



MORE FROM LOESS

The Newsletter of the
**LOESS HILLS AUDUBON
SOCIETY** Volume 46: No. 2, November/December 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

As we head into the holiday season, many of us pause to consider our blessings. So many of those blessings come from the natural world and our feathered friends. As we all probably know, species extinction has been identified as one of the two greatest environmental challenges today, along with climate change. As we enter the season of giving, let us think about what birds give to us and what we can give back.

The National Audubon Society just released their updated report on the impacts of climate change titled “Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink.” Scientists considered how bird ranges are shifting and will continue to shift in response to the changing climate this century. In short, if we do not take action to reduce the effects of climate change, it is possible that approximately two-thirds (well, 389 as stated in the title) of the 604 species studied will be at risk of extinction.

You can see the report and search for species of interest, your state, your ZIP code, etc., at Audubon.org. There are overall summaries of the vulnerabilities of groups of birds by habitat (aridland birds, grassland birds, etc.) by climate change scenario, lists of species at risk, a

“climate action toolkit” to help everyone learn how to talk with friends, coworkers, and politicians about climate change, links to related articles, and more.

Looking at the summary information for species, one near and dear to my heart, the Bobolink, may soon be very rare or extinct in Iowa. Its range will be shifting northward into Canada throughout this century. Even under the optimistic scenario that we can stabilize the climate at +1.5 degrees Celsius, the range of the Bobolink may shift far enough northward that a trip to Minnesota will become necessary to see them. This breaks my heart. When I began to study ornithology as an undergraduate in northeastern Iowa, I learned that the Bobolink is one of the grassland birds that depends on relatively large patches of intact prairie for food and reproduction. I searched everywhere I could during that class, but never saw a Bobolink. About a quarter century later, after I moved to Sioux City, I saw my first Bobolink in Iowa right away. That was a really great day. I have come to love their song and greatly enjoy hearing it as I bike the country roads during spring and summer. Soon, though, that song may die out in Iowa and we are to blame. Our activities are causing climate change, which affects every living being on the planet.

Reading the report for the state of Iowa, it became clear why the bobolink might become more rare or disappear from Iowa altogether. If we don't take action right away to mitigate our releases of greenhouse gases, the dominant biome in Iowa is projected to change. Currently 62% of the state is covered by the grassland biome. By the end of the century, under the scenario in which warming increases by +3.5 degrees C or more, 83% of Iowa could be covered by the deciduous forest biome. Due to the increased warming, evapotranspiration will increase, too, meaning that most of the state will be drier on average than it is now. Naturally, these changes could be devastating for grassland species like the Bobolink.

I urge you to consider becoming more active in the Siouxland community and in the Loess Hills Audubon Society to help us combat these problems. Toolkits provided by the Audubon Society can help all of us speak to others about the importance of climate change and bird conservation. Speaking of the iconic birds that are vulnerable due to climate change mentioned in this report, such as the Sandhill Crane for Iowa, the Red-headed Woodpecker for Nebraska, or the Sharp-tailed Grouse for South Dakota, could help raise awareness. Participating in citizen science projects like our upcoming Christmas Bird Count can also help. The databases created from the CBC and other bird counts were used to project the impacts of climate change this century. Our local CBC will be conducted in December and early January. Please help us raise awareness, participate, and take action for a better future.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOESS HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Thursday, November 7—LHAS monthly meeting DPNC, 7:30 pm. Program: Bruce Ehresman “Bird Nests—A Tour of Avian Architecture and Hidden Treasures”. Bruce is a retired DNR employee who lives in Boone. Sign up to bring treats for one of the upcoming meetings. Committees meeting 6:15 pm All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, November 9, 2019—Outing to Ponca State Park and Kramper Lake Leader for the November Outing is Bill Huser. Ponca State Park's extensive feeder setup attracts many winter visitors on cold winter mornings. This day we will look for any new winter arrivals looking to fatten up for migration or the cold winter ahead. We might expect around 12 species of winter regulars, but also such

irregular visitors as Pine Siskins and Purple Finches. Also, from the Park's River Overlook, we will look for waterfowl and eagles on the river, as well as waterfowl and raptors migrating overhead. The Park's North Unit with its extensive grasslands will attract additional species and will be our third stop.

