



Nelson's Sparrow  
by Sandy Hokanson

## Calendar of events:

### Monthly Bird Walks at Quarry Hill

**Oct. 1, Nov. 5, & Dec. 3.** Meet at 9 am at the Quarry Hill Nature Center and join us on a casual walk thru the park. Walks usually last about one hour. Free and open to the public - no registration required. Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier

### October 1 - Fall Sparrow Field Trip

7:30 - 9 am - Kalmar Reservoir / Leaders Jerry Pruett & John Hockema

Now is a great time to look for migrating sparrows. We should see White-crowned, Lincolns, White-throated, Savannah, Vesper sparrows and more. We'll meet in the parking lot on the east side of the Kalmar Reservoir (East Landfill Reservoir) just off of 19 ST NW and Valleyview CT. about 2 miles west of the Rochester Athletic Club. Bring waterproof footwear as the grass will probably be quite wet.

### October 25 - Monthly Meeting - Here Today...Gone Tomorrow?

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center / Presented by Monica Bryand

In Minnesota we have 166 climate threatened or climate endangered species, including the Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, Common Loon, Bald Eagle and many others. **Monica Bryand**, is working on a special Audubon project to capture through photos, all 166 of these endangered species. Come hear about this project and what is happening nationally and locally to save our environment and our birds.



Trumpeter Swans by Monica Bryand

### November 6 - Tundra Swan Field trip

8 am - early afternoon / Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier

Meet at the east side parking lot of Heintz Center at 8 am to car pool. Trip will return early afternoon. Bring your own lunch or eat at a Subway sandwich shop before returning to Rochester. Dress for the weather !!!!! We will travel thru La Crescent and down the Mississippi to Brownsville to hopefully see thousands of Tundra Swans and other waterfowl.



### Local Color

Winter's stark color palette is coming - but before we must endure month's of white, gray and brown we can revel in the gorgeous display of fall colors.

Now is the time for crisp weather walks through our neighborhoods and local parks. With gas prices so low, a leisurely drive in the countryside also does wonders for our souls.

So bundle up, get outside and enjoy every minute of autumn!

**"It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon."**

— Sarah Addison Allen, *First Frost*

**"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."**

— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

## Calendar of events continued...

### November 22 - Monthly Meeting - Red-headed Woodpeckers

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center / Presented by Gene Merriam

These beautiful birds were once common but have declined dramatically in recent years. Learn about the efforts being made to create nesting habitat and why it's important to save those snags!



Red-headed Woodpecker by Brendan Lanpher

### December 17 - Christmas Bird Count

Each year teams of interested birdwatchers search designated sections of the Rochester area to see what birds can be found. We'll meet at **7:15am at the west Silver Lake parking lot** (near the former fire station), then take a break from noon - 1pm at Quarry Hill Nature Center for a quick lunch and tally. More counting is done in the afternoon with a final tally held at 4:45 at Quarry Hill. You're invited to participate with one of our teams for part, or all of the day's count. Be prepared for the weather, bring your own binoculars,

lunch and beverages.

For more information about this event call Clifford Hansen at 507-281-0249.



Lapland Longspur by Dan Tallman

Be sure to visit [ZumbroValleyAudubon.org](http://ZumbroValleyAudubon.org) to confirm events and check for changes or new listings.



"Drift - 3 Juncos" is an illustration by Sandy Hokanson

### Dark-eyed Juncos

Some people call them snow birds because when they arrive in late fall you know winter isn't far behind.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology describes Dark-eyed Juncos as neat, even flashy, little sparrows that flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of North America (including Minnesota) for winter.

They're easy to recognize by their crisp markings and the bright white tail feathers they habitually flash in flight. One of the most abundant forest birds of North America, you'll see Juncos on woodland walks as well as in flocks at your feeders or on the ground beneath them.



Dark-eyed Junco by Sandy Hokanson

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