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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

by Craig Kruse

Usually when I sit down to write a President's Corner, I follow a nice, simple pattern. The first paragraph is usually something I've seen recently. The second paragraph has something going on now, and the third paragraph has something upcoming. I never want to make them too long, and this puts me in a bit of a dilemma, because this month I want to write about Dubuque Audubon's trip up to the Flagg Family farm just outside of Rudolph, Wisconsin, to view **Greater Prairie-Chickens**.



Greater Prairie-Chicken  
by C. Kruse

There are just too many stories to tell from this trip. The five of us who were able to go just had a blast. I could do an article alone just on our stop to Necedah (Olivia and my first trip, by the way) where we observed Whooping Cranes, Red-headed Woodpeckers and got a personal tour from Doug, the head naturalist there. I could do another separate article on the amazing Flagg farm. It spans 350 acres, 93 of which are in a wetland reserve program. The family is committed to farming "green" and were nice enough to give us a tour of their indoor aquaponics garden. This room was amazing with all of the crops growing inside, and the plants

were chemical-free with no soil. The plants grew in a bed of rock through which water was forced. We all tried garden samples, and let me tell you, it was some of the best produce I've ever had. I could go on for a long time about that room but this article is supposed to be about Greater Prairie-Chickens.

The alarm clock was set for 4:15 that Sunday morning, which is a little earlier than I usually get up. The blind we were in was basically a 15' x 10' wooden box with viewing windows. It was pretty comfortable. Carl Flagg thought we should be in the blinds before the sun came up, and he was right. No sooner had he shut the door behind us and left was when the first Greater Prairie-Chickens wandered nearby. This Prairie-Chicken is a grassland bird best known for its mating dance. Males generally preform this together on a communal "lek." They raise their ear-like feathers above their heads, inflate orange colored sacks on the sides of their necks, and prance around while making a deep hooting moan.

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Viewing birds within a blind, photo by C. Kruse





### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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We got to see plenty of this behavior while these fabulous birds wandered *close to the blind*. Often times, they even landed on the roof or a nearby fence post. The highlight of the morning for me was when a Ring-necked Pheasant wandered into the viewing area with the **Prairie-Chickens**. I'd never gotten that close to either bird. It was like getting two for one. In the three hours we were in the blind, we saw eight of these Prairie-Chickens. Along with that, we viewed twenty-three other species including:

Whooping Cranes, Sandhill Cranes, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Trumpeter Swans, and Savannah Sparrows. It was a great trip and I highly suggest checking out their website:

<http://prairiechickenviewing.webs.com>

You'll never meet friendlier people.

As for Dubuque Audubon, next year we are thinking about heading to the Sax Zim Bog to search for the Great Gray Owl. *until then, I'll see you in the field.*

Craig Kruse, *President*

## Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation Presentation

by Kay Weibel

On **Wednesday, June 1st**, the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation is sponsoring a presentation by award-winning entomologists and photojournalists Michael Jeffords and Susan Post of the Illinois Natural History Survey. The presentation (it's free) will take place in the *Barrel Room at the Galena Cellars Vineyard, 4746 N. Ford Road, Galena*, at 7 p.m. It will be preceded by a potluck, which everyone is also invited to attend. In addition to a dish to pass, if attending the potluck, please bring your own table service. Wine, beer and soda will be available for purchase. If you need more information or if you have questions, please email Kay Weibel at [kayweibel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kayweibel@sbcglobal.net).

Michael and Susan have traveled the world documenting insects and other animals. They are currently involved in a butterfly inventory project, and

she is a biological control specialist who has introduced and monitored "friendly" insects to help control invasive plants. They are also specialists in journaling and have held dozens of workshops to help people communicate their experiences in nature.

One of their books, "*Exploring Nature in Illinois*," features insects and other special fauna and flora to be found in 50 relatively untouched natural sites accessible to the amateur explorer, many across the river in northern Illinois. They would make great destinations for a summer outing with the kids or grandkids! And by the way, kids would enjoy seeing the bugs on the big screen as well. Their website is:

<https://photojournalingm-s.smugmug.com>

#### OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

If you have questions or comments, please contact us!

