



MAY 2013 EDITION

Published Monthly
Except January, July & August

Volume XLI - Number 4

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Wayne Buchholtz

It finally seems to be spring. A bit soggy and wet, but trees are budding out, flowers are popping out of the ground and many birds are returning to their summer nesting grounds. Many are simply passing through our area to head further north. This is an excellent time of the year to head out to local areas to view many migratory birds. You will have a couple of opportunities to view some of these birds. On May 11 the Dubuque Audubon Society will hold their Annual Spring Bird Count and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area will hold their annual International Bird Migration Day with bird banding. You will find additional information on both of these field trips else where in the news letter or go to their respective websites at www.audubondubuque.org or www.minesofspain.org for more information. Both of these field trips will offer excellent opportunities along with others to learn to identify many different species.

The Audubon Programming year is soon ending. May will be the last Thursday Program for the year until next October. The Fiscal year ends June 30 and with that we will have a change of leadership and board. I have been President for the last two years and have

thoroughly enjoyed leading you and encouraging you to learn more about birds, wildlife and especially getting you outdoors to explore and enjoy. We have different positions open and encourage you to consider running for a position and help out where you can. The positions and their responsibilities are not difficult or time consuming. The board works together to accomplish our goals and objectives. If you are interested in any of the positions or holding an at-large position please let me know. My phone number is 563-556-0620 and my email address is w.buchholtz@mchsi.com. I would be happy to visit with you about the board and how you can help.

Summer is approaching. Have you made family plans? Have you thought about what you might do to get outdoors more and what you will do when you are there? Think about getting outdoors more with your family, friends, or neighbors. Plan a vacation to a nature park and experience the wildlife and plant life around you. Take mini vacations to places close to home. There are many. If you are in question as to where to go locally or nationally, I can help you get started.

There is one last thing. A recent email from National Audubon provided some things you can do to help out. This is the list. To view more or to read the articles, go to <http://www.audubonmagazine.org/articles/living/10-things-you-can-do-birds>



10 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR BIRDS

1. **Make your yard a bird oasis**
2. **Become a scientist**
3. **Create communities**
4. **Forgo pesticides**
5. **Shop for the birds**
6. **Join "Lights Out"**
7. **Save energy, cut carbon emissions**
8. **Part with plastic**
9. **Curb your cats**
10. **Adopt-a-species**

**Birding is Great...
Anytime
Anywhere!**

**Board Meeting is May 9th
5:30 at the EB Lyons Center.**

**KEEP THE ARCTIC OCEANS
FREE OF DEVELOPMENT**

By Lois Norrgard, Alaska Wilderness League

Alaska Wilderness League along with the groups listed below have been mobilizing and organizing activists online and offline to add their



names to the push to protect the Arctic Ocean from Shell and other Big Oil companies – and the momentum is working, as Shell has already cancelled plans to drill this year after 12 months of errors, mishaps, and near-disasters, and Conoco Phillips has cancelled plans to begin to pursue Arctic drilling.

An oil spill in the Arctic Ocean could devastate human and wildlife communities alike. President Obama cannot allow drilling in the Arctic Ocean. Shell's long list of setbacks and failures – coupled with the extreme risk for oil spills and further climate destruction in an already fragile ecosystem – provides overwhelming evidence that the oil and gas industry is not prepared to operate safely in the Arctic Ocean. President Obama should prioritize protecting the Arctic as part of his climate legacy and

not approve any further offshore drilling in the region.

Alaska Wilderness League has called on President Obama to begin his climate legacy by saying no to Arctic Ocean drilling. You can add your name to our petition here: http://act.alaskawild.org/sign/Climate_Legacy/

**BABY BIRD IS ON THE GROUND.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology



At some point, nearly everyone who spends time outdoors finds a baby bird—one that is unable to fly well and seems lost or abandoned. Our first impulse is to adopt the helpless creature, but this often does more harm than good—and in most cases, the young bird

doesn't need our help at all.

The first thing to do is to figure out if it's a nestling or a fledgling. If it's sparsely feathered and not capable of hopping, walking, flitting, or gripping tightly to your finger, it's a nestling. If so, the nest is almost certainly nearby. If you can find the nest (it may be well hidden), put the bird back as quickly as possible. Don't worry—parent birds do not recognize their young by smell!

