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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Olivia Kruse and Joe Tollari

It was the cold morning of December 29th, but I barely noticed the weather. It was time for the thing I had been looking forward to all year, the Christmas Bird Count. As I drove to E.B. Lyons with my dad and grandpa, I looked out my window trying to find a few species to put on my list before the big day started. When we arrived we went into the Nature Center to get warmed up and also get paired into groups. Once we were in groups, we could head out and get on the move before the owls went to sleep, and the daytime birds woke up.

This year I got paired up with my dad and grandpa to do the river route downtown. Our first stop was Mt. Carmel. We walked slowly out of the car hoping not to spook any owls that were still up. Though we did not see any owls, we still found crows, starlings, tree sparrows, eagles, and a brown creeper. We had other great sightings throughout our day, like when we went to the 16th Street Detention Basin and saw a Pintail, a Wood Duck and a Hooded Merganser. We also went to Maus Park and saw a Winter Wren and an Eastern Bluebird.

Throughout the day we stopped at a lot of cool places and had many good sightings.

As the sun went down we headed back to E.B Lyons and had some really amazing chili, not to mention that I made it. Stories were told by everyone about how their day went and what they saw. It was a fun and exciting time, and I was sad to see it go.

The total count for 2012 is 4,725 individual birds representing 60 species. The notation "cw" means that the species was observed during the count week but not on the actual count day.

The list is included here:

Canada Goose	545
Downy Woodpecker	49
Wood Duck	1
Hairy Woodpecker	18
Am. Black Duck	1
Northern Flicker	2
Mallard	255
Pileated Woodpecker	6
Northern Pintail	1
Blue Jay	104
Canvasback	1



Christmas Bird Count *Continued from Page 1*

American Crow	292
Redhead	4
Horned Lark	60
Lesser Scaup	1
Black-capped Chickadee	144
Common Goldeneye	1
Tufted Titmouse	60
Hooded Merganser	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	64
Common Merganser	1
Brown Creeper	1
Wild Turkey	179
Winter Wren	3
Great Blue Heron	1
Eastern Bluebird	22
Bald Eagle	95
American Robin	21
Northern Harrier	1
European Starling	813
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Cooper's Hawk	3
American Tree Sparrow	107
Red-tailed Hawk	40
Fox Sparrow	7
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Song Sparrow	18
Hawk sp.	3
Swamp Sparrow	4
American Kestrel	6
White-throated Sparrow	9
Merlin	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1
American Coot	34
Dark-eyed Junco	680



Dark-eyed Junco

Ring-billed Gull	1
Northern Cardinal	166
Rock Pigeon	145

Red-winged Blackbird	1
Mourning Dove	52
Purple Finch	31

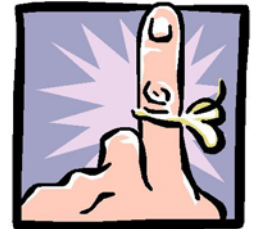
Common Redpoll



Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Pine Siskin	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	50
American Goldfinch	161
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
House Sparrow	394

Make a NOTE:

FUTURE PROGRAMS



March:

Brian Fankhauser will present on the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's activities of permanent land protection and land management in eastern Iowa.



April:

Adam Hoffman will speak on water quality issues of Catfish Creek and the Mississippi River.

Ed Maslowsky will discuss

May:

Climate Change.



June:



Annual Potluck



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

FEBRUARY 2013

<p>February 14th Thursday</p>	<p>DUB. AUDUBON PROGRAM: In Search Of The Abyssinian Roller</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Richard Fischer will speak on his adventures in West Africa.</p>
<p>February 23rd Saturday</p>	<p>BECOMING AN OUTDOOR WOMAN WINTER EXPERIENCE</p>	<p>8:00 am – 12:00 pm at Swiss Valley Nature Center 13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta This winter event is for any woman who wants to learn more about the great outdoors or is just getting started in the addictive hobby of outdoor recreation. Volunteers will provide hands on interaction for participants. Tree stand, gun cleaning, gun safety, snowshoeing, first aid and more! Participants must pre-register by calling 563.556.6745.</p>
<p>February 23rd Saturday</p>	<p>OWL PROWL</p>	<p>6:00 pm at Hurstville Interpretive Center 18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, Iowa Join a naturalist in learning about owls of Iowa and their amazing adaptations that make them great nighttime hunters. Then we'll head over to the Caves for some owl calling with the help of Bob Walton. Dress for the weather.</p>
<p>February 24th Sunday</p>	<p>ARCHEOLOGICAL TIMELINE OF NATIVE AMERICANS</p>	<p>1:00 pm at EB Lyons Interpretive Center Richard Vorwald will use artifacts collected by Dale Walburn to track history from 500 to 12,000 years ago. Children's program provided during main program. Program will be related to main program and geared for elementary children.</p>
<p>March 10th Sunday</p>	<p>BIRD BANDING</p>	<p>1:00 pm at EB Lyons Interpretive Center 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA Join Dave Shealer as he nets, weighs, measures, determines the age and sex of birds before he bands them. Everyone will have a chance to participate during the day's events. This is truly a family experience.</p>
<p>March 14th Thursday</p>	<p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: Land Protection & Land Management</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Brian Fankhauser from Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will speak on land protection and land management.</p>

DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY IS ON FACEBOOK

By Craig Kruse



Well the title says it all.

