



September/October 2013

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held in the lower level of the Ho-Chunk Nation Headquarters at 724 Main St. LaCrosse, and begin at 7:00 PM. They are free and open to the public.

September 18- Jessica Stanton will give a presentation on the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. She will focus on the background and history of the bird.

October 16-Doug Aloisi of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery will talk about the Hatchery and some of its programs. On October 19, there will be a follow up field trip at the Hatchery at 10:00. It will include opportunities for birding and a tour of the facility.

President's Message



Dan Jackson

It is hard to believe that it is almost September. It seems like yesterday that I was getting excited about the spring migration and now the fall migration is already into its third month (yes, the fall migration really does start in July with the return of adult shorebirds).

If you haven't had a chance to see some of the neotropic migrants that grace our area in the spring, summer and fall, you had better look soon. Many birds that come to our area to nest have already left or will leave very soon and warblers from up north are starting to move through our area with the peak just around the corner. I have already seen reports from our area and someone saw 17 species of warblers yesterday in Bayfield County.

Although it is the end of summer, it is the beginning of a new program year for the Coulee Region Audubon Society. We are working to find great speakers for the new program year and as always, if you have any ideas, please share them with me or other members of the board. We are always looking for exciting subjects and speakers for our monthly meetings.

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As an organization, we are also looking for ways to reach out and make everyone more aware of the world around us and the issues that affect the health of our planet. We will continue to purchase Audubon Adventures curriculum packets for grade school teachers that are interested in materials to teach children about the natural world. If you know of any 3rd-6th grade teachers that may be interested, please pass along their name and contact information so that we can offer the material to them.

We will also be looking at other ways to encourage more awareness of our environment. The board is considering a small grant program to encourage teachers and others to make a difference. Details will be coming soon.

As always, we encourage everyone to use an electronic version of this newsletter. If you are still receiving a paper copy and have access to a computer and e-mail, please consider making the switch. If you are interested, send me an e-mail at DanJackson@LBWhite.com and I will make the switch.

Enjoy the warmth. Fall and winter aren't far away.

Events

In addition to the October 19 field trip at the Fish Hatchery mentioned in the meeting notes, there are other opportunities around the area to get out, enjoy all the Coulee Region has to offer, especially the fall migration.

Birding by Bike, September 1

This is part of the Bicycle LaCrosse Bike Festival. Participants will gather at Cameron Park at 8AM and the tour will last for approximately 90 minutes. More information can be obtained by contacting monarchmigrations@gmail.com

Prairie Enthusiasts hosting hikes to area grasslands, September 7

Starting at 8AM, they will be hosting hikes at the following grassland conservancies: New Amsterdam Prairie, Holland Sand Prairie, Midway Railroad Prairie and the Hixon Forest Hill Prairie. For more information, check their website at www.prairieenthusiasts.org

CRAS Highway Clean Up, October 12

The Coulee Region Audubon Society has adopted a section of highway to keep clean. This year it should be extra interesting, as that section is Highway 61 just north of the Dresbach Welcome Center, where all the construction has been taking place. Many hands make light work, and you might even find money! It has happened! Plan to meet at the Welcome Center at 9AM. Bring gloves. Safety vests and bags are provided, and after the work is done, celebrate with lunch in LaCrescent. For more information, contact Board Member Mark Webster at

The Big Sit! 2013

Looking for a different kind of birding experience? Consider taking part in the annual "Big Sit," which will occur on October 12-13 this year. This is a non-competitive event sponsored by Birdwatcher's Digest every year. Some call it a worldwide tailgate party for birders.

The simplicity of the concept makes The Big Sit! so appealing. Find a good spot for bird watching, preferably with good views of a variety of habitats and lots of birds. Next you create a real or imaginary circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside the circle for 24 hours, counting all the bird species you see or hear. That's it. Find a spot, sit in it and have fun.

For more information, check the website at:

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/about.php#>

Coulee Region Audubon ...Find us on Facebook!

Thanks to Kim and Scott Puchalski, our group has a presence on Facebook...twice, actually.

Coulee Region Audubon Society Facebook page shares information of interest, including monthly meeting updates, field trips and reports from various sites that may be of general interest to members.

Coulee Region Audubon Society Sightings Facebook group page is a place where members can report sightings in the area. It's a great spot to share photos, ask for ID tips or even make plans to head out birding with others. The photo sharing aspect of this group is especially nice for those of us who use Facebook. Thanks to Kim and Scott for creating and moderating these great resources for us.

A note from your newsletter editor....

This is my first go around with the newsletter. As a reformed perfectionist, I have had to settle for "good enough" this time, accepting that things aren't as polished as I'd like. Gretchen and Dave did an outstanding job all those years and are a tough act to follow! That said, I hope to improve with each one and would extend the offer they always did, that if anyone has items of interest they'd like to share, to pass them along.



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