



PILEATED DRUMMING

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Opportunities Abound! By Pat Fisher

My husband Dave and I were just saying today how much we have learned about birds since we joined Audubon 20 years ago. That was after seeing and hearing Nashville Warblers and Blue-winged Warblers. We couldn't have done that even a few years ago. Thank you to all the friendly, helpful and extremely knowledgeable people in Audubon who have played a part in our birding education.

This knowledge is being passed down to our children and grandchildren. I spoke to our son in Seattle and he was telling me about seeing Wilson's and Black and White warblers. Apparently the birding bug has caught on!

Hasn't this been a wonderful year for seeing orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks and indigo buntings?! These beauties seemed to fall from the skies en masse and descend on oranges and feeders and yards all over the area. Our spring bird count was one of the best I can remember. The leaves were not too big making it easy to spot birds. Returning migrants came flooding in so there were lots of birds to see and hear.

Summer is upon us and the regular speaker program is suspended until September. But take heed! There are lots of opportunities to get together with fellow Audubon members.

The Breeding Bird Atlas was written about in the last newsletter. We need volunteers to go out and look for evidence of breeding birds! Can you think of a better way to spend a few hours than driving the back roads looking for birds? Call Joe Tollari (563-590-9405) for details on how to get involved.

On June 9, come to the Mines of Spain at 6 pm for a potluck followed by a showing of the recently released film paying homage to the life and work of Aldo Leopold, called Green Fire. (See calendar for details.)

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Oportunities Abound!

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And as a follow-up to the film, we will be taking a field trip to the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, Shack and Farm for a private tour. Following lunch, we will tour the International Crane Foundation. Both events are scheduled for Saturday, June 25th. We will be car-pooling from Dubuque to Baraboo, WI. (See details in the newsletter.)

July 10 is the annual butterfly count that happens at both Mines of Spain Nature Center and the Swiss Valley Nature Center. Bring the kids out for a few hours of chasing and identifying butterflies!

August 11 will be a picnic at the Worthington Sportsman Club, a first time place for us to meet. Bring your binoculars along. You just never know what we'll see. Call me if you would like to carpool, 563-583-6148. And September finds us back at the Dubuque Arboretum for a potluck supper to start the new membership year off. (Again, find all the details elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Hope to see many of you over the summer at one or more of the events! Happy Birding!

FIELD TRIP TO ALDO LEOPOLD CENTER AND SHACK AND FARM AND INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

www.aldoleopold.org

Dubuque Audubon Society has planned a field trip to the Aldo Leopold Center and Shack on Saturday, June 25, 2011. We will leave at 6:00 am from the parking lot under the overpass at 16th Street and Kerper Blvd. We will carpool and/or caravan from that point. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic between the Leopold Center and the Crane Foundation tours. Cost is \$8.00 for the Leopold Center and \$7.00 for the Crane Foundation. Contact Charlie Winterwood at 588-2783 for a reservation.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation works to weave a land ethic into the fabric of our society; to advance the understanding, stewardship and restoration of

land health; and to cultivate leadership for conservation.

The foundation is committed to the ongoing restoration of the Leopold Shack and Farm, where, in 1935, Aldo Leopold and his family undertook a revolutionary experiment in returning health to a worn out farm. Celebrated in Leopold's classic *A Sand County Almanac*, the transformed land now supports vibrant forests, wetlands & prairies and draws visitors from around the world. First published in 1949, *A Sand County Almanac* has sold over two million copies in ten languages.

The foundation's headquarters is located in the Leopold Center, less than a mile from the Leopold Shack and Farm. Opened in 2007, the Leopold Center was built using pines the Leopold family planted in the 1930s and '40s and implements a wide spectrum of green building techniques and technologies. The Leopold Center begins to demonstrate the many ecological, economic and cultural harvests we may begin to reap when we commit to caring for land.

The Shack, a re-built chicken coop along the Wisconsin River where the Leopold family stayed during weekend retreats, continues to serve as the heart of the foundation's programs. Each year, thousands of visitors are inspired through tours, seminars, and workshops in the same landscape that deeply moved Leopold.

Leopold's words have stirred many to a personal ecological awareness. The foundation's goal is to share the legacy of Aldo Leopold and to awaken an ecological conscience in the people of our nation.

