



NOVEMBER 2012 EDITION

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Wayne Buchholtz



It is fall, time for birding. Well anytime is good for birding. But, the fall migration has been winding down, and we will soon be knee deep in to snow. Okay, ankle deep for some of you. Winter is a great time of the year to be able to sit back and watch the birds from your favorite chair indoors. I want to remind everyone to clean your feeders whether you are getting them out of summer storage or you have had them up all year. It is important to clean them two or three times per year to rid the feeders of any diseases, bacteria, fungus etc that may be on them. Use a mild mixture of bleach and water to clean the inside and outside of the feeders. Let dry, fill and enjoy the birds that will come.

Dubuque Audubon has a wonderful lineup of programs coming this winter. The programs will be at 7:00 pm at the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center. The center is at 8991 Bellevue Heights and just south of Dubuque. Sitting amongst the trees at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area, it is great place to

come, enjoy a fantastic program and visit with friends and other birders.



Clark's Nutcracker

Please watch the calendar in this newsletter or go to the website for a full list of programs this winter through next May.

We will also have fantastic line-up field trips this year. The season will start out with the Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count in December. One of the largest bird counts that surrounds the globe and you can be a part of it. Consider going out and counting as many birds as you can. Other outings will include the Bald Eagle Watch in January, Duck Waddle in March and the Spring Bird Count in May. Other field trips are being planned so stay tuned and explore the Audubon website to keep up to date.

I hope you will be able to attend several of the programs and make it to many of the outings this year. Dubuque Audubon Society is growing and we can only be successful with participation from you as a member and by you bringing friends and family along.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, *continued*



Black-billed Magpie

You are not expected to be a professional birder. We want you to learn along with the rest. Many of us are basic birders and would love and want to help you learn about birding and nature. And believe it or not, we learn from you. Plan to attend the next program and fill the room. We can hold 150 people and besides there is always hot drinks and treats to enjoy after the program.

Recently my wife Pam and I went on a vacation to the Rocky Mountains National Park in Colorado. We had a wonderful vacation with our first snow storm at 12,000 feet, plenty of elk, big horn sheep, moose and mule deer. We hiked about 40 miles during our five days enjoying the scenery and looking for wildlife. Below are just a few images of birds that we saw. None are big finds, but what I always enjoy is that the wildlife is not afraid of you like they are back home. You can watch them closely without worrying about them bolting or flying away. Enjoy the images provided in this article.



Steller's Jay

Oh and if you're interested – Board Meeting is at 5:30 at the EB Lyons Center.

Birding is Great Anywhere!

KIDS CORNER

A Little Bird Humor – written by kids for kids. But you can enjoy them too. Share with your kids or grandkids.

What does an educated owl say? Whom!

What is the strongest bird? A crane!

Which bird is always out of breath? A puffin!

BIRDS



- | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| BUZZARD | LARK | ROBIN |
| CRANE | LOON | ROOK |
| CROW | MAGPIE | SHIPE |
| DUCK | MARTEN | SORA |
| EAGLE | HOCKER | SPARROW |
| EGRET | MYNA | STORK |
| EMU | ORIOLE | SWALLOW |
| FALCON | OSTRICH | SWAN |
| FINCH | OWL | TERN |
| GOOSE | PEACOCK | THRUSH |
| GROUSE | PELICAN | TURKEY |
| GULL | PENGUIN | WARBLER |
| HERON | PHEASANT | WOODPECKER |
| JAY | QUAIL | WREN |
| KITE | RAVEN | |

