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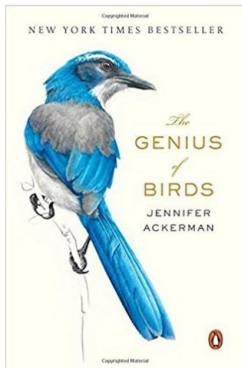
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Joe Tollari

Recently, I finished a book by Jennifer Ackerman entitled **The Genius of Birds**.



Its premise is that birds are incredibly intelligent animals, rivaling the primates and even humans giving new meaning to the term "bird brained." As a science writer,

Ackerman is able to explain complex topics in simple, easily understood, and entertaining terms. She is widely travelled and uses first-hand accounts of the research being conducted in the field of bird intelligence. She discusses intelligence in terms of problem-solving, social cooperation, singing, and migration. The term "intelligence" is better thought of as cognition, the ability to acquire and use information - not the ability to earn a high SAT score.

You may be familiar with the research involving the corvids: crows, ravens, jays and magpies. They seem to be the "Einstein's" of the world. The problem-solving abilities of New Caledonian Crows has been reported in several documentaries, most notably in the PBS

series, **Nature**. These crows have been observed fashioning tools to use in a sequence to obtain food, a process not learned through trial and error. They seem to assess materials in their surroundings, select the best item to use for tools then go about getting the food.

Other behaviors that we might consider to be innate are learned. For instance, it takes a lot of practice to get those mating songs right. Navigation is another complex behavior. Birds seem to rely on spatial memory, the Earth's magnetic field, the stars. They have to integrate all of that information to create a map to get them from one point to another.

Ackerman finishes the book with a chapter on House Sparrows. These birds were introduced to the United States in 1851 when a group of 16 were introduced to help control a moth infestation. The first group did not survive, but a much larger population was introduced the following year. It did not take them long to spread across the continent. The House Sparrow is the most widely distributed wild bird and is found on every continent except Antarctica and on islands everywhere.

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They are masters of adapting to human habitation. Their success seems to be dependent on their ability to adapt to new situations, their willingness to try new food sources, and their social behavior. I curse these birds when they take over my feeders and chase other birds away, but I have a new-found respect for their strong sense of survival. Ackerman produced an interesting book which helps to explain bird behavior.

compiler. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.



Common Redpoll, Susan Drury, Audubon.org

Newsletter



In an effort to streamline our printing process, we'll reduce the number of editions throughout the year. This current edition extends through January. There may be one or two editions for spring and another summer edition to end our year.

E-Newsletter Available

On another note, we encourage subscribers going paperless. We send the color (!) PDF by email – no waiting as it goes through transit! If you're interested, send an email with a request



in the subject line to audubondubuque@gmail.com. We will never share your information. Happy reading!

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. Dress warmly as we may stop and observe from the car or walk some. Participate for part of the day or the whole time. Bring binoculars and a bird book if you have them — along with anything else you need.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with the count compiler (contact Charlie at 563-513-5246). Report results the afternoon of the count.



Christmas Bird Count 2019 by Charlie Winterwood

The 120th Christmas Bird count will be held **Saturday, December 14**. (No snow date yet, though check our website for an update.) We will meet at **8AM** at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center and return at 4:30PM for a chili supper and to tabulate results.

Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

- President:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- V-Pres.:** Ken Kiss
- Secretary:** Wayne Buchholtz
- Treasurer:** Maggie O'Connell; Co-: Stormy Mochal
- At-Large Board Members:**
 - Craig Kruse Terri Stanton Michele Zuercher
 - Allie Schmalz Lalith Jayawickrama
- Field Trips:** Tony Moline
- Membership:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Newsletter:** Michele Zuercher
- Conservation:** Charlie Winterwood 563-588-2783
- Iowa Audubon Liaison:** Joe Tollari 563-583-2077
- Web Master:** Jan Friedman Janfrdmn@gmail.com
- Website:** www.audubondubuque.org
- Email:** audubondubuque@gmail.com



DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2019
through
JANUARY 2020

<p>November 10th Sunday</p>	<p>Bird Feeder Workshop</p>	<p>2:00 PM. Hurstville Interpretive Center, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa. Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instruction for you to build a bird feeder to take home (see example on their website). We'll talk about the different options for bird seed. Cost is \$7. Registration required by November 3—call (563) 652-3783.</p>
<p>November 14th Thursday</p>	<p><i>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM:</i> Alaska Wilderness League</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM – Lois Norrgard from the Alaska Wilderness League will speak on the climate and political threats to the Alaska Wilderness.</p>
<p>November 16th Saturday</p>	<p>Orienteering at Prairie Creek</p>	<p>1:00 PM. Prairie Creek Recreation Area, 1215 E. Summit Street, Maquoketa. Orienteering is navigating with the use of a compass. Come to learn orienteering basics and try it out on a orienteering course! Meet at the Prairie Creek pavilion to then head to the woods. Come dressed for the weather because it might get chilly.</p>
<p>December 12th Thursday</p>	<p><i>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM:</i> Pelagic Birding</p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM – Dubuque Audubon Field Trip Leader, Tony Moline, will discuss and share photographs from his recent pelagic birding trip off the coast of Washington State. Pelagic birding tours offer birders the unique opportunity to observe sea birds that spend most of their lives on the ocean and are seldom seen from land, as well as other ocean life.</p>
<p>December 14th Saturday</p>	<p>Christmas Bird Count 2019</p>	<p>We will meet at 8AM at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center and return at 4:30PM for a chili supper and tabulate results. Participate part or whole time. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. Dress warmly as we may observe from the car or walk some. Check the newsletter article.</p>
<p>December 21st Saturday</p>	<p>Candlelight Night Hike</p>	<p>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta. Come and discover the wonders of the winter nighttime forest on a self led hike through the preserve. The trail will be lit by moonlight and candles. So pull on your winter boots, hats, and gloves and join us!</p>
<p>January 9th 2020 Thursday</p>	<p><i>DUBUQUE AUDUBON PROGRAM:</i></p>	<p>EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque. 5:00PM– Dubuque Audubon Society Board Meeting 6:00PM – Check our website for an update.</p>

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Non-Profit Organization

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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.

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: C1ZH900Z

Mail check payable to Dubuque Audubon Society.

Mail to:

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