



# ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON

Vol. 37 Nos. 8 & 9 Rochester, Minnesota Apr/May 2013

*Connecting People with Nature*

## Audubon Programs

### History of Marshes and Wetlands

April 23, Tuesday, 7 PM  
Quarry Hill Nature Center  
Janet Timmerman. OC History Center

For more than a century, the usual way of thinking about wetlands was to drain them so they could be used for crops or subdivisions.

That is changing as people begin to see how necessary marshes can be. Ms. Timmerman will discuss the history of wetlands, their depletion and the cost to our native plants and animals. She further will discuss what steps we can take in the future to mitigate this damage.

*Photo courtesy of: [www.worldanimalfoundation.net](http://www.worldanimalfoundation.net)*



### Picnic & Bird Safari on Prairie Schooner

May 28, Tuesday 6 PM  
Chester Woods Park, Shelter #1



Join us for a ride through Chester Woods on the Prairie Schooner wagon. **We'll picnic first, so bring food to pass.** Then we will explore the park and search for new late spring birds who are either migrating thru or setting up their breeding territories.

For those more interested in a prairie hike, the intrepid Joel Dunnette will lead you on an exploration of one of Chester Woods many prairies.

*Photo by Curtis Pruess*

## Grassland Bird Display Available

Grassland birds are in trouble – more so than any other group of birds. Their population is declining rapidly as habitat is turned into corn and soybeans, and prairie continues to shrink. Less than 1% of the grasslands and savannas that once covered our state remains. Help us get the word out!

We have created a new display with beautiful pictures of these birds, reasons for the problem and inexpensive, doable solutions. Please let us know of opportunities to use this display. Perhaps your group needs a display for a wildlife program coming up? If so, call Joel Dunnette at 269-7064.

**ZVAS Officers**

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

**Board Members**

Bill Bruins  
 Joel Dunnette  
 Alice Laudon  
 Dave Moehnen  
 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](mailto: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****April 18, Thurs - Woodcock Watch – Chester Woods Park, 7:30 PM**

Every spring the Woodcock perform one of the strangest and most interesting mating rituals. We will observe it up close just at dusk. Meet near the park entrance or in the horse corral parking lot. Led by Jim Peterson

**April 14, Sun— Whitewater Valley Field Trip**

Explore Whitewater park and wildlife refuge— it's a great resource for birders. **Meet at 6:30 AM** on the east side of the Heintz Center in Rochester to carpool. Bring lunch as we will continue birding until mid-afternoon.. Led by Joel Dunnette (269-7064).

**April 27, Sat – Root River County Park Bird Walk** – just south of Rochester near Simpson. The park has nice walking trails and good diverse habitat for a wide variety of birds. **Meet at the Heintz Center at 7:30 AM** to car pool. Trip Leader is Bill Bruins.

**May 4, Sat – The Warbler Bird Walk**, Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM  
 Led by Bill Bruins

**May 4, Sat – Rice Lake State Park**

We will visit Rice Lake State Park near Owatonna to look and listen for many of the different migrating warblers. **Meet at the Wild Birds Unlimited St at 8 AM** to car pool. Bring a snack or bag lunch. Trip will return early to mid afternoon. Trip leaders are Joyce & Terry Grier.

**May 5th, Sun - Bird Walk at Essex Park - 8:00 AM – 10 AM**

Meet at Essex Park parking lot, 5455 West River Road NW. This should be a perfect time to see many of the warblers and other spring migrants. Led by Lance Vrieze.

**Tues May 7<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> - Lunch With the Birds** Kutzky Park, 12:00-1:15 PM

Located at 213 13<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Rochester, about a half-mile from both St. Marys Hospital and the Mayo Building, Kutzky Park comes alive with migrating warblers, vireos, orioles, and more every May. Join us for a casual noon-time walk at the peak of migration. Arrive or leave as your schedule requires. We will start at the picnic shelter at 12:00. Later arrivals can locate the group along the creek between 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. Led by Lance Vrieze.

**Sat May 11th - Kutzky Park Field Trip.** Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited in Miracle Mile Shopping Center at 9 am to drive to Kutzky Park, one of the birding hot spots in Rochester. Trip will last approximately 1 hour depending on the number of birds. Trip leaders are Terry & Joyce Grier.

