



MARCH 2019 EDITION

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MARCH
 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Joe Tollari

There has to be a reward for the frigid cold and the seemingly endless hours of clearing snow. At this point, I am looking for signs of spring. The increased minutes of daylight helps, and there does seem to be more warmth in the sun. But the real first sign of spring is the DUCK WADDLE! This annual event celebrates the northward migration of waterfowl to their breeding grounds. It is an opportunity to see species that just pass through this area. I believe that we have seen a Cinnamon Teal two (maybe three times?) on the duck waddle. I was present for the second sighting. I had only seen this bird in Peterson's field guide. To have the bird in front of me with the sunlight on it, it was a memorable experience. We will also see some returning species. For me, there is no clearer sign of spring than the call of the Red-winged Blackbirds. Of course, watching the Sandhill Cranes do their "dance" is always fun. And watching the year-round residents is always reassuring.

This birding event is scheduled for March 16, 2019. We meet in the parking lot of Banworth & Udelhoven Furniture Store at the junction of US Hwy 52 and US 61/151. We leave promptly at 6:00 a.m. and carpool and caravan to Green Island.



Remember to dress warmly. The wind chill factor at Green Island can be wicked.

We will bird for a few hours then move to the Riverview Café in Bellevue to tally the morning's work. You should be back in Dubuque by noon. Time for a nap!

Early Morning WAKE UP CALL



I know that it is difficult to get up and going so early on a Saturday morning. But once you try it you'll be hooked.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

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V. President: Craig Kruse 563-582-0328
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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife Diversity News Conservation and Recreation

Credit for the following article is given to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Article was published on their website:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/IACIO/bulletins/22d4e8f>



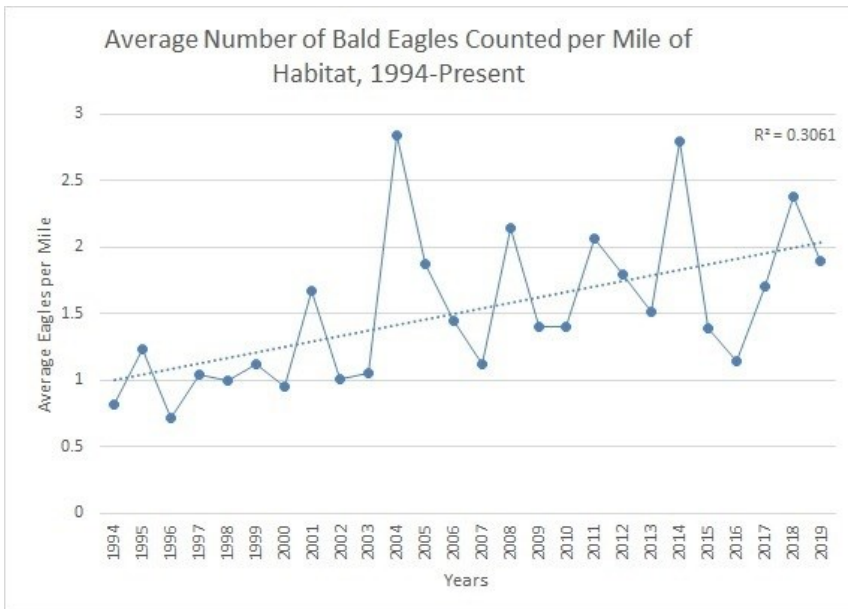
The Results are In! Iowa is one of the most important wintering grounds for Bald Eagles with thousands of the huge raptors moving into the state from the north to join our resident breeding birds. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan all have some of the highest densities of nesting Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states and many of those eagles, especially from MN and WI move into Iowa during the winter months and frequently gather in large numbers around areas of open water to feed and roost.

Since the early 1990s, the Iowa DNR, plus a small army of volunteers has recorded this phenomenon during the Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey that takes place in the first two weeks of every year. Surveyors scope the trees, air and ice for Iowa's largest raptor while driving snowy roads which wind along next to many of Iowa's biggest rivers. There are 52 set routes in Iowa that cover over 1500 miles in 45 counties and along at least 13 rivers. The 2019 survey was run from January 2nd through the 16th and was mostly characterised by extremely mild winter temperatures and weather leading up to the survey. The average percentage of river covered with ice was only 18%, the lowest since 2007 and most surveyors indicated that the weather was "mild" to "very mild". Hard to believe coming out of the polar vortex!

