



# MORE FROM LOESS

The Newsletter of the  
**LOESS HILLS AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**     Volume 46: No. 4; March/April 2020

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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.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dave Hoferer

Welcome to spring! I think that spring is the best season of the year. It always lifts my spirits because it heralds the sprouting of our plants and the return of our migratory birds. It's like a rebirth on the land.

The American Woodcock, if they haven't already returned, will be here soon. The cranes are migrating. Waterbirds are returning during these months. Plus, watch for our Red-winged Blackbirds. The males return often several weeks prior to the females to set up their territories. It's a wonderful time to get out with Bill Huser during an outing to welcome our feathered friends back and to wish others a safe voyage as they stop by to refuel and then continue their migrations further north.

Spring is also a time to think of our gardens. Our March program will focus on how to attract birds to our gardens by planting flowers, grasses, and trees that are native to our area. You can be ready to have a yard full of birds throughout the growing season.

In April join us as our presenters take us on a journey to Africa to learn about the birds of Namibia and Botswana. There is lots to learn about and do this spring. Come join us!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### LOESS HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Thursday, March 5—LHAS Monthly meeting** 7:30 pm DPNC “Your Garden with Natives: Native Plants Attract Native Birds”. The March program will feature members Dotty Zales and Dave Hoferer. Dotty and Dave will discuss planting bird friendly native trees, shrubs, grasses & flowers to attract & protect the birds and wildlife while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Board meeting, 6:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Saturday, March 14—LHAS Monthly Outing** DAWN! Ponca State Park “Marsh Madness”. Bill Huser is our leader. An email will be sent before the day with particulars.

**Thursday, April 2—LHAS Monthly meeting.** 7:30 pm DPNC “Namibia and Botswana-Birds, Beasts, & Beautiful Countryside”—Diane & Warren Marton. They will entertain us with photos and stories about travel in Namibia and northern Botswana this past July. Set amidst spectacular scenery—the world’s oldest desert and highest sand dunes, a long coastline and a lush riverine forest—is world class birding & African game. The highlight of the trip being one of the smaller species--the African Wild Cat, hunting doves in Etosha National Park.

**Saturday, April 11—LHAS Monthly Outing** We will be going to Gavins Point near Yankton for the day. Bill Huser is our leader. An email will be sent before the day with particulars.

### 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](http://www.woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, March 7—Waterfowl Migration Watch** 7:00 am Snyder Bend Park, Salix, IA. Join us as we look for migrating waterfowl. Meet by the shelter and hike to lookouts to search for unique waterfowl. Free! Please pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, March 7—Navigation Series—Basic Map Reading** 9:00-10:30 am DPNC. Become equipped to understand all types of map formats and features from street to topographical. Program designed for ages 16 and up. Pre-registration appreciated. Contact Tyler Flammang at 712-258-0838 or [tflammang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflammang@woodburyparks.org).

**Tuesday, March 10—Nature Tales** 10:00 am DPNC. Pre-schoolers join us with an adult for this special story time about snakes. We’ll hike, too, weather permitting. Please pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [tkruid@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tkruid@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, March 12—Thursday Night Hike** 6:00-8:00 pm DPNC. We’ll be hiking to several overlooks around the center to take in the evening air, the sounds of the forest, and hopefully spot some critters. Dress for the weather in layers with sturdy footwear. Pre-registration appreciated. Contact resource naturalist Tyler Flammang at 712-258-0838 or [tflammang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflammang@woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, March 14—Navigation Series—Advanced Map Reading, Latitude, Longitude, and UTM Coordinates** 9:00-10:30 am DPNC. Gain confidence in knowing exactly where you are on a map by learning how to interpret a map’s grid coordinate system. More fun than it sounds. Program designed for ages 16 and up. Pre-registration appreciated at 712-258-0838 or [tflammang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflammang@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, March 19—Thursday Night Hike** 6:00-8:00 pm DPNC Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [tflamang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflamang@woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, March 21—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 necessary. For information contact Dan Pecaut at 712-353-4368 of [dpecaut@gmail.com](mailto:dpecaut@gmail.com)

**Saturday, March 21—Sweet Treat Family Hike** 1:30 pm DPNC We will enjoy a refreshing hike outside for all ages. After the hike, warm up inside the nature center and learn to make your own homemade ice cream in a bag. If there is 4" snow, we will snowshoe. Please pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, March 26—Volunteer Awards Dinner** 6:00 pm DPNC More information and an invitation will be sent to volunteers.

