

# Coulee Birder

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Audubon Society



November/December 2022



## President's Message By Jonathan Ringdahl

Greetings bird lovers,

Just the other day, the sounds of swans rang across the Trempealeau NWR. It was a beautiful day to be out birding. I hope you have been out enjoying fall migration and the fall colors. It is a lovely time of year.

### Meetings

We continue to deal with the challenges of this pandemic. Although in person meetings are still not happening, we are having some great presentations on our Zoom meetings. Please be patient with us as we, like everyone else, navigate this technology. A reminder via email will be sent a couple days ahead of the meetings with the Zoom link. Meetings will start at 7PM.

#### November 16

Barbara Duerksen of the Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group. She will be sharing with us about their work on behalf of these amazing aerial Insectivores.

#### December 17

This is the date of our Christmas Bird Count. Look for the article in this newsletter for more details on how you can participate.

We are working out details on a meeting site to bring us back in-person. We will share details as they get worked out. Our ideal option is to keep the virtual component as well for those who do not wish to travel to the meetings for any reason.

Our annual meeting and election is coming-up in January. I will be stepping aside as president. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve you over the last several years on the board. If you are interested in any of the positions that are up for election, please feel free to reach out to learn more about what being on the board entails. Nominations will also be accepted during the meeting as well.

Happy birding,  
Jonathan Ringdahl

## **Christmas Bird Count**

The 2022 Audubon Christmas Bird Count season is getting close. This is a big event, and we can always use more help!!

There are two types of volunteers who take part in Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) - Section Counters and Feeder Counters. Section Counters go in the field and count as many birds as possible in an pre-assigned section of the circle, either alone or as part of a team. Feeder Counters count the birds in their own yard (as long as they live within a count circle).

The La Crosse / La Crescent Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is coming up on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and I would love to have your help!!

For those who haven't participated in the past, for the La Crosse CBC, we count all of the birds that we can find on the count day within a 15-mile circle that is centered on the La Crosse County Courthouse. I divide the circle in 25-30 sections and individuals, or teams are then responsible for covering a pre-assigned section on the count day (this year 12/17/2022).

Section assignments are based on previous involvement. It is very helpful to have the same person count the same section each year since they have learned the "hot spots" in that section. Therefore, if I have a returning counter who wants to stay in the same section, they will have that choice. Due to scheduling issues close to the Christmas season, I always have a need for new counters for existing sections and, if there are enough volunteers, I can divide sections or have people work as part of a team.

For those who have participated in the past, thanks again for your help and I hope that I can count on you again this year. For people who haven't participated, I hope that you will give it a try!!

Please let me know whether or not you would be willing to participate this year as soon as you can (that makes my job easier since I don't have to send multiple requests to a large number of people). If you are unsure of your availability, please let me know that so that I can reach out again closer to the event.

I hope that you have a great Thanksgiving and holiday season and hope that I can count on your help!!

I haven't decided on whether or not we will hold a potluck this year. If we don't we will set up a Zoom meeting where we can share results and best sightings. If you participate in the count, please let me know what you think is appropriate.

If interested, this is a link to the CBC page of the CouleeAudubon.org website: <http://www.couleeaudubon.org/html/cbc.html>. This page includes a link to the latest map and prior year results.

Thanks!!

Dan Jackson, Compiler

La Crosse Area Christmas Bird Count

## ***Whoooo's that calling?***

Just an annual reminder about our owl friends....give them space and be respectful when viewing them. Karla Bloem of the International Owl Center has developed a really great resource that covers not only owl "etiquette," but has specific examples of how to tell when the owl has "had enough." Check out this link, learn the signs, enjoy the owls briefly, then leave them alone. While you're checking out the link, also check out the information on upcoming expert led owl prowls.

[https://www.internationalowlcenter.org/respectful\\_observation.html](https://www.internationalowlcenter.org/respectful_observation.html)

Also, plan ahead. The Festival of Owls will be returning to March 3-5, 2023. And don't forget their monthly Owl Prowls. For more information, check this link.  
<https://www.festivalofowls.com/>

## **Cranes, Cranes, Cranes!**

The Great Midwest Crane Fest will be taking place in the Baraboo area. This is a great opportunity to witness the gathering of Sandhill Cranes as they prepare to head for warmer winters, as well as learn more about this amazing birds. The dates are November 10-12 and more information can be found at their website.

[greatmidwestcranefest.org](http://greatmidwestcranefest.org)



## **Annual Meeting January 18, 2023**

In the past, we've enjoyed a potluck gathering with members sharing slides of all things bird. We are hopeful that by the time of this meeting, we'll have a regular meeting space and can do this again. During our meeting, we will be electing members to our Board, and will take nominations from the floor. The positions up for election will be President, Vice President and one Board Member. We'd love to see new folks bring new ideas to our Board. If you are at all interested in being one of those people, just ask any of the current Board members about their experience.

**Coulee Region Audubon Society**

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