



OCTOBER 2018 EDITION

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joe Tollari

This is one of my favorite times of the year. I really enjoy watching hummingbirds! In June, I take down my seed feeders. Most common birds at my feeders in the summer are House Sparrows, European Starlings, and Common Grackles. Judging by their numbers, they seem to find plenty of food elsewhere. I do, however, put up the hummingbird feeders. I am diligent about keeping the feeders clean, and mold-free and filled with my own homemade, nectar – no artificial coloring here.

For most of the summer, the feeders attract more ants and bees than hummingbirds. But, then comes early Fall. The birds finally notice my feeders and are relentless in trying to fill up for the long migratory flight. They don't want to share. One will stake a claim on a feeder and try to chase off all other comers. The aerial displays and dive bombings are fun to watch. All of this occurs just outside my kitchen window. Finally! I have real activity at my feeders. All too soon the fun will be over and the hummingbirds will take off. I'm enjoying the show while it lasts.

You may have seen photos from the September program on our Facebook page. The Raptor Center of Iowa gave a great presentation on hawks and turkey vultures. Both of these birds are in abundance in the autumn skies as they migrate south. As the birds head south, reptiles are looking for a safe home for the winter.

Our October program entitled **Rockin' Reptiles and Awesome Amphibians** will be presented by Jenny Drayna from the River Museum and Aquarium. Jenny will bring some reptilian and amphibian friends to help demonstrate her program. Last spring she instructed and entertained us with a fun program on insects. **Join us on October 11 at 6:00 pm. It will be a fun time.**

OCTOBER PROGRAM:

Rockin' Reptiles & Awesome Amphibians

Become a herpetologist and explore the world of reptiles and amphibians!



Learn about some of their **amazing adaptations** and the important roles they play in nature with **Jennifer Drayna, Education Outreach Coordinator** from the **National**



Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, on October 13th at 6:00. A

few live animals will stop by to help us learn. She will bring a snake, lizard and turtle for sure as well as a couple others.





OCTOBER BIG DAY



Every year for the last four years Global Big Day has set new heights for a single day of birding. This massively international collaborative birding

event has been so great we want to have another worldwide eBird Big Day in October. Why October? Because spring is rejuvenating the southern hemisphere and the northern reaches of the world are in the midst of migration. No matter where you are, we're confident you can find some great birds on 6 October. Let's see what we can find together on the first October Big Day!

How to participate

- **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by hundreds of thousands of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive October Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data for scientists to use to better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's free.
- **Watch birds on 6 October:** Even 10 minutes in your backyard counts.
- **Enter what you see and hear in eBird:** You can enter your sightings [via our website](#) or—even easier—download the [free eBird Mobile app](#). While you're downloading free apps, try out the Cornell Lab's [Merlin Bird ID](#) app for help with identification.

Watch the sightings roll in.

This is the first October Big Day—our chance to set a benchmark for the future. Can we get 5,000 species from 125 countries for the inaugural event? No matter what you do, have fun, enjoy the birds you find, and share your sightings on eBird. Because in our world, every bird counts.

The Big Sit/Hawk Watch 2018

by Craig Kruse

Saturday, September 18, 2018, was a perfect late Summer day and marked the date of Dubuque



Audubon's 4th annual "Big Sit". A Big Sit is a birding event where you bird watch from a given area (usually a circle) for a given amount of time. Our circle is always the circle around Julien Dubuque's Grave. Someone must always be inside the circle or the event automatically ends. Also, all birds must be seen from inside the circle. For example, Tony Moline saw a Hooded Warbler partway down the trail. I was in the circle, and my view was obstructed and didn't see it so that bird couldn't count on the day's total. We've

always had good raptor viewing during the event, so we decided to combine the Big Sit with our annual Hawk Watch this year. Instead of listing every bird we saw like we usually do, I thought it might be fun to contribute a few of my notes from the day that I had jotted down.

4:50 am: We set up camp at the Julien Dubuque Monument. It's still very dark out and very quiet.

5:18 am: Tony drove down to the bottom of the hill to call for Screech Owls while I stayed in the circle. After being interrupted by a barge and a train I heard one calling back in the distance. 1st bird of the day!

5:25am: Second bird of the day is a female Great Horned Owl calling from south of the monument.