**Saturday, March 28—Navigation Series—Understanding the Compass and GPS** 9:00-10:30 am DPNC Demystify these sometimes confusing gadgets in this hands-on session. Program designed for ages 16 and up. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [tflamang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflamang@woodburyparks.org)

**Wednesday, April 1—Animal Fools** 6:00 pm DPNC Learn about pranksters in the animal kingdom. We'll learn about different adaptations in animals and some biomimicry. We'll create an "animal prankster" craft that you think would survive in the wild. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, April 2--Summer Day Camp Early Registration for Woodbury County Conservation Foundation Members**

**Saturday, April 4—Navigation Series—Using a Map and Compass Together** 9:00-11:00 am DPNC Enhance your summer hiking experience by learning to navigate the land using your map and compass. From bearings and baselines to topos and triangles, you'll learn it all in this hands-on program. Weather permitting we will be outdoors. Dress appropriately. Program designed for ages 16 and up. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [tflamang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflamang@woodburyparks.org).

**Saturday, April 4—Sweet Treat Family Hike** 10:30 am DPNC We'll be enjoying a refreshing hike outdoors for all ages. After the hike we will discuss our discoveries and create a tasty animal home using rice krispy bars. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, April 9—Summer Day Camp General Registration Opens.** For information contact [camps@woodburyparks.org](mailto:camps@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, April 9—Thursday Night Hike** 6:00-8:00 pm DPNC Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [tflamang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflamang@woodburyparks.org)

**Friday, April 10—Easter EGGStravaganza 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** DPNC Join us for an Easter Scavenger Hunt along the trails of the nature center. In this unusual scavenger hunt you will search for Easter baskets to fill your Easter egg punch card. If you find all the Easter baskets you can turn in your punched card for a prize. There will also be self-guided activities, games, and a chance to meet an animal. FREE! For more info contact [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Tuesday, April 14—Nature Tales** 10:00 am DPNC Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for this special story time about rabbits. We will hike, weather permitting. Please preregister at 712-258-0838 or [tkruid@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tkruid@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, April 16—Thursday Night Hike** 6:00-8:00 pm DPNC Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes. Pre-register at 712-258-0838 or [tflamang@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tflamang@woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, April 18—Roadside Cleanup Friends of Stone Park** 10:00 am – Noon DPNC lower parking lot. Pick up litter along Hiway 12. Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes that can get dirty. Bring gloves. Safety vests and trash bags provided. For info, call 712-255-4698 or [friendsofstonepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstonepark@gmail.com)

**Saturday, April 25—Volunteer Work Day** 9:00 am – noon DPNC Help us spruce up the trails, gardens, Nature Playscape and grounds for spring. Wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. Pre-registration appreciated.

**Sunday, April 26—Siouxland Earth Day** Marriott Center, South Sioux City, NE

## **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](mailto:jody.moats@state.sd.us)

**Little Naturalist Programs—Fridays, March 20 and April 17** The Little Naturalists program is designed for toddlers ages 2-4 and their parent or guardian. Kids learn about the outdoors thru games, crafts, activities, and stories. Classes start at 10:00 am.

**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](mailto:ddowhower@plymouthcountyparks.com) or visit us on Facebook at Plymouth County Conservation or our website at [plymouthcountyparks.com](http://plymouthcountyparks.com)

**Saturday, March 21—Knee High Naturalists—Wacky Weather** Hillview Center for Outdoor Learning 10:00 am. Program for children 2-5 years old and their caretakers. Cost \$3 per child. Please register by noon the day prior to the program. Dress for the weather.

**Friday, April 10—Good Friday Geo-Egg Hunt** 1:00-3:00 pm Egg hunts are not just for little kids anymore. This egg hunt is for older kids and adults but little ones welcome. Each team will be given a GPS unit to use to find Easter eggs hidden throughout the park. Cost is \$10 per team.

## **LOCAL RESULTS OF THE 120TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

By Jerry Von Ehwegen

The 120th CBC was held from December 14th 2019 thru January 5th 2020. Loess Hills Audubon Members participate in several CBC's each year and some serve as the count compiler. Listed below are summaries of our 5 local counts.

The Sioux City CBC was held as scheduled on 12-14-2019. Temperatures ranged from the teens to the low 20's under partly cloudy skies with a light breeze. 24 birders in the field and 4 feeder watchers found 59 species and counted 7,161 total birds. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was also recorded as a Count Week bird. Some of the highlights included Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Spotted Towhee, Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal. Another amazing highlight is the fact that Sioux City birder Bob Nickolson has been working this count since 1947 or 73 counts! The compilation at compiler Jerry Probst's house was preceded with chili and soup and other delicious goodies.

The Westfield CBC was held as scheduled on 12-17-2019. 25 birders recorded 45 species and counted 3257 birds. Highlights included 6 species of waterfowl, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, and Carolina Wren. A delicious lunch of Chili and Soup and numerous other treats, desserts, and beverages were enjoyed at the compiler's Zale's home before we

compiled the morning results. Some of the birders searched for additional birds after lunch to add to the count before calling it a day.

