



**MAY 2017 EDITION**

Published Monthly  
 Except January,  
 July & August

Volume XX - Number 4

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Craig Kruse

I was just pulling into the parking lot at the Fenley State Recreation area in Wisconsin when another car pulled up right behind me. Normally I wouldn't pay much attention to the other vehicle, but in all the years I've been birding at Fenley, I've never even seen another person. It's not exactly a well-known place. So, I glanced in the other driver's direction and recognized John and Leeta Miller who you all know are long term members of Dubuque Audubon and friends of mine. They got out of their car, and while doing a little birding around the parking lot, they told me they were on their way to Potosi to meet a friend for lunch and do a little birding at the Potosi Recreational Area. I stood there for a minute, scratched my head and admitted I'd never heard of the place. They told me there is a boat landing there on a peninsula that's maybe a quarter mile long -- marsh on both sides all the way. They've done some pretty sightings there. So, the next day I had off work I took off toward Potosi.

Since then, I've made the forty-minute trip to that boat landing at least once a week. It's a lot smaller than Green Island, and you won't see quite as much, but it has some charms of its own.



Photo by C. Kruse

On my first trip I ran into a ton of waterfowl that were migrating up the river. I bet I saw almost every duck species that comes through the area in one sitting.



Photo by C. Kruse

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On my third trip up there, I was near the boat landing when I stopped to watch some Buffleheads that were swimming near the side of the road. Then to my surprise, I looked to my right, and there was a Pileated Woodpecker working the base of a tree not twenty-five feet away from my car!! I rolled down my window and must have taken fifty pictures.



Photo by C. Kruse

He didn't mind; he kept working that tree like there was no tomorrow. Wood chips were flying everywhere. I went home and told Dad about it, and we went back up there a few days later. We didn't get to see the Pileated, but we stopped in almost the same spot and watched two Sandhill Cranes that were standing about thirty feet away. They didn't like us too much and spent a lot of the time we were there scolding us. I took a ton of pictures of them, too. We also got to see a Mute Swan that day. So, if you have a free afternoon this spring, then take a ride to Potosi and check out the boat landing. It's an easy drive, and you don't even have to get out of your car if you want. Drop us a line on Facebook, and let us know what you saw. Until then, I'll see you in the field.

*Craig Kruse*, President

- **Potosi Recreation Area**, or the "Potosi Point" as it is known locally, is a narrow finger of land extending .6 miles into the Mississippi river. Visitors can enjoy bird watching from a Bird Viewing Platform or watch boats or a barge make their way on the river. Over 270 species of land birds and waterfowl have been observed, including eagles, snow geese, American pelicans and swans. Or enjoy shore fishing or use the boat ramp if you want to take your boat out to do some fishing. We are Wisconsin's Catfish Capital!

How to get there...



## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

If you have questions or comments, please contact us!

- President: Craig Kruse 563-582-7215
- V. President: Wayne Buchholtz
- Secretary: Oliva Kruse / Joe Tollari
- Treasurer: Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308
- At-Large Members:
  - Brent Groesch Latith Jayawickarma
  - Terri Stanton Angie Jansen Allie Schmalz
  - Gretel Winterwood Michele Zuercher
- Field Trips: Terri Stanton
- Membership: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Newsletter: Michele Zuercher
- Conservation: Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783
- Programs: Allie Schmalz / Angie Jansen
- Iowa Audubon Liason: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Web-Master: Jan Friedman [janfrdmn@gmail.com](mailto:janfrdmn@gmail.com)
- Web-site: [www.audubondubuque.org](http://www.audubondubuque.org)



# DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



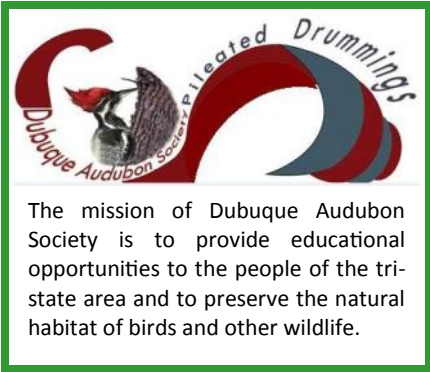
<p><b>SATURDAY</b> May 6th</p>	<p><b>Bird Banding</b></p>	<p>9:00 am to 11:00 am. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta, IA. Join local birding expert Dave Shealer from Loras College for a bird netting and banding program at Swiss Valley! You might get a chance to see chickadees, cardinals, and even migrating songbirds traveling to northern breeding grounds. You will want to be part of this unique, one of a kind experience.</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b> May 11th</p>	<p><b>Dubuque Audubon Program: Planting for Monarchs and other Pollinators</b></p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 5:30 pm – Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – Program: Chris Hiher will speak on the important role of pollinators and how you can attract them.</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY</b> May 13th</p>	<p><b>Spring Species Count</b></p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Meet at the North Entrance to Eagle Point Park. This event is great for beginning bird watchers. Experienced bird watchers will help with locating &amp; identifying resident and migrating birds. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. We will also count at the John Deere Marsh. Join us for all or part of the day.</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Meet at the Swiss Valley Park, Sycamore Pavilion to tabulate the results &amp; share experiences. Audubon will provide the brats and hot dogs. Bring your own table service, beverage, and a dish to pass. In case of bad weather, we will move to the Swiss Valley Nature Center. (The bridge should be open by then.)</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b> June 8th</p>	<p><b>Dubuque Audubon Spring Potluck</b></p>	<p><b>Come to enjoy good food and good company.</b> <i>More information next month.</i></p>

A **Cerulean Warbler tour** with Robert Vavra on the Maiden Voyage tour boat in the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River will be on **Sunday, May 21**. This is a great way to see and hear Ceruleans as well as a great variety of other birds. The boat leaves from public dock at McGregor, Iowa at 9 a.m. \$25 per person which also helps support Cerulean Warbler monitoring in the Driftless Region of Northeast Iowa. RSVP to Jon Stravers - e-mail: hawk@acegroup.cc or by phone 563-880-8046.

**Dubuque Audubon Society**

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Dubuque IA 52004-3174

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Dubuque, IA 52001  
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 Drumming.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 Drumming. 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: C1ZH600Z**

**Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to:**

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