



January/February 2019

## 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.*



President's Message  
By Jonathan Ringdahl

Happy New Year bird lovers!

I love this time of year. Excitement is in the air. We all get a fresh start and make resolutions. Hope permeates through us. It is time to start a new list of bird sightings. Common species are new checkmarks again.

It also means it is time for our annual meeting. This event includes a potluck, a business meeting, and a slideshow that spotlights all the great photographs that you and other members have taken over the past year.

The business meeting will include a status update on the chapter's finances, a review of upcoming events, and an election of board members and officers. This election is a great opportunity to make a difference for people and birds. We have a collection of great ideas ready to put into action. All we need are passionate and motivated people to join the board - we can train you from there.

We are at a critical juncture for our Audubon chapter. We have 3 open seats that need to be filled. These are necessary to fill for our Audubon chapter to continue to operate. Without committed board members, Coulee Audubon, and all we love about it, will have to fold. We need leaders to step-up to keep us going. If you feel that this organization is important and worthwhile, please step forward and join the board!

The three positions that need to be filled are the Vice-President, Secretary, and an at-large Board Member position. The Vice-President is responsible for finding and organizing our speaker schedule. The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at our general and board meetings to record chapter business. The At-large Board Member is responsible, as are all board positions, to attend general and board meetings to share ideas, feedback, vote on chapter matters, and work on chapter improvements. If you are willing to take on any of these positions, please e-mail me or another member of the board.

*Cont. on p. 2*

Pres. Message con't from p. 1

We want to share a story of the impact we are having and new board members can share in the joy of. We held our first annual Christmas Bird Count for kids at the Sparta Public Library. Enthusiastic kids came to find birds hidden around the library. The last boy who came touched our hearts the most. He and his mom found all of the birds while squeezing the plush birds to hear their calls. Once done, this special 2 ½ year-old proudly proclaimed he found all of the birds. Before leaving, he went to all of the birds downstairs to say goodbye to them. He warmed our hearts. All of our work to make this event happen became worth it in this moment. We are in a great position to touch more lives and help birds. We have two library Great Backyard Bird Counts scheduled for Sparta and Galesville. If you are interested in learning more about being on our board, please reach out to us through email, Facebook, and/or at our upcoming meeting. Let us keep Coulee Audubon strong and vibrant into the future together.

Happy birding,  
Jonathan Ringdahl

## Christmas Bird Count

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this year's La Crosse / La Crescent Christmas Bird Count!! It is really great to have a large group of volunteers who are willing to give up time on a Saturday in the Christmas season to take part in this event each year!

Our species count this year was one species more than last year. Gorgeous weather and some open water made for great conditions. Our totals now stand at 13,090 birds of 69 species. Some unusual birds spotted were Common Raven, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Pied-Billed Grebe and Merlin.

One important reason for these results is the large number of people who take part in this event. This year, we had 61 section counters and 40 feeder counters. As a group, this represents over 392 hours of counting and compiling time!! Thank You for this effort! Thanks again to Dan Jackson for coordinating all the counters and compiling these results.

## Upcoming Events!

**January 19 – 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 15-18 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>

**April 13 - 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. The Crane Count is organized by county in Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota.

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

## **International Festival of Owls, March 1-3 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. Although Alice has officially retired, there will be plenty of owl fun to enjoy, with other owls in attendance. 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).

*In addition to the big festival, the Owl Center hosts monthly Owl Prowls to call in wild owls and pellet dissection days. Take the drive to Houston and see whooo's busy! Check the website for details. [www.internationalowlcenter.org](http://www.internationalowlcenter.org)*

### ***A Political Post....Not Really!***

This past November, just before Thanksgiving, Gwyn Calvetti, along with Nat Miller from the Great Lakes Audubon Chapter, spent some time with Congressman Ron Kind and his Deputy Chief of Staff, Brad Pfaff. We talked about conservation issues of interest to us as Audubon members, as well as some of his conservation concerns. We urged his vote to maintain the International Migratory Bird Treaty, which in the past he has supported. He has authored funding for the Neotropical Bird Conservation Act and we all agreed upon the importance of the Mississippi River to our area. He has a Mississippi River Working Group, and invited Gwyn to be part of this in order to share concerns for our local area. Gwyn agreed to do this, but as of this writing, has not heard anything related to the group. We felt it was a good meeting and encouraged him to join us for one of our spring bird walks. We'll see if that can happen in the coming months.



3<sup>rd</sup> District Rep. Ron Kind, Gwyn Calvetti, Nat Miller

**Coulee Region Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 2573**

**La Crosse WI 54602**

**Contacts**

President

Jonathan Ringdahl

[jonringdahl@gmail.com](mailto:jonringdahl@gmail.com)

Vice President

Open

Treasurer

Dan Jackson

[DanJackson@lbwhite.com](mailto:DanJackson@lbwhite.com)

Secretary

MaryJo Clark

[clarx01@centurylink.net](mailto:clarx01@centurylink.net)

Board Member

Gwyn Calvetti

[gwyntells@gmail.com](mailto:gwyntells@gmail.com)

608-786-2526

Board Member

Paul Hayes

[pjhayes@mwt.net](mailto:pjhayes@mwt.net)

Newsletter

Gwyn Calvetti

[gwyntells@gmail.com](mailto:gwyntells@gmail.com)

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/Coulee](https://www.facebook.com/Coulee)

RegionAudubon

Web

[www.couleeaudubon.org](http://www.couleeaudubon.org)

**Coulee Region Audubon Society**

Local Membership

\$10 Student

\$20 Household

\$30 Supporting

I'd like to receive the newsletter electronically

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with your check to:

Coulee Region Audubon Society

PO Box 2573

LaCrosse WI 54602-2573

Thanks!



