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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Craig Kruse

Well, it's December and the **Iowa Ornithologists Union meeting** has come and gone. It was a really fun weekend full of birds and comradery. We started Friday night at the downtown Holiday Inn with a social gathering. It was a time for those of us who were new to meet some new people and a time for everyone else who hadn't seen each other for a while to get reacquainted. There were lots of laughs and pats on the back. More than a few stories were told. The night went quickly.

Saturday we re-gathered at the hotel, white mocha (with lots of caffeine) in hand at 6:30am to divide into our groups and see some birds. Saturday we had five field trips: Potosi, Wisconsin, John Deere Marsh, The Mines of Spain, Swiss valley and The Dubuque Riverfront.

and that makes it worthwhile. Tony Moline's group was the first to find Red Crossbills at Four Mounds and then again at Calvary Cemetery. The rest of us were fortunate to get a good look at a large group of Tundra Swans that were feeding in the Mississippi River backwaters. The field trips ended around 1:00 and were followed by several programs throughout the afternoon and evening.

Dubuque Audubon presenter **Tom David** gave his program on *Prothonotary Warblers*.



A New Year is like a Blank Book.
 The pen is in your hands.
 It is your chance to write a Beautiful Story for yourself.



Although November can be a slow time to go bird watching there can still be some pretty cool birds coming through



The evening concluded with keynote speaker **Amar Ayyash**, who presented a great program of Gull identification.

At 6:30am Sunday morning, I was at the hotel with white mocha (with lots of caffeine) in hand to divide all of us into our field trip groups. On this day we eliminated the Swiss Valley and Potosi field trip in order to add a trip to Green Island.



The best part of the day happened when Charlie Winterwood's Group found a pair of very cooperative Red Crossbills feeding in some trees at Mount Carmel. They got the word out and eventually most of the other groups were able to make it up there and see the birds, enabling several of us to get a lifetime bird. At noon, we were at the hotel for the closing ceremonies.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

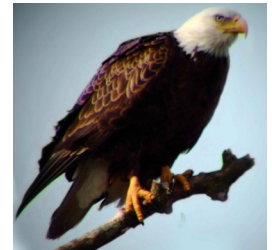
Join us and over 1700 other birding groups throughout the Americas for **Audubon's 118th annual Christmas Bird Count**. We will attempt to count every bird within a 15-mile diameter circle around Dubuque on Saturday, December 16th. Participants of all levels from beginner to experienced are welcome. Most routes have both walking portions and car portions.

Come for either part of the day or for the whole day. Show up at 8:00 AM at EB Lyons Interpretive Center to be assigned a route. This is a great opportunity to learn about bird watching. You will be with experienced bird watchers who are eager to share their love of birds. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather.

We will meet at 4:30 PM at EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA, to share a chili supper, compile results, and share the experiences of the day.



BALD EAGLE WATCH



Join us for the 30th annual Bald Eagle Watch on Saturday, January 20, 2018, at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. This free family event celebrates the American Bald Eagle with live bird programs and children's activities. Vendors will have wildlife art, books and nature items available for purchase. Exhibitors will share information about opportunities to experience nature in the Tri-State area.

This year, the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center will do three programs on raptors at 9:30 am and 12:15 and 3:00 pm. What better way to learn about bird conservation and the environment than to meet live birds of prey like hawks, owls, and the Bald Eagle? The Raptor Center always has an interesting and exciting presentation.

Our second program, *Big Owls Hoot, Little Owls Toot*, is presented by Naturalist, Mike Havlik. He will do programs at 11:00 am and 1:45 pm. Hoo's Woods specializes in rehabilitation of and education about Midwest raptors.

If the eagles cooperate, we will have spotting scopes set up for live eagle viewing at Lock and Dam #11.

**This is always a fun-filled event.
Bring the children (or grandchildren) & join us.**

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

- President:** Craig Kruse 563-582-0328
- V-Pres.:** Wayne Buchholtz
- Secretary:** Olivia Kruse / Joe Tollari
- Treasurer:** Maggie O'Connell 563-923-4308
- At-Large Board Members:**
 - Angie Jansen Terri Stanton
 - Lalith Jayawickrama Michele Zuercher
 - Allie Schmalz
- Field Trips:** Tony Moline
- Membership:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Newsletter:** Michele Zuercher
- Conservation:** Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783
- Programs:** Allie Schmalz / Angie Jansen
- Iowa Audubon Liaison:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Web Master:** Jan Friedman janfrddmn@gmail.com
- Website:** www.audubondubuque.org



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2017
- JANUARY 2018

<p>December 14th Thursday</p>	<p>Dubuque Audubon Program: Bird houses, feeders, & ID</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:30PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00PM– Bird houses, bird feeders, and more. Check our website for upcoming details.</p>
<p>December 16th Saturday</p>	<p>118th Christmas Bird Count</p>	<p>8:00AM Meet at EB Lyons parking lot, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. Experienced birders will lead anyone who would like to help count all the birds in a 15-mile diameter, centered in Dubuque. Just bring binoculars and warm clothing. In case of inclement weather, the count will be Saturday, December 30th. 4:30PM Share a chili supper while compiling results. <i>See article on page 2 for more info.</i></p>
<p>January 11th Thursday</p>	<p>Dubuque Audubon Program: Iowa Birds of Prey</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:30PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM--Owl prowl 7:00PM– Laura Waldo-Semken from the Iowa Raptor Project will present information and have special guests of two of Iowa’s birds of prey: Great Horned Owl and an Eastern Screech Owl.</p>
<p>January 13th Saturday</p>	<p>2018 Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey</p>	<p>9:00AM Meet at Ron Wiskis’ house in Luxemborg. Call Charlie Winterwood at 563.588.2783 if interested.</p>
<p>January 20th Saturday</p>	<p>Bald Eagle Watch</p>	<p>Grand River Center, 500 Bell St., Dubuque. Doors open at 9:00AM. Exhibitors, vendors, and children’s activities all day. Schlitz Audubon Nature Center at 9:30AM, 12:15PM, and 3:00PM. Hoo’s Woods Raptor Center at 11:00AM and 1:45PM. Eagle viewing at Lock and Dam #11 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. <i>Volunteers are needed – see articles on pages 2 and 3.</i></p>
<p>February 8th Thursday</p>	<p>Dubuque Audubon Program: Flexing Our Muscles, Saving Mussels of the Mississippi River</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:30PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 7:00PM– Waterfowl species identification 7:30PM- Jared McGovern of the National MS River Museum and Aquarium will discuss the mussel’s life cycle, feeding habits, and their importance to the River.</p>



We are in need of volunteers who will help with **Bald Eagle Day on January 20, 2018**. We need greeters who will help direct people as they come up the escalator at the Grand River Center. It is always a fun time interacting with the children and their parents. We also need members to staff the **Dubuque Audubon Society table in the main concourse**. Finally, if you really want to experience Bald Eagle Day, we need volunteers to help at the spotting scopes at Lock and Dam #11. We hope to have enough volunteers to work a 2-hour shift. There is always time to visit the exhibits and to attend the programs. If you are will to give up a couple hours of your time and learn more about Bald Eagles, contact Joe Tollari at **563-583-2077**.

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Dubuque IA 52004-3174

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Dubuque, IA 52001
Permit # 459



The mission of Dubuque Audubon Society is to provide educational opportunities to the people of the tri-state area and to preserve the natural habitat of birds and other wildlife.

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: C1ZH700Z

Dubuque Audubon Society

PO Box 3174

Dubuque, IA 52004-3174

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society. Mail to: