



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Vol. 38 No. 4 Rochester, MN

Feb / Mar 2014

Upcoming Audubon Programs at Quarry Hill Nature Center, 7 PM

Feb 25, Tues – 1001 Birding Tips

Sharon Stiteler *aka* The Bird Chick, will discuss her new book 1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know: Tips and Trivia for the Backyard and Beyond.

Bird watching is one of the most popular hobbies in America, and hers is the first photographic guide and fact book written in a humorous conversational tone that appeals to every age and skill level.

This accessible guide includes fun facts, and will expose many birding myths: a bald eagle cannot carry off a four-month old baby, and crows do not go sledding for fun. Other useful information includes identification tips, migration patterns, and where the best birding vacation spots are.

Come and join us for an entertaining and informative evening.

We are very grateful to Wild Birds Unlimited for co-sponsoring this program!



Photo credit: birdandblooms.com

Mar 25, Tues - Birding in Borneo



White throated kingfisher, photo courtesy Jerry Pruett

Why go to Borneo? Jerry Pruett, one of our most ardent local birding enthusiasts will entertain and enlighten us with stories and pictures of his most recent international birdwatching excursion.

Jerry spent two weeks exploring and searching the jungles of Borneo (an island in Southeast Asia) for as many exotic birds as he could find. He will also tell of his added trip to Thailand searching for the rare Spoonbill Sandpiper.

Get out of the cold and snow—join us for a virtual trip to a warm, exotic locale and see some spectacular birds!

ZVAS Officers

President Jim Peterson
 Vice Pres. Ruth Johnson
 Secretary Cliff Hansen
 Treasurer Joyce Grier

Board Members

Bill Bruins
 Joel Dunnette
 Alice Laudon
 Dave Moehnke
 Carrie Nelson
 Lance Vrieze
 Ruthann Yaeger

Minnesota Birding Information:

www.birding-minnesota.com

About Our Organization

ZVAS meets at Quarry Hill Nature Center every 4th Tuesday of the month. Socializing starts at 6:45 pm followed by a program at 7:00. Everyone is welcome.

This Newsletter is published from Sept through May. Copy deadline is the 1st Tuesday of the month of publication. All submissions are subject to editing or revision.

Send as documents to yegrnaturenut@gmail.com. or typed to: Ruthann Yaeger, c/o ZVAS, PO Box 6244, Rochester, MN 55903-6244

Please do not send items in PDF format

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Feb 1, Sat – The Junco Bird Walk**

Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM Led by Alice Laudon

Feb 14—17 – Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) Go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html for all the information you need. It's great fun, you can do it from home and it contributes to helping birds. Try it!

Mar 1, Sat – The Woodpecker Bird Walk

Quarry Hill Nature Center, 9 AM Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

April 5, Sat – The Robin Bird Walk

Quarry Hill Nature Center, 9 AM Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

Results for 2013 Rochester CBC

by Clifford Hansen

The Rochester Christmas bird count was held on Saturday December 14. 29 people turned out to drive and hike sections of the count circle, and reports were submitted for nine feeders. 52 species were found on the day of the count, and three additional species found within three days of the count were reported as "count week" birds.

The most unusual species were a greater white-fronted goose and a pair of rusty blackbirds spotted on the count day, and a brown thrasher found the day after. Ronald Johannsen listed a pair of fly-over swans on his feeder report. No pine siskins or red-breasted nuthatches were reported, which is unusual.

Most water was frozen, and that limited the variety of waterfowl. There was light snow in the morning, and it was cold (2 to 15 degrees F) but not bitterly cold.

Many thanks to Quarry Hill Nature Center for use of their building on the count day, to Kirk Payne for bringing a wonderful potato soup to the final potluck meal, and of course, to all participants!

You can always donate to ZVAS at:



Visit us at: www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org or Like us on Facebook

Please Help Your Chapter - Choose Email Delivery!

E-mail delivery saves our precious resources, allows ZVAS to put more of your donations toward programs *and* gives you a full-color newsletter. If you wish to receive our newsletter by email, please send your name and email address to: wmb Bruins@gmail.com, with the subject line: ZVAS.

We promise not to share your e-mail address without your consent, and to send you only rare, but important notes relevant to our chapter happenings.

Thank you!

