



Zumbro Valley Audubon



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Vol. 39 No. 4 Rochester, MN

Jan / Feb / Mar 2015

Upcoming Audubon Programs Tuesdays, 7 PM, Quarry Hill Nature Center

Jan 27 - Prairie Restoration



Photo credit: prairiegardentrust.org

Scott Leddy from Meadowlark Restorations will discuss what it takes to restore our last natural areas to their pre-European settlement conditions. Meadowlark is a non-profit organization working to restore, document, educate the public, and preserve the last remaining natural areas in Southeast Minnesota's Paleozoic Plateau.

He will show us what's involved in restoring degraded areas to beautiful productive native prairie, with abundant flowers, birds and butterflies.

Our native pollinators need all the help we can give them! Come and hear how it's accomplished, whether in a small area or a large pasture.

Feb 24 - Grasshopper Sparrows in Decline

Lisa Harn, Graduate Research Asst. in the Univ. of MN Conservation Biology Program will show us why native grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America. The Minnesota Grasshopper Sparrow population has declined by 6.8% annually from 1966 to 2010, according to Breeding Bird Survey data. As a result, the sparrow has been identified as a species in need of conservation.

Ms. Harn's work focuses on identifying priority areas for Grasshopper Sparrows, to aid in their conservation, then determining if they can be used as an indicator species for either the health of prairie ecosystems or the presence of other grassland birds.

Photo credit: minnesotabirder.com



It's That Time of Year! *By Bill Bruins*

Zumbro Valley Audubon is a volunteer organization. There is no paid staff. The officers and board members give freely of their time and talents to bring you the monthly programs and field trips. The newsletter editor spends several hours preparing each newsletter. Volunteers make sure it gets mailed or e-mailed to you. The treasurer keeps the books and others do publicity. Another volunteer manages the annual fund appeal. A small group of volunteers coordinates the Christmas Bird Count and others spend hours teaching kids, answering questions about birds or talking about our activities at various events.

All that adds up to almost 1500 hours of volunteering to bring you programs such as "OWLS" presented by Karla Bloem, executive Director of the International Owl Center or "Our Birds, Our Climate, Our Choices" the Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report. We take our displays and handouts to various venues around the area to connect people with nature.

Why am I going on about volunteers? One way to "volunteer" is to volunteer some money by using the envelope attached to this newsletter or mailing the form included with your e-mail. So please, everyone volunteer a little of your time and money. Put something in an envelope and stick a stamp on it, then drop it in the mail.

Most of the money for our budget comes from donations. Only a small amount, less than 20%, comes to us from dues sent to National Audubon. Programs, displays, handouts, newsletters and other items take money so we come to you to help support the volunteer activities of Zumbro Valley Audubon.

I'll say thanks in advance now and will acknowledge our supporters in a future newsletter if they so desire.

P.S. Some employers match donations. This is a great way to give twice as much! Every little bit helps.

ZVAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS JAN / FEB 2015

Jan 17, Sat 2015 – Golden Eagle Survey

The Wintering Golden Eagle Survey of the Bluffs and Coulee Region of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, the National Eagle Center will be Saturday, January 17th. The National Eagle Center will hold several golden eagle training sessions before the count to help people gain ID skills for the count. People who have questions on the count, want to participate in the count or want to find out more about the field trips can contact Scott Mehus.

E-mail - scott@nationaleaglecenter.org or visit the web site at nationaleaglecenter.org

Jan 27, Tues -The Latest on Prairie Restoration Quarry Hill Nature Center, 7 PM - See page 1

February 7, Saturday – The Junco Bird Walk Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM
Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

February 24, Tuesday ‘Grasshopper Sparrows in Decline’ 7 PM Quarry Hill - See page 1

March 7, Sat – The Woodpecker Bird Walk Quarry Hill Nature Center, 9 AM
Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

March 24, Tues – Olmsted County’s Best Kept Secret 7 PM Quarry Hill Nature Center
What is one of the best kept secrets in Southeast Minnesota? Come and find out!

We May Need to Move to Email Only Delivery soon!

Due to the increasing cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter, ZVAS needs to seriously consider becoming an electronic only newsletter. You will be able to receive the newsletter directly by email, or access it later on our website. This will allow ZVAS to put more local articles of interest in the newsletter and send program reminders (if you request them). Another benefit is that more of your donations will go toward high quality programs. *And you will receive the newsletter in full-color.*

Until then, we will limit our newsletter to bimonthly notices of programs and field trips to cut costs.

If you wish to sign up for the email newsletter, please send your name and email address to: wmbruins@gmail.com, with the subject line: ZVAS.

Conversely, if you do not use email but wish to continue to receive the newsletter, let us know by calling Bill Bruins at 281-1607.

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 activities.

Thank you!

You can always donate to ZVAS at:  **giveMN.org**

Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

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

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.

ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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ROCHESTER, MN 55903-6244

Nonprofit Organization
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To donate to the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society (ZVAS), please complete this form and mail it with your check (made payable to ZVAS) to:

Zumbro Valley Audubon Society
PO Box 6244
Rochester, MN 55903-6244

Gift Amount: \$500 ____ \$250 ____ \$100 ____ \$50 ____ \$25 ____ Other: \$ ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (day): _____

E-mail: _____
(We do not sell or share mail or e-mail addresses with anyone.)

I want to support ZVAS. (If applicable, I have attached my employer's matching gift form).

Please designate my tax-deductible gift to be used to support:

- ZVAS Programs
- General Fund
- Greatest Need
- _____

I would like to make a donation in honor or memory of someone special.

This is a gift ____ in memory ____ in honor:

Name: _____

Would you like us to notify anyone of your gift? If so, please supply their name and address:

Zumbro Valley Audubon Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is 100% deductible.

Thank you for supporting Zumbro Valley Audubon Society!

www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org