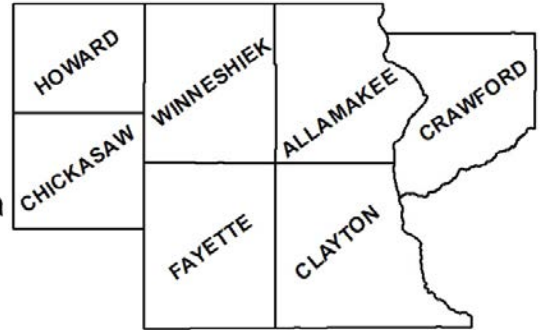


# UPPER IOWA AUDUBON



Not just for the birds

## CONNIE HVITVED

BOARD PRESIDENT:  
RETIREMENT PARTY

Sunday, February 4th, 3 pm  
Convergence CiderWorks, Decorah  
Before the UIA presents program:

### Falconry 101

Connie has been an instrumental part of the UIA board for over 35 years, serving as president since 1998. Her service has created a lasting legacy of programs and experiences that have reached thousands of people of all ages! Her enthusiasm, dedication, and enormous heart have built a thriving UIAS Chapter that supports bird lovers of all ages! Please join us for refreshments before the UIA program to celebrate Connie's tremendous impact!

## UIA PRESENTS:



Sun, February 4th, 4:00 pm  
Convergence Ciderworks, Decorah

### Falconry 101

Special Guest: Astrid, the Gyrfalcon

Master Falconer, Dave Kester is back with his gyrfalcon, Astrid! Join us to learn about falconry and other great information about birds of prey!

There will be plenty of time for questions and answers, as well.

Sat., March 16th, 1:30 pm  
Convergence Ciderworks, Decorah

### Hummingbirds



Join UIA and Tina Hall for an informative talk on welcoming hummingbirds to your yard. Tina, along with her husband, were the former managers of a hummingbird center in SE Arizona

Learn the interesting aspects of hummingbird biology and behavior. As well as how to welcome these fascinating birds to your feeders.

Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.

[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)

### Great Backyard Bird Count

27th Annual • Feb 16-19, 2024



27th Annual  
Feb 16-19, 2024

# Christmas Bird Count

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count had its 124th count in mid-December through early January.

This nation-wide count is the longest-running citizen science program in the world and has provided researchers and birders with an amazing data set of information on birds.

## Bridgeport Count, December 15

**Weather:** Mild

**Species Count:** 63

*Notable observations:* Northern species such as finches, Redpolls, Siskins, Horned Larks, and Longspurs were conspicuously absent. Nearly absent this year were Robins and Waxwings, likely due to the lack of berries.

## Decorah Count, December 16th.

**Weather:** Foggy and Misty, Rain

**Species Count:** 45

*Notable observations:* Similar to Bridgeport count; especially low numbers of northern finches and robins.

## Yellow River Count, December 20.

**Weather:** Unreported

**Species Count:** 52

*Notable Observations:* Again, northern finches and other northern species were not found in large numbers; notably, Red-breasted Nuthatches were nearly absent. Open water on the creeks and Mississippi River had larger numbers of waterfowl compared with other years.

Participation in Christmas Bird Counts is open to anyone interested in joining in the fun. Any level of birding skill is acceptable.

Please watch for announcements of counts next winter and consider joining one or more of the counts.



Thank you

## A message from retiring Board President Connie Hvitved

As I hand over the responsibilities as Upper Iowa Audubon Society President, I would like to introduce you to the new UIAS Board Officers and present Board. Paul Skrade, President; Lilly Jensen, Secretary; and Jeremy Leitz, Treasurer. Since they joined the Board, we have a UIAS Facebook page; a webpage [UpperIowaAudubon.org](http://UpperIowaAudubon.org); an email account [UpperIowaAudubon@gmail.com](mailto:UpperIowaAudubon@gmail.com); a new Pileated Woodpecker logo; and 35 years of UIAS history has been scanned and uploaded.

Supporting Board members are: Rachel Sandhorst, Program Scheduler, and Lilly Jensen take care of publicity and web updates. Dean Peterson and Bruce Ventura lead bird walks. Jon Stravers, the Driftless Area Bird Conservation Director, and, along with the Big Blue Sky band, strum for birds! Miriam Patton, Membership Chair, and Sharon Rossman, PR. Emily Neal, though retired from the Board, continues as our creative newsletter editor.

Reflecting over my years as UIAS President, I have had the privilege of serving with people who were not only fellow board members, but treasured friends. Some of us have worked together for over 25 years! Gene Dale, former Treasurer, is stepping down claiming 90 is a good age to retire! Ellen Bell, past Vice President, Cardinal Marsh resident bird identifier, and Marlene Michel, UIAS charter member, who served as secretary for many years. Other retiring Board members include Kat Busse, Ric Zarwell, and Bonnie Pape. I want to recognize all these people for their numerous contributions, thank you all! And in memorial, thank you, Dennis Carter, your knowledge of birds enlightened all of us!

