

October 2014  
Newsletter



# PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

**Thursday**

**October 23**

**First United Methodist  
Church**

**Media Center**

**117 N. Central Ave**

**Board Meeting**

**6:30 pm**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:30 pm**

**Presenter:**

**Silka L.F. Kempema**

“Acoustic Identification of  
Bats”

**Bird of the Month**

**TBD**

“To be determined”

**THIS MONTH:**

**Pheasant Opener:**

The pheasant season runs from October 18 2014 to January 4, 2015. Last year, a year with reduced pheasant numbers, still brought in over \$140 million to the state! Over 57,000 residents and over 74,000 non-residents participated in pheasant hunting harvesting almost 1 million birds. Tripp County received the most income at \$9.3 million and harvested the most birds, around 59,000. Beadle County had the most hunters with about 7,700. Hughes and Stanley counties ranked 7th and 31st for money with \$5.0 million and \$1.5 million. Other statistics can be found at the Game, Fish and Parks website.

<http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/small-game/pheasant-economics.aspx>

**Governor’s Pheasant Habitat Work Group**

On September 9, 2014, a work group Governor Dugaard announced their recommendations for enhancing pheasant habitat throughout the state. The group had 8 recommendations:

- 1) Facilitate great collaboration among conservation groups
- 2) Establish long-term conservation fund
- 3) Develop and implement South Dakota Conservation Certification Program
- 4) Create a “Habitat Pays” education and promotion series
- 5) Revisit current practice of mowing right-of-ways
- 6) Petition USDA to include all SD counties for winter wheat crop insurance
- 7) Encourage SD School and Public Lands to include land management plans as a condition for leasing lands
- 8) Support Congressional efforts to increase Federal Duck Stamps fees from \$15 to \$25

MISSOURI BREAKS  
AUDUBON CHAPTER

National Audubon Society  
Box 832, Pierre, SD 57501  
*Established 1978*

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Doug Backlund, *Christmas Count*

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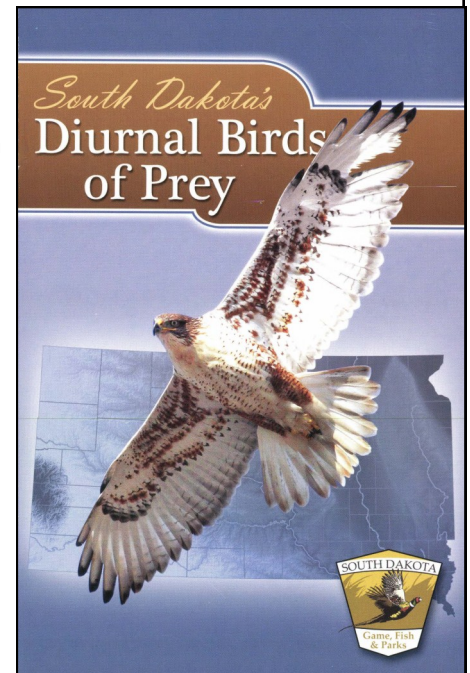
**New Website Location**

This newsletter and other valuable birding links are all available at our website, <http://www.missouribreaksaudubon.org>

**South Dakota's Diurnal Birds of Prey**

Game, Fish and Parks recently published a new book on South Dakota Raptors. Written and compiled by Eileen Dowd Stukel, this new book includes color photos and descriptions of 19 species of hawks, falcons and eagles, plus two diurnal owl species.

Most of the photos are by Doug Backlund. Request free publications online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/critters/birds/default.aspx>. Or, by calling 605-223-7660.



**Quagga mussel larvae found in Angostura Reservoir**

[http://rapidcityjournal.com/sports/great-outdoors-divers-searching-angostura-for-mussels/article\\_63ff4fae-c56b-53f1-8eff-9f022751c39e.html](http://rapidcityjournal.com/sports/great-outdoors-divers-searching-angostura-for-mussels/article_63ff4fae-c56b-53f1-8eff-9f022751c39e.html)

A larval stage of an invasive species of mussel similar to zebra mussels was found in a water sample taken in August and September at Angostura Reservoir near Hot Springs, SD. Adult mussels have not been found yet in the reservoir. If mussels are found, it could lead to management issues including possible alteration of food webs, clogging of water intakes, docks, etc.

More information-

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/nuisance/aquatic/species/mussels.aspx#>