



MORE FROM LOESS

The Newsletter of the
**LOESS HILLS AUDUBON
SOCIETY** Volume 45: No. 5, May-August 2019

The **Loess Hills Audubon Society** meets on the **first Thursday** of the month at the
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
4500 Sioux River Road (Highway 12 North)
Sioux City, IA 51109
Website <http://lhas.tripod.com/>
Like us on Facebook: Loess Hills Audubon Society

Mission Statement—The Loess Hills Audubon Society exists to educate individuals and the general public, to enjoy and promote birding, and to support ornithology, and to be an advocate for wild areas and environmental issues.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dave Hoferer

I wrote my last letter in February and began by talking about the cold and snow in northwest Iowa. Today it is late April, the sun is shining, and it is warm. Spring has arrived! And with it the birds are coming back. Already I have seen some nesting activity in songbirds in my backyard. Soon other species will return and start to nest, too. I hope to get out to our local prairies and see the mating flight of the American Woodcock, hear the trumpeting of the Sandhill Cranes, and maybe even spy a mated pair of Northern Harriers or Ospreys. I urge all of you to get out during the good spring and summer weather and enjoy nature. Please remember that even though our monthly meetings are suspended during June, July, and August, our monthly outings will still take place. Visit our web site, Facebook page, or watch for our emails to learn how to participate.

Our May meeting will be a big one. The Board has been working diligently to streamline our processes so that we may more efficiently serve you, engage in conservation work in the Siouxland area, and involve

more of you in our activities. Please read the proposed changes to the By-Laws and come prepared to ask questions about them and vote on May 2.

Have a wonderful summer enjoying all that nature has to offer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOESS HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Thursday, May 2, 2019 Monthly LHAS meeting 7:30 pm. DPNC. Annual business meeting and election of officers. Be sure to review the proposed changes in the LHAS constitution and by-laws as these will be voted on at this time. Program: Spirit Mound, the Prairie and Birds. Meghann Janchow, Chair & Associate Professor, Department of Sustainability & Environment at U of South Dakota and President of Spirit Mound Trust. Board meeting 6:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, May 11, 2019--Our May Outing will be our annual Birdathon. See details elsewhere in this newsletter or go to the Birdathon Page on our web site. May is one of the best birding months of the year so plan to join us.

Saturday, June 8, 2019--SHOW AND GO OUTING---We will meet at the Northwest corner of the Super Walmart parking lot on Singing Hills Blvd. at 7:30 a.m. An email will be sent shortly before the 8th to advise you of the probable destination and lunch plans. Our web site outings page will also be updated at that time. Contact Jerry Von Ehwegen at: jerryvon@cableone.net or 276-1546 for more information.

Saturday, July 13, 2019--SHOW AND GO OUTING---We will meet at the Northwest corner of the Super Walmart parking lot on Singing Hills Blvd. at 7:30 a.m. An email will be sent shortly before the 13th to advise you of the probable destination and lunch plans. Our web site outings page will also be updated at that time. Contact Jerry Von Ehwegen at: jerryvon@cableone.net or 276-1546 for more information.

Saturday, August 3, 2019--SHOW AND GO OUTING---We will meet at the Northwest corner of the Super Walmart parking lot on Singing Hills Blvd. at 7:30 a.m. An email will be sent shortly before the 3rd to advise you of the probable destination and lunch plans. Our web site outings page will also be updated at that time. Contact Jerry Von Ehwegen at: jerryvon@cableone.net or 276-1546 for more information.

DOROTHY PECAUT NATURE CENTER

Exit 151 I-29, Take State Road 12 North for 4 miles to the Nature Center. To register for events or for more information call 712-258-0838 Or check our website – www.woodburyparks.org

Monday, May 1: Woodbury County Conservation Board Campgrounds open for the Season.

Pressurized water systems, restrooms and park facilities at Snyder Bend Park, Little Sioux Park, Bigelow

Park, and Southwood Conservation Area will open for the camping season. Camping is first-come, first served. See more at: <http://woodburyparks.org/camping/>.