Afterwards, we will visit Dakota County's largest body of water (excepting the fast-moving Missouri River), Kramper Lake to search for migrating waterfowl. Last year, in addition to the expected species, Trumpeter Swan, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Eared Grebe highlighted the fall migration.

Those who have worked up an appetite by this time are welcome to join us at Granny's in Willis for a great lunch. To join us for this adventure, either meet at the Singing Hills Walmart parking lot (northwest corner) in Sioux City at 7:30 am or at Ponca State Park's Resource Center at 8:15 am. Call Bill at 712-574-3107 for further information.

Thursday, December 5—LHAS monthly meeting DPNC, 7:30 pm. Photo Sharing Christmas Program. Bring your best shots for the year (no more than 15-20) and share them. Paul will run the computer, a table will be available for printed shots. Everyone is asked to bring a treat to share. Board meeting at 6:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

December Outings are the annual Christmas Bird Counts

Saturday, December 14—Sioux City Christmas Bird Count Contact Jerry Probst 712-490-8256

Sunday, December 15—Yankton Christmas Bird Count Contact Bill H or Jerry P

Tuesday, December 17—Westfield Christmas Bird Count Contact Bill or Dotty Zales 712-540-0952

Wednesday, December 18—Ponca State Park Christmas Bird Count Contact Bill Huser, 712-574-3107.

Saturday, January 4—Ida Grove Christmas Bird Count Contact Don Pogensee, Bill H or Jerry P

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

Saturday, November 2—Useful Lashings 9:00 – 11:00 am. DPNC. Knowing how to securely fix two or more poles together with just a little rope is a great way to impress family and friends. It's also a very useful skillset to obtain for any backwoods or backyard building project. There will be both indoor and outdoor classroom time during this program, so please dress for the weather. Program is designed for ages 10 and up, and youth under 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Contact Resource Naturalist Tyler Flammang at 712-258-0838 or tflammang@woodburyparks.org.

Saturday, November 9—Making Natural Cordage 9:00-11:00 am. DPNC. Being able to manufacture cordage (rope) from natural materials is a skill that every outdoor enthusiast would be wise to understand. Our resource naturalist will share advice on the proper techniques utilized to create strong, long lasting cordage from locally identified materials. There will be both indoor and outdoor classroom time, so please dress for the weather. Program is designed for ages 10 and up, and youth under 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Contact Tyler Flammang at 712-258-0838 or tflammang@woodburyparks.org

Tuesday, November 12—Nature Tales 10:00 am DPNC. Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for this special story time on hibernation. We'll hike, too, weather permitting. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email tkruid@woodburyparks.org.

Thursday, November 14—Night Hike 6:00-7:30 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 a critter or two. Dress for the weather by wearing layers and sturdy footwear. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Pre-registration is GREATLY appreciated. Contact Resource Naturalist, Tyler Flammang at 712-258-0838 or tflammang@woodburyparks.org

Saturday, November 16—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, November 16—Autumn Trees 1:00-3:00 pm. DPNC. Learn about the changes of trees annually during the Autumn. We will go for a nature hike and leaf hunt. After our hike, we will use our leaves to create festive autumn leaf bowls. Pre-registration is greatly appreciated. Contact DPNC at 712-258-0838 or oparks@woodburyparks.org. Limited to 36 participants.

Thursday, November 21—Night Hike 6:00-7:30 pm. DPNC See Thursday, November 14 event.

Saturday, November 23—Let's Talk about Turkeys 10:00 am. DPNC. Do you know what a baby turkey is called? Join us to learn about the bird that comes to everybody's mind on the holiday. We will talk about Turkeys, do a fun craft, and go out to see if we can find any turkeys that live at the nature center. Pre-registration is appreciated. 712-258-0838 or oparks@woodburyparks.org

Saturday, November 30—Thankful Hike Kindness Rocks 10:00 am-noon. DPNC. Paint rocks in the theme of Thanksgiving and hike around the nature center trails to place them for others to find. These rocks will be full of kindness and thankfulness and is a great way of spreading holiday cheer. Pre-registration is appreciated at 712-258-0838 or oparks@woodburyparks.org. Co-sponsored by Original Siouxland Rocks.

Monday, December 2—REAP Regional Assembly 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Correctionville Community Center, 312 Driftwood St., Correctionville. If you are a resident of Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth or Woodbury County please attend this public meeting to learn to give input about the future of our natural resources. For more information visit www.iowareap.com

Tuesday, December 10—Nature Tales 10:00 am. DPNC. Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for this special story time on animal tracks. We'll hike too, weather permitting. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email tkruid@woodburyparks.org.

