



Red Bellied Woodpecker
by Brendan Lanpher

Calendar of events:

Monthly Bird Walks at Quarry Hill

Jan. 5, Feb. 2, & Mar. 2. 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

January 22 - Monthly Meeting: Fillmore County, MN: Land of 10,000 Sinkholes

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center / Presented by E. Calvin Alexander, Jr. / Morse-Alumni Professor Emeritus Earth Sciences Department U of M

Ever wondered what's going on beneath your feet, or why there aren't any lakes in southeast Minnesota? Calvin knows and he'll be telling us about how his fascination with caves as a young man led to a major research interest in sinkholes, caves, karst hydrogeology, and how humans interact with these systems.

February 26 - Monthly Meeting: How Charismatic Cranes Inspire Peace & Harmony

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center / Presented by Andy Bingle / International Crane Foundation

Cranes are symbols of peace yet populations are declining. Andy will talk about the roll the International Crane Foundation plays in bringing together partners from around the world to better the areas where cranes and humans inhabit. He'll also discuss our two North American Cranes, the abundant Sandhill and not so abundant Whooping Crane.



Black Crowned Crane photo by K.S. Gopi Sundar

March 26 - Monthly Meeting - TBA

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center

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January 1 - Whitewater Annual Christmas Bird Count

You can participate in the 23rd Annual Whitewater River Valley Christmas Bird Count. Teams will explore the area on foot and/or by car to document wintering birds. Anyone with an interest in birds, regardless of birding experience, is invited to participate. Meet at the Visitor Center in Whitewater State Park starting at 8 am. The feeders at the visitor center will be full of seeds and birds. To sign up, email sara.holger@state.mn.us or call 507-932-3007 x 226

March 1-3 - International Owl Festival

In Houston, MN
Each year ZVAS participates in this fun event that takes place at the high school in Houston, MN. Activities include speakers from around the globe who talk about the latest in Owl research, live owl demonstrations that wow the audience, raffles, owl pellet dissections, owl-themed food and merchandise, a photo contest, and more. Definitely worth the drive!



Great Horned Owl