Saturday, May 11: Zen in Nature, 7:00-9:00 am. DPNC. We'll gather early. We'll sit. We'll walk in the woods (called "kinhin"). We'll do qigong. We'll sit some more. Fabulous way to start the day with a full dose of Zen in nature! No experience required. For more information, contact Dan Pecaut at 712-252-3268 or dpecaut@gmail.com

Saturday, May 11: Wildflower Walk, 1:00-2:00 pm. Fowler Forest Preserve near Smithland, Iowa. Celebrate Iowa Wildflower Month by joining us for a walk through this woodland to view the diversity of spring wildflowers. Wear sturdy walking shoes. The trail is easy and well-maintained, and we will slowly walk up the hill admiring the blooms along the way. Fowler Forest is located ½ mile west of Smithland on Iowa 141. Sponsored by Woodbury County Conservation, Loess Hills Wild Ones, and the Iowa Native Plant Society.

Thursday, May 16: Volunteer Awards Dinner, 6:00 pm. DPNC. Nature Center Volunteers mark your calendar for this date and plan to join us for dinner, conversation, and awards. An invitation will be sent.

May 31-June 2: Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Educational field sessions at the Loess Hills Wildlife Area near Turin, Iowa. For more information contact mccbnat@mononacounty.org or 712-433-2400. To register www.loesshillspiraieseminar.com.

Thursday, June 6: Live Animal Lunchtime, 4:30 pm. DPNC. Come and watch our live animals eat. Learn about their habitat needs and adaptations. Free! Open until 7 pm on Thursdays in June and July.

Friday, June 7: Evening Campfire and Music, 7:00 pm. DPNC. Join the Summer Naturalists and kick off a great summer of activities while we enjoy time around the campfire—complete with S-Mores. Local musicians will be present to play some Folk and Bluegrass tunes around the campfire. Free!

June 7-9: Free Fishing Days for Iowa Residents. www.iowadnr.gov/fishing

Tuesday, June 11: Nature Tales, 10:00 am. DPNC. Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for this special store time about butterflies. We'll hike too, weather permitting. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email tkruid@woodburyparks.org.

Friday, June 14: Canoeing and Kayaking on the Lake, 5:00-8:00 pm. Little Sioux Park, 2 miles SW of Correctionville, Iowa. Meet near the beach area. Learn about canoeing and kayaking basics and then practice your skills on the lake. All equipment provided. This program is free and pre-registration is appreciated by calling 712-258-0838 or email tflammang@woodburyparks.org.

Saturday, June 15: Pheasants Forever Fishing Derby for Youth, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Little Sioux Park, 2 miles SW of Correctionville. Youth up to age 18 are invited. Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult with a valid fishing license. Youth 16 and up must have a valid fishing license. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Meet at the shelter by the beach. Free. For more information and to pre-register call 712-277-2263.

Saturday, June 22: Turtles and Kindness Rocks, 10:00 am. Brown's Lake, 2 miles west of Salix, Iowa. Join a naturalist and a few turtle friends in a fun rock painting activity. Learn about turtles of Iowa, meet a live animal, and then paint your own rock to share and inspire kindness to others. Meet at the small open shelter house. Co-sponsored by Siouxland Rocks. Free!

Saturday, June 29: Fire Building, 7:00 pm. Snyder Bend Park, 3 miles SW of Salix, Iowa. Learn about fire safety and how to start a fire using flint and steel and Ferro cerium rods. We will then roast

some marshmallows to celebrate our accomplishment **Children under 15 years must be accompanied by an adult.** Meet at the open shelter near the boat ramp. Free!

Tuesday, July 2: Meet the Animals, 1:00-3:30 pm. DPNC. Stop in to meet our feathered and scaled live animals. This will give you an opportunity to view the salamanders, turtles, snakes, and birds of prey up close and personal. Free!

