



# PILEATED DRUMMING

*Dubuque Audubon Society*

VOL. XXXIX—NO. 7

October 2011

Published monthly exc. Jan., July, Aug.

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

## **L**ong-Eared Owl

As winter approaches, we in Iowa are more likely to see Long-eared Owls. After all, Iowa is part of the winter range for this owl; they evidently enjoy Iowa's balmy winter weather.

The Long-eared Owl is similar in coloration to the Great Horned Owl but is smaller in size. It is about 15 inches tall with a wing span of about 36 inches.

While Long-eared Owls are seen somewhat more frequently in Iowa during the winter than during the nesting season, they are usually uncommon. They do not typically nest in Iowa but isolated nesting sites have been found in northern Iowa. They prefer dense conifer groves or mixed conifer-deciduous areas, especially near water, for roosting. Since they forage in open, grassy areas, this owl requires areas with both grassland and forest habitats. They often roost communally during the non-breeding season. Typical roosts contain 2 to 20 birds but may roost in groups up to 100. They stay concealed in dense vegetation during the day and can be approached very closely before they flush.

The diet of Long-eared Owls consists mainly of small mammals, primarily voles, although they usually feed on the most common local rodents available. Presumably, most food is captured on the ground or from low vegetation. They are known to capture mice in complete darkness; therefore, prey is probably located primarily by acoustical cues.

The distribution of Long-eared Owls may be limited by the amount of grassland that is located adjacent to suitably dense woodlands, especially stands of conifer trees. Even after 2 million acres of new grasslands were created in Iowa through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program, no overall increase in the numbers of Long-eared Owls was reported.

In the Dubuque area, look for cedar/pine groves near grassy areas. They have been seen at Swiss Valley, Linwood Cemetery and even in the pine grove at the corner of Northwest Arterial and Chavanelle Road. Although highly nocturnal, they are best seen at dusk as they come out to hunt.

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

**V-Pres.: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077**

**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**

**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**

**Iowa Audubon Liaison: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077**

**Web Master: Jan Friedman:**

**Janfrdmn@yahoo.com**

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

**Editor: James Brown: [dtsage@hotmail.com](mailto:dtsage@hotmail.com)**

## DUBUQUE HAWK WATCH

Dubuque Audubon Society held the annual Hawk Watch on Sunday September 25, 2011 at the overlook in Balltown. Participants observed the following:

- 12 Turkey Vultures
- 2 Red-tailed Hawks
- 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks
- 2 Bald Eagles
- 40 American White Pelicans
- 2 Canada Geese

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Katrina Huck works for Live Oak Associates, Inc., in San Jose, California. She conducts special status species surveys, biological surveys and monitoring. In November, she will discuss badger ecology and what can be learned about an animal without having to capture or see it.

## OSPREY UPDATE

By Bre Nesteby

Mud Lake has an empty nest. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, all four ospreys fledged from the hacking tower. For the past few weeks we have been observing their flight exercise and, like all parents, hoped no one would hurt themselves. We will continue feeding them on top of the hacking tower as a safety precaution in case they cannot find food themselves. In September, they will start their 4,000 mile migration to South America, where they will stay for 18 months. After that time they will potentially return to the Mud Lake region in the spring of 2013.



*Long-Eared Owl*

## 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.

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

**October, 2011**

<b>Oct. 9 – Sun.</b>	<b>Annual Chili Feed Friends of DCCB</b>	<b>11 am -6 pm Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, IA. Yummy chili, hikes, activities and fall colors will all be served up. Cost is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of DCCB.</b>
<b>Oct. 13 – Thurs.</b>	<b>DUB. AUDUON PROGRAM: Bats and their Conservation in Kansas and Oklahoma</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>Oct, 16 – Sun.</b>	<b>Chris Braig Memorial Program: Denny Weiss</b>	<b>1:00 pm Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, IA. Denny will bring his high energy river program to the Swiss Valley Nature Center in honor of Chris Braig</b>
<b>Oct. 16 – Sun.</b>	<b>Fall Prairie Hike</b>	<b>2:00 PM Hurstville Interpretive Center 18670-63rd Street Maquoketa, Iowa. Join a naturalist for a hike through the prairie and enjoy the season! All ages welcome.</b>
<b>Nov. 10 – Thurs.</b>	<b>DUB. AUDUON PROGRAM: American Badgers and their Sign</b>	<b>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Katrina Huck from San Jose, California. She works for Live Oak Associates, Inc., where she conducts special status species surveys, biological surveys and monitoring. She'll discuss badger ecology and what can be learned about an animal without having to capture or see it.</b>

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

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**CODE: C1ZH500Z**

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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