

Coulee Birder

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Audubon Society

March/April 2019

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.

March 20

Christian Cold

Christian Cold is a Wildlife Technician/Educator with the Bureau of Wildlife Management of the Wisconsin DNR. He will share his presentation on Extinction. In his words, *“It is a richly illustrated and thought-provoking account of life in the past and present with a positive forecast for the future.”* He also says he might “bring a critter to share.” Join us for this interesting talk.

April 17

Steve Betchkal

Steve will share his program “A Wisconsin Farmboy in the Galapagos.” He will share his stories about his time there with Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions. Steve is a lifelong Wisconsin birder living in Eau Claire. He has many publications and is a professional TV photojournalist, so we can look forward to hearing great stories and great visual imagery as well.



President's Message
By Jonathan Ringdahl

Greetings bird lovers!

Spring is coming! By the time our next newsletter after this one reaches you, temperatures will be steadily rising. We are almost through winter. As tough as it can be on us, it is even harder on our feathered friends. Ground feeders are disproportionately affected. To help them, shovel a path down to the ground around your feeders. I assure you there is frozen earth under the snow. Throw some of the seed and nuts you are putting in your feeders down on the ground to help them increase their survival chances. Depending on where you live, you may pull in some species you do not normally get. If that happens, please come to our meeting and share what you saw.

If the weather is keeping you inside, it is a wonderful time to polish your bird identification skills. There are many paper, online resources, and apps. You can find online quizzes and apps for picture identification plus song identification. These are a great way to improve your birding skills. Please, reach out to us if you have questions about these. We are happy to help you learn to use them.

International Migratory Bird Day is coming again, we have great speakers coming to our meetings, and our spring bird walks will be here before you know it. Please, join us for an event and experience the wonderful natural treasures of our beautiful Driftless Region.

Happy birding,
Jonathan

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. In keeping with the fever of spring, there are lots of things happening. Here are some of those.

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. 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.

La Crosse County does not have a coordinator yet this year. If you can help, please e-mail cranecount@savingcranes.org. More information on the Crane Count can be found at: www.savingcranes.org.

May 4 – International Migratory Bird Day event at Myrick Park. This will include bird-related activities for the entire family including bird banding, birding field trips, and much, much more.

May 11 – International Migratory Bird Day event at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Another great event with bird-related activities for the entire family.

May 12 - Wyalusing Field Trip. Dan Jackson will lead a Coulee Region Audubon field trip to Wyalusing State Park starting at 6:30 at the entrance to the park. Wyalusing is the best birding destination in western Wisconsin and is the home to a number of special species of birds.

April 23, 30, May 7 and May 14 -

Myrick Marsh Bird Walks. Start at 6:30 AM at the Myrick Park Center building parking lot.

April 25, May 2, 9 and May 16 -

Hixon Forest Bird Walks. Meet at 6:30 at the Hixon Forest parking lot.

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Final Season Kickoff Workshop

Maybe you've heard about this project. Maybe you've even been surveying an atlas block or two of your own. The fifth and final season of this project is already underway. You can learn more about it, connect with others who, like you, are already helping complete blocks for the project and brush up on birding skills all at once.

April 5-7 Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI

There are several events rolled inside this, including a Birds and Beers at Central Waters Brewing. Visit this link to learn more and sign up.

<https://wsobirds.org/atlas>

Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Project

Many long-time birders know that these wonderful birds have been somewhat scarce finds in more recent years, and word will spread quickly when some are seen frequenting local areas, as with the ones that have been at Goose Island the past couple years. There is a group dedicated to research leading to recovery of these wonderful head-bangers working in the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve in East Bethel Minnesota (north of the Twin Cities).

They have reached out beyond their area to share their work. Dr. Elena West, their lead researcher, hosts a website at www.rhworesearch.org

There is a website about the project at www.redheadrecovery.org

To learn more about their public events and citizen science projects at Cedar Creek, please visit them at www.cedarcreek@umn.edu



These days are coming....really! Until then....come to our meetings, brush up on your bird skills and listen for their calls.

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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Thanks!