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**PRESIDENT'S
 CORNER**

By Wayne Bucholtz

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I have been enjoying watching the birds at my feeders, especially with the granddaughters. It's amazing at how fast they learn their birds. Although, it is still easy for them to call a Cardinal "the red bird" and the Downy Woodpecker as "the zebra bird." They are still learning that there are different species. Take time to get your kids or grandkids outdoors or looking at the feeders from indoors on those cold days. It is important for their development in all areas.

A lot has been going on lately. The Christmas Bird Count brought out 22 birders. We counted 51 species for a total of 4997 individual birds. To collect this data, the observers hiked a total of 16.6 miles and drove 298 miles during the day. With most counting throughout the day, we spent just over 56 hours observing and counting birds around the Dubuque area. Thank you for everyone that counted this year. The Bald Eagle Survey was conducted again this year across Iowa. Dubuque Audubon always drives one of the routes to collect the data. Two thousand and fifty

nine birds were counted across Iowa during the survey this year, which is 500 less than 2012, but it is close to the ten year average of 2991. The Bald Eagle Watch on January 18 was another great success. Many of you assisted during the day or came out to see the programs on raptors or mammals, particularly the wolf. It is still one of the highlights for many during the year. No matter if you have seen a bald eagle before, they are always neat to look at up close and in the wild. As always, there are many other programs scheduled for the regular Audubon Program night on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

In December we sent out letters on our annual fund raising campaign to



support programs, research and projects in the area. Donations are coming in and will definitely assist in several ways during 2014. If you have not made a donation, it is not too late. All funds are used to support environmental education and nature projects that you and others can enjoy.

Please give me a call with suggestions and comments for Dubuque Audubon. I want to hear from you, about what we are do-



ing right, and what you would like to see us add or do differently. I encourage you to go out often to explore a park, nature area, your backyard or other. You never know what you will see next. Nature can be quite entertaining.

Birding is Great Any Where and at Any Time

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

<i>Cackling Goose</i>	1	<i>Canada Goose</i>	650
<i>Mallard</i>	510	<i>Lesser Scaup</i>	1
<i>Ringed-necked Pheasant</i>	6	<i>Am. White Pelican</i>	1
<i>Double-crested cormorant</i>	1	<i>Great Blue Heron</i>	2
		<i>(Blue Form)</i>	
<i>Bald Eagle</i>	64	<i>Sharp-shinned Hawk</i>	2
<i>Adults</i>	61		
<i>Immatures</i>	3		
<i>Cooper's Hawk</i>	1	<i>Red-tailed Hawk</i>	42
<i>Rough-legged Hawk</i>	6	<i>Golden Eagle Adults:</i>	1
		<i>Immature: Unknowns:</i>	1
<i>American Kestrel</i>	4	<i>American Coot</i>	2
<i>Rock Pigeon</i>	289	<i>Morning Dove</i>	101
<i>Great Horned Owl</i>	1	<i>Barred Owl</i>	1
<i>Belted Kingfisher</i>	6	<i>Red-Bellied</i>	
		<i>Woodpecker</i>	47
<i>Downy Woodpecker</i>	61	<i>Hairy Woodpecker</i>	15
<i>Northern Flicker</i>	4	<i>Pileated Woodpecker</i>	2
<i>Blue Jay</i>	163	<i>American Crow</i>	143
<i>Horned Lark</i>	24	<i>Black-capped</i>	
		<i>Chickadee</i>	235
<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>	33	<i>White-breasted</i>	
		<i>Nuthatch</i>	54
<i>Brown Creeper</i>	5	<i>Carolina Wren</i>	2
<i>Winter Wren</i>	1	<i>Eastern Bluebird</i>	33
<i>Hermit Thrush</i>	1	<i>American Robin</i>	20
<i>European Starling</i>	700	<i>Cedar Waxwing</i>	22
<i>Am. Tree Sparrow</i>	189	<i>Fox Sparrow</i>	4
<i>Song Sparrow</i>	14	<i>Swamp Sparrow</i>	4
<i>White-throated Sparrow</i>	cw	<i>White-crowned</i>	
		<i>Sparrow</i>	95
<i>Dark-eyed Junco</i>	419	<i>Lapland Longspur</i>	cw
<i>Snow Bunting</i>	cw	<i>Northern Cardinal</i>	179
<i>Red-winged Blackbird</i>	1	<i>House Finch</i>	36
<i>American Goldfinch</i>	117	<i>House Sparrow</i>	682
<i>Total Individuals</i>	4,997	<i>Total Species</i>	51
		<i>Reported</i>	

THE 2014 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

By Joe Tollari



Snowy Owl by Diane McAllister, 2013 GBBC

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, bird watchers from more than 100 countries are expected to participate in the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 14–17, 2014. Anyone anywhere in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at www.BirdCount.org. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track the health of bird populations at a scale that would not otherwise be possible. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Bird Studies Canada.

Follow these three simple steps to participate.

- 1. Create a GBBC account.** This applies to those who have never participated in the GBBC before or those who did not participate in 2013 when GBBC was integrated with eBird. You will be able to access all your observations under a single account. If you're already registered with eBird or another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use the same login information.
- 2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC.** You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.
- 3. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Your Bird Checklist" on the home page.** See our downloadable instructions



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2014

<p>February 7th Friday</p>	<p>OWL PROWL</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. at Bellevue State Park, Bellevue, Iowa. Join a naturalist in learning about owls of Iowa and their amazing adaptations that make them great nighttime hunters. Then we'll head outside to call the owls at the park.</p>
<p>February 12th Wednesday</p>	<p>HOME-MADE BIRD-FEEDERS</p>	<p>2:00 p.m., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta. Early out for Students! Call 563.556.6745 to reserve your spot for making birdfeeders with a naturalist! Birds love to visit feeders during the harsh winter months, be nature's helper and provide some tasty treats.</p>
<p>February 13th Thursday</p>	<p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: LOCAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSSEL SURVEY (2013)</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, Iowa. 5:30 p.m. - Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Program: Dr. Dan Call, Professor of Environmental Science, University of Dubuque, will report on a mussel survey that he and Mike Malon conducted in some side channels of the River last summer. There will be an 8 minute tutorial for the Great Backyard Bird Count after the program.</p>
<p>February 14th - 17th</p>	<p>GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT</p>	<p>Anytime. Anywhere. See article elsewhere for instructions.</p>
<p>March 9th Sunday</p>	<p>BIRD BANDING</p>	<p>1:00 pm at EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, Iowa. Join Dave Shealer as he nets, weighs, measures, determines the age and sex of birds before he bands them. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to see birds up close.</p>
<p>March 13th Thursday</p>	<p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM:</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, Iowa 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program:</p>
<p>March 15th Saturday</p>	<p>DUCK WADDLE</p>	<p>Plan now on attending this exciting, fun event. Look for details in the next newsletter.</p>



Continued from Page 2



Tree Swallows by Shauna Cotrell, 2013 GBBC

below for additional details on entering your checklists. If you already use eBird, please continue using eBird to submit your sightings but be sure to enter at least one checklist during the GBBC weekend!

We will present a tutorial after the regular program at the meeting of February 13.

Or go to www.birdsource.com/gbbc for more information.

Try out this fun bird watching activity. If you want company, join me at Swiss Valley Nature Center on Friday, February 14 (about 8:00 am).

A Letter from David Yarnold the President of the National Audubon Society



I wanted you to be aware of my opinion piece that was published in Politico on Monday (Dec. 16, 2013) that the editors entitled "Don't Throw Bald Eagles Under the Bus," as well as Tuesday's (Dec. 17, 2013) New York Times story, "A Struggle to Balance Wind Energy with Wildlife." It's a fair and thoughtful look at the Department of the Interior's failure to accept a deal that would have protected eagles while supporting renewable energy deployment.

Our focus is squarely on the regulators--not on the wind companies or other conservation partners. Here are the key points as you continue to field questions from constituents and allies:

- Audubon supports strong federal protection for the Bald Eagle, America's national symbol, and the majestic Golden Eagle under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Audubon strongly supports properly sited wind power as a renewable energy source that helps reduce the threat posed to birds and people by

climate change:
<http://www.audubonaction.org/site/R?i=fUzSDTGOxRVZ5EluzUQMzA>

- We took a pragmatic, results-oriented approach to reach an agreement with the wind industry that would have protected eagles and supported renewable energy deployment. We did the hard work of finding a real solution.
- But DOI issued a bad rule that won't prevent the killing of eagles even while it creates potential roadblocks for renewables deployment. We don't think that's acceptable, and we're putting all options on the table to oppose the rule:
<http://www.audubonaction.org/site/R?i=ilebVDAzDEMr3DG-8FcoQA>

I know you are all active on the local level advocating for meaningful changes to wind development projects to minimize impacts to birds and habitat. And now it is time to take it to the federal level. We are asking our members, supporters and advocates to send a message to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell online through Audubon's Action Center or by mail to Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

Thanks for all you do--for birds and for the world we share.