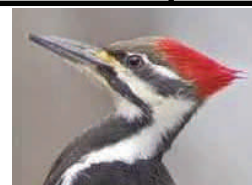


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John's Word Search Puzzles

<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November, 2012

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| | | |
| Nov. 8 – Thurs. | DUB. AUDUBON PROGRAM: WILDLIFE WONDERS OF BOTSWANA | EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Betsy Bainbridge and Chelsie Cruise will speak on “Wildlife Wonders of Botswana.” |
| | | |
| Nov. 17 – Sat. | Turkey Tales | 10:00 am Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, IA Learn about the wild turkey and all of its adaptations, like their calls, how they find a mate, what they eat, and where they live. All ages welcome. |
| | | |
| Nov. 17 – Sat. | Bird Feeder Workshop | 1:00 pm Hurstville Interpretive Center 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, Iowa. Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instruction to build your own bird feeder. We’ll discuss what types of seed attract which birds and how to keep them safe and healthy! Registration required by Nov. 14 to prepare materials. Cost is \$7. |
| | | |
| Dec. 1 – Sat. | Bird House Workshop | 1:00 pm Hurstville Interpretive Center 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, Iowa. Bird houses are a wonderful addition to your yard and can increase the success of seeing birds around your home. Materials and information are provided. Cost: Wren- \$5, Bluebird- \$7, Kestrel-\$16. Pre-registration and payment required by Nov 28th in order to prepare materials. Great gift for the holidays! |
| | | |
| Dec. 13 – Thurs. | DUB. AUDUBON PROGRAM: | EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: |
| | | |
| Dec. 29 – Sat. | CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT | Mark your calendar for this premier birding event for the year. |
| | | |
| Jan. 19 – Sat. | Bald Eagle Watch | 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Grand River Center and Lock and Dam #11. |
| | | |



Election Day...
NOVEMBER 6th, 2012



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

By Joe Tollari

As I indicated in the last newsletter, Dubuque Audubon Society will offer the newsletter in two electronic forms for those who are interested. We currently send out about 500 copies of the newsletter each month. Environmentally, we should be concerned about the amount of paper we are consuming in publishing the newsletter. In addition, the mailing costs continue to rise. So, like many other non-profit organizations, we are prepared to offer you one of three options.

- **Option 1:** you can continue to receive a print copy through the U.S mail.
- **Option 2:** you can receive an electronic copy through e-mail.
- **Option 3:** you can go to the website and read the newsletter there. We can send you an e-mail prompt to let you know when the newsletter is on-line. Go to our website (www.audubondubuque.org) to check out the full color version of the newsletter. Using this method, you can copy and print only the articles or Calendar you want.

Let us know your preference. If you choose option 1, do nothing, and we will continue to send you the newsletter in the mail. If you prefer option 2 or 3, send me a message at jtollari@mchsi.com with your option choice. I'll capture your e-mail address at that time. We hope to have the system in place for the first issue of 2013. So far, option 3 seems to be the more popular choice.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM 11/08/2012

Betsy Bainbridge and Chelsie Cruise, University of Dubuque students, participated in a class trip to Botswana in May. This southern Africa country is home to the world's largest inland river delta and salt pan and is dominated by desert and scrub forest. Their presentation will highlight the habitats and wildlife of Botswana.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

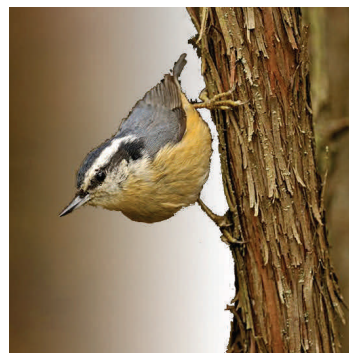
By Jenny Ammon and

<http://www.allaboutbirds.com>

I had the distinct pleasure of witnessing this quick footed treasure of the bird world on our oak tree outside the kitchen window about 2 weeks ago. The eye stripe struck me first then I jumped up to show my daughter the winter resident known as the Red-breasted Nuthatch. Both she and I sat and watched in awe as the winged acrobat walked up and down the tree and back and forth from the sunflower feeder. We felt very lucky to have the opportunity to see this bird that close and hope this article allows you that same opportunity this winter.



