



PILEATED DRUMMING

Dubuque Audubon Society

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RESIDENT'S CORNER

By Wayne Buchholtz

PI hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. As usual there was too much food, and I had to eat it. The turkey was good. And speaking of birds, I visited with a gentleman at the EB Lyons Center a few weeks ago. He and his daughter went to the recent movie "The Big Year". He said it was such a good movie it inspired them to start their own Big Year. Being amateurs he said they had some learning to do, they are on a mission to see as many birds as they can in the Dubuque Area in one year. What a goal! I wish I could remember his name. It would make an interesting story to find out how many birds they saw.

I recently saw an article about what birding is and felt I needed to share this with all members. Sometimes friend, neighbors and family are afraid to go birding because they do not know the name of each bird that they might see.

Non-birders often ask, "*What is birdwatching?*" (*Let's Go Birding 2004*)

"Well, birding gets folks outside to enjoy everything found in nature. It's like going on a treasure hunt. Everywhere you look, you may find new lands, creatures and birds. As you get into the sport you end up with great toys from high powered optics, to fancy tripods and iPods. Then there are all the latest outdoor clothes that keep you warm, cool or dry depending on your destination habitat. Birding motivates one to explore the open spaces that people have worked so hard to preserve while also appreciating the birds in your own yard. Eventually, birders travel the world, climb mountains, visit glaciers, cross deserts and go out into the oceans to find new species. You meet great people and often end up doing service for organizations that can use a little help. All are welcome regardless of age, sex, personal beliefs, or income. Now THAT'S what birding is.

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President's Corner

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I hope you agree that birding does not need to be expensive, elaborate, involve long trips, or knowing the name of every bird. I ask that you invite one friend to our next meeting, field trip, or go out on a bird outing on your own. One way to start is by joining us for the Christmas Bird Count on December 17, 2011. Contact one of the route leaders and join us for a short time or all day.

I hope to see you all at the next program. The programs are always excellent with powerful information about a variety of topics. Everyone has a bird story to tell. At our meetings, you will find a new friend who wants to hear your bird story. See you at the next meeting and happy birding.



MINES OF SPAIN FRIENDS ORGANIZATION RECEIVES AWARD

The Friends of the Mines of Spain received an award for Excellence in Interpretive Support from the National Association for Interpretation at the Annual Conference in St. Paul Minnesota, November 12. The conference included members from the United States and Canada. Rich Henderson (Board Member) and Wayne Buchholtz (Park Ranger) accepted the award for the organization.

The award, Excellence in Interpretive Support, is presented to an individual member or non-member, governing body, official, administrator, business,

agency, or organization that has shown recognition of the value of interpretation through exceptional and sustained support. This support may be broad-based financial, administrative, or executive (or a combination of these) and serves as a respected model for other interpretive venues and contributors. Recognition may be for (but not limited to) sponsorship or support for interpretive programs and enhancement of interpretive facilities.

The Friends of the Mines of Spain (FOMOS) support a state recreation area and National Historic Landmark that protects over 250 archeological sites pertaining to Native American and early settlement heritage in Iowa. Incorporated in 1995, FOMOS has become an integral part of providing critical volunteer support and financial assistance. In 2009 FOMOS successfully planned and executed a visitor center expansion and education project whereby they raised almost 1.6 million dollars! In addition, FOMOS raised an additional \$325,000 for enhanced exhibits and interpretive programming. The FOMOS volunteer program utilizes over 900 volunteers who annually donate close to 3,000 hours of volunteering. Due to the support of FOMOS, in 2008, 435 programs were delivered to 29,000 visitors. In addition, FOMOS, in conjunction with staff, prepared plans to launch a new marketing plan designed to reach an estimated 1.8 million readers through print ads and over 300,000 online viewers. Through its exceptional and sustained support, FOMOS truly serves as a respected model for other interpretive venues. (From NAI Awards Committee)

The Mines of Spain is a State of Iowa Recreation area located in Dubuque, Iowa. For more information about the Mines of Spain visit their website: <http://minesofspain.org/>



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December, 2011 – January, 2012

