

# **NOVEMBER MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

## **Golden Eagles**

Scott Mehus, National Eagle Center Education Director, will present ongoing research on The Golden Eagle Project. Scott is considered the area's expert on Golden Eagles and has been studying them for over 15 years.

This past year observers have found 93 wintering golden eagles, and the National Eagle Center had radio collared 2 eagles for monitoring the migration patterns of these birds. Scott will be bringing Donald, the National Eagle Center's live Golden Eagle, so we can observe this magnificent bird up close. Come learn about this fascinating research and how you could help with the monitoring surveys!

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

The program is free and open to the public.

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# **OCTOBER MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011**

## **Grassland Birds in the Dakotas**

Douglas Jonson, a research statistician and senior scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center will discuss Grassland birds, their decline, and what must be done to secure their survival. Doug and his colleagues have conducted a variety of studies of grassland birds in North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota.

As a group, grassland birds recently have been recognized as the species that have suffered the greatest population declines. Doug will discuss the diversity of birds that depend on grasslands, as well as the ecological forces that shape grasslands and their bird communities.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

The program is free and open to the public.

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

**Upper Mississippi Birding Initiative and Audubon's land conservation**

Don Arnosti, Policy Director for Audubon Minnesota will be speaking about the Upper Mississippi Birding Initiative and Audubon's land conservation along the river.

Don rejoined Audubon Minnesota as Policy Director in 2010, a decade after he left Audubon to take his family to Argentina for a sabbatical year. His career in conservation spans 25 years in Minnesota, including 10 years previously as Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota (1990-2000). During his previous decade with Audubon he led the effort to pass Minnesota's Wetland Conservation Act, worked to establish sustainable forestry practices in Minnesota, and organized the team which developed our Mississippi River Flyway Campaign.

Don has worked for a number of environmental organizations as grass roots organizer, lobbyist, and policy and program director focusing on bird, wildlife and habitat conservation, agriculture, forestry, clean water and renewable energy policies, as well as sustainable development. Don has a degree in Botany, Phi Beta Kappa, from Lawrence University, with additional course work in forestry at the Institute for Paper Chemistry. He lives with his family in Saint Paul, enjoying canoeing, camping, hiking and international travel.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

The program is free and open to the public.

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## JUNE POTLUCK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

**Potluck and Bird Hike**

The Pot Luck begins at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own utensils to the Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible..

Immediately after the pot luck, Dan Jackson will lead a Birding 101 walk in the Myrick Marsh. Although the migrants will have already passed through the area, there are many interesting birds that nest in Myrick Marsh. We hope to see Common Moorhens, Sora and Virginia Rails, Herons, Geese, Ducks, Black Terns, Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds among others.

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## MAY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

### **Down the Wide Missouri**

John Sullivan is a paddling/poling enthusiast who enjoys extended solo canoe trips on streams, rivers and waterways of the United States. His excursions started in the late 1990s and were focused primarily in Wisconsin. John's initial interest was to follow the paths of early explorers and voyageurs in their journeys from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi. Over the past decade he has paddled several thousand miles and has descended the lengths of the state-named rivers that flow to the Mississippi including the Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri. Most of these rivers are not considered "wilderness" rivers but many offer sections with plenty of scenic paddling opportunities. John's presentation will focus on his most recent trip, a 2,340 mile journey down the longest river in America, the Missouri River. The presentation will provide a photographic journey of this diverse waterway and discuss some of the problems and issues facing this great river from the Gates of the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River.

John has spent his lifetime on rivers. He grew up paddling the flat waters of the Rock River at Horicon, attended the University of Minnesota on the banks of the Mississippi and earned his master's degree studying the Big Eau Pleine River in north central Wisconsin. His working hours are spent as a water quality specialist monitoring and protecting the water quality of the Mississippi River for the Wisconsin DNR at La Crosse. His leisure time is often spent canoeing the backwaters of the Mississippi or planning the next canoe trip. A web site of some of his trips can be found at [Irishvoyageur.com](http://Irishvoyageur.com).

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

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## **APRIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011**

### **Amazing Hummingbirds**

**Stan Tekeila will present a program on Amazing Hummingbirds.**

**Naturalist, wildlife photographer and writer Tekeila is the originator of the popular state-specific field guides for birds, wildflowers and trees. Over the past two decades Stan has authored more than 100 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation, presenting many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees, wildflowers and cacti.**

**Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural History from the University of Minnesota and as an active professional naturalist for more than 20 years, Stan studies and photographs wildlife throughout the United States and has received various national and regional awards for his books and photographs.**

**Also a well-known columnist and radio personality, his syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations. He is a member of the North American Nature Photography Association and Canon Professional Services along with many other professional organizations.**

**The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.**

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## **MARCH MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011**

### **Red-shouldered Hawks**

**Jon Stravers will present a program on Red-shouldered Hawks.**

**Jon currently serves as the Driftless Area Coordinator for Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, and has been working on inventory and monitoring projects involving Red-shouldered Hawks and other birds along the Upper Mississippi River since 1982. In cooperation with the various agencies and other conservation organizations along the**

Mississippi River, Jon has developed an inventory for Redshouldered Hawk nesting along the Mississippi River and subsequently located and documented Red-shoulder nesting in 58 sites along the Upper Mississippi River. He has maintained a 25 year record of monitoring the reproductive success of 12 active Redshouldered Hawk territories within the “Driftless” region of northeast Iowa.

Since 1982, Jon has operated an autumn raptor banding station along the Mississippi River in northeast Iowa. At the raptor banding station along the Mississippi River, he and his co-workers have captured migrating raptors that were previously banded in Alaska, Greenland, and Mexico. Birds banded at the station along the Mississippi River have been recovered in Costa Rica and in areas around the Southern and Midwestern United States.

Jon has also conducted inventories for neo-tropical migrant bird species within the Bird Conservation Area of northeast Iowa. These surveys have had a special emphasis on species that area listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Concern, such as Cerulean Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers, and Veerys.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

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## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011**

**Beautifully Abundant Birds I Desire**

Richie Swanson, Winona environmental ist, will present a photo slide show entitled “Beautifully Abundant Birds I Desire.”

The photos were taken by Hiawatha Valley Audubon photographers in the Aghaming Park and Preserve, a 1,000 acre park owned by the City of Winona and surrounded by the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.

The presentation begins with photos of great-horned owls and red-shouldered hawk nests on the frozen river. They tell stories about birds as they appear, migrate and breed.

Highlights of the show will include flood plain specialities such as prothonotary warblers and rusty blackbirds.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of

La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

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## **JANUARY POT LUCK AND MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011**

### **Pot-Luck and Annual Meeting**

Pot-luck begins at 6 p.m. with a brief meeting for the election of officers and a financial review of the year from 7:00 to 7:30.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own dishes and utensils. Everyone is welcome but if you would prefer to not take part in the potluck, please come at 7:00 for the meeting and slide shows that follow.

Members and guests are invited to share pictures of wildlife or other outdoor related items and experiences. There will be a notebook computer and projector available if you would like to share digital pictures.

Otherwise, please bring your own equipment. We have many good photographers and there will be many interesting photos and experiences to share and discuss.

This event will be held in the new Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street. There is easy access parking nearby and the entire building is handicapped accessible.

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## **DECEMBER OUTING**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2010**

### **Christmas Bird Count**

The Coulee Region Audubon Society will hold the 2010 La Crosse Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 18th and we are looking for help. Our count is part of Audubon national's Christmas bird count program which is one of the oldest citizen science projects in the United States. This year will mark the 110th year of the project in the

**United States and it will be La Crosse's 46th year.**

**For the La Crosse Christmas Bird Count, we count all of the birds that we find inside a 15 mile "count circle" that is centered on the La Crosse County courthouse is downtown La Crosse. Volunteers can count the birds at a single feeder within the count circle or can work by themselves or as a member of a birding team to count the birds in one of many pre-assigned sections of the count circle. Any commitment from a couple of hours to a whole day of birding would be greatly appreciated and birders of all skill levels are welcome.**

**After we are done counting, all participants are invited to take part in the Christmas Bird Count Potluck dinner. It is a social event that allows participants to have some fun and share their results with other members of the count team. This year's dinner will be held at the Eco Park building located in Myrick Park, off of La Crosse Street.**

**If you are interested in helping out with this year's Christmas Bird Count, please e-mail or call Dan Jackson, the count compiler. His e-mail address is [DanJackson@LBWhite.com](mailto:DanJackson@LBWhite.com) and his home phone is (608) 483-2271.**