Red-breasted Nuthatch



**November 6th
DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE!**





HAWK WATCH 2012

By Kristine Thielen

The Sunday of my first annual hawk watch could not have been more beautiful. As I drove through the hills on my way to Balltown, the leaves had begun to change their colors earlier than usual and the views along the way were spectacular. I was a bit apprehensive about attending the hawk watch as I was traveling alone (my family has no interest in birding) and I was unsure how my beginning birding experience would help me to relate to the others in the group. However, I was up for an adventure; even eager to be out on my own.

Once I located the other hawk watchers (they were the ones with the binoculars and the scope) and found a good place to park, I made my way over to join the group. If you have ever had an opportunity to stop in Balltown and gaze over that gorgeous vista, you know exactly what a breathtaking spot I am writing about. I had forgotten about the hawks while I took in the view, smelled the fresh air, listened to the Harley's coming and going and greeted my fellow birders.

At first, there wasn't much to see in the way of hawks. That worked to my advantage, as it allowed me the chance to study the informational hawk identification sheet that was available for people like me. Apparently, not all hawks are Red-tailed...hmmm.

After seeing quite a few Turkey Vultures and some Bald Eagles, a couple of hawks flew into our line of site at about the same time. Since they both found trees to land in, we were able to view them for a while and had a discussion about how sometimes birds from the same clutch travel together during migration.

We saw a few more hawks in the distance as the morning progressed but I honestly forgot why I was in Balltown. I was in the moment, looking over the vista, conversing with new people, and learning a thing or two. Next year, when it is *your* first annual hawk watch, you will find me and my binoculars among the birders, eagerly participating in the migration.

Here's the Watch Count:

- 3 Red-tailed Hawks
- 1 Northern Harrier
- 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 1 Buteo species
- 6 Bald Eagles
- 22 Turkey Vultures
- 3 American White Pelicans
- 2 Eastern Bluebirds
- 2 Blue Jays
- 3 Northern Flickers



Charlie Winterwood instructs Kristine Thielen on hawk markings.



There's something to see everywhere you look.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT - OCTOBER'S PROGRAM

By Michele Zuercher

Jeramie Strickland of the US Fish & Wildlife Service presented an overview of the activities and responsibilities typical of a Wildlife Biologist in the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Only part of his job is involved with typical refuge management: habitat restoration after flooding, data management with report writing, and interaction with the public. His primary biologist activities revolve around the conservation of the sand prairie habitat in northwestern Illinois and the resident ornate box turtle. Ninety nine percent of the sand prairies have been altered and ornate box turtles are threatened. In addition to his activities, Jeramie is very involved in recruiting under-represented student populations into



**Putting Working Lands to Work
for Birds & People**

An article from the National Audubon Society web-site.
<http://conservation.audubon.org>



Sandhill Crane

Working lands represent one of the best hopes for conservation. Ranches and farms cover more than one billion acres of the United States and are central to America's economic and environmental health. However, many of the practices used in intensive farming jeopardize declining grassland birds while forest birds lose nesting habitat to agricultural development. Audubon is partnering with landowners to make working lands work for birds, people and communities.

Priority Birds

An article from the National Audubon Society web-site.
<http://conservation.audubon.org>

The Central Flyway is home to seventeen priority bird species. These birds depend on habitats ranging from mountains and plains to desert and coasts. To learn more about these birds go to the National Audubon Society Web Site and find this article, then click on the names of the birds to learn more about them. **They are:**

- [American Oystercatcher](#)
- [Black Skimmer](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Greater Sage-Grouse](#)
- [Least Tern](#)
- [Lesser Prairie-Chicken](#)
- [Piping Plover](#)
- [Reddish Egret](#)
- [Redhead](#)
- [Red Knot](#)
- [Ruddy Turnstone](#)
- [Sanderling](#)
- [Sandhill Crane](#)
- [Snowy Plover](#)
- [Whooping Crane](#)
- [Wilson's Plover](#)



OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

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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 – FIRST TIME MEMBERS 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: CIZH500Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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