



# PERILEATED DRUMMINGS

*Dubuque Audubon Society*

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## **P**RESIDENT'S CORNER

By Wayne Buchholtz

"Nature brings beauty to every time and season"

- *Author Unknown*

"In nature things move violently to their place, and calmly in their place."

- *Francis Bacon*

Summer is quickly coming to an end and fall is coming up far too quickly. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and experienced nature to its fullest. Two quotes lead this month's column. First, nature is one place where you can find something wonderful every time you go outdoors. You find it whether it is in your backyard or a wildlife area; nature is always present. Secondly, in the last few weeks, Dubuque experienced nature in ways we never thought possible. Fourteen plus inches of rain in some spots causing damage, destruction and change. But, in it all, nature is back up and running. The parks may look devastating, but when you take a closer look you can still go outdoors and experience nature to its fullest. Sure creeks moved, trees fell over, a hillside may be steeper, or a prairie is flattened under the rain, but somehow the creeks still flow, trees will be replaced, the hillside will heal and the prairie will continue for years to come. It was the structures that had been built that were damaged and will take time to repair. We depend on those structures, foot trails, bridges, wildlife blinds, interpretive signs, canoe launches and other amenities to enjoy nature. They will get built again. The two quotes bring to mind how wonderful nature can be, but how violent it can be at the same time. When assessing damages to the Mines of Spain and walking through Swiss Valley, I saw what was left behind, but I also saw how quiet it was and what always amazes me is the plants are still blooming, birds are going about their days as if nothing happened, or a deer has found a new path to follow just hours after the storm. I found destruction, but I also rediscovered the power that nature has in restoring itself. If you have not been out in nature in awhile, I urge you to go. Go out and view the power nature has. Look past the destruction, look at why that creek moved or look at the benefits from a tree fallen in the forest. But be sure to take your binoculars and a field guide, nature has not gone away. It is still there.

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# P Resident's Corner

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As your new president, I urge you to go outdoors. Not by yourself or with your regular companion, but take someone new out with you. Enjoy it with someone and not alone. Enjoying the outdoors is an activity that many do not take part in. Either they are unsure what to do or they do not know where to go. Every time you head out on a hike, ask a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you. The Dubuque Audubon Society hosts field trips or events outdoors every month. A program is held at the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center every month from October thru May. These are good opportunities to get others involved in birding, but also in nature generally. The field trips take you to places where you can learn from experts. The programs are on a variety of topics presented by expert guest speakers. Some goals I have for this upcoming year include- 1) increase memberships of Audubon, 2) increase participation in field trips and programs, 3) increase presence to the public and 4) increase project development and education. The board will be meeting soon and we will be discussing ways to meet these goals. If you have suggestions or would like to be further involved with the Dubuque Audubon Society please let me know. Give me a call at 563-582-7215 if you are interested in helping in any way or if you have a desire of being on the Dubuque Audubon Society Board, you will be glad you did. I look forward to seeing you, your family, friends and neighbors at our regular meetings, field trips, and out at our local wildlife areas. Remember- invite someone to go along and enjoy nature today and every day.

## WETLAND BIRD DISPLAY UPDATE

By Jenny Ammon

Artist Mike Meyer of River City Murals has finished the Wetland Bird Mural on the second floor of the Swiss Valley Nature Center. Mike started the mural in late July and did research on the bloom times of wetland plants, looked up avian visitors of wetlands & placed reptiles, amphibians and aquatic insects throughout the stunning mural. The work of art is fantastic; just looking at it makes you feel like you

should have a pair of binoculars around your neck with birds singing in your ears! As he finished the mural on August 19, Dolphin Cabinets came into the nature center for the final measurements of the display case. The timeline is moving along and we look forward to a beautiful finished project thanks to our generous donors: the Friends of DCCB for the mural and the DRA for the display case. We would love to have the same quality of product for the 3D plants, animals and birds in the display. If you are interested in helping with the finishing touches, simply call or email me at 563.556.6745 or [dcblawler@mwci.net](mailto:dcblawler@mwci.net). The nature center is open 7 to 3:30, Monday through Friday and Saturday and Sunday 9 to 5. Feel free to stop in and see the amazing artwork by Mike.

## SAVE THE BIRDS AND TREES, THEY BELONG TOGETHER

By Dave Fisher

**Audubon Premium Shade Grown Coffee** saves both the birds as well as 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 (samples are also available). Or you can call Dave at 563-542-0864 to place an order. Coffee is sold as whole bean or ground, regular or decaf.



# 2011 PELICAN FESTIVAL SWIMS TO CORALVILLE LAKE

On Sunday, September 25, 11AM to 3 PM, join Iowa Audubon and primary partners Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, McBride Raptor Center, Iowa City Bird Club and the Johnson County Conservation Board in celebrating Iowa's annual "Pelican Festival". For the first time this free public event will now be held at DNR's Hawkeye Wildlife Area headquarters, 2564 Old Amana Road, Swisher, IA. Bring your family and friends to this great celebration of American White Pelicans—and all other birds—in fall migration through Iowa.

