

April 2013
Newsletter



PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

Thursday

April 18th

**First United Methodist
Church**

Media Center

117 N. Central Ave

Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Regular Meeting

7:30 pm

Presenter:

Doug Backlund

"Arizona Photography"

Bird of the Month

Dave Ode

Bluebird Nest Box Results

THIS MONTH:

"Wisdom" hatches chick at 62 years old!

A Laysan Albatross named Wisdom at least 62 years old hatched her 35th chick. Wisdom was first banded in 1956 on the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Wisdom's chick was observed on February 3 on the island and is the sixth consecutive year for Wisdom successfully hatching chicks.

Wisdom has worn out 5 bird bands since first being banded in 1956. She is at least 62 years old maybe even older. Laysan albatross typically reach breeding age at 8 or 9 years old. Chandler Robbins, the USGS scientist whom originally banded Wisdom, estimated her age at 5 years old because that was the earliest age of breeding.

Scientists at the Midway Atoll NWR figure that Wisdom has traveled between 2 or 3 million miles throughout her life!

Nineteen of the 21 species of albatross are considered threatened. Threats include lead poisoning, longline fishing and pollution, specifically garbage floating in the oceans. According to this report, 5 tons of plastic are fed to albatross chicks each year. They are also threatened by introduced or invasive species, such as rats and wild cats, which prey upon the chicks. (USGS and *ScienceDaily*)

Learn more:

NPR Article and video:

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/the-two-way/2013/02/06/171290097/oh-mama-worlds-oldest-bird-has-another-chick>

Midway Atoll NWR:

<http://www.fws.gov/midway/index.html>

MISSOURI BREAKS
AUDUBON CHAPTER

National Audubon Society
Box 832, Pierre, SD 57501

Established 1978

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Dave Ode, *Program Chair*

Doug Backlund, *Christmas Count*

Dave Johnson, *Membership*

Doug Backlund, *Field Trip*

South Dakota writer honored at Ducks Unlimited Ceremony (Ducks Unlimited website)

John Pollmann, a South Dakota freelance writer, was given a 2013 Wetland Conservation Achievement Award in the Communications category. His specialties include habitat conservation, public access, hunting heritage and agricultural policy issues affecting the Prairie Pothole Region.

He is a regular contributor to The Argus Leader and Minnesota Outdoor News as well as national magazines such as *Field & Stream*, *Ducks Unlimited* and *American Waterfowler*. He was also just made a member of the nation's first-ever conservation pro staff for the new Vanishing Paradise initiative.

Upcoming Events

- Earth Day Event @ Capitol Lake Visitor Center: April 22, 2013
- South Dakota Birding Festival @ Lake Andes NWR: May 3-5, 2013
- SDOU Spring Meeting @ Wrangler Inn, Mobridge, SD: May 17-19, 2013
- South Dakota Grassland Coalition Bird Tour @ Bill and Connie Smith Ranch near Montrose, SD: June 14-15, 2013

Be Green — Get this newsletter online

As a member of the National Audubon Society in Hughes and Stanley counties, you receive a copy of this newsletter as part of your membership. New mailing regulations require a different format and sticky tags to support machine readability at the post office. This adds to our handling time for paper copies of the newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail instead of hard copy (saving trees, postage, handling, and trash), send your e-mail address to info@MissouriBreaksAudubon.org. We won't share your address with anyone, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Of course, if you don't want the hard-copy either, let us know and we'll take care of that, too.