



# Wild River Audubon *Current*

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## President's Column

This morning as I write, I have literally a hundred birds at my feeders. With the coming of the latest cold snap, dozens of Common Redpolls and their close cousins, Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches have flown in to dine on sunflower and thistle seeds. Woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees are frequent guests at the suet. This has been a fierce winter for wildlife. As the natural landscape is converted to lawns and parking lots, there is less and less food available. If you are feeding the birds this winter, please keep up your feeders through April. If you haven't filled a feeder, consider starting. We are now moving into the most meager time of year.

Wild River Audubon serves the community! This month, we're sponsoring several bird programs from The Audubon Center of the Northwoods in local area elementary schools. School children will learn about and see live hawks and owls. Your generous support of the birdseed sale has enabled us to do this.

This month, we present speakers on digital wildlife photography. In March, we welcome a speaker on the perils of light pollution to wildlife. At our last board meeting, we agreed to make a donation to the fund set up to buy and preserve Camp Ojiketa. And Board member Joe Sausen is running bird clinics at Peterson's Mill in North Branch.

Thanks to all of you, we make life better for birds and people in East Central Minnesota and Western Wisconsin.

*Sue*

## Bird Photographers Speak Feb. 10th

Interested in learning more about digital photography? Why do most people feel it's fun and easy to work with digital photography's versatility? Kim and Cindy Risen, photographers, authors and travel guides from Macgregor, Minnesota will demonstrate many uses of digital photography, from hand held 'point and shoot' cameras to tripod mounted SLR's, and even a bit of video. They'll show how the digital revolution has changed nature photography, or even the enjoyment of nature, forever.

Their program will conclude with a finished digital DVD project from their recent tour program in South Africa.

Southern Africa is home to more indigenous plants and birds than any other part of mainland Africa. Bizarre trees, colorful birds and fantastic flowers become everyday sights when traveling around South Africa. Come experience the wonders of Southern Africa in first class comfort (without the 22 HOUR plane ride!). Join Kim and Cindy Risen as they share with you a bit of Southern Africa through words, pictures and video.

We hope to see you at **Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City at 7:00 p.m.**



## About the Speakers

Kim started birding along the Mississippi River flyway at the age of ten. Experiences with his camera and binoculars along the 'Big River' and in the woodlands and prairies of the Midwest led him to focus on birds, photography and natural history as a career.

Kim began leading birding trips around the Midwest while still in high school. For the last 24 years, Kim has led birding and natural history tours throughout North, Central and South America. For the past 17 years, he has specialized in the Latin American countries, where he has studied bird vocalizations, status, distribution and field identification. In 2004, Kim broke the record for most species recorded, with a 'Big Year' total of 876 species. He returns to Mexico frequently and the country is a common subject of his photography. He has led tours to five continents, all the states of Mexico and into more bogs than most people have ever seen.

He founded and publishes *NatureScape News*, a tabloid news magazine emphasizing the FUN of birding, butterflying and the wonders of nature. Published 16 times per year, *NatureScape News* is the perfect outlet for Kim and his wife, Cindy, who is also a freelance photographer. Their photography has appeared in newspapers, books and magazines across the country, yet *NatureScape News* remains their passion. You can check out *NatureScape News* on their website at: [www.naturescapenews.com](http://www.naturescapenews.com)



Peregrine Falcon

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[www.wildriveraudubon.org](http://www.wildriveraudubon.org)

## In Search of Green Oranges

There's nothing like a big glass of OJ to perk up a winter morning. Sweet, healthy, brimming with Vitamin C, the juice offsets the barren culinary scene of a Minnesota winter.

But what is the cost to the environment in indulging in a bit of Florida sunshine?

PepsiCo, owner of Tropicana, recently attempted to do the math on carbon emissions in the large-scale production of orange juice. While oranges are picked by hand, carbon-based fuels are used to truck the fruit to the plant, where they are squeezed, the juice is pasteurized, packaged and then shipped by train to distribution points around the U.S.



## Join the Backyard Bird Count

Join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), **February 13-16, 2009.**

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future."

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes or more on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popu-



lar online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to [YouTube](http://YouTube); some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) to learn more.

### How do you participate?

1. **Count birds for at least 15 minutes or more on one or more days of the count.** Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day.. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.
2. **Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.** You may find it helpful to print out a regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. On the checklist note the highest number of each species you see .
3. **When you're finished, enter your data at <http://birdsource.org>.** You'll see a button marked "Submit Your Bird Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count (February 13, 2009). It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on **March 1, 2009.**



*Information taken from Great Backyard Bird Count <http://birdsource.org>.*

## In Search of Green Oranges *continued from page 3*

Pepsi undertook the study because corporations foresee a time when governments will require them to post carbon footprint information on packaging. Such information is already available on food sold in Europe and Great Britain, where “carbon anxiety” is more advanced among the population.

Carbon analysis often produces surprises. Stoneyfield Farms, for example, found that in yogurt manufacturing, milk production had a greater C contribution than its factory.

Certain corporations have already committed to decreasing their carbon emissions. These are IBM, Nike, CocaCola and BP. Google, Yahoo and Dell have vowed to become carbon-neutral.

*Information from this article came from The New York Times in a piece published Jan. 21, 2009.*

**www.wildriveraudubon.org**

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