



Northern Cardinal
by Sandy Hokanson

Calendar of events:

Monthly Bird Walks at Quarry Hill

Jan. 7, Feb. 4, & Mar. 4. 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 21 - Annual Golden Eagle Survey

sponsored by the National Eagle Center

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 16. The National Eagle Center will hold several training sessions before the count to help people gain id skills for the count. People who have questions about 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

January 24 - Monthly Meeting: Cougars - Are You Ready For Some New Neighbors

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center / Presented by Michelle LaRue

Mountain lions, cougars, pumas, catamounts; whatever you call them, they are now being seen again in Minnesota. Can we live together? Dr. Michelle LaRue, a Research Associate with the University of Minnesota and Executive Director of the Cougar Network, will talk to us about cougar range expansion in the United States and what that means for our ecosystems and the communities who have been living without cougars for more than 100 years.

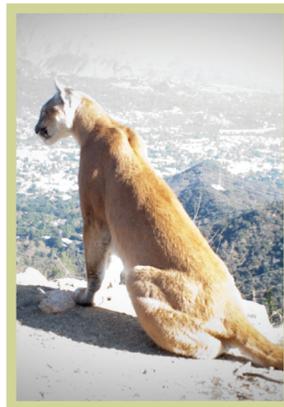


Photo by Johanna Turner

February 28 - Monthly Meeting: TBA

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center / Presented by Anna Richey



March 3-5 - International Owl Festival

In Houston, MN

A simple "hatch-day" party to celebrate the day Alice the Great Horned Owl was hatched in early



March has turned into the International Festival of Owls. Speakers come from around the globe to talk about the latest in Owl research, live owl demonstrations wow the audience, raffles, owl pellet dissections, owl-themed food and merchandise, a photo contest and much more take place over these 3 days in March. You won't be disappointed if you make the drive!

Owls have been found in the fossil record up to 58 million years ago. The largest recorded owl fossil, *Orinomegalonyx oteroi*, stood about three feet tall.

Calendar of events continued...

March 28 - Monthly Meeting - Timberdoodles, Sky Dancers, Woodcocks!

7-8pm - Quarry Hill Nature Center /
Presented by Greg Hoch

Spend an evening in Minnesota's spring woods watching the flight of the woodcock and you'll never forget the experience. But first you need to know where to go. This talk by Greg Hoch from the Minnesota DNR will cover Woodcock biology, habitat and habitat management. Plus, it's a great preview for our annual Woodcock Walk coming up in April!



Woodcock photo by Bill Marchell

Be sure to visit ZumbroValleyAudubon.org to confirm events and check for changes or new listings.

Notice of Bylaws Updates

A vote to approve proposed updates to the Zumbro Valley Audubon Bylaws will be held at our Feb. 28, 2017 meeting at Quarry Hill at 7pm.

The changes include, but are not limited to:

- The use of electronic media as an official means for contacting members.
- A change in officer term limits (no president shall serve more than 6 consecutive years as president of the board).
- Board meetings shall be held a minimum of quarterly - with no maximum defined.
- All membership dues will match those of National Audubon.
- Modernize and clarify language overall

The current and proposed Bylaws are available for review on our website at ZumbroValleyAudubon.org/BylawsUpdate.html

All members in attendance at the meeting may vote. If you are unable to attend you may send your vote by email to: news@zumbrovalleyaudubon.org, or mail your vote to:

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

Be sure to include your name & address so we can verify your membership. All mail-in and email votes must be received by February 20, 2017.



Birders on the monthly bird walk at Quarry Hill.

History of the Christmas Bird Count

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns—whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a "Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count.

Zumbro Valley Audubon has held a count nearly every year since 1959, and often finds more than 50 species in the Rochester area. Winter may seem stark and lifeless – but life continues – just put a feeder up and see what comes!

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