenders**

**Charlie Winterwood**

**Michele Zuercher**

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

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

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

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**lite@netexpress.net**

## BALD EAGLE WATCH VOLUNTEERS

By Nita Wiederaenders

January 15, 2011 is fast approaching. Save this date for exciting live raptor programs at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. Please sign up for a couple of hours to volunteer and help make this event enjoyable for everyone. We need people to act as greeters, to work at the Audubon booth, to answer questions and to sign up new members. The volunteer staff members need assistance to conduct children's activities, as well as filling in during necessary potty breaks; exhibitors and vendors appreciate a chance to leave their post for a few minutes when the crowds thin down. We also need a couple of people to help with the tear-down at the end of the event; we have one hour to pack up and leave

because the center has another event scheduled for our space at 6pm. At the lock and dam, we need volunteers for 2 hour shifts from 9am to 4pm to help visitors observe the eagles, scopes will be in place.

The event at the Grand River Center opens at 9am and closes at 4:30pm. The first shift of greeters will start at 8:30 to get things organized. A 2 hour shift is appreciated or more if you can.

Volunteer by calling Nita Wiederaenders at 563-583-0537 or by e-mail  
dub1255@gmail.com

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – 2010

By Charlie Winterwood

On Saturday, December 18th, Dubuque Audubon will conduct its annual Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas Bird Count is done throughout the Western hemisphere and each count attempts to tally all the birds in a 15 mile diameter over a 24 hour period. Anyone can join, all you need is a set of binoculars. You can contact any of the route leaders below or meet at Piatigorsk Park on 16<sup>th</sup> St. & Kerper Blvd. at 8AM or Wendy's on 16<sup>th</sup> St. at Noon. We will tabulate the count and have a chili supper at EB Lyons Interpretative Center at dusk.

### Bird Count Leaders-

**Airport:** Margreet Ryan, 583-8634,  
margreetryan18@hotmail.com

**Centralia:** Pat Fisher, 556-5814,  
elkrun2@gmail.com

**Dubuque:** Charlie Winterwood, 588-2783,  
cwinterwood@netscape.com

**Durango:** Dave Shealer, 557-7519,  
david.shealer@loras.edu

**E. Dubuque/WI:** Ted Harms, 590-5959

**Mines of Spain:** Wayne Buchholtz, 556-0620,  
wayne.buchholtz@dnr.ia.gov

**Swiss Valley:** Jenny Ammon/Bob Walton, 556-6745

## AUDUBON BRID SIGHTINGS NEEDED

If you have any photos you've taken of local birds or if you have spotted an interesting species, please consider a submission to the Dubuque Audubon Society's Bird Sighting web page (just click on the bird icon on the [www.audubondubuque.org](http://www.audubondubuque.org) website). If you have any questions, call Dave at 563-542-0864 (cell).

## LOCAL BIRDS OR YEAR AROUND RESIDENTS: WHAT ARE THEY? By Wayne Buchholtz

**Local** - in or related to the area that you live in, or to the particular area that you are talking about.  
**Birds (Aves)** are winged, bipedal, endothermic (warm-blooded), egg-laying, vertebrate animals.  
**Resident** - non migratory.

Birds that remain in Iowa throughout winter are those which can eat available seeds, dormant insects and smaller birds & mammals. They include a variety of small songbirds & woodpeckers, jays & crows, upland game birds and birds of prey. They also include some non-native birds introduced from Europe. It is difficult to categorize some bird species as winter birds; some are not consistent winterers. For example, longspurs migrate south through Iowa and, in some years, remain throughout winter. In other years however, longspurs just keep moving south. Some Iowa nesting birds normally considered to winter in the south, such as robins, occasionally remain in Iowa all winter. Ducks, geese, herons and other water birds may take up winter residence below river dams or in other areas of open water.

Some common birds found in the Dubuque area that are winter residents include the Brown Creeper and Dark-Eyed Junco.

Common bird species found in the Dubuque area that are year around residents include Northern Cardinal, Cedar Waxwing, Blue Jay, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Black-Capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Robin, American Tree

Sparrow, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Redheaded Woodpecker, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, American Crow, Mourning Dove, House (English) Sparrow, European Starling, Wild Turkey, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Bald Eagle.

So you can see that most birds we see in our area during the winter are local residents. Most birds we see in the fall are migrating through to get to their winter homes.

To feed birds this winter, use black oiled sunflower seeds, nyger, suet and water. You should bring in a good variety of birds depending on where you live. To see those owls and raptors, you will need to visit a local wildlife area. Have fun birding and remember to bring family and friends with you. You never know when you will see that once in a life time bird.

*"Birds, not rooted to the earth, are among the most eloquent expressions of life." Roger Tory Petersen*

## AUDUBON COFFEE: TIME IS SHORT!

Make your order for Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee for the holidays by calling Dave's cell phone at 563-542-0864 right away. Time is short! Regular is \$8.00 and Decaf is \$8.50.



*Purple Finch*  
Scott Streit



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Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
Permit # 459



*Mourning Dove*

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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