

February 2015
Newsletter



PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

Thursday

February 19th

**First United Methodist
Church**

Media Center

117 N. Central Ave

Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Regular Meeting

7:30 pm

Presenter:

Nathan Baker

“Radio Telemetry of Deer
Fawns in Central SD”

Bird of the Month

TBA

THIS MONTH:

Christmas Bird Count Results

This years Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 20th, 2014. There were 74 species seen by 27 counters! There was also an Iceland Gull, Gyrfalcon, and Northern Goshawk seen during the count week. We walked the length of a marathon (26 miles) and drove 722 miles which would get us very near any of the following cities: St. Louis, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City, or Saskatoon, Saskatchewan! Of course that is as the crow flies, which we did not see during the count!

The species list tends to look like a box of crayons with Blue Jays, Brown Creepers, Golden Eagles, Purple Finches, Redheads, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. It also resembles a hockey tournament at the Olympics with many “countries” represented: American Coot, Canada Goose, European Starling (not a country but representing Europe as a whole along with the Eurasian Collared Dove!) and the Iceland Gull!

The five species with the highest abundance seen were Canada Goose, Mallard, European Starling, Eurasian Collared Dove, and House Sparrow. There were 12 species that only had one individual seen: American Green-winged Teal, Brown Creeper, Bufflehead, Common Redpoll, Fox Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Prairie Falcon, Thayer’s Gull and Townsend’s Solitaire.

Of the 74 species seen, 17 have been seen on every Christmas Bird Count conducted in Pierre since 1970! The following species, including this years results, have been seen on five or fewer counts: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Great Blue Heron, and Killdeer.

Upcoming Events

- Great Back Yard Bird Count: February 13-16, 2015
- South Dakota Birding Festival @ Fort Randall: May 1-3, 2015
- SDOU Spring Meeting @ Holiday Inn Convention Center, Spearfish, SD: June 12-14, 2015

MISSOURI BREAKS
AUDUBON CHAPTER

National Audubon Society
Box 832, Pierre, SD 57501

Established 1978

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Christmas Count

Dave Johnson, *Membership*

Doug Backlund, *Field Trip*

North Dakota Audubon Chapter visiting Pierre Area for field trips

Marshall Johnson, Audubon Dakota Director, located in the Fargo-Moorhead area, contacted our chapter to let us know and invite us along for some field trips. Their chapter chose the Pierre area for their location of a winter field trip. They will be in town February 20-22. A group of roughly 10-12 members from their chapter will be attending the trip and are looking forward to the two chapters interacting. They would love to have some local birders help search for and hopefully locate Gyrfalcons, wintering gulls, raptors and waterfowl.

Bald Eagle Awareness Week

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota will present programs featuring live birds of prey open and free to the public at The Outdoor Campus East in Sioux Falls on Thursday, February 26 and also at the Ramkota River-Center in Pierre on Saturday, February 28.

The Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City will also host representatives from the Black Hills Raptor Center for a raptor education event on Saturday, February 28.

<http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/bald-eagle-awareness-days/>

Schedule of Events for the Pierre Area:

Saturday, February 28

Ramkota River Center

920 W. Sioux Ave., Pierre, SD

Start Times: 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm



Photo by Doug Backlund