



Coulee Birder

January/February 2014

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Myrick-Hixon Ecopark, starting at 7PM. They are free and open to the public.

January 15 Important!

As mentioned in the President's letter, This month's meeting will be a little different. January is our annual potluck, followed by the annual meeting. The potluck begins at 6PM; please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Following the potluck, the annual meeting and election of officers will be held. Once everyone has had their fill of goodies and elections, members are invited to bring their own photos to share. Dan's message has more information.

February 19

Our speaker this month may be well known to many area birders. Chris West of Richland Center has been on the birding scene before he was of legal age to drive! He has worked as a naturalist for the Mississippi Explorer Cruises, and travels extensively in search of anything with feathers. While we might be shivering in Wisconsin's February air, Chris will warm us all up with tales of his travels in search of "Birds of the Tropics."



President's Message

By Dan Jackson

Christmas is over and a new year has started. That means that the annual meeting of the Coulee Region Audubon Society is almost here! On Wednesday, January 15th, we will hold our annual meeting and potluck. The potluck will start at 6:00 and the actual meeting part of the night will begin at 7:00. 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 will follow.

The actual annual meeting part of the night will be short with an election of officers and a brief overview of our chapter finances and activities for 2013. It will begin at 7:00 and should be done by 7:30.

When the business portion of the meeting is complete, members 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 great photographers and this should be great!!

As I sit and contemplate the beginning of a new year, I can't help but think about the year that has just been completed. For the Coulee Region Audubon Society, this has been another busy year. We held 9 monthly meetings with many great presentations, more than a dozen birding events, Highway Clean-ups in April and October, the Crane Count, the Christmas Bird Count, and we also gave several chapter sponsored presentations to other organizations in the area.

What is really exciting to me about this is that it shows that our chapter is active and involved. In fact, well over 100 different people took part in chapter events this year and close to

Continued on p. 2

President's Message continued from p. 1

100 of them donated time to help out on one or more of the counts, surveys, and work events that were held.

Given all of these activities and all of the time and effort that has gone into them, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the past year a success. I really appreciate all of the people who donated time and effort to make our projects a success. I would also like to thank a number of people who have worked hard behind the scenes. I would especially like to thank Gwyn Calvetti for all of the effort that goes into organizing and publishing our newsletter, Scott Puchalski, Marty Lohman, Mark Webster, Kurt Brownell and Gwyn Calvetti for all their effort and ideas that they have contributed as officers and members of the board, Scott Puchalski for helping to organizing birding trips and for coordinating the La Crosse County Crane Count, and to Mark Webster for his effort to coordinate the spring and fall Highway Clean-ups on I-90 near Dresbach.

Thanks for a great year!!

Christmas Bird Count 2013

The weather was windy and overcast on December 14, but the hardy counters of CRAS were bundled up and counting any birds they could find. Given those conditions, we have a relatively high number of species counted. We counted 63 species on count day and there were also 2 count week additions. The especially unusual species include Carolina and Winter Wrens, a Gray Catbird, a Harris' Sparrow, a Fox Sparrow, a Baltimore Oriole, a Golden Eagle, Trumpeter Swans, Swamp Sparrows, a Wilson's Snipe, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Pat Schmid again hosted a wonderful potluck, where all gathered warmed up after the day in the field and enjoyed sharing their sightings.



Waiting their turns in line at the CBC potluck are Dan Jackson, Kurt Brownell, Pat Wilson and Bobbi Wilson. Good food and bird talk, what more could we ask?

Coming up!

Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18, 2014 Learn more at www.birdsource.org/gbbc

Annual Crane Count, April 12, 2014 Scott Pulchalski is our local coordinator

Highway Clean-Up, April 26, 2014 Mark Webster coordinates this. It's fun! Really!

WSO Annual Convention, May 15-18, Prairie du Chien Learn more at http://wsobirds.org/?page_id=4093

A Birding Festival? In January? In Wisconsin?

Bald Eagle Watching Days

January 17-18, 2014

This annual event takes place in Prairie du Sac, home of a large concentration of wintering Bald Eagles. Events include eagle watching tours, presentations on eagles and other raptors, and birding and optics exhibits, and kids activities.

Location

Prairie du Sac, WI

Contact Information

Organization Name: Ferry Bluff Eagle Council

Phone Number: 608-683-2453

Website: <http://www.ferrybluffeaglecouncil.org/eagledays/index.html>

10th Annual Wintering Golden Eagle Survey: Mark your calendar for January 18!

The annual survey of wintering Golden Eagles, conducted by the National Eagle Center, can use your help. There are three opportunities for training to hone your Golden Eagle ID skills prior to the survey.

- Thursday, January 9th at 1-4pm at the National Eagle Center
- Saturday, January 11th at 1-4pm at the Decorah Public Library (Decorah, Iowa)
- Sunday, January 12th at 1-4pm at Whitewater State Park

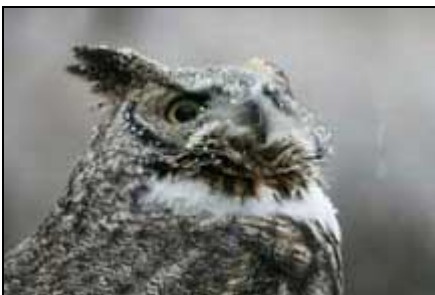
More information is available at the National Eagle Center website.

<http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/golden-eagle-project/golden-eagles-in-minnesota/>

Let's not forget about winter's favorite...the owls!

International Festival of Owls March 7-9, 2014

This is a weekend filled with all things owl, including a banquet, live owl programs and much more, all located close to home in Houston Minnesota. Find out more at their website. <http://www.festivalofowls.com/>



Alice The Great Horned Owl. Catching some snowflakes, circa 2008

Coulee Region Audubon Society

P. O. Box 2573

LaCrosse WI 54602

Contact

President

Dan Jackson

DEJackson2256@gmail.com

608-483-2271

Vice President

Scott Puchalski

obsidianblur@gmail.com

608-769-2563

Treasurer

Marty Lohman

mdlohman@gmail.com

608-769-6144

Secretary

Mark Webster

mvweb@charter.net

608-787-6398

Board Member

Gwyn Calvetti

gwyntells@gmail.com

608-786-2526

Board Member

Kurt Brownell

kurtbrownell@gmail.com

608-269-6124

Newsletter

Gwyn Calvetti

gwyntells@gmail.com

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www.facebook.com/Coulee

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Thanks!