Ponca State Park had a successful Christmas Bird Count held as scheduled on December 18, 2019. Fourteen people participated and were divided into six groups. One party spent the early morning owling. We found 52 species and counted 6,732 total birds. Highlights included Snow Bunting, Rusty Blackbird, Long-eared Owl, Golden Crowned Kinglet, Harris's Sparrow, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk, and a number of Northern Shrikes. We added our first Hooded Merganser to our cumulative Christmas Bird Count list and had a record number of 114 Blue Jays. The most numerous bird counted was the 3000 Snow Geese. In the future, we hope to continue tracking bird species during the Christmas Bird Count at Ponca State Park. The hard working birders enjoyed a delicious hot meal at the visitor's center at noon.

The Ida County CBC was held as scheduled on 1-04-2020 under sunny skies and cool temperatures. 7 parties of 14 birders came from Ida, Woodbury and Carroll Counties to help and found 39 total species and counted 5,028 total birds. Many thanks for all who helped. Highlights included 6 Long-eared Owls, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, 9 free-flying Trumpeter Swans, 1 male Wood Duck hanging out with a small flock of Mallards, 2 Eastern Bluebirds, 20 Bald Eagles, and 3,681 Canada Geese. 3 species not found on count day but seen during count week included Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, and a pair of Northern Pintails. One Sioux City birder got to see a Northern Saw-whet Owl as a life bird. The counters enjoyed a lunch of chili and other goodies around noon plus pie and ice cream later in the day at the compile!

The Yankton CBC was held as scheduled. Twenty-seven people participated in the 2019 Christmas Bird Count in Yankton on an overcast day, Sunday, December 15, 2019. The day started at 13 degrees and there were snow flurries most of the day. Twenty-three people worked as field observers while four counted birds at their feeders. People who worked the count came from Vermillion, Sioux Falls, and Yankton, South Dakota; Sioux City, Iowa; and South Sioux City and Wayne, Nebraska. The group found a total of 75 species of birds. The highest species count was 82 in 2012 followed by 80 in 2013 and 79 last year.

Highlights of the day were Ruby-crowned Kinglet recorded for the fourth time ever, Northern Saw-whet Owl recorded for the third time, Ross's Goose for the fourth time, Greater Scaup for the sixth time, Pied-billed Grebe for the eighth time, Lapland Longspur for the fourteenth time, and Northern Goshawk for the seventeenth time. Highest count ever for Horned Larks of 719, previous high was 679 in 2010. The most Ring-necked Pheasants we have seen at sixty compared to the previous three years of six, three, & five. Last time we had near this year's number was 58 in 2013. Surprisingly, the numbers of the invasive Eurasian-collared Dove are trending downward from 381 in 2015 to 141 this year.

#### LHAS CHAPTER Executives

President	David Hoferer	847-660-0650	dhoferer@uwalumni.com
Vice President	Paul Roisen	712-301-2817	roisenp1950@gmail.com
Secretary	Randy Williams	712-259-4705	randy.vickie.williams@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jeri Watkins	712-389-6342	jkbwatkins@aol.com
Board Members			
1,	Jerry VonEhwegen	712-276-1546	jerryvon@cableone.net
2.	Donna Popp	712-174-1979	dpopp@cableone.net
3.	Anne Shaner	712-252-2182	shanerga@msn.com
4.	Rex Rundquist	712-251-0345	rrundquist@aol.com
5.	Dotty Zales	712-540-0952	zales66@hotmail.com

## LOESS HILL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

By Donna Popp

Loess Hills Audubon Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Option 1: All monies go to directly to the Chapter for LOCAL use.

**“Chapter Only” membership: Loess Hills Audubon Society.** (See below for membership levels)

Student to age 24--\$12/00

Family--\$20.00

Bluebird \$35.00

Great Egret \* \$50.00

Osprey\* \$100.00

Bald Eagle\* \$250.00

Peregrine\* \$500.00 \*Certificate of Honor for these levels.

Make check payable to **Loess Hills Audubon Society**

Send application and check to Donna Popp, 630 Surrey Lane, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Option2: Monies go only to National organization—it includes dual membership

**First Time National Audubon membership \$20 and up.**

Entire amount of the “First Time” National Audubon membership is returned to the local chapter for our use. Make check payable to: **National Audubon Society**

Send application and check to Donna Popp, 630 Surrey Lane, Sioux City, IA 51106

**National Audubon Society RENEWALS \$20 and up**

Send check to National Audubon Society (H52)

P.O Box 97194

Washington DC 20090-7194

Renew online at: [audubon.org/renew](http://audubon.org/renew) (copy and paste in browser if necessary)

Questions? Contact Donna Popp at: 712-274-1979 or [dpopp@cableone.net](mailto:dpopp@cableone.net)