**Sun, May 12th - Hok-Si- La Park Trip.** Meet at 8 am at the east parking lot of the Heintz Center to car pool to Lake City. Located along the Mississippi River, Hok-Si-La is a magnet for migrating birds. Bring a snack or a bag lunch. We will return mid afternoon. Trip leaders are Terry & Joyce Grier.

**Sun May 19th - Kutzky Park Field Trip.** Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited in Miracle Mile Shopping Center at 9 am to drive to Kutzky Park, one of the birding hot spots in Rochester. Trip will last approximately 1 hour depending on the number of birds. Trip leaders are Terry & Joyce Grier.

**June 1, Sat – The Gold Finch Bird Walk**

Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM led by Terry & Joyce Grier

**June 9, Sun - “Secret Favorites” Birding Trip**

One of Southeastern Minnesota best birders, John Hockema, will lead us to some of his favorite birding spots. Everyone is welcome. Meet at the Heintz Center at 7 AM to car pool.

You can always donate to ZVAS at:



Visit us at: [www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org](http://www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org) or Like us on Facebook!

## ZVAS Appeal Results by O. William Bruins

The February annual appeal brought in \$850.00 thanks to the following individuals:

Jim Peterson, Bob Ward, Pat Tabor, Sandy Guderian, Ruthann Yaeger, Dwight Judy Gingerich, Ray & Judy Auger, Jeanette Baker, Helen Sanborn, Christina Pabelick, Bill and Ann Bruins, and Clifford Hansen.

In past years we had included an envelope in the February newsletter to make donating easier. This year, changes in the way printing and mailings are done now didn't allow us to include the envelope so we used a form instead. This change may have affected the number and amount of donations. You still can make a tax-deductible contribution to ZVAS, no form needed.

Just send your donation to ZVAS, PO Box 6552, Rochester, MN 55903-6552. **Thanks!**

## From Competition to Comprehension



Birds make us happy. And as we're discovering, they can help people with dementia stay engaged and active. Watch how a competitive birder has found another way to

help with "Bird Tales," a program made possible thanks to Audubon's Toyota TogetherGreen partnership. This program brings new light to the eyes of people living with dementia. This three-minute video will make your day. Watch video at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASjI9C\\_GMf4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASjI9C_GMf4)

## Wild Birds Unlimited®



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Miracle Mile Center  
20—17th Ave NW  
Rochester, MN  
(507) 292-9266

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

## Hummingbirds at Home

Audubon's newest Citizen Science program, Hummingbirds at Home, will be launching April 10! This accessible and family-friendly new program seeks to gather data documenting hummingbird migration and feeding habits nationwide.



A toolkit to help Chapter leaders explain and publicize the new program is available at <http://bit.ly/WNN151>.

Photo resources are available online at <http://bit.ly/WVM8Z5>, and we will be creating an online press kit that we will share closer to launch on April 10.

And as part of the promotion, all Centers and Chapters are welcome to host screenings of the *NATURE* film "Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air" at no charge. We will be making copies of the film that includes a welcome from David Yarnold available beginning April 10th – copies can be requested from Lynne Hoppe, [lhoppe@audubon.org](mailto:lhoppe@audubon.org).

*Photo by: catherinesherman.wordpress.com*

## Bit by Bit, You Can Help Birds!

Do you care about birds or education about nature? How would someone know that you do?

Not everyone can be a leader. But you can easily support those of us who are at the forefront:

- ◆ Tell your friends and neighbors about our programs and field trips
- ◆ Donate good nature photos for our use or offer to take pictures of people at our events
- ◆ "Like" Zumbro Valley Audubon on FaceBook, and add your comments, stories and sightings
- ◆ Donate to Audubon (all those color handouts cost us a lot of \$\$!)
- ◆ Gather, trim and sort the stickers that we give out to children at events
- ◆ Bring refreshments to an Audubon meeting
- ◆ Participate in Citizen Science bird or butterfly counts



ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
PO Box 6244  
ROCHESTER, MN 55903-6244

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Rochester, Minnesota  
Permit Number 306

## 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

### Please Help - Choose Email Delivery!

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 newsletter by email, please send your name and email address to: [wmb Bruins@gmail.com](mailto: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 happenings. *Thank you!*

### *Collins Feed & Seed Center*

The freezing 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!

\*\* Show this ad with your purchase & we'll donate to ZVAS \*\*

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