If the bird is feathered and capable of hopping or flitting, and its toes can tightly grip your finger or a twig, it's a fledgling. Fledglings are generally adorable, fluffy, with a tiny stub of a tail. It's easy to jump to the conclusion that the bird has been abandoned and needs you. But fledglings need a special diet, and they need to learn about behavior and vocalizations from their parents—things we can't provide.

Fortunately, the vast majority of "abandoned" baby birds are perfectly healthy fledglings. Their



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2013

<p>May 9th Thursday</p>	<p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: CLIMATE CHANGE</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Ed Maslowsky will discuss how climate change has affected bird migration.</p>
<p>May 11th Saturday</p>	<p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: SPRING SPECIES COUNT</p>	<p>8:00 am. Meet at the North Entrance to Eagle Point Park. This event is great for beginning bird watchers. Experienced bird watchers will help with locating and identifying resident and migrating birds. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.</p> <p>5:00 pm. Meet at the Swiss Valley Nature Center to tabulate the results and share experiences. Audubon will provide the brats and hot dogs. Bring your own table service, beverage, and a dish to pass.</p>
<p>June 1st Saturday</p>	<p>HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE DEDICATION</p>	<p>10:00 am. There will be a ribbon cutting to inaugurate the Heritage Trail bridge over HWY 52. Meet at the Rupp Hollow Rd parking lot and walk or bike to the bridge. Charlie Winterwood will lead a bird hike after the program (bring binoculars) There will be refreshments provided by the Friends of Dubuque County Conservation Board at the Historic bridge at Clay Hollow Road afterwards.</p>
<p>June 13th Thursday</p>	<p>AUDUBON SPRING POTLUCK</p>	<p>Come to enjoy good food and good company. More information next month.</p>



Continued from Page 2

parents are nearby and watching out for them. The parents may be attending to four or five young scattered in different directions, but they will most likely return to care for the one you have found shortly after you leave.

When fledglings leave their nest they rarely return, so even if you see the nest it's not a good idea to put the bird back in—it will hop right back out. Usually there is no reason to intervene at all beyond putting the bird on a nearby perch out of harm's way. Fledglings produce sounds that their parents recognize, and one of them will return and care for it after you leave.

If you have found both parents dead or are otherwise absolutely certain that the bird was orphaned, then your best course of action is to bring it to a [wildlife rehabilitator](#). You can contact E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center (563.556.0620) or Swiss Valley Nature Center (563.556.6745) for help.

e-NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

By Joe Tollari

In an effort to control costs and save resources, Dubuque Audubon Society is offering an electronic version of this newsletter. You can receive the newsletter as an e-mail attachment or as a prompt to go to the Dubuque Audubon website to view the newsletter. E-mail your request to audubondubuque@gmail.com.



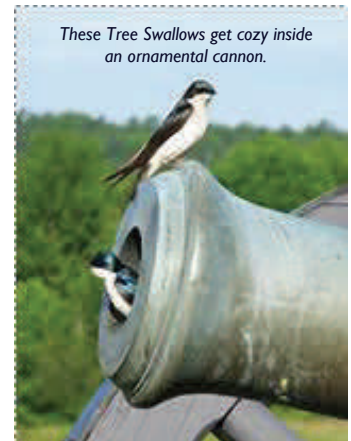
I have noticed over the last several months that it is taking longer for the print copy to reach your home through bulk mail. So, another advantage to receiving an electronic copy is that the newsletter will get to you quicker.

FIND A FUNKY NEST CONTEST

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Whether you find a robin's nest on a statue or a hummingbird's nest on wind chimes, your picture of a bird nest in a funky place can win big in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **Funky Nests in Funky Places** contest. With nesting season underway, this contest challenges everyone to get outside and watch nature in even the most unexpected places.

“Just start looking,” says Karen Purcell, who created the contest several years ago as part of the Cornell Lab’s [Celebrate Urban Birds](#) citizen-science project. “Past experience has shown us you can find bird nests in the most surprising places. We’ve seen them in helmets, old boots, stoplights, store signs, car tires, clotheslines, mailboxes, potted plants, and even a stuffed moose head!”



These Tree Swallows get cozy inside an ornamental cannon.

Photo by Jacquie Tinker

The Funky Nests contest begins May 1 and lasts until June 15. Entries may be photos, videos, artwork, poems, or stories. You don’t have to be a bird expert or an expert photographer. People of all ages are welcome to participate as individuals or with a class, community center, or afterschool program. Prizes include binoculars, bird feeders, cameras, an iPad, and more.

