



September/October 2016

## Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday at the Ho-Chunk Nation building. They are free and open to the public.

September 21

### **“Bald Eagle Status and Monitoring in Wisconsin”**

Daniel Goltz of the WI-DNR will review eagle nesting surveys in Wisconsin, causes of mortality, and an ongoing study using eagles as an indicator of environmental contaminants. Photos of eagle nest will show research techniques, eaglet development, prey items and nest site characteristics.

October 21

### **“Language of Birds”**

Jonathan Poppele will share a bit about how birds communicate with one another and how we can begin to understand what they are saying.

Your newsletter editor, Gwyn Calvetti, is always happy to receive your submissions.



## President's Message

*Scott Puchalski*

I hope you all enjoyed the summer. Now that we are in the waning days of the season, the fall migration has begun. The warblers have begun to trickle back in along with the other passerines. We are at the tail end of the shorebird migration and due to the extremely high water levels this year they have been hard to find. The waterfowl has not yet begun to move and I would not expect them to for at least a month. This year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Bird Treaty and the 100 anniversary of the National Park System. If you have not had the opportunity to visit a National Park or Refuge this year I would urge you to do so, or one of our state run parks. They offer a great diversity of wildlife, plants and natural wonders. As always our program year starts this September. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month with the doors opening at 6:30. We will be meeting again at the Ho-Chunk nations building in La Crosse. Besides meetings, we will be holding field trips and that information will be provided at a later date. Last but not least, we will again be participating in the Annual Christmas Bird Count this December. The official count date has not been confirmed yet, but if you're willing to help I know that Dan Jackson would be thrilled. Contact him at:

[dejackson2256@gmail.com](mailto:dejackson2256@gmail.com).

Enjoy the Outdoors,

Scott

## **Mississippi River Backwater Birding Tour September 18, Harpers Ferry Iowa**

Join Jon Stravers for a birding trip by boat aboard the Maiden Voyage!

The boat will leave Harpers Ferry at 9 a.m. that day, and we will tour parts of the Upper Pool 10 Harpers Slough complex, then lock through and tour portions of lower Pool 9 where we should find some migrating waterfowl. We'll return to the dock at 12PM. Cost for the trip is \$25 per person, with proceeds going to local birding conservation efforts and a fisheree for kids. For more information, contact Jon Stravers 563-880- 8046 - e-mail: hawk@acegroup.cc

### **It's Annual Renewal Time**

This is the start of 2016-2017 program year of the Coulee Region Audubon Society and a great time to renew your membership and support our chapter.

The Coulee Region Audubon Society is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Therefore, if you are a current member of the National Audubon Society from the Coulee Region area, you are already a member of this local chapter.

Being a member at the national level supports both national and local efforts and entitles you to receive the Audubon Magazine as well as the Coulee Birder – the newsletter of our chapter. An easy way to join/renew your national membership is to go to the membership page of the Audubon website at: <http://www.audubon.org/membership>.

It is also possible to be a local member of our chapter. Local members do not receive any of the membership benefits associated with national membership, but all of your membership dues are used to support our local chapter and its activities.

We encourage you to help out by joining / renewing at either or both of these levels to help support this chapter.

If you would like to have a local membership, please use the form on the back page of the newsletter to complete your renewal for the new program year. Simply complete the form and send it along with your check made out to the Coulee Region Audubon Society to:

Marty Lohman, Treasurer

Coulee Region Audubon Society

PO Box 2573

La Crosse, WI 54602-2573

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Coulee Region Audubon Society

## Things are happening at the International Owl Center!

There are a lot of fun events coming up this fall at the International Owl Center in Houston Minnesota. If you haven't been there lately, stop in for a visit. They have a new owl ambassador in residence. Piper is a Barn Owl. They acquired her through a special program, which you can learn all about if you ask.

Here are some events slated for the coming weeks.

### **Owl Prowl to call in wild owls Saturday, September 24 at 6:30 P International Owl Center, Houston, MN**

Fall is a great time to hear owls! They live all around us but are very good at evading detection. Come learn how to identify our local owls by size, shape, silhouette and sound with the Owl Center's human and owl staff. Following the indoor portion of the program participants will carpool to known owl territories in and around Houston to call for Eastern Screech-Owls, Barred Owls, and Great Horned Owls.

Dress for the weather, and try to wear clothes that don't make noise when you move. Calling will be done from the side of the road, so very little walking is required. Children are welcome, but must be able to stand quietly for at least 10 minutes at a time. Meet at the International Owl Center at the listed time and expect to return roughly 2.5 - 3 hours later.

Please RSVP by emailing [karla@internationalowlcenter.org](mailto:karla@internationalowlcenter.org) or calling [507-896-6957](tel:507-896-6957), but pay when you arrive. Programs will be canceled in case of significant wind, rain, or severe road conditions. Participants who have reserved a space will be notified of cancellations.

Cost: Members: \$7, non-members \$10.

*On that same weekend, enjoy the "Taste of the Trail" event, which includes an edible owl contest.*

*Don't miss this chance for some fun family (or individual) creativity! If you're not the creative type, it's a chance for you to drool over other people's creations and vote for the winners.*

*Entries must depict owls and be made entirely out of food items that can be displayed at room temperature for 2-3 days. There are two categories: Family and Individual. Visitors to the International Owl Center will vote for their favorite entry in each category with money, and each category winner will take home half of the cash in their voting jar. Only "tasting" with the eyes is allowed, so everyone can enjoy seeing the full creations. Shameless self-promotion of entries is encouraged since this is a fundraiser for the Owl Center, so tell all of your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives to vote for your entry!*

*Information on contest rules and upcoming events can be found at [internationalowlcenter.org](http://internationalowlcenter.org)*

In October, you can take part in the "Moonlight Hoot Scoot," a walk/run by luminaries and moonlight on the Root River Trail. It takes place October 21 and proceeds benefit the Owl Center. Again, full information and entry forms are available on their website.



*These were definitely edible! All gone and won't make it to the contest!*

**Coulee Region Audubon Society**

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