



September/October/November 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.

September 16

Thurman Tucker, Coordinator of Minnesota Quail Forever, will be our guest. His program is titled "Community Stewardship for Quail Makes a Difference." He will be speaking about the general decline of migratory birds and grassland birds (and Quail), and MN QF efforts to manage and protect Bobwhite Quail habitat in SE Minnesota. He will also talk about their efforts to involve students with habitat management.

October 21

Kevin Kenow, Wildlife Biologist with the USGS in La Crosse will be our guest. We all love the call of the Common Loon, and he will be sharing the results of his research on this charismatic bird in Wisconsin's north woods.

November 18

TBA Watch the facebook page and your inbox!

President's Message

By Mark Webster

Fall Brings on Lights Out Programs

Dear fellow Coulee Audubon members,

I hope you all had a good summer. It's hard to believe that we're beginning a new program year in just a short time!

Recently in the news there was a piece about how the National Park Service (NPS) had turned off the exterior lights on the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, MO. They do this every year during the fall migration from September 1 through September 30th. (And also during the spring migration).

Of course bright artificial lights can disorient nocturnal migrants and cause birds to collide with structures or windows, or throw them off course leading to exhaustion. There are Lights Out programs in place across the country - chiefly in larger cities with tall skyscrapers, like Chicago, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Miami. Several states have state-wide programs like North Carolina and Texas. The National Audubon Society has partnered with DarkSky International and several federal agencies like the NPS and USFWS to work with local governments and communities to dim non-essential building lights during peak migration along major flyways.

National Audubon also partners with regional bird chapters like Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (Lights Out Wisconsin), Chicago Audubon, NYC Audubon, Nashville Audubon and Louisville Audubon to name a few.

Since approximately 40 percent of US migratory waterfowl and birds in general use the Mississippi Flyway through St. Louis alone during migration, as well as large numbers of birds migrating along our other major flyways, one can imagine how important these lights out programs are in helping to reduce bird fatalities during migration.

Hope you get out there and enjoy the fall migration!

Happy Birding,

Mark Webster, President

Coulee Region Audubon Society

Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars to be part of this year's Christmas Bird Count, December 19. Instead of a monthly meeting, the Christmas Bird count serves as a “meeting.” Dan Jackson will again be our compiler, so contact him to indicate your interest. Even if you've never taken part before, you can join an experienced CBCer and get in on the fun.

Upcoming Events!

September 9 La Crosse Swift Night Out! 6:30-8:00PM Bring your lawn chairs, snacks and prepare to say “wow” as hundreds of chimney swifts gather to drop into their night roost in the chimney of Concordia Ballroom.

International Owl Center...Owl Prowls Join to visit various locations where owls are known to hang out. There are owl prowls scheduled for September 19, October 24 and November 21. Check their website for more information and expect a hoot of a good time.

<https://www.internationalowlcenter.org/owlprowls.html>

September 12 Birding by Mini-Train This is a unique opportunity to bird the Tiffany Wildlife Area, which hosts the largest unbroken sugar maple forest in the state...by small rail car! It's a fun way to explore and get to some areas that aren't always easy to access. For more information, check the Wings Over Alma website. <https://wingsoveralma.org/events/>

Don't forget to just get out and enjoy the many wonderful areas right in the Coulee Region. Hixon Forest, Myrick Marsh, Goose Island County Park all offer some great birding opportunities. If you are looking for some new properties close by, check out the land protected by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. <https://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/protected-land>

Most of all....get out there and enjoy the birds and their world!

Coulee Region Audubon Society

P.O. Box 2573

La Crosse WI 54602

Contacts

President
Mark Webster
mandmwebs@gmail.com

Vice President
Open

Treasurer
Todd Huffman
todd.huffm@gmail.com

Secretary
Gwyn Calvetti
gwyntells@gmail.com

Board Member
Dan Jackson
dejackson2256@gmail.com

Newsletter
Gwyn Calvetti
gwyntells@gmail.com

Facebook
[www.facebook.com/Coulee
Region Audubon](http://www.facebook.com/CouleeRegionAudubon)

Web
www.couleeaudubon.org

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Coulee Region Audubon
Society
PO Box 2573
LaCrosse WI 54602-2573
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