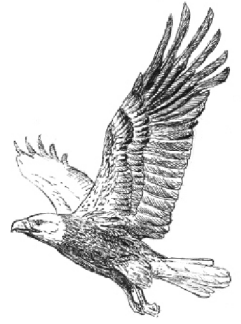




# MISSISSIPPI CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Quad City Audubon Society



## ***UPCOMING EVENTS*** *All activities open to the public.*

Vol. 32, No 3

Fall 2021

**Please observe COVID-19 protocols during membership meetings and field trips. Thank you for your help in these constantly evolving times.**

**Field Trip - Saturday, October 16th, 2021, Smith's Island, Lock and Dam 14, Iowa.** Meet at Corp of Engineers L&D 14 parking lot, 9:00 am; Half day trip.

**Building Better Birders Workshop - Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Central Park, Center Junction, Iowa.** 6:30-7:30 pm, Nocturnal Raptors of Iowa, followed by an Owl Prowl from 7:45-9:45 pm. If you have any question, contact Kelly McKay at 309-235-4661.

**Building Better Birders Workshop - Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Central Park, Center Junction, Iowa.** 8-10 am, Bird Hike, followed by Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds of Iowa from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. From 1-5 pm, participants can join a Bird Hike at Muskrat Slough, approximately 8 miles SW of Center Junction. If you have any question, contact Kelly McKay at 309-235-4661.

**Field Trip - Sunday, November 14th, 2021. Spring Lake and Lock and Dam 13.** Meet at Shuler's Shady Grove Park/1st Ave Boat Ramp Parking Lot, Rapids City, Illinois at 7 am. Half to full day trip.

**Membership Meeting - Thursday - December 9, 2021 - Pie Night!** For this in-person meeting at Butterworth Center at 7:00 pm, we will hold an election of officers for vacant positions (Secretary and 1 Board position). In addition to those individuals who have agreed to run, (Tim Murphy for Secretary, Forrest Stonedahl for Board member), we will take nominations from the floor. Following the elections, we will have a brief program on environmental issues affecting birds in our community, followed by pie and refreshments with additional discussions and greetings. Bring a pie if desired.

**December 14th, 2021 through January 5th, 2022. Christmas Bird Count Season is upon us. Check back in December for local CBC dates.** Reach out to Kelly McKay at 309-235-4661 or Jason Monson at 309-221-1177 with any questions.

On the web at [www.quadcityaudubon.org](http://www.quadcityaudubon.org), and available on Facebook.

*All membership meetings are held at the Butterworth Center, 1105 8th Street, Moline.*



**Audubon**

The Quad City Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society

**OFFICERS****President**

Jody Millar-2022

**Vice President**

Brian Peer-2022

**Treasurer**

Bernadene Bowles-2022

**Secretary**

Tim Murphy-2021

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Cathy White-2022

Bob Bryant-2022

Janelle Swanberg-2021

Rueben Segura-2022

Adrianna McBride-2022

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS****Conservation**

Bob Bryant

**Field Trips**

Board Members

**Membership**

Tim Murphy

**Newsletter**

Jason Monson

jmonson75@hotmail.com

**Publicity**

Vacant

*Mississippi Currents* is  
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P.O. Box 81

Bettendorf, IA 52722

www.quadcityaudubon.org

**Direct all general emails  
to:****qcaudubon@gmail.com****Meet the Board***Janelle Swanberg*

I have been fortunate to have been a member of Quad City Audubon for many years. I regard my participation as one of the most enjoyable and vital of my regular activities. I encourage anyone considering membership or being more active in Audubon to do so - our work is important and our birding outings are very fun. As I always say, you have to go birding so you remember why our conservation work is so important! As birds and their habitat are shrinking locally and worldwide, we must all redouble our efforts to preserve and restore what we can. I look forward to meeting new members in the months ahead!

**Birding Through the Insecurity**

Should I go to a public meeting or not? What about an outdoor field trip? Are all participants vaccinated? Should we wear masks?

Who ever thought that enjoying bird life would be so complicated? When the vaccine showed up, we all took a deep breath. And then came the Delta Variant. Yuk!