Dubuque Audubon is on Facebook. A few months ago I was having coffee and scrolling through my newspaper (I call my news feed on Facebook my newspaper) reading posts by The National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and a few other authors I follow when I started to wonder why Dubuque Audubon didn't have a Facebook account. After all it's a great way to communicate. For example let's say you see some rare bird out at the Mines of Spain and go home and post the sighting on our wall. I could see the post and go out and hope to find it. Or say maybe you see a bird and you don't know what it is but get a picture, you could post it and maybe someone can identify it for you. Not to mention the possibilities of introducing Dubuque Audubon to new members. So I made a suggestion to our board members and we now have a Facebook account and we already have a few "friends" from outside the tri-state area. I also plan to do some other fun things with the account including every Monday posting a bird orientated photo quiz , posting any interesting articles I can find and reminders about Dubuque Audubon events and meetings. So if you're on Facebook look us up and make sure you "like" us. If you're not on Facebook give opening an account some thought. If used properly it's a great tool and it can be fun.



OTHER NEST CAMERAS

By Joe Tollari

It looks like the Decorah eagles will be using the new nest this year. Unfortunately, the new nest does not have any cameras set up. We may all be experiencing eagle cam withdrawal! You can go to Google or Ustream.tv and find other eagle nest sites, but the video quality may not be as good as Decorah. Not to worry. Here are two of my favorite alternative sites.



If you are interested in hummingbirds, you can go to www.ustream.tv/hummingbirdnestcam. There you can watch the adventures of Phoebe, a Channel Island Allen hummingbird, as she lays and incubates the eggs and raises the young to fledging. Since she is a small bird, she does all of this in a short period of time. In fact, she will probably have 3 or 4 more clutches before June.



The other site(www.ustream.tv/channel/peacheyroo) is not a nest cam. The camera scans various areas of a backyard in eastern Australia. Sulfur-crested Cockatoos, Galahs, Red-browed Finches, White-headed Pigeons, and House Sparrows abound. You never know what is going to show up. There is a time difference, but, you can tune in midmorning and find some action.



SRI LANKA BIRDING TRIP

By Joe Tollari and Lalith Jayawickrama

At the January meeting, Lalith outlined the birding trip to Sri Lanka. The power point presentation that he used and a daily itinerary can be found on the Dubuque Audubon Society website – www.audubondubuque.org. The trip will blend historical and cultural aspects of Sri Lanka with the birds and other animals of Sri Lanka. It promises to be an exciting trip. We are working to set the travel dates and cost for the trip. Those will soon be available on the website. If you have any questions, contact Lalith Jayawickrama at lalithj@dbq.edu or (563) 495-0591. Or contact Joe Tollari at jtollari@mchsi.com or 563-583-2077.

THE 2013 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)

By Joe Tollari

The 2013 GBBC will take place Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18, 2013. This is the 16th annual count. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual 4-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy and it helps the birds. You simply watch birds at your feeders or any location you wish to count. You watch the feeders and adjoining areas for at least fifteen minutes. Tally up the numbers of each species you see. You will want to count all the birds you see at one time. Keep counting and record the highest number of each species you see within the fifteen minutes. When you are done counting, report your results online. Go to www.BirdCount.org to record your list. It is just that simple. And the best thing is you can go to other areas to report multiple counts. Just remember to count for only fifteen minutes and record the highest number of each species seen. I count each day at my backyard feeders. I also count at Swiss Valley Nature Center and E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center.

Beginning in 2013, each participant must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists. You'll only need to do this once to participate in all future GBBC events. As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or from anywhere in the world.

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. Scientists use the GBBC information, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations. The longer these data are collected, the more meaningful they become in helping scientists investigate far-reaching questions.

Try out this fun bird watching activity. If you want company, join me at Swiss Valley Nature Center on Friday, February 15 (about 8:00 am) or E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center on Monday, February 18 (again about 8:00 am).

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President::	Wayne Buchholtz	563-582-7215
Vice President:	Joe Tollari	563-583-2077
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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 – 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: C3ZH500Z

Dubuque Audubon Society
PO Box 3174

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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