Friday, July 5: Canoeing and Kayaking on the Lake, 12:30 – 3:30 pm. Little Sioux Park, 2 miles SW of Correctionville. Meet near the beach area. Learn about canoeing and kayaking basics and then practice your skills on the lake. All equipment provided. This program is free and pre-registration is appreciated by calling 712-258-0838 or email oparks@woodburyparks.org

Saturday, July 6 10:00 am Brown's Lake, 2 miles W of Salix. Join the Summer Naturalists at the open play area near the playground to learn about these scaled animals and meet a live turtle and snake. Free!

Saturday, July 6: Pond Life, 10:00 am. Southwood Conservation Area, 1 mile S of Smithland. Join the Summer Naturalists to search for aquatic life in the pond. Plan to get wet and muddy. Meet at the last parking lot by the ponds. Free!

Tuesday, July 9: Nature Tales, 10:00 am. DPNC. Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for this special story time. **Going on a Bear Hunt,** at the Nature Playscape. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email tkruid@woodburyparks.org.

Thursday, July 11: Live Animal Lunchtime, 4:30 pm. DPNC. Watch our live animals eat. Learn about their habitat needs and adaptations., Free! Open until 7 pm on Thursdays in June and July.

Thursday, July 18: Rush Hour Connect! 4:30-6:30 pm. DPNC. Join us for the Siouxland Chamber Open House to see project updates and learn about upcoming events at the Nature Center.

Friday, July 19: Kayaking on the Lake, 5:00-8:00 pm Southwood Conservation Area, 1 mile S. of Smithland Iowa. Meet at the parking lot by the ponds. Learn about kayaking basics and then practice your skills on the lake. All equipment provided. This program is free and pre-registration is appreciated by calling 712-258-0838 or email tflammang@woodburyparks.org.

Saturday, July 20: Owls of Iowa, 7:00 pm. Snyder Bend Park, 3 miles SW of Salix. Join the Summer Naturalists at the open shelter by the boat ramp to learn about owls. Free!

Friday, July 26: Kayaking on the Lake, 5:00-8:00 pm. Brown's Lake, 2 miles W of Salix. Meet at the boat ramp. Learn about kayaking basics and then practice your skills on the lake. All equipment provided. The program is free and pre-registration is appreciated by calling 712-258-0838 or email tfalmmang@woodburyparks.org

July 31-August 4: Woodbury County Fair in Merville. We will be in the Varied Industries Building.

Wednesday, July 31: Bison or Buffalo? 2:00 pm. Woodbury County Fairgrounds, Old Town Area. Come learn about prairie history, facts about Bison, and how Native Americans hunted them and used every part of their body.

Friday, August 2: Reptiles at the Fair, 2:00 pm Woodbury County Fairgrounds, Old Town area. Come learn about reptiles and meet a few snakes and turtles up close.

Thursday, August 8: Live Animal Lunchtime, 4:30 pm. DPNC. Watch our live animals eat. Learn about their habitat needs and adaptations. Free!

Friday, August 9: Evening Campfire and Music, 7:00 pm. DPNC. Join the Summer Naturalists and celebrate a great summer of activities while we enjoy time around the campfire—complete with S'Mores. Local musicians will be present to play some Folk and Bluegrass tunes around the campfire. Free!

Tuesday, August 13: Nature Tales, 10:00 am. DPNC. Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for their special story time about fireflies. We'll hike too, weather permitting. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email tkruid@woodburyparks.org.

Friday, August 16: Kayaking on the Lake, 5:00-8:00 pm. Southwood Conservation Area, 1 mile S of Smithland. Meet at the parking lot by the ponds. Learn about kayaking basics and then practice your skills on the lake. All equipment provided. Program is free, pre-registration is appreciated by calling 712-358-0838 or email tflammang@woodburyparks.org.

Saturday, August 24: Zen in Nature, 7:00-9:00 am. DPNC. We'll gather early in the morning, we'll sit, We'll walk in the woods (called "kinhin") We'll do qigong. We'll sit some more. Fabulous way to start the day with a full dose of Zen in nature! No experience required. For more information, contact Dan Pecaut at 712-252-3268 or dpecaut@gmail.com.