President: Craig Kruse [birder1972@hotmail.com](mailto:birder1972@hotmail.com)

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Web-Master: Jan Friedman [janfrdmn@gmail.com](mailto:janfrdmn@gmail.com)

Web-site: [www.audubondubuque.org](http://www.audubondubuque.org)

## Feeding Birds in Your Backyard during the Summer?

by Wayne Buchholtz

One of the best ways to enjoy wildlife in the comfort of your home is to watch birds at a feeder. You'll be amazed at the variety of birds that will come to your feeder throughout the year. Don't put your feeders away too fast. It is common to not feed birds once warm weather approaches. Many think that birds need the extra food during the cold winter months when it is cold and food may be hard to find. In reality, birds during the winter do just fine without having a bird feeder in their territory or winter area.

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# DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# SUMMER...2016



<b>Wednesday June 1st</b>	<b>JO DAVIESS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION PRESENTATION</b>	7:00 pm at Galena Cellars Vineyard (Barrel Room), 4746 N. Ford Road, Galena. Photojournaling and entomology – see article on page 2.
<b>Thursday June 9th</b>	<b>DUBUQUE AUDUBON SPRING POTLUCK</b>	5:30 pm at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts. <u>Bring your own beverage, table service, and a dish to share.</u> Come early to walk the trails and watch the birds.
<b>Sunday July 10th</b>	<b>FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT</b> 	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.
<b>Sunday August 7th</b>	<b>INSECT ZOO</b>	2:00 pm at Hurstville Interpretive Center, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, IA. Iowa State University will be visiting with their insect zoo! Learn, see and touch LOTS of cool bugs.
<b>Thursday August 11th</b>	<b>DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD RETREAT</b>	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.
<b>Thursday September 8th</b>	<b>DUBUQUE AUDUBON FALL POTLUCK</b>	5:30 pm. Site will be announced in September’s newsletter.





# SPRING SPECIES COUNT 2016

The Spring Species Count was conducted on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The City group started at Eagle Point Park and continued on to John Deere Dike. A second group covered Otter Creek, Green Island, and Sabula in Iowa. We saw a combined total of 140 species between the two groups. Here is a list of species observed:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | Lesser Yellowlegs         |
| Trumpeter Swan           | Dunlin                    |
| Wood Duck                | Least Sandpiper           |
| Gadwall                  | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher     |
| American Wigeon          | Pectoral Sandpiper        |
| Mallard                  | Short-billed Dowitcher    |
| Blue-winged Teal         | Ring-billed Gull          |
| Northern Shoveler        | Caspian Tern              |
| Green-winged Teal        | Forster's Tern            |
| Redhead                  | Rock Pigeon               |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Eurasian Collared-Dove    |
| Lesser Scaup             | Mourning Dove             |
| Hooded Merganser         | Great Horned Owl          |
| Ruddy Duck               | Barred Owl                |
| Ring-necked Pheasant     | Chimney Swift             |
| Wild Turkey              | Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| Common Loon              | Red-headed Woodpecker     |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Red-bellied Woodpecker    |
| Red-necked Grebe         | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Downy Woodpecker          |
| American White Pelican   | Hairy Woodpecker          |
| Great Blue Herron        | Northern Flicker          |
| Great Egret              | Pileated Woodpecker       |
| Snowy Egret              | American Kestrel          |
| Turkey Vulture           | Merlin                    |
| Bald Eagle               | Peregrine Falcon          |
| Northern Harrier         | Trill's Flycatcher        |
| Broad-winged Hawk        | Least Flycatcher          |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Eastern Phoebe            |
| Virginia Rail            | Great Crested Flycatcher  |
| Sora                     | Eastern Kingbird          |
| American Coot            | Yellow-throated Vireo     |
| Sandhill Crane           | Blue-headed Vireo         |
| Semipalmated Plover      | Warbling Vireo            |
| Killdeer                 | Philadelphia Vireo        |
| Spotted Sandpiper        | Red-eyed Vireo            |
| Solitary Sandpiper       | Blue Jay                  |
| Greater Yellowlegs       |                           |