6:15am: After repeated unsuccessful attempts to call one a Barred Owl has started calling on without prompting. It continues to call occasionally for a half a hour before quitting. The sun is starting to show itself.

6:18am: We hear the call of a nearby House Wren. Jim Olsen also spots a Wood Duck as it's flying over.

6:19am: A nearby eagle calls.

6:26am: 6 Ring-billed Gulls grace us with a flyby

6:50am: The woodpeckers wake us and come to visit. Within a few minutes we are visited by a Pileated, Down and Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

7:04am: A dozen species of warblers explode into the scene. There are so many of them and they are moving so much that they are hard to identify in the morning light. Included are: Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Nashville, Yellow-throated Warblers and others.

Eighty-three people visited us during the day. We begin at 5:00 AM and ended at 6:30 PM. We viewed **79 species** including: 3 species of owls, 19 species of warbler, all of the woodpeckers that can be found in the area, and lots of hawks, flycatchers and songbirds. Make sure you look for the event again next September and join us for part of the day.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

President: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077

V-Pres.: Craig Kruse 563-582-0328

Secretary: Nicole Schmitt

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Newsletter: Michele Zuercher

Conservation: Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783

Programs: Craig Kruse

Marketing: Allie Schmalz

Iowa Audubon Liaison: Joe Tollari 563-583-2077

Web Master: Jan Friedman janfrdmn@gmail.com

Website: www.audubondubuque.org

Facebook: [Dubuque Audubon Society](#)



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS


October 6th SATURDAY	OCTOBER BIG DAY	See article in newsletter.
October 11th THURSDAY	DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: Rockin' Reptiles & Awesome Amphibians	EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM – Jennifer Drayna, from the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, will present information and bring the animals for a showing. See article in newsletter.
October 14th SUNDAY	FRIENDS of DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION 	Hosted by Swiss Valley Nature Center 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Dubuque. Come to fill your belly and help support the Friends of DCCB! Tickets are available at the door adults \$7 and youth (12 and under) \$4. Get your tickets early and save \$1 a piece. Early bird tickets are available for purchase at Swiss Valley Nature Center. There will be wagon rides through the preserve weather permitting.
October 20th SATURDAY	MAQUOKETA RIVER FALL PADDLE 	10 a.m. Enjoy a fall paddle on the Maquoketa River. We will paddle from Millertown Bridge Access - located at bridge on 30th Ave, 3 miles north of Monmouth to Joinerville Park - located on 123rd Ave, access from Highway 64. It is a 10-mile paddle. This fall paddle will give you a new perspective on the Maquoketa River, and hopefully we will experience some good fall colors. Jackson County canoes and kayaks are available but are limited. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoes or kayaks. Jackson County will help shuttle participants between canoe accesses if needed but trailer and van space is limited. To register and for more information contact Jackson County Conservation at (563) 652-3783 or visit us online at JacksonCCB.com.
October 26th FRIDAY	HALLOWEEN HIKE 	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Dubuque. Join us for a non-scary hike! Walk the illuminated trail and meet some colorful characters at this family favorite event. Stop into the nature center before or after your hike for Halloween crafts, face painting, smores, and a Halloween movie. Hikes leave every 15 minutes and you must be pre-registered. Drop off your decorated pumpkin prior to the event as part of our Pumpkin Decorating Contest for your chance to win a prize! Cost \$3/person (ages 4 and up). Registration available at http://getregistered.com/HalloweenHike
November 8th THURSDAY	DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM:	Dubuque Audubon Program: EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM–

Dubuque Audubon Society

PO Box 3174

Dubuque IA 52004-3174

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Dubuque, IA 52001
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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 Society. There are two categories of memberships in the Dubuque Audubon Society

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP: 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

NATIONAL & LOCAL  **MEMBERSHIP:** If you wish to become a member of both local and national:
Go to Audubon.org Click on "JOIN" then "Become a member"

The membership in National is \$20 per year. Any amount you give above that is considered a donation. The National membership automatically gives you membership in the local group in addition to the award winning Audubon Magazine. It is a good idea to note the month you joined so you will not be confused by multiple early reminders.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

CODE: C1ZH800Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society.

Mail to: **Dubuque Audubon Society**
P.O. Box 3174
Dubuque, IA 52004-3174