David Yarnold,

President & CEO
National Audubon Society

"Birder Busted Spying on Bird Wings by Buffalo Wild Wings. No Charges Filed."

By Craig Kruse

My daughter Olivia and I braved the cold on an early January morning for our second birding trip of the year. We went for three hours and only got twenty-two species, but we did it all by car except for the ten minutes we spent at Swiss Valley. It was COLD out. Anyhow, we were driving along the Arterial heading east just past Buffalo Wild Wings when I saw something odd looking in one of the trees on the other side of the road. So I did a big loop and came back in the other lane and pulled to the side of the road by whatever it was that I saw.



The binoculars came out and we were so intent on figuring out what it was that I saw that I didn't see the red flashing lights in my rear view mirror, and



when I did, I almost dropped my binoculars! The Officer came to the car and said that he couldn't figure out what we were doing and assumed that the car had broken down. With the cold he wanted to make sure we were all right. It was very nice of him, so I thanked him and pointed to the Kestrel -- Olivia figured out what it was while I was sweating because of the cop -- and said, "Nope we're just birding." He just gave me an odd look, smiled and told us to have a good day. He didn't even look at the bird.

The Cycle of the Snow Bunting

by Craig Kruse

If you're driving along any of our rural roads over the next few months, keep an eye out for flocks of birds feeding along the shoulders of the road. The first thing you may notice is a group of Horned Larks with their yellowish face and black bib. Quite often you'll find Lapland Longspurs mixed in, and if you look close enough, there may even be Snow Buntings visiting Iowa from their high arctic breeding grounds.

In mid to late September the cycle begins and the snow buntings leave their arctic breeding grounds and fly south to southern Canada and northern U.S. They form groups across open fields, prairies, beaches, and are often intermingled with Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs. Together they forage on the ground for seeds and insects to eat, occasionally hopping up onto



plant stems when something is out of reach. Spending the winter months in large groups also allows these birds to warn each other of danger, and in

the evening they can huddle together for warmth.

In early April male Snow Buntings return to their high arctic breeding grounds to set up and defend

territories. Temperatures at the time can still dip as low as -30 degree Celsius, and snow can still cover the ground. The males still come together in flocks to forage for food and they tend to roost in groups ranging from 30 to 80 birds. To keep warm they huddle in the brush or have even been known to burrow in the snow. The females arrive 4 to 6 weeks later.

During the breeding season Snow Buntings are mostly seen in pairs. They place their nests deep in rocky crevasses for safety. Because of the cold rock, they line their nests with feathers and fur for warmth. The female will lay 4-9 blue-green eggs with brown spots and stay in the nest for 10-16 days incubating them. The male feeds her while she is incubating so that she does not need to leave the nest very often.

Every year in late summer Snow Buntings go through their only molt. After they are through the process, the male tends to look brownish with a black and brown striped back. Underneath the tips of their feathers, the black feathers are completely black and the body feathers are all white. Over the next several months the male wears off all the tips of his feathers until he is a brilliant white and black for the following years breeding season. In mid to late September the cycle starts over and the snow buntings head south in their newly molted appearance.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President::	Wayne Buchholtz	563-582-7215
Vice President:	Craig Kruse	563-583-2077
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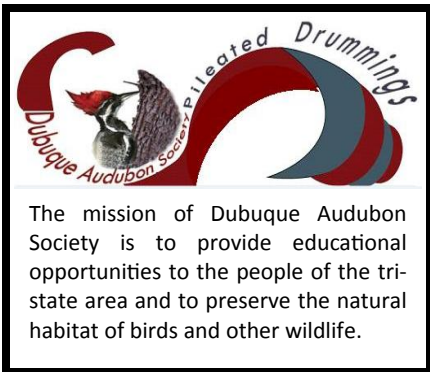
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Dubuque Audubon Society

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DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you are a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of the local Audubon Society and do not need to sign-up separately.

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:

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