

Coulee Birder

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Audubon Society

May/June 2018

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Ho-chunk Nation Building, 724 Main Street, LaCrosse, starting at 7PM. They are free and open to the public.

May 16

Jim Rogala, The Prairie Enthusiasts

Jim Rogala, president of the Coulee Area Prairie Enthusiasts, will be our guest this month. His program is “Prairie Ecosystems: Looking Beyond the Grasses,” and should be a great way to learn more about this unique habitat and what we might find there.

June 20

Our last meeting before our summer break is the potluck, followed by birding on the trails. We will have the potluck at a location to be announced. Please bring dishes and of course, a dish to share. We will have the potluck at **6PM** and go birding when we’re done eating!



President's Message

By Scott Puchalski

Happy Spring,

The annual migration has started. It seemed like it would never get here, but now the cranes are appearing, robins are everywhere and the red-winged blackbirds are staking out their turf. If you've been hiding out on the recliner all winter, now's the time to get outside and see what's happening. Coulee Audubon will have many opportunities to do just that in the coming weeks, so mark those dates on your calendar and come along. Hard-core birders and brand new ones, we welcome all of you.

We are planning on some new offerings as well. How about birding by bike with one of Wisconsin's top Green Birders, Emily Weiser? Emily is a great advocate for getting out under our own power and really taking in the local area. Plus, you can shed some of that extra weight you put on sitting in that recliner all winter. Watch for details and join the fun and learning.

Enjoy the Outdoors,
Scott

Newsletter submissions are always welcome. The deadline for the next issue is August 20. Please send them to the newsletter editor at gwyntells@gmail.com Thanks!

Events, events, events!

Just stepping outside the door this time of year is an event! One never knows what might be seen passing through the area, making for birding that's even more fun than ever. We've been seeing the Robins in our yard the past few days, a nice change of pace from the finches. In keeping with the fever of spring, there are lots of things happening. Here are some of those.

April 24, May 1, May 8 and May 15 Myrick Marsh Bird Walks. Start at 6:30 AM at the EcoPark building parking lot.

April 26, May 3, May 10 and May 17 Hixon Forest Bird Walks. Meet at 6:30AM at the Hixon Forest parking lot.

International Migratory Bird Day Events: The Year of the Bird

May 5 Migrate to the Marsh: Myrick Park

Enjoy an early morning bird walk, bird banding, live raptors and more.

For more info, check <https://lacrossebirdday.wordpress.com/>

May 12 Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge

Lots to do this weekend, beginning with a wine social May 11 at Elmaro with Laura Erickson presenting, and a full slate of activities on Saturday at the Refuge.

For more info, check https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/WMBD_Brochure_2018.pdf

May 12 MVC Linked to the Land Sugar Creek Bluff Hike

If you seek river views from on high, consider signing up for this hike led by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy to the top of Sugar Creek Bluff near Ferryville.

For more info, check <http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/events/international-migratory-bird-watching-hike>

Looking for the perfect Mothers Day gift for the birding mom?

Lots of the coolest mothers are also birders. If you're stuck for a gift for that cool mom, the Wisconsin Historical Society Press has just released a book that might fit the bill. (See what I did there?)

Taking Flight: A History of Birds and People in the Heart of America by Michael Edmonds is a fascinating study of the history of the relationship between humans and birds in the Midwest.

From the book jacket:

"Taking Flight explores how and why people in the nation's heartland worshipped, feared, studied, hunted, ate, and protected the birds that surrounded them. From ancient American Indian shamans to Renaissance explorers, and from frontier market hunters to modern conservationists, our ancestors thought about birds differently than we do, and acted differently toward them."

For more information, check out their website. I'm not taking any chances....I'm ordering it for myself. One way to get exactly what I want for Mothers Day!

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress/books/book.asp?book_id=576

Mississippi Valley Conservancy wants YOU!

Mississippi Valley Conservancy needs your HELP! We are seeking volunteers to help determine presence or absence of bird species on different sites throughout southwest Wisconsin. Volunteers would go to a site in early morning and make a list of what is seen/heard on MVC nature preserves or land MVC holds conservation easements on. This invaluable information will help to guide our restoration activities and prioritize sites with populations of state-listed bird species. If interested, email Mary Dresser, Conservation Assistant at mary@mississippivalleyconservancy.org with your preference for habitat (forest, wetland, grassland); geographical interest (Vernon County, Monroe County, anywhere, etc) and availability. We're hoping to schedule site visits for late May or early June.



Coulee Region Audubon Society

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