

September/October/November 2024

## Meetings

*Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at The Nature Place, 789 Myrick Park Drive in LaCrosse starting at 7PM. They are free and open to the public.*

### **September 18**

Connor Kotte, Stewardship Specialist with MVC will be our guest, who will be speaking about the Kickapoo Bird Habitat Initiative (KBHI), and he may be joined by his colleague with the Valley Stewardship Network (VSN), Genesis Gordon.

### **October 16**

#### ***"Birds and Wildlife of Uganda and East Africa"***

Pat and Bobbie Wilson have been on the move yet again, having visited East Africa. He will be sharing photos and stories from that adventure.

### **President's Message**

By Mark Webster

Dear fellow Auduboners:

Happy Fall! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. I recently read an article in the New York Times that my daughter sent me that gives me hope. It was entitled "Scientists made a list of Lost Birds, and now they want us to find them." Around the world more than 130 bird species, or about 1 percent, are considered "lost". In 2021 a global partnership between American Bird Conservancy (ABC), RE: Wild and Birdlife International was formed to strive to understand, promote and rediscover species of birds that are currently lost. (Searchforlostbirds.org) For decades scientists have been developing cooperative efforts with local/indigenous peoples around the world to find and document the existence of birds that were thought to be extinct. So far more than a dozen birds globally have been rediscovered including in 2020 - the Black-browed Babbler in southern Borneo - which had not been documented since the 1840s! (More than 170 years prior!). These rare bird findings almost always prompt local habitat preservation efforts. (ABCbirds.org). Of course in North America, a good example of a lost bird would be the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

These global efforts give me hope. Hope that we all can think globally - but act locally. Maybe with just simple efforts like planting native plants in our yards to foster native birds. Happy birding everyone!

Mark Webster