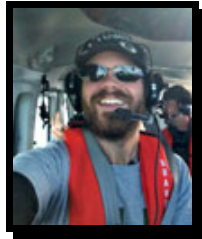




March/April 2022

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month. For now, they are held via Zoom. Links to these Zoom meetings will be posted on the Coulee Region Audubon Sightings Facebook page and sent via email to our membership.



President's Message
By Jonathan Ringdahl

March 16

Krysten Zummo - Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Come learn how a local land trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, is working to create protected habitat corridors with the help of birds as a conservation catalyst.

Greetings bird lovers!

Spring is on its way! While the world has been going through ups and downs, the birds continue to treat us with their presence and provide joy. We will see many of them returning to and through the region before we know it. Eagles are congregating in growing numbers on the northside of La Crosse. We will be seeing warblers before we know it! I'm excited for this sign of spring!

April 20

Jon Stravers - Cerulean Warbler and Red-shouldered Hawk research in Northeast Iowa and the Driftless Region. Jon has been working on a Cerulean Warbler research project in Northeast Iowa for the past 12 years and has been working on a Red-shouldered Hawk research project in the Driftless Region for the past 38 years. He will give an update on these projects and other initiatives that he is working on.

We will have great speakers finishing out this program year. Be sure to check them out. Planning is underway for World Migratory Bird Day in May. Spring is going to be fun and we are excited to see what birds you see. Please share your sightings on our Coulee Region Audubon Sightings Facebook page.

Happy birding!

Jonathan Ringdahl

Upcoming Events!

Annual Midwest Crane Count

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m., the International Crane Foundation will sponsor the 46th Annual Midwest Crane Count. Over 1,000 volunteer participants from throughout Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Minnesota participate in the spring survey, which gathers information on the abundance and distribution of cranes in the upper Midwest. New volunteers interested in taking part in the survey should contact Jean Ledman, La Crosse County Coordinator for instructions (jledman2@yahoo.com).

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, crane count volunteers should plan on wearing a mask during the count and stay at least six feet from other participants from different households. Participants should also avoid carpooling with participants from outside their household and counting in large groups to limit exposure to COVID-19. The International Crane Foundation sponsors the Annual Midwest Crane Count as a part of its mission to conserve the world's 15 species of cranes and the natural communities on which they depend. Sandhill Cranes once nearly disappeared from Wisconsin, but the species has successfully recovered and is slowly expanding into neighboring states. Observations of Sandhill Cranes can lend insight into threatened crane species, including the endangered Whooping Crane. There are now approximately 80 Whooping Cranes in the reintroduced population in central Wisconsin, and Crane Counters may have a chance of sighting a Whooping Crane during the survey.

For more information on the Annual Midwest Crane Count: Visit www.cranecount.org and contact your county coordinator.

Jean Ledman

La Crosse County Midwest Crane Count Coordinator

International Festival of Owls

This annual festival will be seeing some changes this year in order to hold most of it in an outdoor setting. The location will be the Houston Hoedown Fest Grounds and the dates are April 30-May 1. Most events will take place on Saturday. Due to the changing nature of the times in which we live, planning is somewhat fluid. Please check their website to stay up to date. <https://www.festivalofowls.com/>

Coulee Region Audubon Events

Spring Bird Walks

While some of us are out and about looking for returning waterfowl, the big show comes a little later. Warbler and other migratory birds will be returning before long, and the early morning spring bird walks will, too. Starting April 26, gather at 6:30 near the Myrick Park marsh edge parking on Tuesdays and the Lower Hixon Parking area on Thursdays.

These will be held for three weeks. Hope to see you there, it's always a fun way to wake up your day.

Wyalusing Field Trip May 14

Dan Jackson will again lead a field trip at Wyalusing State Park south of Prairie du Chien. This is considered a premier birding spot in southwest Wisconsin, hosting several species such as Cerulean Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler. We start early and finish up around noon, although most of us will just keep birding. Watch the website and facebook pages for more information as we get closer to that date.



Coulee Region Audubon Society

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