JUNE PROGRAM: GREEN FIRE

The first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold, "Green Fire" highlights Leopold's extraordinary career, tracing how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement. Leopold remains relevant today, inspiring projects all over the country that connect people with the land. Combine this program with the Dubuque Audubon Society field trip to the Aldo Leopold Center and International Crane Foundation.

DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June, July, August, 2011

June 8 – Wed.	Blank Park Zoo 'Across the World'	3:00 pm Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA Join a Zoo educator and some animals to learn about creatures from all different parts of the world. Ages 5 and up will love this program.
June 9 – Thurs.	DUB. AUDUON PROGRAM: Chasing Shadows in the Dark	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 6:00 pm – Potluck Supper – Bring your own beverage, table service and a dish to share. 7:00 pm – Program: Green Fire – Documentary film outlining the contributions made by renowned environmentalist Aldo Leopold.
June 25 – Sat.	FIELD TRIP: Aldo Leopold Center and International Crane Foundation	6:00 am Leave from parking lot under the overpass at 16 th Street and Kerper Blvd. Bring a picnic lunch. Three hour tour at Leopold Center is \$8.00. Two hour tour at Crane Foundation is \$7.00. To reserve a spot, contact Charlie Winterwood at 563-588-2783.
July 10 – Sun.	Fourth of July Butterfly Count	1:00 pm at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, or Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd. This is great family fun. Nets will be provided. Bring water and sun screen. 4:00 pm Tally results over your own picnic supper at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center.
Aug. 11 – Thurs.	Picnic	6:00 pm at Worthington Sportsman Club. Bring your own picnic supper, bird book, and binoculars. Directions: take US 20 west past Dyersville. Turn south onto County Highway X47 (also 310 th Ave). Travel 3.5 miles to Worthington Sportsman Club.
Aug. 13 – Sat.	Iowa Birds of Prey by Macbride Raptor Project	1:00 pm at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA This hour long program introduces audiences to birds of prey, or raptors, with an informative and entertaining live-bird presentation.
Sept. 8 – Thurs.	Potluck Supper and Fall Meeting	5:30 pm in the porch area of the visitor center. Bring your own beverage, table service, and a dish to share.

Check out the local nature centers for additional summer programs. Swiss Valley Nature Center (www.dubuquecounty.org), Hurstville Interpretive Center (www.jacksonccb.com), and E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center (www.minesofspain.org)

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President: Wayne Buchholtz 563-582-7215

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Secretary: Pat Fisher 563-556-5814

Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308

At-Large Board Members:

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Field Trips: Terri Stanton

Membership: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077

Newsletter:

Conservation: Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783

Programs: Michele Zuercher 563-557-3021

Iowa Audubon Liaison: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077

Web Master: Jan Friedman:

Janfrdmn@yahoo.com

Website: www.audubondubuque.org

Editor: James Brown:

jbrown-lite@netexpress.net

AUDUBON RECEIVES DRA GRANT FOR WETLAND BIRD DIORAMA

By Jenny Ammon

I am very pleased to announce that Dubuque Audubon is the proud recipient of a 2011 Dubuque Racing Association Grant. A Wetland Bird Diorama at Swiss Valley Nature Center will be constructed with the grant money. The goal of the project is to provide an accessible wetland display for all ages. Wetlands are an undeniable asset to our landscape. This diorama will explain the importance of wetlands as filters of pollution, habitats for wildlife, feeding/nesting sites for migrating birds and as places for outdoor enjoyment.

Audubon provides education through programs, donations and field outings. But, by far, the greatest impact the group has is in their passion for educating the public on the importance of good habitats for wildlife – especially birds. We are excited to continue the tradition of education through this wetland bird display.

You can look for the display to be “under construction” this summer. Dolphin Cabinets and River City Murals will start work on the second floor of the Swiss Valley Nature Center.

Thank you DRA/Mystique Casino for your generous gift.



