



January/February/March 2026

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.

January 21

This is our annual meeting, which includes election of officers and a potluck. Once we finish all that, members are invited to share bird photos of their own. **Please take note of 6PM start time!**

February 18

Dr. Alysa Remsburg, Professor and Program Director, Sustainability and Environmental Studies at UW-L. Her program is "From Ivory Towers to Indigenous Territories: Reclaiming Land Justice."

March 18

Ryan Burner, Wildlife Research Biologist with USGS will share about his adventures in Antarctica and the penguins there.

President's Message

By Mark Webster

Greetings fellow Coulee Auduboners!

Happy New Year!! May 2026 bring you and your family much joy and happiness! In 2025 the National Audubon Society celebrated their 120th Anniversary marking their founding in 1905, and celebrating 120 years of bird conservation. It's probably fair to say that in many peoples minds, Audubon is synonymous with bird conservation.

We should all celebrate Audubon's advocacy over the past 120 years in helping to pass landmark legislation to protect birds and bird habitat. This includes the Audubon Plumage Law in 1910 that protected wading birds from the plume industry, and the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act - that made it illegal to kill any non-game bird in the U.S. (With the exception, of course, of European Starlings, House Sparrows and feral pigeons!) Also the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and many others.

Audubon continues to embrace and encourage citizen science projects like the Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900, and which Coulee Audubon conducted locally this past December 20th. Audubon also fosters other types of community engagement - like encouraging people to share their personal "bird journeys", using hashtags like #MyBirdJourney.

However you choose to be involved in bird conservation and bird habitat conservation, it's all important, as each of us can help make the world just a little bit better.

Mark Webster

Upcoming Events!

January 21, 2025 6pm -

Our Annual Meeting, Potluck and Election of Board Members will occur. Todd Huffman, Treasurer; and Gwyn Calvetti, Secretary are both up for re-election. Gwyn would happily step aside if another member wishes to take on that job, as it's probably my third or fourth term!

We do currently have two vacancies on the board - Vice President and the other Board Member at large position. So, if you know anyone that is interested in joining the Coulee Audubon Board, please let one of us know. Thank you.

Please bring a dish to pass, and please bring your own plates and silverware. We will provide juice and cups. After eating and the election, people are encouraged to show some of their favorite photos if they desire. Please limit your photos to 25 images to give others an opportunity.

International Festival of Owls, March 6-8 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. Although Alice has officially retired, there will be plenty of owl fun to enjoy, with other owls in attendance. This international event grew from a small town celebration of Alice's "Hatch Day" into one that grows with each passing year.

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 owls and pellet dissection days. Take the drive to Houston and see whooo's busy! Check the website for details. www.internationalowlcenter.org

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13-16 is the time period for this year's Great Backyard Bird Count. This is a great citizen science project that doesn't necessarily require participants to even step outside their door. Just count the birds you see and report them. For more information, check out their website at birdcount.org

Coulee Region Audubon Society

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☐ \$10 Student

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