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White-eyed Vireo
Mines of Spain SRA
© Marty Corfman

President's Corner

BY MARTY CORFMAN

I hope everyone enjoyed the early sightings of the regular migrants this spring! Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern House Wren (new name—they split the species of House Wren into 7 species, as Mary wrote in our winter newsletter), all arrived at least two weeks early. Many less likely suspects also made appearances, such as American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, White-faced Ibis, and even Glossy Ibis.

Progress Report

The Dubuque Audubon Society has been going through a metaphorical “spring renewal” ourselves! Your board has been hard at work over the past year or more on many things that have needed updating and energizing:

- You may have noticed the ongoing updated content, blog posts, links to news of interest, and events on our website.
- Our Facebook page has grown since we had to start a new page last year. We're now at 194 followers; we hope you're one of them!
- We've formed a temporary committee for updating our bylaws. We've canvassed other Audubon chapters for guidance and content recommendations. Once the board approves them, stay tuned for a member meeting to vote them into life (sure to be a most exciting meeting 😊!).
- We've been gaining some new attendees at our programs, which is wonderful to see. We're trying to publicize our events in a timely and wide-spread

manner. If you know a publication you think would be interested in receiving our press releases, let me know!

- We've succeeded at putting out a quarterly newsletter for the first time in the last five years, and we're on track to repeat for 2025.
- We've upped our game on membership tracking and now use that information to provide both national and local membership expiration dates on printed newsletter mailing labels. Our local memberships now run one year from sign-up, as do national memberships.

2025-2026 Program Ideas—Help!

We had some fantastic programs for 2024-2025, didn't we? I don't know about you, but I learned so much from each of our speakers. Now, we've tasked our Program Committee with topping that—good luck! So, I'm certain that Bob and Sandy Walton, who head that committee, would appreciate your suggestions for upcoming programs/speakers. Ideas can include bird-specific subjects but may be more about nature in general, conservation efforts, historical connections, photography, etc. Keep in mind our mission, and please send your ideas our way!

The mission of the 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.

Thanks for being a part of this wonderful group.

Please reach out with your suggestions!

DAS Officers

President	Marty Corfman
Vice President	Ken Kiss
Treasurer	Maggie O'Connell
Secretary	Andrea Pellerito

DAS Board Members

Chuck Isenhardt, Mary Leigh (Web Admin), Tony Moline, Lori Ollendick, Joe Tollari, Bob Walton (Iowa Audubon Liaison), Sandy Walton, Kari Zelinskas

DAS Committee Chairs

Membership	Mary Leigh
Program	Bob & Sandy Walton
Field Trip/Volunteer Opportunities	Tony Moline
Conservation	Chuck Isenhardt
Publicity	Marty Corfman
Newsletter	M Corfman, M Leigh
Technology	Lori Ollendick

Website audubondubuque.org



Email contact@audubondubuque.org
Facebook [Dubuque Audubon Society](https://www.facebook.com/DubuqueAudubonSociety)
YouTube [Dubuque Audubon](https://www.youtube.com/DubuqueAudubon)

Q&A: Feeding Bread

Question: Is it OK to feed bread to birds?

Answer: No! Please help us spread the word that birds should not be fed bread, popcorn, crackers, chips, cereal, and most processed foods. Bread leads to malnutrition, and stale bread with mold can cause illness. Feeding bread to waterfowl like ducks and geese can cause a condition called angel wing, where wings twist and deform because a diet of bread causes feathers to grow faster than bone structure, making them unable to fly. Uneaten bread left on the ground or floating in rivers and ponds can also be problematic for the ecosystem.



2025 Annual Spring Species Count

BY TONY MOLINE

On Saturday, May 10, 28 Dubuque Audubon members and guests participated in the Annual Spring Bird Count. This year's count coincided with World Migratory Bird day and the Global Big Day.

Sites surveyed by 3 groups included Mines of Spain SRA, Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Eagle Point Park, Deere Dike, and Green Island Wildlife Area.

