



ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON

Vol. 37 Nos. 4 & 5 Rochester, Minnesota Dec/Jan 2012-13

Connecting People with Nature

Audubon Programs - held at Quarry Hill Nature Center, 7 PM

January 22, Tuesday

Woodcocks and Warblers: Conservation Opportunities in Minnesota



American Woodcock and Golden-winged Warblers have both experienced range-wide population declines. Both species rely on young forest habitat, which has declined throughout the breeding range of both species. Tom Cooper and Tom Will, both with the Fish and Wildlife Service, will discuss the population status of these species, conservation actions currently being implemented to reverse these declines, and stewardship potential in Minnesota. Join us to learn more about these fascinating birds and how you can help them.

Photo courtesy of Kickapoo Valley Reserve: <http://kvr.state.wi.us>

Human....Nature?

By Ruthann Yaeger

From large man-made events like the Gulf oil spill to more everyday occurrences such as a farmer's decision to plant more corn, or a homeowner's decision to use toxic chemicals on his lawn, we take for granted what nature gives us and believe our personal priorities are either too important or don't matter in the overall scheme of things.

We commonly declare that some animal, bird or plant is more or less desirable than another, but how do we know that by eliminating a plant or insect, we haven't removed a food source that other creatures who may perform some service for us, need to survive? Or opened the door to some other living thing that is detrimental to those creatures we favor? We often don't know, but we act anyway.

We seem to have lost the most essential attribute in dealing with our natural heritage – humility. The earth is limited, yet we act as if it is infinite. Backed by our beliefs, we claim to know what's best, or at least what doesn't matter.

Increasingly, we impose our narrow agenda and make demands of nature with small regard for the complexity of nature's connections, of which we understand frighteningly little. We want X, and Y seems to work, so we plunge ahead without considering other consequences.

But human history abounds with disasters of hubris and miscalculation: Asian carp, destructive insects, buckthorn, kudzu, wild parsnip, zebra mussels and a multitude of other invasive imports - many deliberately introduced to "solve" some problem - have cost us billions to control. To say nothing of some dams, projects and resource extractions that have destroyed lives and livelihoods, and poisoned people's water and lands.

Whatever disaster we create, we continue to believe we can fix it by employing some engineering or technology that often has even worse consequences later. Our foolish pride is the stuff of nightmares, but we don't seem able to learn any real lessons from it.

If we really care about what kind of world we leave to our children and grandchildren, then first, foremost and always, we must approach our natural heritage with the humility and careful study it demands. Given the myriad essential services nature freely provides for us, it is not "worshipping" nature to thoughtfully consider the consequences our actions may have on it.

We have indeed lit a candle in the darkness with all the knowledge we now have, but the darkness is vast, *and there be dragons...*

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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 document 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

Dec 15, Sat - Christmas Bird Count - see insert for details and count form

Jan 5, Sat - The Cardinal Bird Walk Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM
 Led by Clifford Hansen

Jan 19 Sat - Golden Eagle Survey- National Eagle Center
 The Wintering Golden Eagle Survey of the Bluffs and Coulee Region of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, will be Saturday, January 19th. 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 by email: scott@nationaleaglecenter.org or visit the web site at nationaleaglecenter.org



Jan 22, Tues - Woodcocks and Warblers: Conservation Opportunities in Minnesota Quarry Hill Nature Center 7 PM
 See description on page 1

Feb 2, Sat - The Junco Bird Walk Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM
 Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

Feb 15 through Feb 18 - Great Backyard Bird Count
 Great fun for all birders, beginners as well as experts. Don't miss this chance to participate in one of the most valuable programs in Citizen science. See page 3 of this issue for news of how it's now been made even better.

Quote of the Day

"If people destroy something replaceable made by mankind, they are called vandals; if they destroy something irreplaceable made by God, they are called developers."

Joseph Wood Krutch, (1893-1970) writer, naturalist

You can always donate to ZVAS at:



E-mail delivery saves our precious resources, allows ZVAS to put more donations toward programs *and* gives you a full-color newsletter. If you wish to receive our NL 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 very few but important notes relevant to our chapter mission.

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

Pine Cone Feeder



What you'll need:

- ◆ Pine cones
- ◆ Birdseed
- ◆ Butter knife
- ◆ Paper plate
- ◆ Ribbon or yarn
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Smooth peanut butter (not chunky)

How to make it:

- ◆ Cut a moderate length of yarn or ribbon
- ◆ Tie the ribbon in a knot around the pine cone near the top (about 3 sections down).
- ◆ Tie a loop in the other end of the ribbon to hang.
- ◆ Use the knife to get a large clump of peanut butter on the paper plate.
- ◆ Gently spread peanut butter inside the pine cone and around the edges.
- ◆ Place birdseed on the plate and roll the pine cone in the seeds.
- ◆ Hang the bird feeder on the tree.

Now enjoy watching the birds eat their treat!

Tip: best for use in cold weather. May spoil in warm weather.

GBBC Goes Global!

Beginning in 2013, people from anywhere in the world will be able to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Save the dates so you can participate in the first worldwide Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Friday, Feb 15 through Monday, Feb 18, 2013.

To make it possible for people everywhere to participate, the GBBC will be integrated with eBird, a citizen-science project created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society in 2002 that went global in 2010. Our partner, Bird Studies Canada, administers the eBird Canada portal.

Benefits include:

Global access: participants will be able to submit checklists from any location in the world, and in four languages!

Precise locations: More accurate GBBC location data will make your observations more useful and easier for you to track over time.

Year-round access: Although the GBBC is a four-day project, you will be able to use your account to track your bird sightings year round in eBird.

Better visualization: Interactive maps will allow you to explore bird observations in much greater detail than ever before.

Corrections: If you realize you've entered erroneous information, you can go back into your reports anytime to make corrections or changes.

No dual-entry: eBird users will no longer have to enter their information twice and can simply enter their GBBC counts via eBird.

If you have never submitted a checklist to eBird before, you'll create a user name and password. You'll be able to use the same user name and password for the Great Backyard Bird Count in February!



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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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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: C0ZM140Z

Easy Holiday Shopping!

One purchase delivers a gift in 2 ways:

For the nature lover in your life—a membership to Audubon including a full year of *Audubon* magazine and the ZVAS newsletter and program list
For Zumbro Valley Audubon—support for chapter programs, environmental education, and conservation work in southeastern Minnesota

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