



PILEATED DRUMMING

Dubuque Audubon Society

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RESIDENT'S CORNER

By Wayne Buchholtz

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My favorite weather is bird-chirping weather.

Loire Hartwould

Winter has eluded us this year. At least up until now. It has been a great winter to enjoy and get outdoors. The weather has allowed for many people to venture out into our parks and wildlife areas and witness winter maybe for the first time in year. With mild temperatures and low snowfalls, it has been great. I encourage you to pull on those hiking boots and don that coat and hit the woods, prairie or wetlands. We have several great programs coming up. Owl prowls at several locations, the duck waddle to Green Island, the spring bird count and others. You should plan to attend one or more of these outings. Even if you do not know birds well, it is a great way to learn, spend time with other birders and some in the same shoes you wear. Those who participate are not all fantastic birders or know them all. We learn together. Birding is a number one activity in the United States. Be a part of the largest club there is.

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.
Chinese Proverb

The forests and prairies and waters will soon be coming alive with migrating birds coming from the south to their summer nesting grounds here and to the north. Native species will soon be making their mating calls and building their nests. It is soon a good time to head out and look for those birds that have either been gone all winter or have been silent all winter. Gather up your binoculars, bird book, your kids, spouse, neighbor and head out.

There is no better time than to spend time with family and friends. Take time to sit on a log and listen to the birds sing. I hope to see you at the next program or a field trip.

There is no better time to go birding or on a hike than right now.

IN CASE YOU MISSED: FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM – FROG WATCH USA

By Michele Zuercher

Jared McGovern from the Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium spoke on FrogWatch USA which is a research collaboration between scientists and volunteers to collect data of frogs within local areas. This is a nation-wide effort which focuses on these animals that detect changes in the environment as they are indicators of wetland health and climate change. The data is used to make decisions in conservation efforts of these species. A volunteer participates in an orientation program to learn the calls of local amphibians and how to record data. A few of the frogs that can be heard in our area include the bullfrog, leopard frog, spring peeper, chorus frog, Cope's grey tree-frog and the cricket frog. Once certified in the basic program, the volunteer chooses a wetland area, records the types of frog calls heard at the site after sunset and submits the data. The season for data collection is late February through late August/September. Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact Jared McGovern at 563.557.9545 (ext 215) or jmcgovern@rivermuseum.com for the training session. This program is sponsored by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums; more background information can be viewed at their site www.aza.org/frogwatch.

ANNUAL APPEAL: A NEW RECORD

By Joe Tollari

Thank you to those who responded to our annual fundraising letter. Forty-eight members contributed \$3,580. We received contributions from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, demonstrating the Tri-State nature of our organization. Your continued support will help us fund programming and local projects for the upcoming year. In fact, the Board has already put some of the money to good use. At its last meeting, the Board voted to contribute \$500 to Hurstville Interpretive Center to help build a chimney swift tower. The tower will not only provide habitat but will also be a valuable educational tool to explain the biology of the chimney swift. Below is an alphabetical list of our donors.

Jennifer & Bryan Ackerman
Rosemary Anderson
Barbara Baird
Dennis Baumhover

Tom LoGuidice
Jerry Lynch
Karen Manning
Mary Jo McDonald

Marjorie Bierbrauer
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Joe Tollari
Helga & Richard Van Iten
Bob/Nita Wiederaenders
David/Roseann Wiederholt
Jennie Willcox
Nancy Wright
Tony & Kari Zelinskas



Spring Peeper

John White

PAT AND DAVE FISHER

Pat Fisher will soon join Dave in retirement, and they will move to their new home in Wisconsin. They will be close enough to stay in touch but too far to be as active in Dubuque Audubon Society. Pat has lead DAS twice as president. Her focus has always been on projects to promote Dubuque Audubon. The Bald Eagle Watch as we know it today is the direct result of Pat challenging us to expand the program. In the past few years, Dave has been the "coffee man." He has been responsible for promoting coffee sales and, more importantly, making the coffee for our meetings. Since his retirement, he has been available for many errands like making bank deposits, folding newsletters, and joining any impromptu bird watching trip. We thank them for all that they have done for DAS and wish them well in their new home.

DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March, 2012

Mar. 8 – Thurs.	DUB. AUDUBON PROGRAM: A Celebration of Songbirds	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Doug Harr, President of Iowa Audubon. This program features representative species for each U.S. family of birds considered songbirds. It gives a basic foundation for beginning birdwatchers.
Mar. 10 – Sat.	Duck Waddle	6:00 am – meet at Banworth and Udelhoven Furniture parking lot, junction of US 61/151 and US 52. We will leave promptly at 6:00 am and drive to Green Island Wildlife Area to observe the spring migration of waterfowl. Dress warmly. After our adventure we will have breakfast at the Riverview Café in Bellevue, IA to compile our list and share stories of bird adventures.
Mar. 11 – Sun.	Geology of Northeast Iowa	1:00 pm EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA Rudy Pruszko will provide information on the land formations found in northeastern Iowa. The rocks and minerals unlock the mysteries about what is underground. Explore underground caverns and learn about what lies beneath us. <i>Children's Program:</i> Children are welcome to the lower level of the Nature Center to see just how much Geology ROCKS!
Mar. 28 – Wed.	Woodcock Walk	7:00 pm at Whitewater Canyon, near Filmore Golf Course. This program focuses on the mating ritual of the American Woodcock. We will meet at the Whitewater Canyon parking lot and learn about the bird's adaptations, migration, feeding preferences and listen and look for its spectacular mating dance!
Apr. 5 – Thurs.	Owl Prowl	7:00 pm at Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, IA This is a family night hike opportunity. We will host a short informative program on owls and then make our way outside to call the owls and be a part of their world for part of an evening.