A whopping 145 species were recorded by the observers. Highlights included 21 warbler species, all vireo species including White-Eyed (uncommon in Dubuque County), and all 7 woodpecker species. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the day was the discovery of fresh American Black Bear scat!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Canada Goose | 38. Great Blue Heron | 76. Cliff Swallow | 115. Common Grackle |
| 2. Trumpeter Swan | 39. American White Pelican | 77. Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 116. Louisiana Waterthrush |
| 3. Wood Duck | 40. Turkey Vulture | 78. White-breasted Nuthatch | 117. Northern Waterthrush |
| 4. Blue-winged Teal | 41. Northern Harrier | 79. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 118. Golden-winged Warbler |
| 5. Northern Shoveler | 42. Bald Eagle | 80. Northern House Wren | 119. Blue-winged Warbler |
| 6. Gadwall | 43. Red-tailed Hawk | 81. Sedge Wren | 120. Black-and-white Warbler |
| 7. Mallard | 44. Belted Kingfisher | 82. Marsh Wren | 121. Prothonotary Warbler |
| 8. Green-winged Teal | 45. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 83. Carolina Wren | 122. Tennessee Warbler |
| 9. Hooded Merganser | 46. Red-headed Woodpecker | 84. European Starling | 123. Nashville Warbler |
| 10. Wild Turkey | 47. Red-bellied Woodpecker | 85. Gray Catbird | 124. Common Yellowthroat |
| 11. Ring-necked Pheasant | 48. Downy Woodpecker | 86. Brown Thrasher | 125. American Redstart |
| 12. Rock Pigeon | 49. Hairy Woodpecker | 87. Eastern Bluebird | 126. Cerulean Warbler |
| 13. Eurasian Collared-Dove | 50. Pileated Woodpecker | 88. Veery | 127. Northern Parula |
| 14. Mourning Dove | 51. Northern Flicker | 89. Swainson's Thrush | 128. Magnolia Warbler |
| 15. Chimney Swift | 52. American Kestrel | 90. Wood Thrush | 129. Bay-breasted Warbler |
| 16. Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 53. Peregrine Falcon | 91. American Robin | 130. Blackburnian Warbler |
| 17. Sora | 54. Olive-sided Flycatcher | 92. Cedar Waxwing | 131. Yellow Warbler |
| 18. Common Gallinule | 55. Eastern Wood-Pewee | 93. House Sparrow | 132. Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 19. American Coot | 56. Eastern Phoebe | 94. Eurasian Tree Sparrow | 133. Blackpoll Warbler |
| 20. Sandhill Crane | 57. Great Crested Flycatcher | 95. House Finch | 134. Palm Warbler |
| 21. Black-necked Stilt | 58. Eastern Kingbird | 96. American Goldfinch | 135. Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| 22. Killdeer | 59. White-eyed Vireo | 97. Chipping Sparrow | 136. Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 23. Semipalmated Plover | 60. Bell's Vireo | 98. Field Sparrow | 137. Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 24. Short-billed Dowitcher | 61. Yellow-throated Vireo | 99. White-crowned Sparrow | 138. Wilson's Warbler |
| 25. Spotted Sandpiper | 62. Blue-headed Vireo | 100. White-throated Sparrow | 139. Scarlet Tanager |
| 26. Solitary Sandpiper | 63. Philadelphia Vireo | 101. Savannah Sparrow | 140. Northern Cardinal |
| 27. Lesser Yellowlegs | 64. Warbling Vireo | 102. Henslow's Sparrow | 141. Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 28. Greater Yellowlegs | 65. Red-eyed Vireo | 103. Song Sparrow | 142. Indigo Bunting |
| 29. Dunlin | 66. Blue Jay | 104. Lincoln's Sparrow | |
| 30. Least Sandpiper | 67. American Crow | 105. Swamp Sparrow | |
| 31. Pectoral Sandpiper | 68. Black-capped Chickadee | 106. Eastern Towhee | |
| 32. Ring-billed Gull | 69. Tufted Titmouse | 107. Bobolink | |
| 33. Caspian Tern | 70. Horned Lark | 108. Eastern Meadowlark | |
| 34. Pied-billed Grebe | 71. Bank Swallow | 109. Orchard Oriole | |
| 35. Double-crested Cormorant | 72. Tree Swallow | 110. Baltimore Oriole | |
| 36. Green Heron | 73. Purple Martin | 111. Red-winged Blackbird | |
| 37. Great Egret | 74. Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 112. Brown-headed Cowbird | |
| | 75. Barn Swallow | 113. Rusty Blackbird | |
| | | 114. Brewer's Blackbird | |



