

November 2013
Newsletter



PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

Thursday

November 21

**First United Methodist
Church**

Media Center

117 N. Central Ave

Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Regular Meeting

7:30 pm

Presenter:

Paul Mammenga

"Purple Martin Migration"

Bird of the Month

THIS MONTH:

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Sponsors Geolocators



The Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter helped fund research on bird migration by sponsoring two geolocators for the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA), York University and the Purple Martin Association of the Dakotas. Purple martins are being banded and attached with geolocators at a colony near Columbia, SD to track migration routes, dates, distances, etc. More information will be presented by Paul Mammenga during our monthly meeting. The following websites also have information on this project.

<http://www.purplemartin.org/main/geocator.html>

<http://purplemartinassociationdakotas.weebly.com>

MISSOURI BREAKS
AUDUBON CHAPTER

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

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Dave Johnson, *Membership*

Doug Backlund, *Field Trip*

Pheasant Habitat Summit

Governor Dennis Daugaard has scheduled a Pheasant Habitat Summit in Huron on December 6, 2013. The summit was proposed to work towards a common understanding of pheasant needs and economic benefits to the State's economy. The summit will provide a forum for landowners, sportsmen, members of the tourism industry and other interested individuals to learn about the current state of pheasant habitat in South Dakota. The summit will include panel discussions and public input as a means to explore ways to maintain and enhance pheasant habitat.

<http://gfp.sd.gov/pheasantsummit/>

Bird Joke!

A recent study has found over 200 dead crows near Brookings, SD and there was concern that they may have died from the West Nile Virus. A bird pathologist examined the remains of all the crows and confirmed the problem was definitely not West Nile, to everyone's relief.

He was able to determine that 98% of the mortalities were caused from large trucks and the other 2% were caused from cars impacts. The State hired an ornithological behaviorist from SDSU to determine the disproportionate percentages for the large trucks and car kills. The behaviorist determined the cause in short order.

When crows eat road kill off of I-29, they always set-up look out crows in nearby trees to warn of impending danger.

The behaviorist's conclusion was that the lookout crow could say "Caw" but could not say "Truck"!!! Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Upcoming Events

- Pierre Area Christmas Bird Count: December 14, 2013
- Great Back Yard Bird Count: February 14-17, 2014