Indigo Bunting

E.J. Peiker

BIRD DAY

By Wayne Buchholtz

International Migratory Bird Day was held May 14, 2011, at the canoe launch area in the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. Dave Shealer and Dan Wenny strung mist nets to capture migratory birds. Fifty-eight birds were caught. About fifteen people were on hand to watch Dave and Dan weigh and measure the birds before putting a band on their leg. The Americas River Cleanup was also in progress at the same time and place. Many people helping to cleanup Catfish Creek also were able to see very cool birds. A list of birds caught with the number of birds in parentheses is presented below. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was caught but not banded. Totally, Dave and Dan caught 21 species with 58 individuals.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1)	Eastern Phoebe (6)
Willow Flycatcher (2)	House Wren (4)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1)	
Gray-cheeked Thrush (1)	American Robin (3)
Gray Catbird (5)	Tennessee Warbler (1)
Bay-breasted Warbler (3)	Blackpoll Warbler (2)
Canada Warbler (6)	Northern Waterthrush (2)
American Redstart (8)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3)
Indigo Bunting (2)	Song Sparrow (1)
Chipping Sparrow (1)	Brown-headed Cowbird (3)
Baltimore Oriole (1)	American Goldfinch (2)

SPRING SPECIES COUNT

This year, the weather was nearly perfect for the Spring Species Count. After a long, mostly cold spring, the dry and mild temperatures were welcomed. Some of the highlights of the day include the large numbers of Baltimore Orioles and Indigo Buntings observed. That continued as many people reported larger than normal numbers of those birds at their feeders. It has been a colorful spring! The cool spring may have delayed the migration of some water fowl. At Green Island, some of the ducks that should have left long ago were still around. It was fun to see American Wigeon, Gadwall, Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks still around. It was a good year for warblers and Eagle Point Park in Dubuque was a hot spot. Eagle Point is always good for warbler migration and easily accessed. We observed a total of 142 species. The list follows.

Pied-billed Grebe	Warbling Vireo
Horned Grebe	Red-eyed Vireo
American White Pelican	Blue Jay
Double-crested Cormorant	American Crow
American Bittern	Horned Lark
Great Blue Heron	Purple Martin
Great Egret	Tree Swallow
Green Heron	N Rough-winged Swallow
Turkey Vulture	Bank Swallow
Canada Goose	Cliff Swallow
Trumpeter Swan	Barn Swallow
Wood Duck	Black-capped Chickadee
Gadwall	Tufted Titmouse
American Wigeon	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Mallard	White-breasted Nuthatch
Blue-winged Teal	House Wren
Northern Shoveler	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Canvasback	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Redhead	Eastern Bluebird
Ring-necked Duck	Swainson's Thrush
Lesser Scaup	Wood Thrush
Bufflehead	American Robin
Hooded Merganser	Gray Catbird
Ruddy Duck	Brown Thrasher
Osprey	European Starling
Bald Eagle	Blue-winged Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Golden-winged Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Tennessee Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Orange-crowned Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Nashville Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Parula
American Kestrel	Yellow Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wild Turkey	Blk-throated Green Warb.
Sora	Blackburnian Warbler

Common Moorhen	Yellow-throated Warbler
American Coot	Palm Warbler
Sandhill Crane	Cerulean Warbler
Killdeer	Black-and-White Warbler
Greater Yellowlegs	American Redstart
Lesser Yellowlegs	Prothonotary Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Ovenbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Northern Waterthrush
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Common Yellowthroat
Least Sandpiper	Wilson's Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Scarlet Tanager
Dunlin	Eastern Towhee
Short-billed Dowitcher	Chipping Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Field Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Vesper Sparrow
Herring Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Forster's Tern	Henslow's Sparrow
Black Tern	Song Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Swamp Sparrow
Mourning Dove	White-throated Sparrow
Whip-poor-will	White-crowned Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Northern Cardinal
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Belted Kingfisher	Indigo Bunting
Red-headed Woodpecker	Bobolink
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Meadowlark
Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Northern Flicker	Common Grackle
Pileated Woodpecker	Brown-headed Cowbird
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Orchard Oriole
Least Flycatcher	Baltimore Oriole
Eastern Phoebe	Purple Finch
Great-crested Flycatcher	House Finch
Eastern Kingbird	American Goldfinch
Yellow-throated Vireo	House Sparrow



Red Crossbill
Michael Woodruff

OSPREY IN DUBUQUE – “SENTINELS OF CLEAN WATER”

By BreAnn Nesteby

Osprey, *Pandion haliaeetus*, commonly called fish hawks or fish eagles are neither true hawk nor eagle, but are in the family of Kites. Ospreys have amazing eye sight, which allows them to see five times more clearly than humans. They have a clear membrane (nictating membrane) to keep their eye protected when diving into the water, they also have nose flaps that close completely, allowing them to submerge their entire body into the river! Their talons are sharp curved fish hooks to hold onto their slippery fish prey. Osprey can lift themselves vertically out of the water using specialized wing joints. No other raptor has all of these unique adaptations. Females are slightly larger and wear a dark ‘necklace’ across her chest. Males are only slightly smaller, and show a strong linkage to ancestral breeding grounds. (This makes the young a perfect candidate for relocation.) Ospreys are migratory birds; the immature young spend up to 20 months at their over-wintering areas in South America.

