



April/May/June 2025

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.

April 16

Stefan Gleissberg will present "Loving Birds, Protecting Birds During the Biodiversity Crisis."

Information about the current situation for birds, along with ways we can engage with and protect them will be shared.

May 21

Krysten Zummo, Grassland Ecologist with Minnesota Audubon.

June 18

This is our traditional program year-end potluck and bird walk. Bring a dish to pass and your tableware and when we're all done eating, we'll head out to look for birds.

President's Message By Mark Webster

Dear fellow Coulee Audubon Birders:
Happy Spring! It appears that Spring has sprung! Although we know all too well that "real spring" may be a month or more away! But the early spring migrants are starting to show up, including flocks of Robins and Sandhill Cranes. Speaking of Cranes, the Midwest Crane Count is coming up soon on Saturday, April 12th, 2025 from 5:30am to 7:30am. For more information on the Crane Count visit the International Crane Foundation's website at savingcranes.org. And if interested in participating in this year's count in La Crosse County, please contact the coordinator again for this year's count - Jean Ledman at jledman2@yahoo.com

Happy Birding!
Mark Webster

Upcoming Events!

It's the best time of year for birders, and this is a short list of the many chances to get out there and see what's happening in the forests, fields, rivers and bluffs.

April 12 - 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.

If you can help, please contact your county coordinator. The list is at:

<https://savingcranes.org/learn/annual-midwest-crane-count/annual-midwest-crane-count-county-coordinators/>

May 3-World Migratory Bird Day at The Nature Place

May 10 – World Migratory Bird Day event at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.

Another great event with bird-related activities for the entire family.

<https://www.fws.gov/event/2024-world-migratory-bird-day-festival>

May 10- Sugar Creek Bluff bird hike near Ferryville, WI. 7-9am. Part of activities for World Migratory Bird Day.

May 15 - 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 29, May 6 and May 13 -

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

May 1 and May 8 -

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

May 16-18 Wisconsin Society of Ornithology Annual Convention

This year, the convention is right here in La Crosse, at Stoney Creek. Check their website for complete information.

<https://www.wsobirds.org/what-we-do/annual-convention>

Chimney Swift Roost Counts

Chimney Swifts will be arriving from their South American wintering range very soon! As of today, they have been spotted as far north as Toledo and Cleveland on Lake Erie.

As part of a program of the [Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group](#), **I am looking for swift enthusiasts to help monitor roosting sites** in La Crosse and the nearby Driftless area. You don't have to be a birder to participate in this fun citizen science effort!

These fascinating aerial birds have taken to depend on human-made vertical hollow structures (chimneys and air vents) to roost communally during both spring and fall migration, and even during the summer nesting season.

Please consider becoming a **Volunteer Swift Roost Counter this year!** It is fun and this is how it works:

- We will attempt simultaneous roost counts at known locations in the City of La Crosse on suitable nights between May and August.
- A count takes about 50 minutes to an hour, starting 20 minutes or earlier before sunset, and ending about 30 minutes after sunset.
- You work in small teams to record only the number of swifts entering the roost, not those in the air, and share your results with the group and/or on eBird.
- No need to be a birder, no binoculars needed.
- More details and training counts will be provided in late April.

Your participation will help to get a more detailed picture of shifting roost use by both migrating and nesting populations. Contact Stefan Gleissberg if you are interested at stefan_gleissberg@me.com

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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