2014 Fund Appeal*by O. William Bruins*

First, I want to thank Grant W Volkman, Alan C Dewey, Alice Laudon, Brian T Purrington, Joel H. Dunnette and Larry W Mortensen for their generous contributions to Zumbro Valley Audubon on Give to the Max Day 2013 last November.

Second, I point out to the envelope included with your newsletter or in the case of electronic delivery a donation form.

Roughly half of the money we need to operate annually comes from your donations and only one-fifth comes from a portion of the dues paid to national Audubon.

Our two biggest expenses are the printing and mailing the newsletter and programs (room rent and speaker fees).

Other activities during the year past included taking our display (either landscaping for wildlife or neighborhood birds) to eleven events where we had contact with 500 adults and 250 children.

Several members led and participated in developing the first natural area management plan for a Rochester city park. Our efforts are helping people create more habitat in their own yards and parks.

We worked with a property owner, the town of Preston, Audubon MN, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to repair and preserve a large chimney that we had documented as hosting as many as 1000 Chimney Swifts during migration in August. Also we constructed a combination informational kiosk and chimney swift breeding tower in Preston.

So every February we ask for YOUR support. Please use the envelope, or the electronic form to send us a donation. Or, if you are an internet user, go to GiveMN.org, seek out Zumbro Valley Audubon and donate that way.

ZVAS Treasurer's report*by Joyce Grier*

The fiscal year for Zumbro Valley Audubon Society ended on April 30th, 2013. We ended the year with a positive balance – barely.

Expenses

Printing cost for newsletter	\$1,683.00
Postage	431.97
Bulk mail permit	190.00
Speaker fees	670.00
Room rental at QHNC	500.00
Owl Festival sponsorship	50.00
MOU affiliation fee	25.00
Donation to Minnesota Audubon	200.00
Preston Chimney Swift display	960.00
Liability Insurance	290.00
Post Office Box	78.00
Display materials	196.23
Mileage charge for Bird Banding	270.00

Total expenses: \$5,559.20

Income:

Money from National Audubon	\$1,065.00
Interest from checking account and CD's	66.75
Fund Drive	2,666.46
IBM matching grant	137.50
Advertising in newsletter	198.00
Grants: Preston Chimney Swift Demo Tower:	
National Audubon	500.00
Preston Foundation	1,000.00

Total income: \$5,633.71

Operating balance for the year \$74.51

While we have \$6413.20 in Certificate of Deposits, they are only available at maturity. Over the years we have had to occasionally dip into the CD's to cover our operating expenses. Our fixed expenses (newsletter, postage, speaker fees, room rental, PO Box, bulk mail permit and liability insurance) have been steadily rising every year. Many dedicated volunteers spend vast amounts of time keeping this organization alive. From serving on the board of directors, leading field trips to manning educational displays at various events, none of it would happen without your financial support. If you value our mission of educating ourselves and the public about the importance of birds and the natural environment that they need to survive please give generously during our Fund Appeal Drive (see attached envelope).

Wild Birds Unlimited®

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Nature Gifts & Expert Advice**

Miracle Mile Center
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Rochester, MN
(507) 292-9266

Stop in and check out all our new items!
Saving the world, one backyard at a time

Our Mission

To bring environmental awareness, appreciation and advocacy to the community by:

- supporting environmental education of our youth.
- developing an appreciation and awareness by the public of the natural world.
- advocating efforts of individuals and community leaders to pursue environmentally positive activities and policies.
- encouraging members to participate in decision-making processes concerning environmental issues.

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application
(Not for renewal)

Yes, I'd like to join!

My check for \$20 is enclosed. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and Zumbro Valley Audubon Society. Please send Audubon Magazine, the ZVAS Newsletter, and my membership card right away to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

C/S/Z: _____

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society.

Send to:

National Audubon Society
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Zumbro Valley Audubon Society's
chapter code: COZM140Z

National Audubon CBC statistics

The statistics aren't yet available for December's Christmas Bird Count, but here are 2012-13's numbers for the entire count:

113th Christmas Bird Count
Number of Observers: 71,531
Number of Count Circles: 2,369
Number of birds counted: 64,133,843
Number of species counted: 2,296

Please review Rochester ZVAS results for this year's count on page 2.

Collins Feed & Seed Center

The cold weather has our feathered friends feeding heavily to keep up their body fat.

You can help by providing tasty treats at your feeder.

For the best in bird seed quality and selection, check us out!

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