



# Coulee Birder

January/February 2016

## 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 20 Important!**

As mentioned in the President's message, 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. See President's Message for complete information.

### **February 17**

Suzanne Brotén, of Coulee Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Chasburg, will be sharing her work with us, as well as sharing some live animals under her care. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about great work helping wildlife that is happening in the Coulee Region.



### **President's Message**

*By Dan Jackson*

Just a reminder - effective with our January meeting, we will be returning to our normal 3rd Wednesday of the month meeting schedule for our monthly meetings which will continue to be held in the basement meeting room of the Ho-Chunk Nation Building which is located at 724 Main Street, La Crosse. This is the large brick building on the SW corner of the intersection of Main and 8th Streets in downtown La Crosse (directly across 8th Street from the main branch of the La Crosse Public Library). The normal start time for meetings is 7:00 PM with the exception of pot-luck events which start at 6:00.

Speaking of pot-lucks, our January meeting is our annual meeting and potluck. The potluck will start at 6:00 and all are encouraged to attend. If you would like to take part, bring a dish to pass and your own plates and silverware. Coulee Audubon will provide lemonade and milk and there will be water and coffee available as well. If you would prefer a different beverage with your meal, please bring it along.

Our annual meeting will start at 7:00 PM. For those that would prefer to not take part in the potluck, you are welcome to come at that time. The annual meeting will be a short business meeting which will include an election of 3 board positions and a few other items. The positions on the ballot include the position of President, Vice-President, and a member-at-large. Currently, Scott Puchalski has agreed to have his name on the ballot for President and Gwyn Calvetti has agreed to have her name on the ballot for the member-at-large board position for which she is the incumbent. We are still looking for a candidate for the position of Vice-President.

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### ***President's message con't from p. 1***

I would encourage all members to please consider taking this position. The term of the position is two years and the Vice President is responsible for making sure that programming is arranged for monthly meetings (choosing and arranging for speakers). The Vice President would also run board and membership meetings if the president is not available. This is an important position for organization and one that must be filled. If you are interested, please contact me or any other member of the board.

After our annual meeting is completed, we will once again turn over the floor to all members who would like to share nature related photographs. A notebook computer and projector will be set up and it can display picture files and/or Powerpoint presentations. To be fair to all, if you would like to share your pictures, please limit yourself to no more than 25 pictures.

Since the upcoming election will result in the end of my role as president, I would like to say thanks to all of the members of the Coulee Region Audubon Society for entrusting me with the position of President for the past 10 years. I have enjoyed my time in this role and have enjoyed watching the organization grow and change during my tenure. Thanks specifically to all of the people who have served with me as officers and board members over those years!! Your commitment to the Coulee Region Audubon Society made my job easy and enjoyable and I really appreciate your help and support!!

Although I will no longer be President, I do plan to stay active in the organization and plan to lead many of the field trips that we sponsor each year. I hope that you will continue to join me in search of birds and other critters!!

### **Christmas Bird Count**

The La Crosse Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 19, 2015. After a mild start to winter with lots of open water, count day found much of that water iced over. Despite that, the counters did a great job and we recorded 16,387 individual birds of 77 species. This was a record high count! Some of the more unusual sightings included Northern Saw Whet Owl, Black Crowned Night Heron and Short-Eared Owl.

For this year's count, we had 59 participants who traveled 559 miles and logged at least 451 hours counting birds!!

Thanks again to all who helped with the La Crosse Area Christmas Bird Count!! This is a great example of the power of Citizen Science and I really appreciate the help!



Fred Lesher takes a little break from the hard work of bird counting to do a little bit of bird feeding!

## **Upcoming Events!**

**January 16 – 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](http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org) for more information.

**February 12-15 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>

**March 19** – Mississippi Waterfowl Field Trip. Dan Jackson will lead a waterfowl viewing field trip on Saturday, March 19. Meet at 8 a.m. at the entrance to Goose Island. We will head south and look for waterfowl and other early migrants as far as Genoa or Rush Creek and finish around noon. The trip is free and open to everyone.

**April 16 - 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. Each year, the Crane Count involves over 3,000 volunteers spread over 100 counties in six states. The Crane Count is organized by county in Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota. Scott Puchalski will coordinate La Crosse County this year. Other area counties are also looking for volunteers.

Past participants will receive an email from Scott in early April inviting you to participate again. If you have not counted before and would like to join the count, please send Scott an email at: [obsidianblur@gmail.com](mailto:obsidianblur@gmail.com) and he will help you get started.

More information on the Crane Count can be found at: [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org).

### **International Festival of Owls, March 4-6 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. Karla Bloem will be on hand with Alice the Great Horned Owl. 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](http://www.festivalofowls.com).

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