The members of the Quad City Audubon Board are trying to take these issues into consideration while still promoting enjoyment of birds and birding. To this end, our October meeting will be just the field trip to Smith's Island at Lock and Dam 14, starting at 9 am. The field trip provides the opportunity to share some of our birding experiences while helping each other see new ones along this Mississippi River island. On November 14, we will venture off to Spring Lake and Lock and Dam 13, departing Rapids City boat ramp area at 7 am. Members can decide for themselves their own level of safety such as car pooling or driving alone, etc. Reminders will be sent out to all members who have given us their email address. We will also post the information on our web site (quadcityaudubon.org).

We have decided to go ahead with our ever-popular Pie Night, December 9 at Butterworth Center, 7 pm. Who doesn't love the opportunity to sample 10 different pies while sharing good conversation? I hope our members will consider joining us for these events.

*- Jody Millar***Save Bloody Run**

About a year ago, QC Audubon contributed \$500 to help Iowa DNR and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation purchase a 165-acre tract of land adjacent to Bloody Run Wildlife Management area. This protected area also contains Bloody Run stream, described as an "Outstanding Iowa Water" for its clarity and its status as a sought-after trout stream.

Since that time, the Iowa DNR has approved a permit to allow Supreme Beef to establish a feedlot slated to raise more than 11,600 cattle at the headwaters of this irreplaceable stream. It appears Iowa DNR ignores its own rules and regulations that require special protection for these designated areas.

On September 23, 2021, the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club filed suit against Iowa DNR regarding their issuance of this permit they believe was based on bad information. For more information on this issue, see [Savebloodyrun.org](http://Savebloodyrun.org).

*- Jody Millar*

## Building Better Birders Workshops Reach Over 1300 Participants

Jason L. Monson – Kelly J. McKay – Mark A. Roberts – Brian P. Ritter

In 2020, Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation Board), and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education Center), began presenting Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientists workshops throughout Iowa. These workshops are free and open to the public, and are funded through a grant from the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP). The workshops are tailored to meet individual groups' needs, and range from Bird Identification and Research Presentations, to Bird Hikes, Owl Prowls and other Miscellaneous Presentations. Through August 2021, 79 workshops have been held in 26 counties across Iowa.

So far, the workshops have exceeded expectations, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions enacted last year. They have reached 1,304 total individual attendees, and a cumulative 2,136 attendees (accounting for repeat participation) so far, and 21 more workshops are scheduled through February 2022.

One of the project's goals is to encourage participation in citizen science programs. Data from the owl prowls and bird hikes held during these workshops are being turned into the Iowa Ornithologists' Union seasonal field notes. Therefore, over the course of 79 workshops held so far, 790 attendees have taken part in citizen science through their participation in one or more of the 15 owl prowls and 83 bird hikes held in the workshops completed so far. Participants to date have identified 216 bird species during these bird hikes and owl prowls. To date, the program has conducted 20 avian research, 18 miscellaneous and 74 bird identification presentations.

With 21 workshops to go, it's not too late to catch a bird ID presentation or go on a hike for birds or owls. There really is something for everyone. Past presentations have provided bird identification presentations on diurnal and nocturnal raptors, woodpeckers, game birds, waterfowl and passerines. Participants have witnessed live raptor presentations, attended workshops on building bird houses and feeders, and listened to readings from Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*.

The following are local workshops coming up in the next few months:

Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, 6:30-7:30 pm. Central Park, Center Junction, Iowa. Nocturnal Raptors of Iowa, followed by an Owl Prowl from 7:45-9:45 pm.

Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8-10 am. Central Park, Center Junction, Iowa. Bird Hike, followed by Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds of Iowa from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. From 1-5 pm, participants can join a Bird Hike at Muskrat Slough, approximately 8 miles SW of Center Junction.

## Spreading the Purple Martin Success!

Quad City Audubon has funded Purple Martin houses at Credit Island near the Community Building, and gourd houses at Nahant Marsh. We were pleased to find success at both locations this year! Due to the extreme loss of natural habitat, Purple Martins are only able to nest in areas where these types of structures are provided for them. Purple Martins eat large quantities of flying insects and are very beneficial to the ecosystem. Nahant gourd houses had nesting Purple Martins the first year they were available, which is unusual.