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: Pat Fisher 563-556-5814

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At-Large Board Members:

Jenny Ammon

Lalith Jayawickrama

Terri Stanton

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Charlie Winterwood

Michele Zuercher

Field Trips: Terri Stanton

Membership: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077

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NOTES FROM THE FISH HAWK

By Jenny Ammon

Dubuque County Conservation Board (DCCB) is embarking on their 5th year of the Osprey Introduction Program through the Iowa DNR. Let it be known that this reintroduction could not be the success that it is without the outstanding volunteers donating their time, energy and passion to the project. We are very thankful to each and every one of you. We are grateful for the financial contributions as well. Sponsors include: Dubuque Audubon Society, Alliant Energy, Mystique Casino/DRA, Wendell Schroeder, Roosevelt Middle School, Les Zigungske, Urban Youth Corps, Chris and Heidi Clingan, Tim and Steph Smith, University of Dubuque Web of Life student group (Special thanks to Bre Nesteby and Frances Eggers), Friends of DCCB, Dale Denlinger, Zephyr Aluminum and Glass, Iowa DNR and Mary Lynn Neumeister.

The first year for the Osprey was an exciting one. It was 2008; we had just hired Chris Clingan as the Mud Lake Park Ranger for Dubuque County Conservation Board. This was a great addition to the department; and a bonus because he came equipped with prior

osprey knowledge. Chris and his wife, Heidi, helped kick off the introduction with a bang. Heidi helped to design informational brochures and posters. Chris helped us with hacking tower plans, volunteer sign-up and overall coordination of the project. The summer seemed to pass very quickly, and when we needed dry weather the most, we couldn't count on it! The construction of the hacking tower was finished just in time for the four Osprey chicks to be placed in the tower on July 17th. The wet weather made placing the four utility poles more than difficult. (Don't let me kid you when I say "finished just in time" I mean exactly 2 minutes prior to the public program!) We had Audubon members, DCCB staff and University of Dubuque Web of Life members checking on the birds daily. The mirrored glass was installed in the hacking tower to allow volunteers to observe the chicks without disturbing them. Another feature of the hacking tower, to reduce stress and eliminate imprinting, is the sliding food tray for the volunteers to place fish on (one pound of fish per bird per day). All four birds fledged successfully and I can remember vividly the awe I felt watching their first flight out of the hacking tower. It was absolutely astounding.



Osprey
Greg Lasley

The second year for the project was another example of the outpouring of support for conservation projects. Many organizations, schools and individuals wanted to help with these fascinating birds of prey. During the year of 2009, the Dubuque Audubon Society wrote and received a DRA/Mystique Casino Grant for the web camera placed inside the hacking tower. DRA/Mystique Casino really changed the scope of the project with their generosity. They made the project accessible to everyone! The web camera was



Ring Necked Duck

Tom Munson

installed inside the hacking tower and provides a non-invasive and very effective monitoring and educational tool for the public. On the morning of July 16th we received our 5 young Ospreys. Each year, young ospreys from Wisconsin and Minnesota are relocated to release sites. Osprey chicks are evaluated in early July for possible relocation. Typically we get a call a couple days prior to the public release to travel to pick up the precious cargo. All five Mud Lake birds fledged successfully in August. However, there was a young Osprey found deceased in Wisconsin a week later; as unfortunate as this incident was, Pat Schlarbaum said it best when he spoke about working with any wildlife species, “Expect the unexpected when working with wildlife.”



Cricket Frog

A. Jaszlics

2010 marked the third year in a proposed five year Osprey reintroduction project at Mud Lake Park. At the public release we had 4 birds to introduce to the hacking tower and a fifth came later. As I read through the banding records, there were three nests that provided us the 5 birds. Two nests in Wisconsin

provided the first 4 birds and one nest in Minnesota provided the last osprey to join the hacking tower. These birds of prey are 42 days old if not slightly older in order to eat on their own. They have the ability to tear fish and feed themselves after that point. At 53 days old, the Ospreys are fully grown and have all their feathers. The volunteers kept a close eye on the birds during the 2-3 weeks we have them in the hacking tower. They listen for their calls, watch their behavior, and observe their food and water intake, if anything seems strange or non-typical of the birds, the volunteers contact the resident ranger and then Dr. Neumeister to assure the bird is in proper health. Bre Nesteby was one of the volunteers who fed and observed them during their stay at the Mud Lake hacking tower. It was around the seventh or eighth day into the introduction when she noticed one of the birds wasn't eating and she took the appropriate steps to find out what the issue was and how to fix it. The chick wasn't eating, so it was recommended to Bre the bird be hand fed. She made a wonderful 'Osprey Mother' and the bird ended up being back in the tower and able to fledge without any trouble! All 5 birds fledged successfully in August and were able to find food on the top of the hacking tower if they were having trouble hunting on their own. After their release from the hacking tower they spent the rest of August and September exploring beyond their release site. By October, they are on their way to Central and South American where they spend up to 18 months before returning to North America to breed.

