

Coulee Birder

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Audubon Society



November/December 2021

Meetings

We continue to deal with the challenges of this pandemic. Although in person meetings are still not happening, we have had some great Presentations on our Zoom meetings. Please be patient with us as we, like everyone else, navigate this technology. A reminder via email will be sent a couple days ahead of the meetings with the Zoom link. Meetings will start at 7PM.

November 17

Emma Jonas, a senior at UW-L, has been a field researcher with Markus Mika the past few summers. She will be sharing what she has discovered about Flammulated Owls in the process. Some may recall that Professor Mika shared with us a few years back, so it will be interesting to hear Emma's updates.

December 18

This is the date of our Christmas Bird Count. Look for the article in this newsletter for more details on how you can participate.

President's Message.....

Greetings bird lovers!

Fall migration is here! It has been an interesting fall with the temperature fluctuations. The birds have been moving regardless. We hope you have been out observing them. Our fall meetings have been fantastic with River Valley Raptors and Chris Cold. Emma Jonas will be presenting on flammulated owls this month.

An opportunity to get more involved and increase your positive impact on birds is coming. Our local chapter's election will take place in January. We will need a treasurer. No previous experience is required and you will be trained on how to fulfill the role. This is a great opportunity to make a difference for birds. Please reach out to me if you are interested in running.

Happy birding!

Jonathan Ringdahl

Christmas Bird Count

The 2021 Audubon Christmas Bird Count season is getting close. This is a big event, and we can always use more help!!

There are two types of volunteers who take part in Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) - Section Counters and Feeder Counters. Section Counters go in the field and count as many birds as possible in an pre-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 within a count circle).

This year, there will be at least 2 Christmas Bird Counts held in the Coulee Region. The La Crosse Area CBC will be held on Saturday, December 18th and the Trempealeau CBC will be held on Sunday, December 19th. 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 18th and/or Sunday, December 19th, 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).

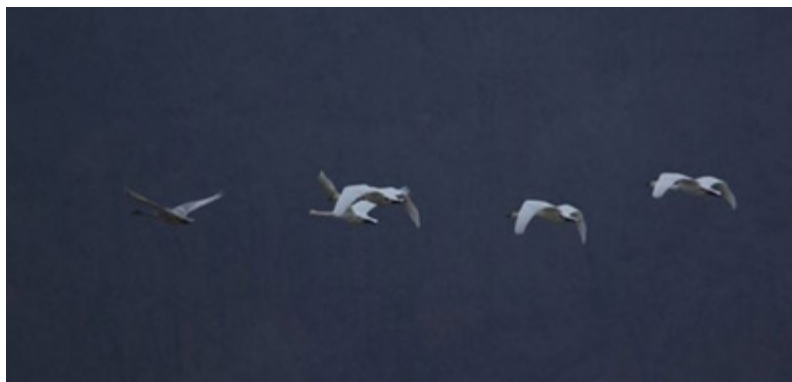
To see a map of the La Crosse Count Circle to see if you live in the circle and can do a feeder count, click on this link: http://www.couleeaudubon.org/pdf/cbc/cbcmmap_lacrosse.pdf.



Two Pats and a Mary enjoying a pre-COVID CBC potluck.....to hold you over for next year's!

Mississippi River Waterfowl Viewing – November 14, 2021

We will meet at noon on the street behind the Kwik Trip at the stop lights in La Crescent. We will head south and checkout the mudflats below the entrance to the Wildcat Landing in Brownsville and we will also stop at the refuge overlooks just south of there. This is a great opportunity to see thousands of Ducks, Geese and Swans. Waterfowl movement been slow this fall, but it will still be a great opportunity for us to get out and see what's happening. Unlike other years, we will not be carpooling but caravanning....due to, you guessed it, COVID-19.



Whoooo's that calling?

Just an annual reminder about our owl friends....give them space and be respectful when viewing them. Karla Bloem of the International Owl Center has developed a really great resource that covers not only owl "etiquette," but has specific examples of how to tell when the owl has "had enough." Check out this link, learn the signs, enjoy the owls briefly, then leave them alone. While you're checking out the link, also check out the information on upcoming expert led owl prowls.

https://www.internationalowlcenter.org/respectful_observation.html

Also, plan ahead....the Festival of Owls will be seeing some changes in 2022. It will be moving to April 30-May 1, later in the spring. For more information, check this link.
<https://www.festivalofowls.com/>

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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