What did all this mild weather mean for the eagles? There were fewer than last year's close to record numbers but at 2,924 there were still plenty of birds counted. When the weather is mild and rivers are open, we expect fewer birds to be counted because birds from up north may not feel driven to move south to look for food and the birds that are here are more spread out, making them harder to count. Also, at least four routes could not be surveyed because of the federal government shutdown.

The count of birds is usually split into adult and immature (and some unidentified) and those totaled 1,893 adults and 952 immatures. This is important because the percentage of immatures in the population is a metric we use to make sure that successful reproduction is happening. The percentage this year was 32.6%, almost identical to 2018's percentage and it has been stable since 1994.

Notable this year, was the Missouri River, which had its highest count ever with 498 bald eagles counted! The second highest count was in 2012 and was only 195. The Mississippi and Des Moines rivers tend to have the most birds and while they were highest again this year, the Missouri came in a close third.



The data collected on Iowa's bald eagle midwinter survey show an upward climb of eagle numbers from 1994 to 2019. It's an important survey for the annual trend it provides and along with eagle nest monitoring helps the Iowa DNR keep an eagle eye on this important species!

The Bald Eagle Midwinter survey is a national survey, currently coordinated at that level by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps analyzes data from the many states that participate which allows them to have an idea about eagle population trends at the regional and national scale. These type of data played a key role in determining in 2007 that the Bald Eagle was doing well enough to be removed from the Endangered Species List.



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH 2019

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>March 10th Sunday</p> | <p>MOVE TO THE OUTDOORS: PRIMITIVE TO HIGH-TECH ACTIVITIES IN NATURE</p> | <p>1:00 - 2:00PM. EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque. Learn to operate real robotic telescopes to take images of objects in space using Microobservatory Robotic telescope Network. Bring cellphone and/or a tablet.</p> |
| <p>March 14th Thursday</p> | <p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM: National Parks & Their Wildlife</p> | <p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM– Wayne Buchholtz will present the details of how the wildlife are best adapted to their habitats in multiple national parks.</p> |
| <p>March 16th Saturday</p> |  <p>DUCK WADDLE</p> | <p>6:00AM. Meet at Banworth and Udelhoven Furniture parking lot, junction of US 61/151 and US 52. We will leave promptly at 6:00AM and drive to Green Island Wildlife Area to observe the spring migration of waterfowl. <i>Dress warmly. It's always cold down there!</i> After our adventure we may have breakfast at the Riverview Café in Bellevue, IA, to compile our list and share stories of bird adventures.</p> |
| <p>March 23rd Saturday</p> | <p>BLUEBIRD WORKSHOP</p> | <p>10:00AM. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Dubuque.</p> |
| <p>March 24th Sunday</p> | <p>BIRD BANDING with David Shealer</p> | <p>1:00 - 2:00PM. EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque. David will capture live birds, weigh, measure and band and release. Gain appreciation of these our avian friends.</p> |
| <p>April 5th Friday</p> | <p>WOODCOCK WALK & OWL PROWL</p> | <p>7:30PM. The woodcock mating ritual is truly a remarkable sight. This small, camouflage, timber nesting bird has a few strange attributes and will amaze hikers with its aerial acrobat moves! Following the woodcock walk, we'll call the owls. Dress for the weather and be prepared to hike 1 mile. Whitewater Canyon is located 5 miles NE of Cascade on Curoe Rd, Bernard.</p> |
| <p>April 11th Thursday</p> | <p>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM</p> | <p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM–</p> |

Dubuque Audubon Society

PO Box 3174

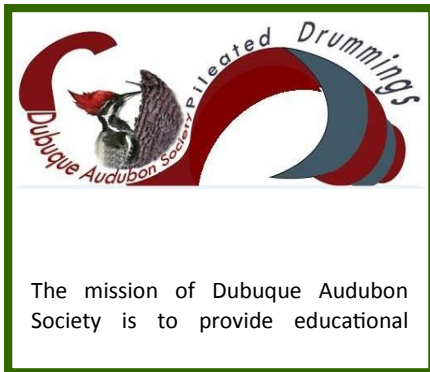
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DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 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 _____

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STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

CODE: CIZH800Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society.

Mail to:

Dubuque Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3174

Dubuque, IA 52004-3174