ADAMS HOMESTEAD AND NATURE PRESERVE

Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve is located 1 mile west and ½ mile south of I-29, Exit 4 in South Dakota. For information and pre-registration, call (605) 232-0873 or e-mail jody.moats@state.sd.us

Watch for information on the annual Homestead Celebration the 2nd Saturday in August.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY PARKS Hillview Park is located west of Hinton, Iowa at 25601 C60. For information and registration call Victoria at 712-947-4270 or e-mail ddowhower@plymouthcountyparks.com or visit us on Facebook at Plymouth County Conservation or our website at plymouthcountyparks.com

SOME 2019 GBBC DATA

By Jerry Von Ehwegen

Several LHAS members participated in the 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) held in February. The GBBC Website contains lots of data on the count. Listed below are just a few items that might be of interest.

Total number of species found was 6,732.

Total U.S. species found was 674.

Total Iowa species found was 95.

Scott county led Iowa counties with 54 species.

Woodbury county ranked 11th in Iowa counties with 37 species.

Columbia had the most species with 1095.

California had the most checklists with 10,059.

The Northern Cardinal was the most frequently reported species.

The Red-winged Blackbird was the most numerous species with 4,290,218 birds counted.

Total birds counted was 32,093,344!

Thanks to all our LHAS members who participated and were Citizen Scientists for a day!

Loess Hills Audubon Society Bird-A-Thon—May 2019 by Paul Roisen—Bird-A-Thon Czar

An introduction might be necessary since the Bird-A-Thon Czar, to the best of my knowledge, has always been Chuck Johnson—ably assisted by Donna Popp the last eleven years. It was a surprise and an honor to be asked by them to take over this important Loess Hills Audubon Society (LHAS) position. Even though I am a “johnny come lately” to the LHAS, I can only say this organization has played a very large part in my growth as a bird watcher and a conservationist. I am thrilled to be able to give something back. Please take time to thank both Chuck and Donna for the many years of service with this great project.

What is a bird-a-thon? The Bird-A-Thon is a fundraiser much like a walk-a-thon. You do NOT have to be a bird expert or even count birds to be able to participate. Our focus is to raise awareness and money for conservation projects in a fun way—counting bird species.

Goals: Raise money so that Loess Hills Audubon Society (LHAS) is able to fund more projects related to conservation. This may be through education or ongoing projects or even new conservation activities and projects. Increase the number of people involved in this year’s LHAS Bird-A-Thon and future events.

When: May 10-13, 2019--We are making participation more flexible. Do a portion of a day, a full day, or all four days if you wish.

How can YOU help?

1. KEY is engaging as many people as possible, especially new people, to give financially and/or of their time to this event.
2. Method: Pledge to the LHAS Bird-A-Thon—a lump sum, a per species pledge (like \$1 per species—you can set a max with maybe \$5 for each owl) etc. You may choose to pledge support to: an individual or a team or sending support directly to the Bird-A-Thon. Count birds and solicit donations from friends, family, your boss, neighbors, an organization, or a business.
3. Process: Teams and Individuals will be asked to encourage friends, family, your boss, neighbors, an organization, or a business to pledge lump sums or an amount based on the number of species the individual or the team finds. Individuals and teams will then go out and try to find as many different species as they can find and raise as much money as they can for a great cause. Anytime from May 10 through May 13, 2019, bird anywhere you wish and report your results to those who pledged to support you AND to the Bird-A-Thon Czar
4. Paying Your PLEDGE: Make check out to the Loess Hills Audubon Society (LHAS) Indicate “Bird-A-Thon” in the MEMO You may give the check to the entity you pledged to or send the money directly to the address below.

