



December 2023

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ken Kiss

[Key West Technology Park Update](#)

We were unsuccessful in convincing the city council to set aside part of Technology Park as a grassland preserve. However, the city has agreed to maintain the grassland favorably for migratory birds until development occurs. Several members of the city council expressed gratitude for our efforts to educate the city about migratory birds. We had a meeting with the city staff, and they have agreed to let us place signs to protect and educate about the birds using this area. Our target is to have signs in place in the spring, and we will remove them in late fall. We are particularly interested in maintaining this grassland for the Bobolinks. Thanks to all of you who supported us in this endeavor.

[November Program Recap](#)

Our November program was moved to a Saturday and was well attended. Sonja Hadeheldt with the RARE group (Raptor Advocacy Rehabilitation & Education) brought an American Kestrel, Barred Owl, and Rough-legged Hawk. She discussed how they rescue and educate people about raptors. We had 83 children and adults in attendance.

Look for another Saturday program presentation by the International Crane Foundation in May.

[Bluebird Monitoring at Mines of Spain Results](#)

Lynn Schroeder and I maintained 25 bluebird houses at the Mines of Spain this summer. If anyone is interested in learning about bluebirds and sharing in this monitoring program, let me know.

This year we had 85 eggs, 55 nestlings, and 43 successful fledglings. Another cavity nester that uses these boxes is the Tree Swallow, and we get a lot of House Wrens.

[Redesigned Website](#)

Earlier this month we updated our website. Mary Leigh worked diligently on rewriting our website to make it more user friendly. Let us know what you think.

[Update on Motus Wildlife Tracking System](#)

The Motus System at the Mines of Spain is up and running. It is the state-of-the-art method of tracking migrating birds. So far this fall it has

[Membership Renewal](#)

If you have not renewed your local Audubon membership please do so. You can use the attached form at the end of this newsletter to pay your dues. It would be helpful if you return the form to make sure we have your current address and email. I have noticed that when I send out emails, I get a lot of undeliverable notices.

Note that if you are a national Audubon member, you renew your membership by making a minimum donation of \$20 directly to the national organization on or before your anniversary date. National Audubon members are automatically enrolled as local members and get the Audubon magazine.

Thanks for all your memberships and donations. Dues help support Dubuque Audubon's free public programs, which provide education about birds.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

- President:** *Ken Kiss*
- Vice President:** *Marty Corfman*
- Secretary:** *Andrea Pellerito*
- Treasurer:** *Maggie O'Connell*
- At-Large Board Members:** *Craig Kruse, Lynn Schroeder, Joe Tollari, Bob Walton, Sandy Walton*
- Field Trips:** *Tony Moline*
- Membership:** *Ken Kiss (563-556-0156)*
- Web Admin, Newsletter:** *Mary Leigh*
- Conservation:** *Chuck Isenhardt*
- Iowa Audubon Liaison:** *Bob Walton*

Website: www.audubondubuque.org



Email: audubondubuque@gmail.com

Facebook: [Dubuque Audubon Society](https://www.facebook.com/DubuqueAudubonSociety)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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tracked 6 migratory birds in the area.

I think it would be great if we could tag some Bobolinks from the area to see if any return to the Technology Park grassland.

2023 Christmas Bird Count

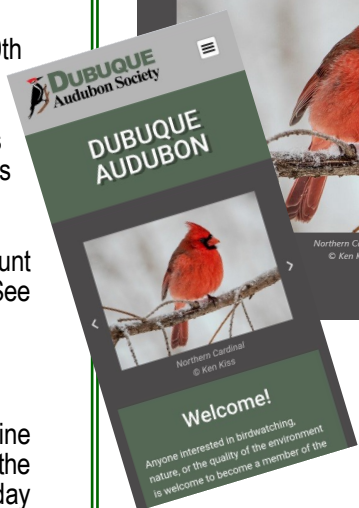
The Christmas Bird count will be held on Dec. 30th this year. You don't need to be an experienced birder to participate. We break up into groups and count bird numbers and species in a 10 mile radius around Dubuque. We will meet at the EB Lyons parking lot at 8 AM.