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| American Crow             | American Redstart            |
| Purple Martin             | Northern Parula              |
| Tree Swallow              | Blackburnian Warbler         |
| Nor. Rough-winged Swallow | Yellow Warbler               |
| Bank Swallow              | Chestnut-sided Warbler       |
| Cliff Swallow             | Blackpoll Warbler            |
| Barn Swallow              | Palm Warbler                 |
| Black-capped Chickadee    | Yellow-rumped Warbler        |
| Tufted Titmouse           | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch     | Eastern Towhee               |
| White-breasted Nuthatch   | Chipping Sparrow             |
| House Wren                | Field Sparrow                |
| Winter Wren               | Vesper Sparrow               |
| Sedge Wren                | Savannah Sparrow             |
| Marsh Wren                | Henslow's Sparrow            |
| Carolina Wren             | Song Sparrow                 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet      | Swamp Sparrow                |
| Eastern Bluebird          | White-throated Sparrow       |
| Swainson's Thrush         | White-crowned Sparrow        |
| American Robin            | Scarlet Tanager              |
| Gray Catbird              | Northern Cardinal            |
| Brown Thrasher            | Rose-breasted Grosbeak       |
| European Starling         | Indigo Bunting               |
| Cedar Waxwing             | Bobolink                     |
| Ovenbird                  | Red-winged Blackbird         |
| Northern Waterthrush      | Eastern Meadowlark           |
| Golden-winged Warbler     | Common Grackle               |
| Blue-winged Warbler       | Brown-headed Cowbird         |
| Black-and-white Warbler   | Baltimore Oriole             |
| Prothonotary Warbler      | House Finch                  |
| Tennessee Warbler         | American Goldfinch           |
| Nashville Warbler         | House Sparrow                |
| Common Yellowthroat       |                              |

### Feeding Birds in Your Backyard during the Summer? *Continued...*



Many of the birds you see at your feeder during the winter months are here during the summer but are much more impressive as their breeding plumage is typically brighter and more colorful. In the example of an American Goldfinch, the male turns its bright yellow and black in contrast to its winter plumage that looks much like the female.



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Not convinced yet? Think about the birds that are not here during the winter months but only during the spring, summer, and fall: the Baltimore Oriole with its bright orange and black; the Red-breasted Grosbeak with a red patch amongst its black and white plumage; or the Indigo Bunting, Eastern Bluebird, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Now that you are ready to feed the birds during the summer, you may be wondering what to feed and what feeders to use.



Eastern Bluebird  
by W. Buchholtz

Offering a variety of nutritious foods is the best way to attract feeding birds in any season. During the summer months, many birds also eat fruits and insects in addition to popular seeds such as sunflower, Nyjer, millet, and others. Offering a wide variety of choices for the birds to choose from will attract more species.

The best foods to offer during the summer include seeds, such as hearts or chips which are the most popular option for a wide range of bird species. Nyjer will also attract finches, while mixed seed caters to different songbird species. Many songbirds enjoy cut-up fruit. Apple chunks, banana slices and orange halves will attract orioles, Gray Catbirds, Northern Cardinals, Summer Tanagers and other colorful birds. Jelly is a sweet treat for many birds.



American Robin  
by W. Buchholtz

Both apple and grape jelly can be used to attract Baltimore Orioles, woodpeckers, and chickadees. Birds like hummingbirds are the most popular types of birds that enjoy nectar, but orioles, woodpeckers and nuthatches will also come to the sweet treat. Suet can continue to be used to draw in woodpeckers & chickadees but purchase the non-melting variety and variety and place it out of the sun. To draw in bluebirds, consider providing mealworms as a special treat. The worms will also entice wrens, grosbeaks and some warblers to visit.

Continue to keep your feeders full, and enjoy the songbirds all year long.

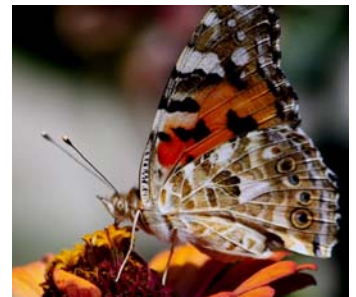


## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> BUTTERFLY COUNT



The Dubuque Audubon Society will again participate in the North American Butterfly Association Fourth of July Butterfly Count on

**Sunday, July 10, 2016.** 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 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.



**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

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**Dubuque Audubon Society  
PO Box 3174**

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