Entry deadline is June 15th.

Find more information about how to find nests, approach nests without disturbing the birds, and enter the contest at www.FunkyNests.org

Celebrate Urban Birds is a free, year-round project that focuses on the arts, creating green spaces for birds, and learning how birds use urban spaces.



THE SPRING BIRD COUNT

By Olivia Kruse



Everyone mark your calendar for May 11th because it's time for the Spring Bird Count! For those of you who are going to join us on this fun

trip we will meet at Eagle Point Park at the north entry parking lot at 8:00 am. Then we will start our day looking for birds around the whole park. You can go all day if you want and can stop anytime you would like to. At the end of the day we all meet together at Swiss Valley at 5:00 pm to add up the species and eat dinner. Brats will be provided and please bring a dish to pass. Some of the exiting birds we saw last year were the Least Sandpiper, Scarlet Tanager, the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, many different kinds of woodpeckers, and lots of warblers. I hope everyone can make it!

MAY PROGRAM: Relationships between our Changing Climate & Bird Migratory Behavior



Ed Maslowsky, Professor of Chemistry at Loras College, will provide an analysis of data collected by members of the National Audubon Society over several decades that shows changes have occurred in the migratory patterns of birds in North America. The evidence for global climate change and the influence of climate on these migratory pattern changes will be discussed in this program. Data also suggest that the consequences of continued changes in the climate and migratory behavior will be detrimental to several bird species and their habitats, and actions need to be taken now to prevent or adjust to these consequences.

SRI LANKA BIRDING TRIP

Last month, Lalith explained the phenomenon of flock feeding in which two or more species of birds move in a wave in order to find food. It is a characteristic of rainforests that you will not want to miss. Since this is a new set of habitats for most of us, we will be seeing life-list birds at every turn. But, be forewarned. You **will** see House Sparrows! Here are a few highlights of the trip:

- The area along the southern coast from Galle to Hambantola is considered bird country with a great diversity of species including shore birds. This is also the area to find sea turtles and the stilt fishermen.
- Yala National Park which is the home of mega fauna like leopards, elephants and Sloth Bears.
- The highlands will introduce a whole new set of birds as well as attractions like "Little England" which reminded the British of home. We will visit tea plantations and World's End, a 1050m precipice in Horton Plains National Park.
- Kandy is the cultural capital of Sri Lanka. If we time it right, we can take part in one of the Full Moon Festivals of the summer months. There will be an opportunity for shopping. Remember that Sri Lanka is noted for its gems!
- We will visit the Smithsonian Primate Center where on early morning walks we can encounter Macaques, Langur Leaf Monkeys, and Loris as well as birds.

We will depart Dubuque on July 29 and return on August 12, 2013. The cost is still estimated at \$3,600

If you are interested in going, contact Joe Tollari (563-583-2077 or jtollari@mchsi.com) or Lalith Jayawickrama (563-495-0591 or lalithj@dbq.edu) by **May 27, 2013**.



Come watch Flamingos this Summer!

By Lalith Jayawickrama



© Sudheera Bandara

(Phoenicopterus roseus)

Bundala [*Boon-dala*] is a national park in Sri Lanka situated 245 kilometres (152 mi) southeast of [Colombo](#), the capital of Sri Lanka. It is famous for its biodiversity and profusion of aquatic bird life, migratory shore-birds and the highlight being able to see flocks of over 1000 Greater Flamingos migrated. The Flamingos feed on the rich harvest provided by the numerous brackish lagoons throughout the park. Of the 150 bird species listed in the park, every species of water bird found in the country is said to visit here. Whereas, sometimes migrants and vagrants make the journey from as far as Siberia; over 10,000 shore birds might be feeding at any one time between October and March.

In 1969, Bundala was declared as a wildlife sanctuary, and later in 1993 it was upgraded to a national park. At present the park covers approximately 6216 hectares (2400 sq miles) of brackish lagoons, salt pans, inter-tidal mudflats, sand dunes and thorny scrub jungle. In 2005, UNESCO declared it as a "Man & Biosphere Reserve".

