



November/December 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.

November 20

Megan Bradley, Freshwater Mussel Biologist at the Genoa Fish Hatchery, will share her work at the “Clam Palace” propagating mussels and with endangered mussels such as the Higgins Eye Pearly Mussel.



President's Message

By Jonathan Ringdahl

Greetings bird lovers! We are in swan-watching time. Brownsville is the place to be to see these magnificent creatures on their migration. We are lucky to have them in our birding backyard. People travel from far and wide to see this fall spectacle. I would be remiss to mention the ducks working their way along the Mississippi River. There are great opportunities to see them as well. Do not fret once they are gone, for golden eagles and owls will provide us with winter entertainment.

December 14

Our “meeting” this month will be the annual Christmas Bird Count. Please see Dan’s article in the newsletter for more information, And please consider joining us. It’s always fun!

The 2019 Audubon Christmas Bird Count is coming on Saturday, December 14th for La Crosse and Sunday, December 15th for Trempealeau. Section counters and feeder counters are needed. If you are interested in this amazing project, To help with the La Crosse Area count, please contact Dan Jackson (e-mail:

DEJackson2256@gmail.com or Phone: (608) 483-2271). To take part in the Trempealeau count, please contact Al Wernecke (e-mail: aija701@trwest.net or Phone: (608) 534-6330).

Happy birding!
Jonathan Ringdahl

Your newsletter editor welcomes your submissions. Please send them by December 31 to gwyntells@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count

The 2019 Audubon Christmas Bird Count is getting close and we are getting organized. This is a big event and we can always use more help!!

There are two types of volunteers that take part in our counts – Section Counters and Feeder Counters. Section Counters go in the field and count as many birds as possible in an assigned section of the circle, either alone or as part of a team. Feeder Counters count the birds in their own yard (as long as they live in a count circle).

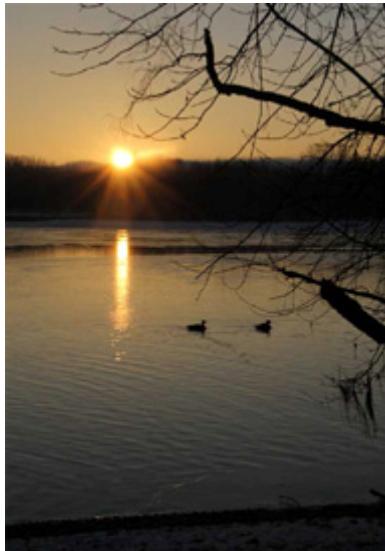
This year, there will be at least 2 Christmas Bird Counts held in the Coulee Region. The La Crosse Area count will be held on Saturday, December 14th and the Trempealeau count will be held on Sunday, December 15th. If you enjoy counting birds, your help with either or both counts would be greatly appreciated!

The La Crosse Area Christmas Bird Count, which is hosted by the Coulee Region Audubon Society, counts all the birds found inside a count circle that is centered on the La Crosse County courthouse in downtown La Crosse. The Trempealeau Christmas Bird Count has a count circle with its center point in the middle of the village of Trempealeau. It is only a half-circle as it only includes the area east of the state line which runs down the main channel of the Mississippi River.

If you are available on Saturday, December 14th and/or Sunday, December 15th, and would like to take part in the La Crosse Area and/or Trempealeau Christmas Bird Counts as either a Section Counter or as a Feeder Counter, we would really appreciate your help! Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. New section counters are encouraged to join an experienced counter as part of a team but can work on their own if that is what they prefer.

To help with the La Crosse Area count, please contact Dan Jackson (e-mail: DEJackson2256@gmail.com or Phone: (608) 483-2271). To take part in the Trempealeau count, please contact Al Wernecke (e-mail: ajja701@triwest.net or Phone: (608) 534-6330).

To see a map of the La Crosse Count Circle to see if you live in the circle and can do a feeder count, go to this site: http://www.couleeaudubon.org/CBC_LaCrosse.pdf



Enjoy a morning like this on the Christmas Bird Count!

Upcoming Events!

January – 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 for more information.

International Festival of Owls, March 6-8 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. This international event grew from a small town celebration of Alice's "Hatch Day" into one that grows with each passing year.

In addition, if you'd like to get out and prowl for owls with the experts, they are hosting monthly Owl Prowls.
November 16, 6:00 PM
December 31 6:00 PM

The Owl Center is also offering pellet dissection opportunities with admission to the Owl Center on November 23 and December 14. This would be a great way to enjoy time with your children, grandkids or really, anyone young at heart, while introducing them to a closer look at life as an owl.

Shake the late winter doldrums and enjoy all things owl. For more information, Check the website at www.festivalofowls.com.

About those winter doldrums....

Look into the activities and field trips available through the *Wisconsin Society for Ornithology*. They offer guided field trips throughout the year...and the state, as well as listing many smaller local events. Maybe if you find yourself on the road, you could check their calendar for a birding event along the way.

www.wsobirds.org

Gift Idea for that birder on your list!

[Birds of the Upper Mississippi River and Driftless Area](#), Editors Pamela Eyden, Molly McGuire and Reggie McLeod, Big River, Winona, Minn., BigRiverMagazine.com, 2019; 204 pages, soft cover, \$19.95.

Most of the stories in this volume also give advice for spotting their subjects, and "Paddling for Birds on the Mississippi" and "Favorite Fall Birding Spots on the Upper Mississippi" offer general advice on birding in the Driftless Area. All the stories are written from a regional perspective, focusing on bird behavior, and the changes and challenges they face in the Upper Midwest.

The 39 stories in this anthology appeared in *Big River Magazine* over a 22-year period. The 69 photographs by Alan Stankevitz have not appeared in the magazine, though his photos have been featured on many of the magazine's covers and with stories inside. A variety of authors contributed stories to *Birds of the Upper Mississippi River*, though the magazine's editor-at-large, Pamela Eyden, wrote the lion's share.

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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Thanks!