Loess Hills Audubon Society P.O. Box 5133 Sioux City, IA 51102

LHAS OUTINGS

by Jerry VonEhwegen

Saturday, 23 March 2019 Bob N., John & Sharon P., Rex R., Paul R., Bob L., Bill H., Dave S., Jan N., and Jerry V., participated in our March outing. It was a mostly cloudy cool morning with temps in the 30's and 40's. We made stops at Brower's Lake, New Lake, Brown's Lake, Dairy Ponds So, the Square, Owego, and related areas. Half of our group had other commitments but Maria R. joined the other half of our group for lunch at Four Brothers in Sioux City.

We recorded a total of 56 species for the day. Highlights included: Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, Fox Sparrow, Bufflehead, Harris's Sparrow, American Pipit, Great Blue Heron, American White Pelican, Ruddy Duck, and Rusty Blackbird. The entire species listing can be found on the Outings Highlights Page on our web site at: <http://lhas.tripod.com/> Thanks to all who participated.

Thank You!!

Many thanks for all the nice cards and well wishes on my 80th birthday! The pretty cake with the American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Western Tanager, Eastern Bluebird and Black-capped Chickadee was almost too pretty to eat but it disappeared rather quickly after Maria cut it! The Happy Birthday song by the Board first and then later by the entire crowd at the program was much appreciated. The many nice comments on the cards brought a few tears to my eyes and made me feel thankful to be associated with a great group of birders! Jerry VonEhwegen

SAVE THE DATE

July 26-28, 2019. National Audubon Society 2019 biennial convention will take place in Milwaukee, WI. The event will feature jam-packed days of networking events, distinguished keynote speakers at the forefront of conservation science and policy, hand-on workshop sessions, and discussion groups, as well as exciting bird field trips and adventures—plus great views of the lake. Don't miss this opportunity for learning, networking, and collaborating—and birding with fellow Audubon chapter, state, national, and international leaders.

Scholarships to help with cost of travel, accommodation, and registration will be available soon.

Flock to the Audubon Convention, Milwaukee, WI July 26-28, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT PROCEDURE

By Donna Popp

For Renewals, send your dues to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 97194, Washington, DC 20090-7194. Be sure to put on the check which should be made out to National Audubon Society, our chapter identification H52. **For new memberships**, send them to me with a check made out to National Audubon Society and the H52 identification. Membership cost is \$20.00 Anything above the \$20 is, of course, much appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 712-274-1979 or dpopp@cablone.net.

Loess Hills Audubon Society Membership Application

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
email _____

Introductory 1 year membership \$25

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and send to:
Donna Popp, 630 Surrey Lane, Sioux City, IA 51106

LHAS CHAPTER Executives

President	David Hoferer	847-660-0650	dhoferer@uwalumni.com
Vice President	Paul Roisen	712-301-2817	roisenp1950@gmail.com
Programs	Leesa McNeil	712-253-2412	leesa.mcneil@gmail.com
Secretary	Randy Williams	712-259-4705	randy.vickie.williams@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jeri Watkins	712-389-6342	jkbwatkins@aol.com
Membership	Donna Popp	712-274-1979	dpopp@cablone.net
Newsletter	Anne Shaner	712-252-2182	shanerga@msn.com
Iowa Audubon	Rex Rundquist	712-251-0345	rrundquist@aol.com
Conservation	Bill Zales	802-275-4716 (text only)	zales66@hotmail.com
Education	Jody Moats	712-490-5570	jody.moats@state.sd.us
Outings	Jerry VonEhwegen	712-276-1546	jerryvon@cablone.net
Bird Food Sales	Bill&Dotty Zales	712-540-0952	zales66@hotmail.com
Social Committee	Carol Blair	712-948-3350	penguina@wiatel.net
Publicity	Dawn Snyder	258-0838 or 898-9168	dsnyder@woodburyparks.org
Birdathon Czar	Paul Roisen	712-301-2817	roisenp1950@gmail.com
Audubon Adventures	Gary Heineman	712-428-6443	heineman@longlines.com
Naturalist	Jody Moats	712-490-5570	jody.moats@state.sd.us
Past President	John Polifka	712-253-2138	jpospo141@gmail.com
Website	JerryVonEhwegen	712-276-1546	jerryvon@cablone.net

