

Coulee Birder

wear your mask!

Newsletter of
Coulee Region
Audubon Society

September/October 2020



Greetings birding family!

It is an exciting time for us as there is an influx of birds heading south. The cooler temperatures are making it more pleasant to get out. The Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge has been calm if you are looking for birding without foot traffic.

On the night of Tuesday, September 1st the nighthawks were darting about with their aerial acrobatics. That morning, I had a common yellowthroat sneak through the brush while I was sitting in one spot photographing a great blue heron to within 8 feet of me. This simple act brought joy. We encourage you to find joy in our beloved birds this fall.

We are working on ways to adapt to our current situation and bring bird-related content to enrich your life. Our top priority is safety. We are going to be part of the solution. That is why we will not be having in-person meetings for the rest of the year. This hiatus will make our in-person meeting, whenever it is safe to hold one, better than ever.

If you use the Coulee Region Audubon Sightings Facebook page, thank you for the great content you have shared.

Happy birding!

Jonathan Ringdahl

Coulee Region Audubon Society president

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, **but.....not for now.** Nope. Keeping everyone's safety foremost, we have rescheduled planned speakers for next year. Keep an eye on email and the website, and look forward to hearing from these fine folks next year.

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.

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.

Your newsletter editor Gwyn Calvetti welcomes your submissions at gwyntells@gmail.com

Virtual Birding Field Trips

We know the fun of birding with our groups is something we've missed in the times of COVID-19. While many of us have still enjoyed being out and seeing the birds, there's just something fun in the discovery of new places or new birds with friends. We can't do that right now. However, there are people putting together virtual field trips and those can be fun. Here's an example of one created by Sparky Stensas, a birding guide based near the Sax-Zim Bog. He took a trip to Salt Lake on the Minnesota/South Dakota border late this summer. It's an interesting location. All kinds of interesting shore birds stop here and when my husband and I visited the area a little over a year ago, I'd never seen so many Yellow-Headed Blackbirds jammed into one spot...ever.

Check around your favorite online birding sites and see what you might find. If you find something worth sharing, please do so on our Coulee Region Audubon Sightings facebook page.

<https://youtu.be/ar7rdPqB938>

The **International Owl Center** in Houston Minnesota has re-opened with special procedures. They will also be hosting owl prowls this fall on the following dates...

October 3, 6:00 PM: Expert-led Owl Prowl

October 31, 5:30 PM: Expert-led Owl Prowl

November 28, 4:30 PM: Expert-led Owl Prowl

December 31, 4:00 PM: Expert-led Owl Prowl

January 20, 2021, 4:30 PM: Expert-led Owl Prowl

Check their website for more complete information.... www.internationalowlcenter.org

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. 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 96 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.

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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