



# MORE FROM LOESS

The Newsletter of the  
**LOESS HILLS AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**     Volume 46: No. 3; January/February 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

2019 was a momentous year for birds, but for the wrong reasons. While we knew that birds were generally in decline, a new report in 2019 concluded that there are approximately 2.9 billion fewer birds in North America today than there were in 1970. That includes a more than 50% decline in our grassland birds. The effects of our activities have been devastating for our feathered friends. More importantly, birds serve as bellwethers for changes in natural ecosystems. They are declining because ecosystems are losing their capacity to support as many individuals and species as they did before our activities changed them.

As we head into 2020, let's all resolve to turn over a new leaf and reverse these declines. One of the simplest things we can all do is to become more aware of the life that surrounds us. Participating in LHAS's monthly bird outings is an effective way to learn to recognize bird species that you can then teach your family and friends. When we are aware of what is around us, we learn to appreciate it. Appreciation leads to real care and concern, which then leads to positive actions. An effective action is to participate in the citizen science bird counts sponsored by LHAS, such as the Christmas Bird Count

(CBC), the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), and even our Birdathon. I went out with other members of LHAS to count birds for the CBC in north Sioux City and Westfield in December. The data collected is uploaded to a national database that is then used by scientists to track trends in bird populations. It is a fun way to help generate the knowledge we need to recognize and solve our environmental problems. Want to get involved but missed the CBC? Our February outing will be for the GBBC. Come join us!

Another easy and effective way to help birds and the environment is to get away from using herbicides and pesticides in your lawn and garden and plant native plants that are bird-friendly. Our March program will be about bird-friendly native plants that you can use around your home. Come to Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and learn what you can do for birds at home. Of course, every month we feature a new program for you to learn about birds and the environment in general. With all of the declines documented for birds and the environment in general, make 2020 the year you become involved and help us improve Siouxland for all life.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### LOESS HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Saturday, January 4—Ida Grove Christmas Bird Count** Meet at Singing Hills Walmart at 6:30 am to carpool to Ida Grove for the count. Contact Bill Huser at 712-574-3107 for details.

**Thursday, January 9—LHAS monthly meeting** 7:30 pm DPNC Program: Rob Schultz, St Paul Audubon office. He will talk about the focus that National Audubon is taking to integrate conservation and support for chapters in Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. Board and committee meetings at 6:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Thursday, February 6—LHAS monthly meeting** 7:30 pm DPNC Program: Tracking Bird Migration for Conservation. Anna Buckhardt, newly appointed DNR Avian Ecologist in the Wildlife Diversity Program for the state of Iowa. Board meeting 6:15 pm All are welcome to attend.

**Saturday, February 15—LHAS outing—Great Backyard Bird Count** Our destination will be Breakfast with Birds at Ponca State Park. Somre of our participants may split off to GBBC other sites of their preference.

### 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)

**Tuesday, January 14—Nature Tales**10:00 am Preschoolers, join us with an adult for this special story time about snow and ice. We'll hike, too, weather permitting. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email [tkruid@woodbury.parks.org](mailto:tkruid@woodbury.parks.org)

**Saturday, January 18—All About Antlers** 10:00 am DPNC Amateur Naturalist and Photography Aficionado, Michael Greiner will share the basics of antlers and his many hours spent in the outdoors tracking, hunting, and photographing deer. He will give insights to shedding and tell more about his donated collection of deer antler sheds.

**Monday, January 20—Americorps Service Day** 4:00-6:00 pm Hillview Recreation Area, Hinton Join Olivia Parks as she gives back to the community by building bluebird boxes. It is free and open to 14-18

year olds and their families looking to volunteer. Pre-registration is required before Jan 15. For more info contact [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, February 1 Woodbury County Conservation Foundation Annual Meeting** 1:45 pm Program: Penguins and Petrels on the Peninsula: Traveling Teacher Explores Antarctica DPNC Stacy Snyder will share her experiences as a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow on a National Geographic and Lindblad Expedition to Antarctica. She is sure to share photos and stories of penguins, seals, whales, and albatross. Free !

**February 8-27 Iowa Junior Duck Stamps Exhibit on display during open hours.**

**Saturday, February 8—All About Owls** 10:00 am DPNC Learn about Iowa's different species of owls and meet a live owl. Harlan the Barred Owl will be our special guest.