Climate and Ecology

The park terrain is generally flat with sand dunes border the coastline. This region is classified in Sri Lanka as "[dry zone climate](#)". It is because the annual rainfall provided by tropical monsoon season ranges from 900–1,300 millimeters (35–51 in).

The dry period ranging from May to September is also known as the best season to see higher

concentration of birds and wildlife. The average [relative humidity](#) in this region is about 80%, with a mean annual temperature of 27 °C (81 °F).

The park covers a unique type of forest in Sri Lanka. The most abundant plant life in park is mostly dry thorny shrubs and herbs. The trees of the forest are mostly hard wood and the salt-tolerant plants are found in the [mangrove](#) and lagoon areas. These mangrove plants and the sand dunes protected the park from the [2004 Indian Ocean tsunami](#). The park borders the Indian Ocean and thereby one could see miles of uninhabited protected beaches. Interestingly, the Buddala national park is a unique area, where the nearest land mass south of the park is the Antarctica!





Fauna

The park also contains over 48 reptile species, 52 species of butterfly, 15 species of amphibian and 32 mammal species, not to mention the numerous fish, birds and invertebrates. Bundala is the only National Park in Sri Lanka, where one can observe both species of crocodiles existing in the country. A vast concentration of estuarine (salt water) crocodiles live in the lagoon areas and in the estuary, while the mugger or the freshwater crocodile dwells in the small freshwater lakes in the upper regions of the park. In addition, one can see two species of giant lizards and a variety of other reptiles including land Star Tortoise and several fresh water turtles. There is also a small herd of friendly elephants and 3 species of deer, 3 species of primates, Sloth bear, Jackals, Leopards, Giant squirrels, Indian Pangolin (ant eater), Mongoose, [Porcupine](#), Wild Boar, Wild Buffalo, Giant fruit bats, Civet cats and Fishing Cats. The vast coastal area also attracts five species of sea turtles, which come ashore to lay their eggs at night.

So, if you decide to join us to visit Sri Lanka this summer, you will be able to witness the immense biodiversity of this unique national park.

Taxonomy



Purple Finch

The Purple Finch is one of 24 birds in the genus *Carpodacus* and is included in the finch family, [Fringillidae](#), which is made up of [passerine](#) birds found in northern hemisphere and Africa. The Purple Finch was originally described by Johann Friedrich Gmelin in 1789.

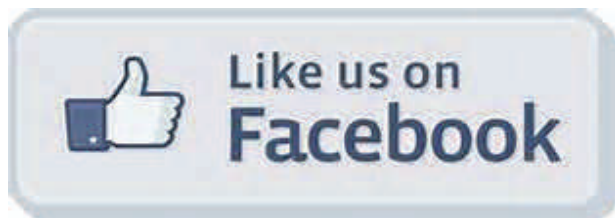
There are two subspecies of the Purple Finch, *C. p. purpureus* and *C. p. californicus*. *C. p. californicus* was identified by Spencer F. Baird in 1858. It differs from the nominate subspecies in that it has a longer tail and shorter wing. The plumage of both males and females are darker, and the coloration of the females is more greenish. The bill of *C. p. californicus* is also longer than that of the nominate subspecies.

The Purple Finch population has declined sharply in the East due to the [House Finch](#). Most of the time, when these two species collide, the House Finch out competes the Purple Finch. This bird has been also displaced from some habitat by the introduced [House Sparrow](#).



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

Have you visited the Dubuque Audubon Society Facebook account yet? If not, you should consider checking it out. When you visit you can read some interesting articles, check out the photo quiz, and find reminders of events and meetings. So, if you are on Facebook look us up and make sure you "like us." If you are not yet on Facebook consider opening an account so you can check us out. When Facebook is used properly it is a great tool and it can be fun too.



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
Secretary:	Jenny Ammon	
Treasurer:	Maggie O'Connell	563-923-4308

At-Large Board Members:

- Jenny Ammon
- Lalith Jayawickrama
- Craig Kruse
- Terri Stanton
- Nita Wiederaenders
- Charlie Winterwood
- Michele Zuercher

Field Trips:	Terri Stanton	
Membership:	Joe Tollari	563-583-2077
Newsletter:		
Conservation:	Charlie Underwood	563-588-2783
Programs:	Michele Zuercher	
Iowa Audubon		
Liaison	Joe Tollari	563-583-2077
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Dubuque Audubon Society

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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 – 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: C1ZH500Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

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