



## JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2015 SUMMER EDITION

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### Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S CORNER	1
WHAT DO HUMMINGBIRDS EAT?	1
HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR RECIPE	2
CALENDAR	3
JULY 4 <sup>TH</sup> BUTTERFLY COUNT	4
Shut Down America's Bird Death Traps	5
OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS	5
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	6

**Happy Father's Day**



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

May is a big month for **Dubuque Audubon**. Earlier this month we had our **Spring Bird Count**.



It was a big success with more than 130 species counted by our participants. We covered the Dubuque land area all the way south to Green Island, Sabula, and eastward to Lost Mound. It was a big day as we finished at the Swiss Valley campgrounds while enjoying brats and other good food.

At our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting we voted in our board members for the 2015/2016 Dubuque Audubon year and had a **great presentation from Nate Johnson**. It was a fun evening, and I'll be staying on as Dubuque Audubon president for another term.



June is also going to be a busy month for **Dubuque Audubon**. On **June 6<sup>th</sup>** we are having a birding tour of the **John Deere Marsh**.

If you're interested in attending we are meeting at the parking lot at **8:00 a.m.** It's sure to be a good day.



On June 11<sup>th</sup> we are having our early summer potluck at the **Dubuque Arboretum**.

We are meeting on the porch just off the gift shop at 5:30p.m. and eating at 6:00. *Bring a dish to pass.* So, I hope to be seeing all of you soon and until then I'll see you in the field.

### WHAT DO HUMMINGBIRDS EAT?

By Melissa Mayntz (about.com)

All backyard birders know that hummingbirds readily drink sugar water, but what other hummingbird food sources are there? Understanding what hummingbirds eat can help you plan an attractive backyard buffet that will tempt these tiny birds.

#### Hummingbird Nectar

Nectar, either from suitable flowers or sugar water solutions, is the most abundant and most popular source of hummingbird food. The large amount of sucrose in nectar gives hummingbirds the necessary energy for their high metabolism and energetic lives.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Because nectar is liquid, it also supplies the birds' necessary water, and hummingbirds do not typically drink from other water sources, though they will use water for preening and bathing.

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### Other Hummingbird Food Sources

In addition to nectar, hummingbirds eat a variety of other items to get adequate nutrition, including...



- **Insects:** Small insects, larvae, insect eggs and spiders are critical food sources for hummingbirds. Insects provide the fat, protein and salts the birds cannot derive from nectar, and

these are crucial nutritional components, especially for rapidly growing hatchlings. Hummingbirds may hunt insects in several ways, including gleaning them from bark, flowers or leaves, hawking them from the air or plucking them from spider webs or sticky sap. To get the required amount of protein for a healthy diet, an adult hummingbird must eat several dozen insects each day.

- **Sap:** When nectar is scarce, hummingbirds will sip tree sap from wells drilled by woodpeckers. While the tree sap is not as sweet as floral nectar, it still provides an adequate source of sucrose for a hummingbird's energy needs.



- **Pollen:** Hummingbirds do not directly consume pollen, but a great deal of pollen can be stuck to their tongues and bills when they sip nectar from flowers. Some of that pollen is ingested, and it can be a minor source of protein. Less than 10 percent of the ingested pollen is actually digested, however, which shows that while viable, this is not a common food source for hummingbirds.

- **Ashes and Sand:** Some hummingbirds have been observed eating ashes and sand in small quantities. These foods can be a good source of vital minerals and salts, but not much is needed to fulfill a hummingbird's dietary needs.

## HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR RECIPE

By Melissa Mayntz (about.com)



Hummingbirds eat a variety of different things, but the food they are most attracted to in many birders' backyards is the basic hummingbird nectar recipe. This recipe approximates the natural sucrose content of top nectar-producing flowers and offers the birds a

healthy, nutritious, easily digestible source of energy and calories.

### Classic Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

To make hummingbird nectar...

1. Combine one part plain white table sugar and four parts water.
2. Slowly heat the solution for 1-2 minutes to help the sugar dissolve and slow fermentation.
3. Allow the solution to cool completely before filling feeders.



# DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JUNE, JULY,  
AUGUST 2015**

<b>SATURDAY</b> June 6th	<b>BIRDING TOUR OF LITTLE MAQUOKETA RIVER DELTA</b>	<p><b>8:00 AM. Meet in the parking lot on Riverside Road off Peru Road.</b> The tour will be held at The Little Maquoketa River Delta (John Deere Marsh) located behind the John Deere Plant. Craig Kruse, President of the Dubuque Audubon Society (563-582-0328 for more information) will lead the class. Please bring binoculars. Spotting scopes will be available for use.</p>
<b>THURSDAY</b> June 11th	<b>AUDUBON SPRING POTLUCK</b>	<p>5:30 PM at Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. <u>Bring your own beverage, table service, and a dish to share.</u> Come early to tour the gardens and watch the birds.</p>
<b>SUNDAY</b> July 12th	<b>FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT</b>	<p>1:00 PM at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, or Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd. This is great family fun. Join Audubon for a fun hike filled with excitement! We will be conducting citizen science to catch, identify, and release butterflies. Nets will be provided. Bring water, hat, and sun screen. 4:00 PM Tally results over your own picnic supper at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Meet in the picnic area adjacent to the parking lot.</p>
<b>THURSDAY</b> August 6th	<b>DAS BOARD RETREAT</b>	<p>5:30 PM at the home of Wayne and Pam Buchholtz. Board members - bring ideas for the upcoming membership year and a dish to share.</p>
<b>FRIDAY</b> August 7th	<b>CHIMNEY SWIFT COUNT</b>	<p>7:30 pm Maquoketa area, location TBD. Check the website for exact location: <a href="http://www.jacksonccb.com">www.jacksonccb.com</a>. Help document chimney swift roosting sites &amp; learn more about these cool birds! Count information will be submitted to a national database for chimney swifts to help study migration and behavior patterns.</p>
<b>THURSDAY</b> September 10th	<b>DUBUQUE AUDUBON FALL POTLUCK</b>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Potluck: <u>Bring your own beverage, table service, and a dish to share.</u> 6:45 pm - Program by Nick Courtney.</p>







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**For the safest, best nectar from your homemade recipe...**

- If your tap water contains heavy chemicals, consider using bottled or purified water for purer nectar. You can also boil the water before adding the sugar to help purify it, but double check your water amount after extended boiling to be sure you have not reduced the volume too far, which could make the sugar concentration much higher. Hummingbirds will enjoy the sweeter nectar, but it will ferment more quickly and may clog feeding ports as the sugar crystallizes.
- Do not use honey, brown sugar, molasses or artificial sugar substitutes for any hummingbird nectar recipe. Honey and molasses (brown sugar contains molasses products) are too heavy for hummingbirds to digest efficiently and can ferment more quickly, creating a mold that is fatal to hummingbirds. Sugar substitutes do not have the caloric energy that hummingbirds need for energy. 4
- While boiling will help slow the fermentation of the nectar initially, the nectar in hummingbird feeders is contaminated as soon as it is sipped by a bird. Therefore, it is not necessary to boil the nectar once the sugar has been dissolved. If you use extra fine sugar no boiling or heating may be need.
- The ratio of sugar and water can be slightly adjusted, but a solution that is too sweet will be difficult for the birds to digest and one that does not contain enough sugar will not be suitable to attract hummingbirds. The 4:1 water to sugar ratio most closely approximates the sucrose levels in natural nectar.



# JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> BUTTERFLY COUNT

by Joe Tollari



The Dubuque Audubon Society will again participate in the North American Butterfly Association Fourth of July Butterfly Count on Sunday, July 12, 2015. The NABA Butterfly Count is a compilation of all butterflies observed at sites within a 15-mile diameter count circle in a one-day period.

The annually published reports provide a tremendous amount of information about the geographical distribution and relative population sizes of the species counted. Comparisons of the results across years can be used to monitor changes in butterfly populations and study the effects of weather and habitat change on North American butterflies.



This is a fun family event. Children especially like using the nets to catch butterflies! It is also an opportunity to learn about the habits and the habitats of butterflies. The counts are conducted at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center and Swiss Valley Nature Center. We will walk through several different habitats and count and record the butterflies that we see. At the end of the day, we will meet in the picnic area next to the parking lot at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center to tally our results. Bring your own picnic supper. See details in the calendar.



## Migratory Bird Treaty Act

*An upcoming look at this critical law could save millions of birds' lives.*

A flock of Western Sandpipers. Photo: Don McCullough/Flickr Creative Commons

## Shut Down America's Bird Death Traps

From Audubon Web-Site

Every year, millions of birds die grisly and unnecessary deaths because of oil pits, power lines, communications towers, and other deadly hazards. In recent decades, those threats have grown dramatically.



This Pied-billed Grebe mistook an open oil pit for a freshwater pond. Photo by USFWS

In response, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just launched a plan to strengthen the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of America's most important bird conservation laws, to help meet the challenges of the 21st century.

**Send a message to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today to support this critical action.** You can send the sample message below, or edit the letter with your own words to explain why

protecting America's birds is important to you for even greater impact.

NOTE: Your name and address will automatically be added

### OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President: Craig Kruse 563-582-7215

V-Pres.: Nick Courtney

Secretary: Nick Courtney

Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308

At-Large Board Members:

Jenny Ammon

Lalith Jayawickrama

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Field Trips: Terri Stanton

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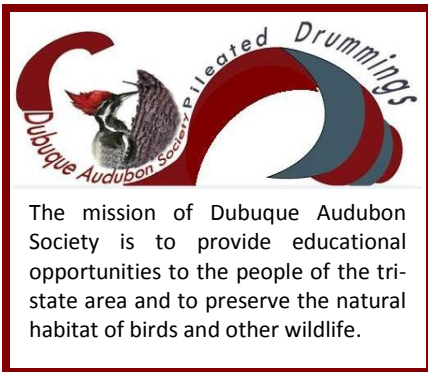
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**Dubuque Audubon Society**

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Permit # 459



**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** \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:

**Dubuque Audubon Society  
PO Box 3174  
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