In closing, I hope you will continue your support of the Upper Iowa Audubon Society as we strive to promote bird education and appreciation in our seven-county area. And remember the words, Julie Zickefoose:

**“The presence of a single bird can change everything for one who appreciates them.”**

# MORE GREAT SPRING PROGRAMS:



Saturday, April 6, "Bluebirds"

1:00 pm ,Lansing Drivtless Area Education and Visitor Center

Brian Preston director of Dubuque County Conservation will present a program on Bluebirds. The program will include life history, house placement, management, and general information about Bluebirds. There will also be Bluebird house kits available.



Monday, April 29, "Real Life Great Horned Owl Soap Opera"

7:00 pm , Convergence Cidery, Decorah

Join the Friends of the Decorah Public Library during their open annual meeting to hear owl expert Karla Bloem share her experiences working with Great Horned Owls . Karla is the head of the International Owl Center in Houston MN and is the focus of a chapter in the recent book What an Owl Knows.



Sunday, May 5, "Guided Birdwalk"

7:30 am, Seedsavers Exchnage, Decorah

Interested persons should meet in the parking lot next to the Visitor Center. The outing will be a slow walk on trails through a variety of habitats, spring migration should be going strong at this time. Binoculars are recommended for close-up views of warblers and other migrating songbirds. Contact Bruce Ventura (906) 225-0139 for more information (phone or text).



Saturday, May 11, "Spring Birdwalk"

9:00 am, Yellow River State Forest

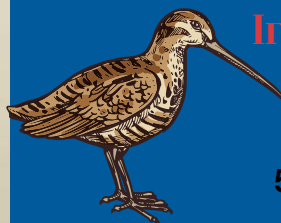
Spring bird walk through Yellow River State Forest. Mary Damm will be in attendance to help with spring floral identification. We will meet at the Walnut Wayside.

Directions are as follows: From Waukon travel 13 miles south on Hwy 78 to State Forest Rd/B25 turn left, and go 3 miles to the wayside. From Lansing, take the Lansing Harpers Rd about 12 miles, turn Rt. on State Forest Rd/B25, and travel 3 1/2 miles to Walnut Wayside.



Interested in seeing the spring Timberdoodle Dance?

Contact: Dean Peterson, call/text 563-535-7100 for more information



**FRIENDS OF POOL 9** Present  
**WILL DILG & LIVE MUSIC**  
 celebrating the Refuge's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Saturday, March 9, 2024**  
 \* FREE ADMISSION \* DONATIONS ACCEPTED \*  
**TJ Hunters Banquet Hall, Lansing, IA**  
 Available: Cash Bar, Lunch, & Dinner

<p><b>2 ~ 4 P.M., Sat., Mar. 9</b>                  A Visit from  <b>Will Dilg</b></p>  <p>Steven Marking plays Will Dilg, father of our Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife &amp; Fish Refuge, with scenes from "Our Mighty Mississippi."</p>	<p><b>7 P.M. ~ CLOSE, Sat., Mar. 9</b>                  Jon 'Hawk' Stravers &amp;  <b>Big Blue Sky</b></p>  <p>Local to the Driftless Region, this band has a unique eco/folk/bluesy sound that is sure to touch your soul!</p>
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QR CODE: MORE EVENTS LISTED

EVENT SPONSORS  
 Friends of Pool 9  
 TJ Hunters Banquet Hall  
 Big River Magazine

**BIG RIVER Magazine**



## Big Blue Sky

*Celebrating Earth Day Concert*

### Convergence CiderWorks

302 Washington St, Decorah, Iowa

**Saturday, April 20 @ 3 pm**



*Featuring "eco-folk-n-rock" with singer-songwriter Jon Stravers,  
Sophia Landis on flute & vocals, and Folko on guitar*

#### **Driftless Area Bird Conservation fund-raiser**

*Donations support our Northeast Iowa  
Cerulean Warbler and Red-shouldered Hawk monitoring*

#### **Co-sponsored by Upper Iowa Audubon**

[www.driftlessareabirdconservation.com](http://www.driftlessareabirdconservation.com) [www.bigbluesky-dabc.com](http://www.bigbluesky-dabc.com)  
[www.convergencecider.com](http://www.convergencecider.com) [www.upperiowaaudubon.org](http://www.upperiowaaudubon.org)

If you would like to make a donation you can donate online at [UpperIowaAudubon.org](http://UpperIowaAudubon.org) and use the "Donate" tab or send a check made out to Upper Iowa Audubon and mail to UIA Treasurer, 208 Rural Ave, Decorah, IA 52101

## Audubon Membership

If you are receiving this newsletter and are NOT a current of the National Audubon Society, please consider joining.

Annual fee is \$20.00.

The \$20 registration fee for new members returns to the Upper Iowa Audubon Society chapter.

Make your check payable to:

### **National Audubon Society**

Mail to:

Upper Iowa Audubon Membership Chair  
1706 249th Street  
Decorah, IA 52101

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are already a member, you can renew online,  
[audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

Use the membership tab to renew

## UPPER IOWA AUDUBON

**605 Washington St.  
Fayette, IA. 52142**

Sat. February 25