See more photos on our [blog post](#).

Red Knot

BY TONY MOLINE

On Wednesday, May 28, 2 Red Knots were observed at Deere Dike in Dubuque. These represent the first official record of this species in the county. (In May of last year the MOTUS at Mines of Spain detected a tagged bird, but MOTUS range includes Illinois.) This stocky medium-sized shorebird that sports a red-brown face, chest, and belly during the breeding season, is more typically found along coastal areas during migration, with a few using the Great Lakes as a layover. This species rarity status is considered "casual" in Iowa (recorded 5-8 of the last 10 years).



Low river levels have resulted in excellent shorebird habitat along Riverside Rd. for spring migration this year.

What about the other 3? Well, we somehow lost the list from the picnic, but we were able to recreate most of it from the eBird and paper checklists we could find. It's close!

Recent Sightings at Deere Dike Park (John Deere Marsh) & Riverside Rd.

© Mary Leigh



Common Nighthawk



Sandhill Crane



White-faced Ibis



Black-necked Stilt

Leave wildlife babies where they belong --- In the wild

Reprinted with permission from: [Iowa Department of Natural Resources - May 7, 2025 News Release](#)

It's as predictable as May flowers - from border to border, the Wildlife Baby Season has arrived in Iowa. From now until at least mid-June, DNR field offices across the state will be inundated with hundreds of phone calls and scores of deliveries regarding "orphaned wildlife."

Most calls begin with something like, "We were walking in the park when . . .," or "I looked out my window and saw. . ." In nearly every instance, the scenario ends with something [or several somethings] being rescued from their mother.

During a typical season, the species people call about will range all the way from baby robins and squirrels to spindly-legged white-tailed fawns. At this time of the year it is not at all uncommon for biologists to discover that complete litters of baby raccoons, foxes, or even skunks have mysteriously appeared on their doorsteps.

Why this happens is no real mystery. From fuzzy yellow ducklings to tiny baby bunnies, nothing appears more cute and cuddly than a wildlife baby. But in reality, most of the wildlife reported to DNR field offices are not really orphaned at all. And while the people who attempt to "rescue" these babies have the best of intentions, they are in fact dooming the very creatures they intend to help.

The babies of most wildlife species leave their nests or dens well in advance of being able to care for themselves. Although broods or litters may become widely scattered during this fledgling period, they still remain under the direct care and feeding of their parents.

For many songbirds, the transition to independence comes quickly and may take as little as four or five days. For other species such as Canada geese, kestrels, or great horned owls, the young and parents may stay in contact for weeks -- even months.

At the beginning of the fledgling period, young birds appear clumsy, dull-witted, and vulnerable. The reason for this is because they really are clumsy, dull-witted, and vulnerable. But as the education process continues, the survivors smarten up fast, while slow learners quickly fade from the scene. Most birds have less than a 20 percent chance of surviving their first year. While this seems unfortunate or cruel, this is a normal occurrence in nature. In the real out-of-doors, it's just the way things are.

Most mammals employ a slightly different strategy when it comes to caring for their adolescents. Since most mammals are largely nocturnal, the mother usually finds a safe daytime hideout for her young while she sleeps or looks for food. Consequently, it is

perfectly normal for the young to be alone or unattended during the daylight hours.

