

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Audubon Society

# Coulee Birder

**Please note! Meetings will be third Tuesday at Ho-Chunk Building!**

September/October 2015

## Meetings

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

September 15

### **“Identifying Fall Warblers”**

Scott Puchalski, our Vice President, will help us with those often “confusing fall warblers.”

October 20

### **“Bats of Wisconsin”**

Jennifer Redell, Cave and Mine Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR, will share about those other flying creatures, bats. She is involved in the Wisconsin Bat Program, which monitors and manages our state’s bat populations.

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

## President's Message



*Dan Jackson*

*It is the beginning of September and time to start a new program year for the Coulee Region Audubon Society. Most of you are aware that we will have to change meeting locations again due to increasing costs for the space at the Myrick Park Center. Unfortunately, the City of La Crosse Parks and Rec Department is not interested in keeping the Myrick Park Center affordable for local non-profit organizations. To stay there, we would have to pay \$50 per hour to use that space unless we had members volunteer at many Park and Rec activities. Even in that case, we would have to pay \$25 per hour to use that space. Simply put, we can't afford that. That would absorb most of our annual budget and we could then not afford to hire great speakers and carry out other activities.*

*Since we can't meet at the Myrick Park Center, the board worked hard to look at many other options. The Onalaska Library looked promising, but we didn't get enough notice from the Park & Rec Department so we were too late to reserve the dates that we wanted at the library.*

*It has turned out that our best option is to return to the basement meeting room of the Ho-Chunk Nation building on the corner of 8th and Main Streets (directly west on the other side*

*Cont on p. 2*

***President's message cont't from p. 1***

of 8th street from the main branch of the La Crosse Public Library). That space is no longer available on the third Wednesday of the month, but it is available on the third Tuesday of the month. Therefore, we will be moving both our meeting location and meeting day. Please note the change and plan accordingly.

If you get the chance, please thank Perry and other representatives of the Ho-Chunk for letting us return to their facility. They have treated us very well in the past and we really appreciate their being willing to let us return once again for the 2015-2016 program year.

To say that I am not ready for fall is an understatement. I am still having way too much fun chasing dragonflies and other insects with my net and camera. However, there are definitely signs that fall is just around the corner and my bugs won't be around much longer. Insect diversity and numbers are falling quickly and the fall migration of passerines, shorebirds, and many other types of birds is at full swing.

This last weekend, I saw a migration event that was absolutely amazing. On my way home from a camping trip, I spotted a migrating flock of Common Nighthawks on the northern outskirts of Sparta. It turned out that the loose flock of Nighthawks extended all of the way past Leon - about 10 miles to the south. There were literally hundreds of Nighthawks assembling and preparing for their journey south.

This is a great time to get out and enjoy the fall migration and all of its amazing splendor. Birds aren't in quite as much of a hurry during the fall migration and there are also larger numbers since the flocks include the year's hatchlings. Sometimes their plumage can be confusing since they often look different than they do in the spring. However, looking for them is a great activity and worth the time. If you haven't been out yet, get out and enjoy this great event!

***BioBlitz 2015***

The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department will be holding its 2nd Annual BioBlitz event this year. The date is set for September 19th, 2015. We expect the event to take place from 9am to 3pm; however researchers/surveyors are encouraged to use the site as long as necessary. The event will take place on the landfill grounds and the various habitats will be open for those interested in looking at the species in those areas. Last year the event was successful in identifying a variety of birds, plants, fungi, mammals, insects and amphibians. Volunteers from the Audubon Society, Ecopark, Sierra Club, Department of Natural Resources, and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy were of great help in making this event a reality. Those interested in performing species surveys should contact me (see contact information below) with the habitat and organisms they are hoping to survey for. We also have a species list available for those who are interested. The La Crosse County Landfill covers over 350 acres, most of which is disturbed land; however some are natural and semi-natural habitats. The following are some habitats we have on the site: forest, prairie, wetland, and grasslands. Surveyors may work in groups or alone, although partners are suggested. You MUST RSVP before the event with your name and surveying plan. All data collected from the event will be compiled and made available to those who wish to use it. The site is also available for long-term and short-term research projects.

If you cannot attend the event but would still like to help out in some way, there are also opportunities to help (con't p. 3)

*(Bioblitz 2015 con't from p. 2)*

*set-up the event and post flyers! Extra hands are always welcome and we will be able to find something for you to do. The landfill is a surprisingly beautiful area that everyone should see. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain some volunteer experience while providing a great service to the community. It will also give you the rare opportunity to meet with experts in the field! We are looking forward to seeing you!*

*Feel free to contact Jackie Davis, La Crosse Solid Waste Department, with any questions or comments at (608)-785-7811 or Jdavis@lacssecounty.org*

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

This is the start of 2015-2016 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

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



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**Coulee Region Audubon  
Society Local Membership**

\$10 Student

\$15 Household

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