



January/February 2020

Meetings

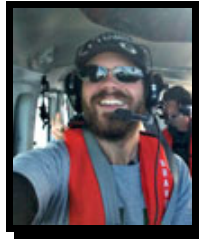
Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Ho-Chunk Nation Building, 724 Main St. in LaCrosse starting at 7PM. They are free and open to the public.

January 15 Important!

This month's meeting is a little bit different. Our annual meeting and potluck will begin at 6PM, followed by election of officers and then sharing of photos. If you have photos you think our members would enjoy, please do limit yourself to no more than 25, so all who want to share have a chance.

February 19

We will learn about the bird rescue and rehabilitation efforts and programs right here in the Coulee Region. One of the rehabbers from the Coulee Region Humane Society will present on their work in this area.



President's Message

By Jonathan Ringdahl

Greetings bird lovers!

A new year brings new excitement and energy to our lives. This new year brought in a new decade as well. This makes it a fresh start in at least two ways. We hope you will join us in making a commitment to make this a great decade for birds. Get involved in projects at local parks, wildlife refuges, state parks, and/or national parks that help birds. There are fun opportunities to give back out there and meet amazing people who get their hands directly involved in worthy causes.

A great way to be involved is to become a Coulee Region Audubon Society board member. Being a board member gives you a direct voice into the good we do for birds. A vibrant, diverse board makes the organization strong and is necessary for it to be sustainable. Elections will be held at our meeting this month in conjunction with our potluck and picture slideshow. We need your talents and abilities to become a stronger organization. Step-up today and make a difference. Be a leader for birds!

Happy birding!

Jonathan

Christmas Bird Count

Thanks to all who helped with the La Crosse Area Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The totals now stand at 15,902 birds of 57 species seen on count day with 3 additional "count week" species seen in the 3 days before and after Saturday, December 14. A single Red-breasted Nuthatch was included on one of the section counts that came in, so that species is now represented. This year is definitely not a good one for northern irruptive birds like Redpolls, Crossbills, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. The food supply in the boreal forest is great this year and they haven't needed to head south to find food.

This year, we once again had over 85 people take part in this count and as a group, we contributed 315 counting hours. I can't say thank you enough to express my appreciation for all of your help with this event!! It is really wonderful to have such a great group of volunteers who are willing to help out year after year to make this work! Special thanks also to the new counters who took part this year for the first time! I hope that you enjoyed yourselves on Saturday and that I can count on your help again in the future (pun intended)!!

Upcoming Events!

January 18 – Golden Eagle Survey. The National Eagle Center in Wabasha puts on a Golden Eagle Survey in the Driftless area each January. Check their website at www.nationaleaglecenter.org for more information.

February 14-17 Great Backyard Bird Count Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real time snapshot of where birds are. To learn more and participate in this citizen science project, visit their website at: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

April 18 - Annual Midwest Crane Count - 5:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m. The Annual Midwest Crane Count is one of the largest citizen-based wildlife surveys in the world. One of the primary purposes of the Crane Count is to monitor the abundance and distribution of cranes in the Upper Midwest. The Crane Count is organized by county in Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota. More information on the Crane Count can be found at: www.savingcranes.org.

Great Backyard Bird Count Event at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery

On Saturday, February 15th, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the Coulee Region Audubon Society will host a bird count at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery which is located on Hwy 35 about 4 miles south of Genoa, WI. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the Great River Road Interpretive Center and will talk briefly about the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) and other bird-related citizen science opportunities before we take a hike around the hatchery grounds to count the birds at that location.

During the winter, the hatchery often hosts a few hardy over-wintering shorebirds including Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe. There are often Bald Eagles, Belted Kingfishers, and other species of birds there as well. This is intended to be a family event for bird enthusiasts of all ages and it is free and open to the public.

We expect the event to last up to an hour including the brief introduction, hike, and the recording of our results.

International Festival of Owls, March 6-8 Houston Minnesota

This festival always offers something for the owl lover in all of us, even those who aren't really birders. From a banquet, owl prowls, serious science and many family activities, there's sure to be something this weekend for even the most discerning of folks. Although Alice has officially retired, there will be plenty of owl fun to enjoy, with other owls in attendance. This international event grew from a small town celebration of Alice's "Hatch Day" into one that grows with each passing year.

Shake the late winter doldrums and enjoy all things owl. For more information, Check the website at www.festivalofowls.com.

In addition to the big festival, the Owl Center hosts monthly Owl Prowls to call in wild owls and pellet dissection days. Take the drive to Houston and see whooo's busy! Check the website for details. www.internationalowlcenter.org

Website Update

The Coulee Region Audubon Society website (<http://www.couleeeaudubon.org/>) is in the process of getting a major update. Jeff Fischer has been building us a new website as a volunteer project to satisfy the requirements of his training and certification as a Wisconsin Master Naturalist. It is expected to be completed and released this month.

The new version of the site will include all of the same great information that has been included in the previous version of our website and will also include an active calendar, a connection to a blog that will be used for communication, as well as many other great updates. Thank you, Jeff, for all of your work to update our website!!

We would also like to thank Lennie Lichter for his many, many years of service and dedication to the development and maintenance of our current website. The site has been a wonderful tool for sharing information with current and prospective members and his years of work on that site have been a wonderful gift to our organization!



Scott Puchalski recently captured this leucistic chickadee at the Goose Island feeders.

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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