



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Vol. 40 No. 2 Rochester, MN

Nov / Dec 2015

Upcoming Audubon Programs Quarry Hill Nature Center, 7 PM

Nov 17 - Sparky Stensaas, Sax-Zim Bog

NOTE DATE CHANGE !!



Sparky Stensaas is a photographer, naturalist, author, publisher living in the North Woods of Minnesota. He is co-owner of Kollath-Stensaas Publishing and owner of Stone Ridge Press (www.stoneridgepress.com). Sparky has recently founded Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting, promoting and protecting the famous birding spot in northern Minnesota—the Sax-Zim Bog (www.SaxZim.org).

Come and see Sparky's photos of one of the top birding spots in the state and hear about new changes there.

Known as the PhotoNaturalist, Sparky specializes in natural history images of the North Woods—bogs, owls, orchids and more. And on his website (www.ThePhotoNaturalist.com), you'll find wildlife and landscape images with a twist—a unique perspective, unusual subject, a creative angle—that you might not find on other websites.

Dec 19 - Christmas Bird Count

Join us Saturday December 19 for the 116th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Zumbro Valley Audubon members work in teams to scout Rochester and the surrounding area for early winter birds. You do not need to be a bird expert. Actually, it's a great way to learn about new birds. Counting is done from the warmth of cars or on short hikes.

We typically find over 50 species and frequently turn up an unusual bird or two! We need and appreciate feeder reports as well as field participants. Our numbers are reported to National Audubon and added to a CBC database that has been collected annually for over 100 years!

We will meet 7:15 a.m. at the west Silver Lake parking lot, near the fire station. Lunch and a mid-day tally will be held at Quarry Hill Nature Center from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch. A light meal and final tally will be held at Quarry Hill Nature Center at 4:45 p.m. Hot soup is provided; bring something to share.

To submit a feeder report, download a report form from the ZVAS web site, www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org, or call Clifford Hansen at 281-0249 to have a paper form mailed to you. Thank you!

For even more bird counting fun, Whitewater State Park will hold its annual CBC on Jan 1st from 8 AM to noon. For more information call Whitewater State park at 507-932-3007.



ZVAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov / DEC 2015

November 7, Saturday - The Kinglet Bird Walk, Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

November 14 Saturday - Tundra Swan Trip -

Meet at the east side parking lot of the Heintz Center in Rochester at 8am to car pool. Travel thru La Crescent and down the Mississippi to Brownsville to see THOUSANDS of Tundra Swans and other waterfowl. Trip will return early afternoon. Bring your own lunch or eat at a Subway sandwich shop before returning to Rochester. Trip leaders are Terry & Joyce Grier.

December 5, Saturday – The Nuthatch Bird Walk, Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

December 19, Saturday - Christmas Bird Count

January 2, Saturday – The Cardinal Bird Walk Quarry Hill Nature Center 9 AM Led by Terry & Joyce Grier

January 16, Saturday – 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 16th. 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

Change in Service Jan 1st, 2016

Due to the increasing cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter, ZVAS will become an electronic only newsletter starting Jan 1, 2016. If we have your email address, you will 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 <u>full-color</u>. 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.

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.

Thank you!

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

Uninvited Guests by Alice D'Alessio

For instance, the Asian Ladybeetle smug as an orange pearl



in its vinyl exoskeleton dotted, determined, has come to stage

a wild reunion, bringing myriad friends. They swarm out of window casings, motor

about the floor, climb the walls, line dance along the bookshelves; take

a quick dip in the dishwater and scotch, make side trips along the couch, inside

my collar and book, wander through hair, dive in eyes and mouth. It's a road race

with mini VW's, a plague, an invasion, a terrorist plot, a bad dream.

Nature slyly lifts the lid and looses Pandora's hordes to teach

humility. We who imagine ourselves just slightly lower than the gods, cower

before this orange revelry, huddle in corners, stinking of bug spray.

We Will Move to Email Only Delivery Jan 1, 2016!

 encouraging members to participate in decisionmaking processes concerning environmental issues.

 advocating efforts of individuals and community leaders to pursue environmentally positive activities and policies.

 developing an appreciation and awareness by the public of the natural world.

 supporting environmental education of our youth.

To bring environmental swareness, appreciation and advocacy to the community by.

Our Mission

Nonprofit Organization
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