The Iowa DNR has assisted in the reintroduction efforts in many counties; the map shows active, inactive and release sites throughout Iowa.
http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/files/files/osprey_map.pdf

Osprey from the Hayward area in Northern Wisconsin, are removed from their nests, and taken to the Raptor Center. They are checked by specialists to make certain they are in the best condition possible. The 42 day old ospreys are transported to their ‘hack sites’, our hack site is at Mud Lake Park along the mighty Mississippi River. The birds typically arrive around the third week of July. At 53 days of age they are considered full grown and should be ready for the gates of the hack tower to be open and the young free to fly, feed and enjoy the wild!

For four years the Dubuque County Conservation Board (DCCB), Iowa DNR, University of Dubuque-Web of Life and many other donors, including the Dubuque Audubon Society, have worked to reintroduce Osprey in the Dubuque area. With the assistance of the Audubon Society, the DCCB was awarded a grant from the Dubuque

Racing Association. A video camera for the hacking tower was purchased with these funds, so community members can watch their progress on the county website www.dubuquecounty.org

We are very grateful for the overwhelming response from the community, and appreciate all the donations and volunteers; we look forward to a great public turn out at the introduction of the young to the hacking tower in July...stay tuned to the local media for a specific date as July rolls closer!

Having Osprey back in Iowa will improve Iowa’s wildlife diversity and increase the public’s appreciation and connection to our water and its water quality, we can think of Osprey as “sentinels of clean water”.

SAVE THE BIRDS AND TREES. THEY BELONG TOGETHER

By Dave Fisher

Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee saves both the birds and the trees. Coffee trees are grown underneath the forest canopy creating a slower growing more flavorful cup of coffee. The process also saves the trees and the birds that live in them. Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee is fairly traded and is 100 % organically grown, making it the wisest choice for those coffee lovers who value conservation and economic development! You can buy a bag at regular Audubon meetings (and sample a cup). Or you can call Dave at 563-542-0864 to place an order. Coffee is sold as whole bean or ground, regular or decaf.



SEEN ANY GOOD BIRDS LATELY?

By Dave Fisher

Birders don't have to see a Red Crossbill or a Snowy Owl (a rare occurrence locally) to submit a sighting to the Dubuque Audubon Bird-sighting web page. Back in winter, a birder spotted a Bluebird with snow all around near Balltown, Iowa. Another person spotted a White Crowned Sparrow and photographed it outside his office window! And, of course, there have been some rare sightings such as the Mississippi Kite spotted and photographed near Rockford, Illinois or the Oven Bird photographed in a backyard. Photographs are not necessary. Just provide as much information as you can. You can use the guidelines found on the webpage to help you make a submission. Just go to the Dubuque Audubon Society web page (<http://www.audubondubuque.org>) and click on the bird icon for "The Latest Birding Sightings." Then send your information to birdsighting@gmail.com.



Osprey
Peter Wallack

FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT

Three of the main goals of the North American Butterfly Association's Butterfly Count Program are to (1) gather data that will monitor butterfly populations, (2) give butterflyers a chance to socialize and have fun and (3) raise public awareness by hosting events that will increase general interest in butterflies.

Just as the Christmas Bird Count isn't conducted on Christmas Day, the Fourth of July Butterfly Count isn't necessarily conducted on the Fourth of July holiday. This year, Dubuque Audubon Society will conduct the butterfly count on July 10, 2011. We will have count areas at the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center (Mines of Spain) and the Swiss Valley Nature Center (Swiss Valley). The counts will begin at 1:00 pm. Bring your own picnic supper to E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center where we will tally our results at 4:00 pm.



American Redstart
E. J. Peiker

Dubuque Audubon Society
James Brown, Editor
PO Box 3174
Dubuque IA 52004-3174

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



Baltimore Oriole
Terry Sohl

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 **INTRODUCTORY 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

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

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Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

Dubuque Audubon Society
PO Box 3174
Dubuque, IA 52004-3174