Thursday, December 12—Night Hike 6:00-7:30 pm. DPNC. See Thursday, November 14 event.

Saturday, December 14—Winter Fun Day and Artist Open House 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. DPNC. Join us for a fun day of winter activities. We plan to have recycled materials crafts for you to create holiday gifts. We'll also have showshoeing or hiking and other indoor and outdoor activities. Dress for the weather. Free! Area artists will have their artwork on display and available for purchase. For more information or to be a vendor, contact us at 712-258-0838.

Thursday, December 19—Night Hike 6:00-7:30 pm. DPNC. See Thursday, November 14 event.

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

Saturday, November 9—Christmas at the Homestead 12:00-4:00 pm. Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve would like to invite their visitors to get in the holiday spirit and take a step back in time by attending the annual Christmas at the Homestead celebration. This free, family event allows participants to tour the Stavenger Church, Shay/Adams House and Lamont Country School decorated for the Christmas season. Adams Homestead volunteers will be showing off their talents in each of the homestead buildings. Visitors will also get to enjoy refreshments in the Visitor Center, make children's crafts in the Lamont Country School and hear Christmas music in the Stavenger Lutheran church throughout the day. Vendors will be displaying their talents and merchandise for all visitors to see and purchase. Take time to shop for Christmas while enjoying homemade goodies and the warmth of the fireplace. Santa Claus will also make an appearance in the Visitor Center and will be hanging out by the fireplace taking pictures with kids of all ages.

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

Saturday, November 16—Knee High Naturalists: Creatures of the Night 10:00 am. Hillview Park Center for Outdoor Learning. Program for 2-5 year old children and their caretakers. Cost is \$3/child. Please register by noon the day prior to the program. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Tuesday, November 27—Dutch Ovens and Winter Decor 6:00-9:00 pm. Create and decorate a one of a kind wreath and learn how to cook a meal in a Dutch oven. For ages 16 and older or ages 10-15 with an adult. Cost is \$40/ project including dinner for 1. \$5/additional person. Limited to 20 projects.

Tubing hill will be open December – February. Hours are 1-5pm Saturdays, Sundays and New Years Day. Reservations can be made for private groups for 2 hour periods during the week

LHAS OUTINGS

by Jerry VonEhwegen

Saturday, 7 September, 2019 Bob & Phyllis N., John & Sharon P., Rex R., Paul R., Bill H., Jan N., and Jerry V. participated in our September outing. It was a mostly cloudy morning with a temperature of 65 and a light breeze and temps held fairly steady through the morning. Light rain began to fall around 11:00. Our first stop was at Brown's Lake where we searched the woods for Warblers but it was fairly quiet until we found a nice pocket of birds near the dock. They were hard to see but we did locate a few Warblers and Vireos among the group. Two Belted Kingfishers also entertained us on the lake shore. Our next stop was Sandhill Lake where we found the 3 American Avocets that had been present there the previous day.

Light rain put a damper on our birding at our next stop at Owego wetlands. We located a few more species before one car headed for home, a 2nd car made stops at "the Square" and both dairy ponds while the 3rd car decided on lunch at the Crossroads Pub in Smithland. It was quiet at the Pub as we began our lunch but then about 25 motorcycles with wet riders showed up. They were enjoying their day, too. We recorded a total of 58 species for the day. Other highlights included Common Yellowthroat, Black & White Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and Marsh Wren. 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 attended.

Saturday, 5 October 2019 James B., Dave & Terri S., Jerry P., Paul R., Jan N., and Jerry V., participated in our October outing. It was a calm, damp morning with some light rain and a temperature of 55 degrees. The rain came to an end and we found some good birds at Graceland Cemetery including Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a fly by Cooper's Hawk. We made other stops at New Lake, Snyder's Bend, Southwood Conservation Area, and related areas. Most of the people had to leave early due to other commitments so we skipped lunch and some birded on the way home.

We recorded a total of 54 species for the day. Other highlights included: American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, and Northern Harrier. 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.

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

Option 2: 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 (copy and paste in browser if necessary)

Questions? Contact Donna Popp at: 712-274-1979 or dpopp@cablone.net