**Tuesday, February 11—Nature Tales** 10:00 am DPNC Pre-schoolers, join us with an adult for this special story time about cardinals. We'll hike, too, weather permitting. Please pre-register by calling 712-258-0838 or email [tkruid@woodburyparks.org](mailto:tkruid@woodburyparks.org)

**Saturday, February 15—Great Backyard Bird Count** 9:00 am DPNC View and count birds at the DPNC feeders and learn the basics of bird watching and attracting birds to your feeders. Free! Please pre-register or contact [oparks@woodburyparks.org](mailto:oparks@woodburyparks.org)

**Thursday, February 20—Loess Hills of China** 630 pm DPNC Graham McGaffin, Director of Conservation and Loess Hills Program Director for the Nature Conservancy in Iowa traveled to the Chinese Loess Plateau in 2019 as part of special Loess Hills research and exchange group. He will give a presentation on the exchange and future opportunities for collaboration and research.

**Saturday, February 22—The True Story of Eddie the Duck** 10:00 am DPNC Hear the story of a duckling who won the hearts of school children in Moville, IA and beyond and became an inspiration for a children's book. Author, Dee Ashley, retired first grade teacher at Woodbury Central will share her journey during the process of writing the story and challenges encountered while publishing it. Copies available for purchase and signing.

## **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)

**Saturdays, January 11 and February 8—Beginner Cross Country Ski Class** 10:00 am Wake up those tired legs and get outside for some fun exercise. The class is for those who would like to learn a new way to exercise in the winter time. Basic techniques and equipment will be covered during this program. Limit 15 people. Limited ski and boot sizes available. Please call the visitor center (605-232-0873) to reserve your spot.

**Fridays, January 17 and February 21—Little Naturalist Program** 10:00 am

The Little Naturalist program is for toddlers 2-4 years old. This monthly program teaches kiddos different nature topics through games, music, crafts, stories, and activities. Please call the visitor center to pre-register.

**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, January 18—Becoming an Outdoors Family—Winter Fun Day** 2-4 pm Bring the family for a day of fun at Hillview. We will have activity stations set up around the park for your family to try. \$5.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Activities will be determined by the weather and snow conditions that day.

**Saturday, February 1—Snow Scamper—5K trail run/walk** 10 am – noon Dust off your running shoes and dig out those snowshoes. We want to see what you are made of. Plymouth County Conservation will be hosting a trail run/walk at Hillview Park. Participants will receive a long sleeved 50/50 t-shirt and snacks after the run. Early registration is \$25 (long sleeved performance shirt is an extra \$10) before January 20. Registration after January 20 will not be guaranteed a shirt. Snowshoes are available on a first come, first served basis.

**Saturdays, January 18 and February 22—Knee-High Naturalists** 10:00 am Center for Outdoor Learning. Program for children ages 2-5 and a caregiver. Cost is \$3/child. Please register by noon the day before. Please dress for the weather.

**Tubing Hill**—Open 1-5 pm Saturdays and Sundays through February. Private groups may rent the hill for a 2 hour period during the week.

## LHAS OUTINGS

By Bill Huser

November 9—Ponca State Park and Kramper Lake Unexpectedly nice weather was in store for the 11 members participating in our November outing to Ponca State Park and Kramper Lake. The feeders at the park were attracting 13 species of our regular winter visitors with a surprising 12 Blue Jays in attendance. A drive to and through the Park's grassland produced another 16 species including unexpected Ring-billed Gulls and Rusty Blackbirds.

The sunny day warmed to 59 degrees as we surveyed the waterfowl at Kramper Lake near Hubbard, NE. We found a Western, an Eared, 3 Horned and 9 Pied-billed Grebes along with 11 species of ducks and geese.

In all, we found 45 species of birds before heading to lunch at the Old Dane Golf Course Clubhouse in Dakota City. Additionally, we appreciated meeting Dave and Terri Sage and James Bailey and welcoming back Terri Dolezal.

## Christmas Bird Counts

**Ponca State Park**—51 species 14 birders. Highlights were Snow Bunting, Rusty Blackbird, Northern Shrike, Rough-legged Hawk, Long-eared Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Harris Sparrow.

**Westfield**—45 species, 3258 birds, 25 birders. Highlights were 6 species waterfowl, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Carolina Wren.

## Gender Bias in Bird Conservation Plans

From Cornell Lab of Ornithology. After pairing up and raising chicks, males and females of some bird species spend their winter break apart. At the end of their journey to Central America, you might find mostly males in one habitat and females in another. Conservation strategies have typically overlooked habitats needed by females, putting already-declining species in even more peril.

Among the small songbird species that have been studied, the general rule seems to be that females occupy lower elevation, shrubbier, drier sites. Mid-elevation and high-elevation sites that are more humid and have better quality forest are occupied by males. This male-female split is pretty common but the study found that for 66 declining species, only 3 made any mention of his-hers habitats. When conservation plans do not explicitly address the habitat requirements of both sexes, there is no guarantee both sexes will be protected. One-size-fits-all conservation does not accommodate the needs of both male and female birds any more than a one-size-fits-all approach would work in meeting the needs of humans.

## 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)