Nevertheless, whenever a newborn fawn or a nest full of baby cottontails or raccoons is discovered by a human, it quite often is assumed that the animals are orphaned. The youngster's fate is usually sealed when it is promptly "rescued from the wild."

Many wildlife babies die soon after capture from the stress of being handled, talked to, and placed into the unfamiliar surroundings of a slick sided cardboard box. Should the animal have the misfortune of surviving this trauma, they often succumb more slowly to starvation from improper nourishment, pneumonia, or other human caused sicknesses.

Whether they are adults or young, all species of wildlife have highly specific needs for survival. "Rescuing a baby from its mother" not only shows bad judgment, it also is illegal.

Observing wildlife in its natural habitat is always a unique privilege. Taking a good photo or two provides an even more lasting memory. But once you've done that, let well enough alone. Leave wildlife babies where they belong -- in the wild.

A list of wildlife rehabilitators is available online at iowadnr.gov/programs-services/wildlife-rehabilitation.



"More Birding" Email Sign-up

As an experiment in 2025, we are creating a separate email list for those who would like more group birding opportunities.

See the [sign-up](#) link on our website HOME or JOIN pages to read more.

Membership Options Clarified

We've recently updated the [JOIN](#) page on our website to further clarify membership options: national with local included, local only, or joining both separately (to financially benefit the local chapter annually).

For *new* national memberships, we have a button for joining, and we're happy to share that we've received notice of our first incentive payment because a new national member joined via that website button!

We also updated the local membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Google Workspace for Nonprofits

We are pleased to share that we were approved for Google Workspace for Nonprofits, which provides us with a variety of free services, including centralized file storage on shared drives.

We are especially glad to start using professional email addresses which match our website (AudubonDubuque.org), rather than using gmail addresses:

- Our email broadcasts will now be sent from Communications@AudubonDubuque.org, so you might want to add this new address to your contact list.
- Our contact email has changed to Contact@AudubonDubuque.org.
- The More Birding email group will begin receiving email from MoreBirding@AudubonDubuque.org.
- To contact our chapter president, use President@AudubonDubuque.org.

To ensure a smooth transition, our old gmail addresses are auto-forwarding to the appropriate new addresses.

Dubuque Audubon Society

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Dubuque IA 52004-3174

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Permit # 459

If you're not on our email list, you might want to be added. Share your email to receive timely notifications of our monthly programs (September - May), field trips, and other items of interest. We aim not to send too many emails!

Due to a glitch with the address label printing on the last newsletter, membership information was omitted, but it should be restored with this mailing.



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.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Our chapter offers a local membership via a National Audubon Society membership, as well as a local-only membership.

Some people opt to join both ways, in order to financially benefit the local chapter, even though a national membership includes local membership.

If you wish to join the National Audubon Society with Dubuque Audubon as your local chapter, please do so through our website at audubondubuque.org/join. (We receive a one-time payment for every new national membership form submitted through our website. Renewals are handled directly with the National Audubon Society.)

The cost for an annual national membership is a \$20 minimum annual donation, which is for a family or an individual, although a higher value may be suggested on the national website.

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. It may take 2-9 weeks for us to be notified, so if you want to be added to our local list sooner, please email Membership@AudubonDubuque.org to let us know!



LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

Do NOT use this form for joining or renewing at the national level.

If you wish to join or renew membership in the Dubuque Audubon Society, then please fill out this form. Local membership outside of a national membership requires a \$10 minimum annual donation, which is for a family or an individual. Membership expires one year from your sign-up.

Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

** If you provide your email address, you'll receive our quarterly newsletter, notifications of upcoming programs & field trips, & occasional emails about other topics of potential interest.*

Our newsletters are available on our website and have the advantage of being in color, and you can click on links where applicable. With membership, you have the option to request a mailed black-and-white copy:

☐

Check the box to request a black-and-white printed newsletter by postal mail.

Make check payable to "Dubuque Audubon Society" and mail to: Dubuque Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3174, Dubuque, IA 52004-3174