Dec. 8 – Thurs.	DUB. AUDUBON PROGRAM: MEANDERING ON THE MISSISSIPPI	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Dan Call will discuss the creatures and ecology of the Mississippi River. Dan is a retired professor of Environmental Science at the University of Dubuque and co-founder and principal of Environmental Research and Information Analysts, LLC, which assists clients in finding solutions to environmental issues.
Dec. 17 – Sat.	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	8:00 am E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Meet to divide up into routes. 4:00 pm Meet at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center to tally results and enjoy a chili supper while recounting the high lights of the days events.
Jan. 7 – Sat.	MIDWINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY	Meet at 10:00 am in the parking lot of Payless Gocery Store in Dyersville, Iowa. The survey is done by car and covers western Dubuque County and eastern Delaware County.
Jan. 12 – Thurs.	DUB. AUDUBON PROGRAM: AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION THROUGH FROG WATCH USA	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Jared McGovern will present a program entitles “Amphibian Conservation through Frog Watch USA” Jared is the Science Education Coordinator at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.
Jan. 21, 2012	BALD EAGLE WATCH	Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque. Doors open at 9:00 am. Exhibitors, vendors, and children’s’ activities all day. Raptor Programs at 9:30am, 12:15pm, and 3:00pm. Pella Wildlife Programs at 11:00am and 1:45pm 9:00am – 4:00pm Eagle viewing at Lock and Dam #11
Feb. 17–20, 2012	Great Backyard Bird Count	Start planning for this event.

OTHER AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Membership in Dubuque Audubon Society covers the entire tri-state area. We have substantial numbers of members in the Platteville and Galena areas. Each of those areas conducts their own Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). Both of these counts are conducted on December 14, 2011. If you are interested in the Jo Daviess County CBC, contact Charlie Winterwood at 563-588-2783 or cwinterwood@netscape.com. If you are interested in the Platteville area CBC, contact Karl and Dorothy Legler at (608) 643-4926 or karlndot@charter.net.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

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Bald Eagle

George Jameson

BALD EAGLE WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Nita Wiederaenders

January 21, 2012 is fast approaching. Save this date for exciting live raptor programs at the Grand River Center in the port of Dubuque. Also, please sign up for a couple of hours to volunteer and help make this event enjoyable for everyone. We need greeters as well as people to work at the Audubon booth who can answer questions and sign up new members. The volunteer staff that provide children's activities need help with these activities and they need potty breaks. Exhibitors and vendors appreciate a chance to leave their post for a few minutes when the crowds thin down. We need a couple of people to help with the tear-down at the end. 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

By Charlie Winterwood

Join us and over 1700 other birding groups throughout the Americas for Audubon's 112th annual Christmas Bird Count. We will attempt to count every bird within a 15 mile diameter circle around Dubuque on Saturday December 17. Participants of all levels from beginner to experienced are welcome. Most routes have both walking portions and car portions. Come for either part of the day or for the whole day. See the list below of route leaders that you can contact to participate or show up at 8:00 AM at EB Lyons Interpretive Center. It will be deer hunting season in Iowa so if you have blaze orange please wear it.

We will meet at 4:00 PM at EB Lyons Interpretative Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA, to share a chili supper, compile results and share the experiences of the day.

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

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

E Dubuque/WI - Ted Harms: 563-590-5959

Centralia - Michelle Zuercher: 557-3021

Airport - Terri Stanton: 852-5263

Swiss Valley - Jenny Ammon: 556-6745

Mines Of Spain - Wayne Buchholtz 556-0620
wayne.buchholtz@dnr.ia.gov



Badger

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT – BADGERS AND THEIR SIGN

By Michele Zuercher

Katrina Krakow discussed her past few years' work with California badgers during our November meeting. Badgers live solitary lives, are rarely seen and are listed as species of special concern; at least in the state of California. She explained how they make distinctive dens, one kind for use during the day and a different kind for raising young. Oftentimes, the juveniles leave the protection of their parent at an early age to seek their own territory and food. Unfortunately, they are susceptible to being hit by cars in late spring and early summer. This species is related to weasels and wolverines and are active at

night, typically eating ground squirrels and other rodents. Katrina further explained how they are an important component in the ecosystem, affecting the populations of rodents, rabbits, and birds. As a part of her presentation, she entertained our group with additional stories of her wildlife adventures, some of which included the sage grouse.

AUDUBON COFFEE: THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

By Dave Fisher

Audubon coffee is the perfect gift for anyone who likes coffee: relatives, friends, co-workers.

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. 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 (\$9.00) or decaf (\$9.50).



Dubuque Audubon Society
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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

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