

October 2012  
Newsletter



# PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

**Thursday**

**October 18**

**First United Methodist  
Church**

**Media Center**

**117 N. Central Ave**

**Board Meeting**

**6:30 pm**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:30 pm**

**Presenter:**

**Casey Mehls**

**"Ruffed Grouse in the  
Black Hills"**

**Bird of the Month**

**Wally Larsen**

**"To be determined"**

## THIS MONTH:

### Christmas Bird Count free:

The National Audubon Society has decided to make the annual Christmas Bird Count free! They will no longer charge \$5 to participate. This will lead to the paperless publication of *American Birds*. *American Birds* will be delivered online. Audubon will be moving to a voluntary donation model for the CBC. The Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 15, 2012.

### Bill Bossman: Sparrow Patch

The South Dakota Ornithologists Union fall meeting was in Pierre during the first weekend in October. Bill Bossman reported that during the weekend at least 57 species were seen. The "Sparrow Patch" alone had 12 sparrow species. Along with the sparrows, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sora, Palm Warbler, and Peregrine Falcon were also seen during the meetings field trips. Directions to the "Sparrow Patch": Go 1/2 mile past the Cattleman's Club. There is a small bridge at this point. The "Sparrow Patch" is immediately past the bridge. Turn right and go across the railroad tracks. Thanks Bill!

### Peregrine Falcon Project

A three year project to release Peregrine Falcons back into the state will be finishing up this coming year by the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. In 2011, 20 birds were released atop the Assurant Building in Rapid City. Seventeen of those birds successfully fledged. In 2012, 20 more birds were released from atop of the Black Hills Corporation building in Rapid City. One of those birds made it to Pierre and Doug Backlund got a picture of it on Farm Island! That particular female bird was released on July 22, 2012 in Rapid City. For more information and to see Doug's picture you can go to the following websites:

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/diversity/peregrine-falcon-recovery.aspx>

<http://www.wildphotosphotography.com/NB/PEFA.htm>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

—Pierre Area Christmas Bird Count: Saturday December 15, 2012

—SDOU Spring Meeting at the Wrangler Inn, Mobridge, South Dakota

May 17-19, 2013

MISSOURI BREAKS  
AUDUBON CHAPTER

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

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**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](mailto: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.

**New Website Location**

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

**Scott's Miracle-Gro case**

The Scott's Miracle-Gro Company have been fined \$12.5 million in criminal fines for applying unapproved insecticides to wild bird seed. This was the largest fine ever under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The company distributed insecticide treated bird seed in Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Arkansas, Kentucky, and New Mexico between November 2005 and March 2008.