## Activities include:

- Pelican Viewing with bird EXPERTS
- Bird & Conservation Organization displays
- Presentations about Pelicans & birds
- Face Painting FOR kids
- FREE Pelican tattoos (TEMPORARY)
- & MORE to be announced

FOR MORE & updated information, go to [www.iowaaudubon.org](http://www.iowaaudubon.org)

## PELICAN GALA

Following the Pelican Festival on Sept. 25, Iowa Audubon will hold it's annual fundraising "**Pelican Gala**", 5-9 PM, at the Kirkwood Room, 515 Kirkwood Avenue in Iowa City. Come join us for an evening of fun, food, beverages, a silent auction, and live musical entertainment



by Jon "**Hawk**" Stravers and his band from northeast Iowa.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Funds raised will be used to further bird conservation and education projects in Iowa.*

### (Clip and return Pelican Gala reservation form)

Yes, I/we will attend the pelican gala: \$45/person, \$75/couple, or \$25/student  
(all **include** 2012 membership) No. attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No, I/we cannot attend, but I am enclosing a donation to Iowa Audubon  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \$25 to help sponsor a student to attend the Gala  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation form must be received no later than **September 15, 2011**

Send to: **Iowa Audubon**  
**PO Box 682**  
**Waterloo, Iowa 50704-0682**

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

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## THREE EASY BACKYARD FEEDERS

By Melissa Mayntz

About.com

Feeding the birds can quickly become an expensive and elaborate hobby. Easy birdfeeders are convenient to fill, hold a lot of seed so they don't need to be refilled as often and will attract the greatest number and variety of backyard birds. Three styles of feeders are easiest for new and experienced birders alike: platform, hopper and tube designs.

**Platform Feeders:** Platform feeders are the simplest birdfeeder designs available. They are open trays that can be filled with seeds, nuts, scraps or other foods that all birds can access. Sizes and heights vary, but a good platform feeder will have the following characteristics:

- Removable screen bottom for drainage and easy cleaning
- Slightly elevated edge for containing food and to provide a perch
- Sturdy legs for stability
- Large surface area to accommodate many birds

Platform feeders are available as freestanding units or hanging designs. They can also be made from many unique materials, such as an old tray table, dry bird bath, wooden spool table or a thick upright log.

**Hopper Feeders:** A hopper birdfeeder has a central reservoir that dispenses food to a feeding tray as birds eat. This is convenient because the feeder can be refilled less frequently without running out of seed but the unused seed is sheltered from wind and moisture. Characteristics of the best hopper feeders include:

- Clear seed reservoir so birds can see the food and refilling levels can be checked
- Multiple dispensing stations for a larger number of birds
- Multiple perches for feeding and waiting birds
- Ability to hold different sizes of seed
- Large reservoir to hold generous amounts of seed
- Easy access to the reservoir for refilling

Hopper feeders are available in a range of sizes and styles, from simple basic feeders to elaborately decorative models. Freestanding feeders can be attached to a pole while most styles can be hung from hooks or branches.

**Tube Feeders:** Tube feeders are specialized hopper feeder designs used primarily for finches and small songbirds. Instead of dispensing seed into a tray, the tube has feeding ports that allow birds to feed directly from the reservoir. Characteristics of the best tube feeders include:

- Clear reservoir so seed is visible to birds and refill levels are easy to see
- Multiple perches to accommodate several birds
- Easy cap or base removal for refilling
- Convertible feeding stations for different seed types
- Small covers over feeding stations to keep moisture out of the seed

Tube feeders are most frequently hung from branches or hooks. Simpler models include mesh and sock feeders but they are not as sturdy and will need to be replaced regularly.



# DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September, 2011

Sept. 8 – 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. 24 – Sat.	Moving Planet Dubuque	Moving Planet is a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis and calling the world to go beyond fossil fuels. In Dubuque, we will bike/walk from the Old City Garage to the New City Garage. There will be music, food and exhibits at AY McDonald Park following the bike ride/walk. For start times, contact Charlie Winterwood at 588-2783.
Sept. 25 – Sun.	Iowa Audubon Pelican Festival and Gala	Pelican Festival: 11am – 3pm Pelican viewing at DNR’s Hawkeye Wildlife Area, 2564 Old Amana Road, Swisher, IA Pelican Gala: 5-9pm at Kirkwood Room, 515 Kirkwood Avenue, Iowa City, IA See reservation form elsewhere in the newsletter.
Sept. 25 – Sun.	Dubuque Audubon Society Hawk Watch	10:00 am Meet at the Balltown Ridge overlook in Balltown, IA. Bring binoculars, a hat, sunscreen, and water. Call <a href="tel:588-2783">588-2783</a> for details or in case of foul weather.
Oct. 1-2 – 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.
Oct. 13 – Thurs.	DUB. AUDUON PROGRAM: Bats and their Conservation in Kansas and Oklahoma	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Jeff Miller, professor at Emporia (Kansas) State University will speak on bat conservation in Kansas and Oklahoma.

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Ron Edmonds

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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Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:  
Dubuque Audubon Society  
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