



# Coulee Birder

*Newsletter of the Coulee Region Audubon Society*

March/April 2020

## Meetings

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

### March 18

Justin Nooker, Conservation Biologist and Research Scientist with the Wisconsin DNR will be sharing insight gained from the spring Bald Eagle survey. As usual, the meeting will begin with area bird sightings and announcements prior to our speaker's presentation.

### April 15

Anyone who has visited the National Eagle Center in Wabasha should recognize the name Scott Mehus. Scott will be our speaker for this meeting, sharing his wealth of knowledge about our wintering Golden Eagles.

Greetings bird lovers,

Longer days and rising temperatures means rising bird activity. Our weekly bird walks are starting Tuesday, April 28th. Tuesdays will be in Myrick Park and Thursdays will be in Hixon Forest. Our March meeting will feature Justin Nooker from the Wisconsin DNR discussing the spring bald eagle survey. World Migratory Bird Day planning is underway. The La Crosse World Migratory Bird Day will be Saturday, May 2nd at Myrick Park and the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge hosts their celebration Saturday, May 9th. We hope you will join us in these wonderful activities. Please check out our new website as well at [couleeaudubon.org](http://couleeaudubon.org).

There are great bird initiatives underway in our area and around the world. Coulee Region Audubon Society is excited to be partnering with great organizations to help birds locally and globally.

We are exploring ways to make our Audubon chapter better. If there are speakers that would be a good fit for our meetings, please let us know. If you have ideas for programming or activities you would like to see, please share them with us as well. We want to do our best to help birds and provide a great experience for you.

Happy birding,

Jonathan Ringdahl

*Your newsletter editor Gwyn Calvetti welcomes your submissions at [gwyntells@gmail.com](mailto:gwyntells@gmail.com)*

## Events, events, events!

**April 18** - 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's coordinator is Jean Ledman. You can contact her at [jledman2@yahoo.com](mailto:jledman2@yahoo.com) if you'd like to help. More information on the Crane Count can be found at: [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org).

**May 2** - 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 9** - International Migratory Bird Day event at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Another great event with bird-related activities for the entire family.

**May 16** - 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 28, May 5, May 12 and May 19-**

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

### **April 30, May 7, 14 and May 21 -**

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

## **We live in interesting times.....**

Normally, there would be links and short bits about other bird-related events and activities within a day's drive. With the current response to COVID-19, many such events are being cancelled, postponed or scaled way back. An example is the recent decision to cancel the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Annual Convention, which was to be held in Two Rivers this year. Before heading to any such events, call ahead to be sure they'll still take place. Follow the advice of the Center for Disease Control with respect to handwashing, social distance and remaining home if you aren't feeling well, as this is becoming a rapidly evolving situation the likes of which even my 95 year old mother hasn't seen. If you feel okay, grab your binoculars and head out to enjoy and destress by seeing what's flying into our trees, ponds and fields.

Please note, the March Coulee Audubon Meeting has been cancelled.



**Coulee Region Audubon Society**

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