We were all very hopeful that 2011 would bring the first nesting Osprey to Northeast Iowa. As we moved through late spring and summer we didn't observe any nest building or nests; that doesn't mean we won't see nesting next year, data from release sites across the state indicate that 7 out of the 11 release sites had a nest present during or after their reintroduction project. The release sites across the state introduce birds from both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Ospreys in those areas are densely populated and experience suppressed reproduction. To address the issue, the birds are being relocated to areas with a suitable habitat; like here in Northeast Iowa at Mud Lake Park. On July 14th we placed two Ospreys in the hacking tower and two days later two more Ospreys joined the tower. Mud Lake had four new Ospreys and one new Park Ranger for 2011. Ranger Tim Smith became the Mud Lake Resident Ranger in May when Chris Clingan took a Ranger position in Polk County. Tim quickly became accustomed to organizing volunteers, observing the

osprey and acting quickly when they needed the help of humans. He was instrumental in getting more press to cover the worthy project, educate visitors/campers about osprey habitat and their important connection to the environment. (The Telegraph Herald ran a fantastic article in July 2011 about the Ospreys.) There was another successful fledge in 2011; all four birds exited the hacking tower without injury. The web camera provided a great extension to our environmental education programming and gave the public a small glimpse into the life of a young Fish Hawk.



Leopard Frog
A. B. Sheldon

Observing something as powerful as a bird of prey, up close, gives me that feeling of being in front of the ocean for the first time; we are not all powerful, and the earth and its inhabitants have so much to teach us if we are willing to listen. We are looking forward to introducing more ospreys to the Mud Lake hacking tower in 2012. If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or learning more about this project, please contact Jenny Ammon at 563.556.6745 or via e-mail at dccblawler@mwci.net.



Rock Pigeon
Gina Mikel



White Breasted Nuthatch
Terry Sohl

DUCK WADDLE 2012

By Charlie Winterwood

Please join us for our annual "Duck Waddle" on Saturday March 10. We'll travel to Green Island Refuge to observe waterfowl, cranes and eagles. Experienced birders will have spotting scopes along so that we can get a good look at the up to 20 species of waterfowl returning north at this time of year. We leave at 6:00 am from the parking lot of Banwarth-Udelhoven furniture store at Hwy 52/61/151, or you can meet us at 7:00 am at Green Island at the main parking lot adjacent to the road going through the refuge. We will eat breakfast at the Riverview Cafe in Bellevue after we are done birding. Dress warmly, bring your binoculars and celebrate one of the first signs of spring.

Invitation for submission of artwork for the 2012 Black & White Gala Logo

The Black & White Gala is the signature fundraising event for the Dubuque Mercy Health Foundation and will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2012. You are invited to submit pro-bono logo (but with benefits) artwork for the Gala. The Gala is a black-tie event with dinner, music, auctions (silent & live), fun and fellowship. Funds raised will go toward the advancement of healthcare within our community.

We are seeking the submission of an original piece of artwork that depicts the black & white theme with an accent color of amethyst purple (final art in two-color). This artwork will be used throughout the Gala promotional campaign: from the 'Save the Date' card to the 'Invitation', the 'Preview Catalog' and on cover of the 'Gala Program'. Artist identification and recognition will accompany each printed piece. The Gala design can be thematic, a graphic design, or artwork depicting a formal festive event. As an example, in 2010 a playful penguin graced our cover.

The original artwork will be framed (Foundation expense) and auctioned the evening of the Black & White Gala with proceeds going to benefit the Dubuque Mercy Health Foundation. The Foundation may also print a few lithographs of the artwork for framing and used as gifts for major sponsors. A framed, or unframed if desired, print will be given to the artist.

Artwork not selected will be returned to the artist.

Artist Benefits:

- Artist and one guest will be invited to, and recognized at, the 2012 Black & White Gala.
- Announcement of art selection and artist on website for 2012 Black & White Gala.
- One of the framed prints will join the display of Gala artwork at Mercy Medical Center Foundation Office.

Graphic Specifics

- Deadline for artwork to be submitted: Friday, April 6, 2012
- Original work of art (digital format preferred)
- Size limit of original – no larger than 11 x 17
- Capture Black & White theme with accent color amethyst purple (pms 266)
- Final artwork will print in two-color black and purple (pms 266)
- Key words: black-tie, winter, holiday, gala, dinner, music
- Owner of artwork becomes the Dubuque Mercy Health Foundation
- Dubuque Mercy Health Foundation agrees to always use artist's name when displaying or reproducing artwork

Questions may be directed to:
John B. Donovan
donovajb@mercyhealth.com
Dubuque Mercy Health Foundation
250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque IA 52001
563-589-8056

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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**

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