

February
2005



PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

February MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Thursday
February 17
State Library
Conference Room
7:30pm**

***Wildlife Habitats
of LaFramboise
Island:
Vegetational change
and management...***

Always a dynamic environment, artificial influences have dramatically changed this island's future. Dave Ode will share his observations and recommendations for management of this wild area

BIRD OF THE MONTH

**A variety of
bluebirds
By
Bob Hanten**

AUDUBON APPLAUDS ARCTIC WILDERNESS BILL

Carol Browner, National Audubon Society Board Chair, Calls For Permanent Protection of Unique Refuge

Washington, D.C., February 2, 2005 - At a Capitol Hill rally this afternoon, Carol Browner, Chair of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, called on Congress to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from harmful oil and gas drilling by setting aside the pristine area as permanent wilderness.

"Since the days of Theodore Roosevelt, Americans - Democrats, Republicans, and Independents - have shared a common ethic to protect our country's most beautiful places for future generations. There simply are some places that should be off limits to oil drilling and industrial development, and the Arctic Refuge is one of them," said Browner, who served as EPA Administrator from 1993-2001. "Drilling would harm the migratory birds, caribou, polar bears and other wildlife who make the Refuge their home, while doing nothing to reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

Citing the courageous efforts of Senator Lieberman, Senator Dayton, and Representative Markey, Browner applauded efforts to bring the Arctic debate before the full House and Senate. "If some Members of Congress want to allow special interests to use a treasured resource of the American people, a beautiful place that has been set aside for all to enjoy, then they should be willing to have a public debate about it, rather than hide it in a budget process that keeps it away from public scrutiny."

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that less than six months of oil is recoverable from beneath the Arctic Refuge, while energy experts agree that making cars more fuel-efficient, and investing in renewable forms of energy, are the most effective things the U.S. can do right now to decrease dependence on foreign oil and increase national security.

Ms. Browner was joined at the rally by Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Senator Mark Dayton (D-MN), Representative Ed Markey (D-MA), and a representative of the Gwich'in tribe native to Alaska.

**MISSOURI BREAKS
AUDUBON CHAPTER**

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

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Bald Eagle Awareness Days

On Friday, Feb. 25, the Pierre Mall will host a birds of prey program beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Mall Center Court. Additional programs will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Pierre Ramkota Inn-Best Western in Theatre II, in conjunction with the KCCR Farm, Home and Sport Show. Saturday's programs begin at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. All Bald Eagle Awareness Days shows are free to the public.

Missouri Breaks Audubon is one of the co-sponsors for the project.

Missouri Breaks Audubon Website

Our website is located at <http://pie.midco.net/mbas/> so if you're among the thousands who have MBAS in your favorites, please update your bookmarks. (The address is case sensitive, so enter it exactly as printed here.) You'll find this and past newsletters on the site, as well event schedules and other birding links. Check it out.

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