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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

As I write this, it's October, and what's in the forecast? Rain. But that's ok, as I'm told about a dozen times a day at work, we need it. Maybe by this time next week the grass in my yard will be green instead of that odd shade of yellow it's been for the last few weeks. Rain isn't exactly bad for bird watching either. Sometimes it seems to get things revved up a bit especially just after a good downpour. As I look out the backyard window while writing this, my House Sparrow flock is patiently sitting under my canoe rack, watching me watch them. It's as if they are trying to say, "Get out here and fill your feeders. It's only rain, and we have to live in this stuff." Little do they know, I've spent a lot of time in the "stuff" ... bird-watching, fishing, working and all sorts of fun activities. Just last Saturday, I ran the 5-mile Swiss Valley Trail run with a bunch of my relatives....in the rain. And I did a little bird-watching while I was at it. My finishing time wasn't killer, but we had a blast and saw some cool things while we were running (OK, more like jogging). Yes, I'm that guy who will put my bird watching skills to work while running a race to distract my co-runners. "Hey, I just heard a Kingfisher (pant, pant). Does anyone see it?" Of course, I'm only distracting myself, and I'm eye-balling for it as they are passing me by. But to get to the point, you can

bird-watch while doing just about anything and in any weather condition. Just dress appropriately for it, and check the weather forecast so you're up-to-date. You may get a little dirty or wet, but you might see something you might not otherwise see.

By the time you get this, the Fall Iowa Ornithologist Union Dubuque meeting will almost be here. It's taking place in Dubuque-land for the first time in a good long while. Think about it: a good portion of the birds in Iowa are coming to Dubuque because they know we have cool stuff to see here. The main gatherings are going to take place at the downtown Holiday Inn by Five Flags. Friday, November 10th, there will be an evening social to get things started. Bright and early Saturday and Sunday mornings, Dubuque Audubon representatives will be leading five different field trips throughout the area. We are going to Swiss Valley, John Deere marsh, The Mines of Spain, the riverfront, Potosi (on Saturday) and Green Island (on Sunday). This is kind of a big deal, so check it out. You can get more information on the I.O.U.'s website and sign up there. There is free for participating. But for now, I have to go. Looking out my window I can see my House Sparrow flock staring me down. It's time for them to eat, and I get to get wet. But that's ok - it's only rain. I'll talk to you guys soon, or maybe I'll see you in the field.





How to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly

Grow a beautiful garden that provides a safe haven for birds in the face of climate change.



Information for this article was published in the National Audubon Magazine and used with permission. For more information on this interesting and important subject visit the National Audubon Website at: <http://www.audubon.org/>

Birds are nature’s messengers, and they're broadcasting loud and clear: They are already experiencing the [devastating impacts of climate change](#), and this danger will only grow over time.

One of the best ways to help birds thrive is to make sure your yard is bird-friendly. You can create a patch of habitat that attracts colorful birds, sweet melodies, and vibrant colors. If you don't have a yard, you can still help birds by creating a native plant container garden on your patio or balcony.

The secret to success lies in choosing locally native plants, which brim with nutritious insects, berries, nectar, and seeds to give birds vital food and refuge.

Choose native plants that are adapted to your particular growing conditions, such as the amount of sunlight or shade, the type of soil, and the amount of precipitation the site receives. Search the National Audubon Society [native plants database](#) for listings of the best bird- and wildlife-friendly plants for your area, as well as a list of native plant nurseries and other resources near you. Focus on native plants that support the highest variety and quantity of bird food.

- Native trees such as oaks, willows, birches, and

maples, and native herbaceous plants such as goldenrod, milkweed, and asters host numerous caterpillar species that are a vital source of protein for birds, especially during the breeding season.

- Red tubular flowers such as native columbine, penstemon, and honeysuckle serve up nectar for hummingbirds.
- Native sunflowers, asters, and coneflowers produce seeds for songbirds.
- Berries ripen at different times, so include seasonal variety: serviceberry and cherry for birds during the breeding season and summer; dogwood and spicebush for songbirds flying south; cedar and holly trees to sustain birds through cold winter days and nights.

Search our [native plants database](#) for listings of the best bird- and wildlife-friendly plants for your area, as well as a list of native plant nurseries and other resources near you. (You can also check out a few [suggestions for native plants native to North America](#)—but remember to find out what’s native to your particular area.)

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

- President:** Craig Kruse 563-582-0328
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Web Master: Jan Friedman janfrdmn@gmail.com
Website: www.audubondubuque.org



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

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Nov. 9 - Thurs.	Dubuque Audubon Program	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA. 5:30PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00PM– Check our website for upcoming details
Nov. 15 – Wed.	OWLS: Canoeing the Mississippi River Headwaters	12:00PM -- 2:00PM Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta, Iowa. Mark Wagner will be talking about his experience canoeing the headwaters of the Mississippi River and his continuing journey down this mighty and majestic river. An optional lunch will be catered at noon -- cost is \$12/person. The program itself is free and starts at 1:00. Call to register: Dubuque County Conservation 563.556.6745.
Nov. 19 – Sun.	Natural Soap Making Workshop	1:00PM Hurstville Interpretive Center, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, IA. With recent interest in more "natural" lifestyles, the art of soap making is gaining popularity. Join a naturalist in learning the history, chemistry, process, and benefits of making your own homemade soap. The best part of this class is customizing and taking home your own unique soap. Whether you're using it as gifts or for personal use, you're sure to be hooked on your first batch! Cost in \$10.00 + processing fees. Registration required by November 14th.
Nov. 26 – Sun.	Nature Detective	1:00PM – 1:30PM Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta, Iowa. Tracks+Scat+Yuck=Awesome! Be a Nature Detective! You may never see the animal, just the clues left behind. Who is making those tracks in your backyard? What is scat and what can it tell you?
Dec. 7 – Thurs.	Basket Weaving Workshop	5:30PM Hurstville Interpretive Center 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, IA. Basket weaving is one of the most widely spread crafts in the history of human civilization. And now's your chance to learn this great skill. Beginners to experts can make this fun and unique melon-shaped basket. Cost is \$10.00 + processing fees. Registration required by December 1 st .

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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CODE: C4ZH700Z

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