If you have a bird feeder in our circle, you could count there as well and get your results to Tony Moline. See our website for details.

16th Street Retention Basin Cleanup

Dubuque Audubon field trip director Tony Moline contacted the city and organized a cleanup day at the 16th street retention basin. We had a nice Sunday afternoon in November, and over 20 volunteers worked for two hours to collect a lot of trash that had accumulated in the basin. The retention basin provides a good area for migratory water birds.

REDESIGNED WEBSITE



Check out our redesigned website at [audubondubuque.org!](http://audubondubuque.org)

It has a new look and is now mobile-friendly.



Cleanup at 16th Street Retention Basin (November 19, 2023)



Calendar of Events

Check the [EVENTS](#) page on our website for the latest information and additional details!

<p>December 30, 2023 (Saturday)</p>	<p>Annual Christmas Bird Count</p>	<p>8 AM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Bellevue Heights Road, Dubuque. Join field trip leaders as we split into groups to cover sections of Dubuque to identify and count birds. You may also sign up to participate by feeder-watching from home. See website for details.</p>
<p>January 11, 2024 (Thursday)</p>	<p><i>Dubuque Audubon Program:</i> eBird</p>	<p>6 – 7 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque. David Shealer, professor at Loras College, will give a demonstration on eBird, including some advanced tools. <i>Read about eBird on our website's RESOURCES page.</i></p>
<p>February 8, 2024 (Thursday)</p>	<p><i>Dubuque Audubon Program:</i> Iowa Wildlife Action Plan</p>	<p>6 – 7 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque. Katy Fullin, Iowa DNR Wildlife Action Plan Manager, will speak about the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP).</p>
<p>March 9, 2024 (Saturday)</p>	<p>Annual Duck Waddle</p>	<p>Join us on our annual trip to Green Island to observe migrating waterfowl.</p>
<p>March 2024 (Date TBD)</p>	<p><i>Dubuque Audubon Program:</i> Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge—The First 100 Years</p>	<p>6 – 7 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque. Ed Britton, manager of the Savanna District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, will summarize the history of the refuge, which was created in 1924 and celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2024.</p>
<p>April 11, 2024 (Thursday)</p>	<p><i>Dubuque Audubon Program:</i> Churchill, Manitoba – Past & Present</p>	<p>6 – 7 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque. Dubuque Audubon board members Maggie O’Connell, Bob Walton, and Sandy Walton will speak about their 1986 and 2019 trips to Churchill, Manitoba.</p>
<p>May 11, 2024 (Saturday)</p>	<p>Annual Spring Species Count</p>	<p>Join us for a fun day of birding for as much or as little time as you like, ending with a potluck picnic.</p>
<p>May 18, 2024 (Saturday)</p>	<p><i>Dubuque Audubon Program:</i> Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Wisconsin!</p>	<p>12:30 – 1:30 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque. George Archibald, Co-Founder and Senior Conservationist of the International Crane Foundation and author of <i>My Life with Cranes</i>, will share the amazing story of how Whooping Cranes were reintroduced to Wisconsin. We are very fortunate to have George be the one to share this incredible success story!</p>

Dubuque Audubon Society

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

If you join the National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of your local Audubon Society and do not need to sign up separately.

Joining the National Audubon Society or renewing that membership is done directly through the National Audubon Society. Do NOT use this form for that purpose.

National members will receive the award-winning *Audubon* magazine. We recommend noting the month you join, so that you will not be confused by early renewal reminders. The minimum donation to qualify for national membership is \$20 per year.

DUBUQUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

If you wish to join or renew membership in the Dubuque Audubon Society *without* joining the National Audubon Society, then please fill out this form. Local chapter dues are \$10 per year, and dues remain with the local chapter. Our membership year runs from July to June.

Members will receive our local chapter newsletter, *Pileated Drummings*.

Name: _____

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Make check payable to "Dubuque Audubon Society" and mail to:

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