



ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON

Vol. 37 Nos. 6 & 7 Rochester, Minnesota Feb/Mar 2013

Connecting People with Nature

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

February 26, Tuesday

**Jacob Ryg, City Forester
Rochester City Prairies**



Did you know there really are little prairies right inside the Rochester City limits?

Our city forester, Jacob Ryg, will inform and update us on these important, but little known ecosystems within the city of Rochester. We will learn more about our City and one of its endeavors to provide native habitat and opportunities to experience nature to its citizens.

There may be one near you!

Photo courtesy of: www.stolaf.edu/academics/naturallands/prairies/

March 26, Tuesday

**Al Batt, Storyteller
Never let a kind word go unsaid.**



Al Batt of rural Hartland, Minnesota is a birder, writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. He writes 4 weekly humor and nature columns for many newspapers and magazines, and does a show 3 times per week about nature on a number of radio stations. He writes a number of nationally syndicated cartoon strips, and has written for magazines and books, including the *Chicken Soup For the Soul* series. He received the Izaak Walton League Conservation Media Award, was named birder of the year by Wild Bird magazine, honored with the National Eagle Center's Hero Award, and has received numerous other awards. He is the Official Staff Ornithologist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, was honored by Modern Woodman for conscientious and dedicated community service, serves on the board of the Environment for the Americas, and was given the Thomas Sadler Roberts Award by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

Al speaks to anyone who will listen. His mother thinks he is special.

NOTE: *Al will be there even if weather is unfavorable. Don't miss it!*

GBBC Photo Contest Winners Chosen!

With every passing GBBC the photo contest entries get better and better and the job of choosing the cream of the crop gets harder and harder. Entries to the 2012 contest (more than 6,000 of them) were especially spectacular. So many images deserved recognition that it was a really tough job to narrow the field down to the top five winners in each of the six categories, along with a handful of honorable mentions.

To see these wonderful photos, go to: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

ZVAS Officers

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 Treasurer Joyce Grier

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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 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 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. It's easy and quick to enter your results online at the GBBC webpage.
 Go to: <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/input>
 See below for last years data.

March 2, Sat - The Woodpecker Bird Walk

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

April 6, Sat - The Robin Bird Walk

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

Audubon Convention 2013 "Taking Flight Together"
July 12-15, 2013, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

The National Audubon Society is hosting a convention in July 2013 to bring together leaders from across the Audubon network. Approximately 550 attendees from chapters, centers, state and national programs will participate in workshops, field trips, program sessions and keynotes to celebrate Audubon's history of achievements and look ahead to an exciting and challenging future. For more information, go to: www.audubon.org/2013convention.

**GBBC Statistics from 2012**

Total Individual Birds Counted: 17,382,831
 Total Checklists Submitted: 104,285
 Total Species Observed: 623

You can always donate to ZVAS at:

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

2012 Rochester CBC Results



The Rochester Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday December 15. It was a wet and mild day, with a constant light rain until mid morning, and intermittent rain after that.

In spite of less than ideal weather, the 30 field participants and 12 households that returned feeder reports found 57 species of birds.

An additional six species were found within three days of December 15, which are reported as "count week" birds. The individual bird tally was 18,595 individual birds. This includes the DNR estimate of 11,000 Canada geese.

A highlight of the day was a Great Egret wading in the Zumbro River below the Silver Lake dam. The egret had been spotted a few days earlier, and obligingly stayed in the area. Chris Benson reported a red-shafted flicker at his home feeder during the count week. Both were first time sightings for the Rochester CBC.

The mild weather may have accounted for the variety of ducks that were spotted, including gadwall, canvasbacks, ring-necked duck, and lesser scaup. Also notable was a rusty blackbird John McCormick reported at his home feeder.

Many thanks to all participants, and to the staff at Quarry Hill Nature Center for the use of their facilities!

NEW - Young Birders Network

Ithaca, NY—Teen birders now have a place to go online to connect with peers and drill down into a wealth of birding resources, as well as explore college and career opportunities. The Young Birders Network (www.youngbirdersnetwork.net), launched by the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and Ohio's [Black Swamp Bird Observatory](#), serves as a hub for the many young birding clubs sprouting up across the country, while providing an online community for teens to share information and learn more about birding.

The Young Birders Network aggregates everything a teen needs to plug into their local birding scene, meet their birding peers, and delve deeper into the world of birding:

A directory of young birding clubs, blogs and Facebook groups, events, and conferences across the country; Articles and links to resources about the many ways a passion for birding can turn into a college major and career, from ornithology and conservation biology to art and computer science; and, a custom [eBird](#) portal for easy online management of birding checklists and access to all the birding tools eBird offers.

Articles on the Young Birders Network home page are written by a mix of middle school and high school students, Cornell University students, and eBird and Black Swamp Observatory professionals, creating a forum for teens to interact with college and adult birders. And for teens who don't find a birding club near them, the Young Birders Network offers a toolkit for starting their own club.

"Since Black Swamp Bird Observatory launched the Ohio Young Birders Club in 2006, much of our efforts have focused on providing information and assistance to other groups interested in starting a similar program for youth," said Kimberly Kaufman, executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. "The opportunity to work with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on the Young Birders Network (YBN) is a dream come true."

"I certainly wish I had a central resource hub like this during high school. Until now there was really nowhere to find all this information about young birder happenings in one place," said Batcheller. "I'm excited to share this site with new birders and introduce them to the awesome world of birding and ornithology."

For more information, contact Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab, [\(607\) 254-2137](tel:6072542137), pel27@cornell.edu

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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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DEC / JAN 2012-13

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

Audubon en Español !

Audubon announced that this week that it is launching a new section of their website, **Audubon en Español**, which will be the digital face of Audubon in the Spanish-speaking community.

Audubon en Español, which you can access at <http://espanol.audubon.org/> will be a new voice for birds – and will help make Audubon accessible to a diverse new audience.

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