

Coulee Birder

January/February 2023

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Myrick Park Center, 789 Myrick Park Drive. They are free and open to the public.

January 18 Important!

This month's meeting is a little bit different. Our annual meeting and light snacktime will begin at 6:30, followed by election of officers and then sharing of photos. If you have photos you think our members would enjoy, please do limit yourself to no more than 25, so all who want to share have a chance.

February 15

Alan Stankevitz is a name many of us might recognize. He has presented to our group in the past, and his exceptional photography is often seen on area birding facebook pages. He will share some of those with us as he tells how to improve our own bird photography.



President's Message
By Jonathan Ringdahl

Greetings bird lovers!

Happy New Year! This is my last president's letter. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as our chapter's president for the last handful of years. Our elections will be held at this month's meeting. This opens a wonderful opportunity for you to make a difference for birds and the communities we serve. The best part of being on the board is seeing the difference our chapter makes and helping decide the projects we do to make a difference. The board positions are open to anyone who is interested in running. Please reach out to any board member with questions you have if you are interested in a position. Feel free to talk to any of us at the annual meeting as well. We will be doing a slideshow again and looking forward to seeing the photographs from our group's great photographers. Please limit your photos to 25 pictures to give everyone time to share. It will be great to start 2023 with our first in-person meeting in years. Please join us.

Happy birding! Jonathan Ringdahl

Christmas Bird Count

Eighty-nine people took part in the count this year and as a group we spent nearly 340 hours counting birds. That is an amazing level of support for this great annual event, and I really appreciate all the help and support!

We counted 22,482 birds of 80 species on Saturday, December 17th and 2 other species were seen in the 3 days prior to and after the count day and were added as "Count Week" species. Therefore, we found a new count record total of 82 species of birds!

Special finds included an Eastern Towhee, Snow Buntings, Snow Geese, a Merlin, American White Pelicans, Golden Eagles, White-winged Scoters, a Ruffed Grouse, an American Coot, Wilson's Snipe, and a Field Sparrow on Saturday as well as a Lapland Longspur and Eurasian Collared Doves during the count week period.

Thanks again for all your help to make this event such a success this year!

Happy Holidays,

Dan Jackson

Upcoming Events!

January 21 – 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.

February 17-20 Great Backyard Bird Count Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real time snapshot of where birds are. To learn more and participate in this citizen science project, visit their website at: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

April 15 - 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. The Crane Count is organized by county in Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota.

More information on the Crane Count can be found at: www.savingcranes.org.

International Festival of Owls, March 3-5 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.

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

In addition to the big festival, the Owl Center hosts monthly Owl Prowls to call in wild oand pellet dissection days. Take the drive to Houston and see whooo's busy! Check the website for details.
www.internationalowlcenter.org



EnviroWednesdays Program

Wednesday February 1, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Myrick Park Center

Jessica Stanton, USGS Biologist at the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, researcher and co-author of the Science magazine Report, "Decline of North American avifauna," Kenneth V. Rosenberg et. al. (Science, 04 October 2019, vol. 366, Issue 646, pp. 120-124) will be our speaker this evening.

The report, using multiple and independent monitoring networks, documents avian population losses "approaching 3 billion birds, or 29% of their 1970 abundance." Losses of this magnitude indicate threats of "avifaunal collapse and associated loss of ecosystem integrity, function, and services."

Over 100 years ago our region experienced the decline and extinction of the Passenger Pigeon (approximately 3 billion lost from this one species). Stanton will draw upon some of her earlier work modeling the Passenger Pigeon's fate to discuss our current bird population losses and the role of population monitoring and assessment programs.

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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