This fall, The Davenport City Cemetery Partnership coordinated the installation of a Purple Martin Colony home at the cemetery located at 1625 Rockingham Road in Davenport. The cemetery provides an open area in which they can easily access their new homes and have plenty of food.

The project was made possible by a grant from the Scott County Conservation Consortium, with support from the Quad Cities Audubon Society and installation by staff from Nahant Marsh Education Center and the City of Davenport Parks and Recreation Department as well as volunteers from the Davenport City Cemetery Partnership.

A condition of the grant was to include an educational component. Kory Darnall of the Cemetery Partnership contacted QC Audubon for ideas. We agreed that an educational poster was the most effective way to present information regarding Purple Martins at the cemetery. To that end, a very attractive and informative poster from the Purple Martin Society was located and purchased. QC Audubon provided funding for the weather-proof frame and the poster. We highly recommend you stop by to see the display, and in the spring – hopefully Purple Martins!

- Jody Millar

### Membership Application

☐ I would like to join as a new member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter. Please send me *Audubon Magazine*, *Mississippi Currents*, and my membership card. Enclosed is my check for \$35 payable to National Audubon Society. (include **Chapter # H63** on your check)

**OR**

I would like to join only as a member of Quad City Audubon ☐ in lieu of National Audubon. Please send me *Mississippi Currents*. Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to Quad City Audubon.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Quad City Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 81  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
[www.quadcityaudubon.org](http://www.quadcityaudubon.org)

### Mission Statement

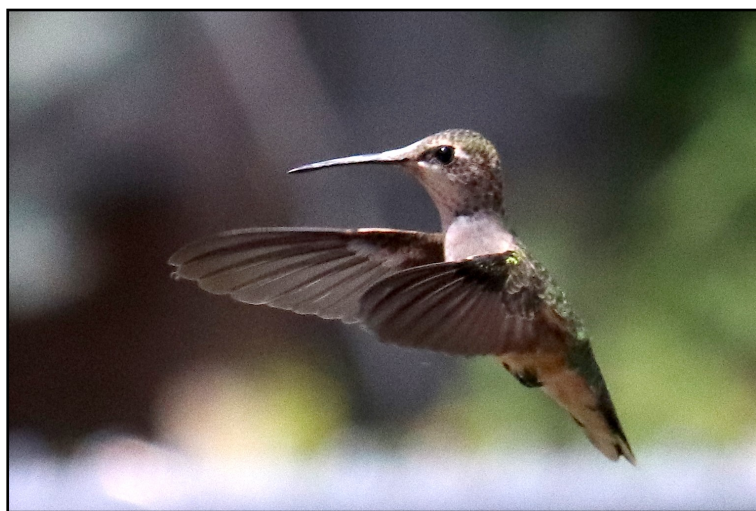
The Quad City Audubon Society is dedicated to the enjoyment of birds; a better understanding of the natural world; stewardship of natural areas and habitats; fellowship; improvement of community awareness of environmental issues; and education of youth for the benefit of future generations.

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of *Mississippi Currents*. The next deadline is November 15th, 2021. Submissions are gladly accepted. Send to:

Jason Monson  
(309) 221-1177  
[jmonson75@hotmail.com](mailto:jmonson75@hotmail.com)

Visit us online at:  
**[www.quadcityaudubon.org](http://www.quadcityaudubon.org)**

Thank you, Rueben Segura, for this excellent picture of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird!



### December Membership Meeting, Officer and Board Elections, and Let's Not Forget: Pie Night!

The Quad City Audubon Society will hold an in-person meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9th at the Butterworth Center, 1105 - 8th Street in Moline. This is our annual "Pie Night" at which we share pies from those who care to bring one, and enjoy a time of food and fellowship.

Prior to that, a brief business meeting will be held, at which we will vote to fill two QCAS positions. The nominating committee reports the following nominations for two-year terms: Tim Murphy for Secretary, and Forrest Stonedahl for a term on the Board. Our by-laws also provide for nominations from the floor.

After the short business meeting, QCAS Board Member Bob Bryant will present a short program entitled "The State of our Parks". We will then repair to the dining area for pie and hot beverages. As required by current Illinois law, masks and social distancing will be required. We encourage all members of QCAS to attend this important and fun meeting; we welcome visitors as well.

- Janelle Swanberg