



# nature trails

Chapter H55 of the  
National Audubon Society

VOL XXVI No 1

Fall 2009

## Important Notice

Unless you contact Jim Durbin, this will be the last print copy of the Cedar Rapids Audubon mailed to the entire membership. Read this entire notice to learn how Cedar Rapids Audubon will distribute the newsletter in the future. These changes are being made because of the time and expense required for printing and mailing over 800 paper copies of the newsletter.

There will be three ways to receive the newsletter.

1. The information in the newsletter and a PDF copy of the newsletter will be available on the Cedar Rapids Audubon web site. Go to **[www.cedarrapidsaudubon.org](http://www.cedarrapidsaudubon.org)** to view. No need to contact Jim.
2. A PDF copy will be sent to your email address, if you prefer and request to receive it by email. Send a message to **[durbinjames@imonmail.com](mailto:durbinjames@imonmail.com)**.
3. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy, please contact Jim Durbin by mail or phone.

James Durbin  
1460n Douglas Court  
Marion, Ia 52302  
319-721-1593

## PROGRAMS

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist  
600 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids  
Social 7:00 PM, Program 7:30 PM  
unless otherwise indicated

**Remember to come equipped with your own drink mug. We'll have some for guests and those who forget.**

## FALL PROGRAMS

**September 14, 2009: Fall Picnic**—The fall picnic will be at **Jim and Joyce Durbin at 1460 Douglas Court, Marion**. We will eat at 6:00PM. Please bring your utensils and also a dish to share. Also bring any news, stories from the summer and anything else you would like to share with the other members. Hopefully there

will still be a few fall migrants to see.

**October 5, 2009—David Faldet** is a Professor of English at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he teaches courses in English, the introductory core, and environmental studies.

In his talk he plans to introduce the **Upper Iowa River**, its most characteristic birds, the river basin's prehistory and history of human interactions with birds, and the way human development of the basin has changed its bird population.

Faldet is in the sixth generation of family to live in the basin of the Upper Iowa River, which winds from the flat farm fields of southern Minnesota through the wooded valleys of northeast Iowa to the Mississippi. In his book, *Oneota Flow* (University of Iowa 2009), Faldet moves through the history of life along the Upper Iowa, focusing on the ways people depend on the river, the environment, and the resources of the region. He blends history, environmental research, and personal experience to show us that the health of the river is best guaranteed by maintaining the biological communities that nurture it. In return, taking care of the Upper Iowa is the best way to take care of our future.

**November 2, 2009—**A speaker from **Alliant Energy** will be talking about efforts in **Renewable Energy**. More information will be forthcoming in your email and on the CR Audubon web site.

**December 7, 2009— Show and Tell and Holiday Party.** Bring treats to share, along with pictures and artifacts of your birding and travel experiences this last year.

## FIELD TRIPS

Thanks to Nora Becker and Bobbie Shafer for

planning the following field trips. Watch your email and the web site for more information.

**Sunday, September 20, 2009—**Rock Island Preserve by Xavier. Meet at CVS Pharmacy on 42<sup>nd</sup> & Center Point Rd. at 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 26, 2009—**Maquoketa Caves & Eden Valley. Meet at Hardees in Marion at 8:00 a.m.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

**September 18-20, 2009—Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference**, Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena, IL. Theme is “Hope, Action and a Sense of Place.” Registration is due September 4. Contact Anne Straight at [astraight@worldnet.att.net](mailto:astraight@worldnet.att.net).



## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

There is no president on the perch at this time. A volunteer or co-volunteers are needed to chair meetings. Contact the Board.

## IOWA AUDUBON

You may learn more about Iowa Audubon by visiting its web site: [www.iowaaudubon.org](http://www.iowaaudubon.org)

Its mission statement is: to identify, protect and restore Iowa's bird habitats, to educate Iowa's citizens toward a greater level of conservation

awareness, and to promote enjoyment and greater pride in Iowa's natural ecosystems, birds, other wildlife.

## NOTES FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

National Audubon sent the following information. Notice how important birding is to the Iowa economy.

### *“Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis*

Released July 15 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the report shows that an astounding one of out of every five Americans watches birds. It reveals that birdwatchers contributed \$36 billion to the U.S. economy in 2006 alone, the most recent year for which economic data are available.

The report - **Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis ([http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/birding\\_natsurvey06.pdf](http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/birding_natsurvey06.pdf))** shows that total participation in birdwatching is strong at 48 million, and remaining at a steady 20 percent of the U.S. population since 1996.

Participation rates vary, but are generally greater in the northern half of the country. The five top states with the greatest birding participation rates include Montana (40 percent), Maine (39 percent), Vermont (38 percent), Minnesota (33 percent) and **Iowa (33 percent)**.

The report identifies who birders are, where they live, how avid they are, and what kinds of birds they watch. In addition to demographic information, this report also provides an estimate of how much birders spend on their hobby.

## AUDUBON MAGAZINE

Audubon Magazine (<http://audubonmagazine.org>) often has articles

that it would be nice to share. The online version has selections from the print issue that can be shared by email and a variety of social media.

The photo gallery in the current issue is very attractive.

<http://audubonmagazine.org/features0907/photogallery.html>



## CEDAR RAPIDS AUDUBON CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Cedar Rapids Audubon Chapter is in need of a person or persons willing to chair the Board meetings and the program meetings. Contact the Board with your interest.

### 2008—2009 OFFICERS

President	open	
Vice Pres	Leland Freie	319-365-0658
Corres. Secy	Sherry Brewer	319-378-4474
Treasurer	Ruth Balster	319-362-7078
Board	Peggy Rutten	319-393-9279
	Bobbie Shaffer	319-393-8772
	Jim Durbin	319-377-7194

Members are encouraged to attend the monthly board meetings. They are at 6PM before the regular membership meeting.



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