

Wild River Audubon Current

Vol. 30 No. 5

January 2010

President's Message

We had a Cooper's Hawk swoop over our feeders on Monday. My son considered it a sign that our offerings appeal to *all* kinds of birds, but I don't care, I am not wild about luring in seed eaters to serve as lunch for predatory hawks.

January is a hard month for our resident birds. The fall's bounty has been depleted, temperatures are usually abysmal and cold nights are long. Maintaining a ready supply of high-calorie seeds and suet can ease some of winter's misery for the feathered ones of the animal kingdom. Many, perhaps most, of our chapter membership actively feed the birds and experience the pleasure of seeing the cardinal pair visit the platform feeder at dusk, or marvel at the sprightliness of chickadees in sub-zero temperatures in the pre-dawn. Black oils are the name of the game, so, Auduboners, be diligent in keeping the feeders filled.

This afternoon, I'm counting our regulars, to see if the hawk had success: three chickadees, three downys, two white-breasted nuthatches and one red; tree sparrows (new!) and a female purple finch (also new!) So far, all are accounted for. That hawk should visit someone else's feeder!

Sue



Upcoming Events

January 12th– Rick Olseen and Jeremy Kalin will address environmental issue in the upcoming legislative session Chisago Lakes Area Library 7:00 p.m.

February 9th– Ron Windingstad speaks on Chimney Swift Restoration Project 7:00 p.m. Community Room Chisago Lakes Area Library

April 13th – Bob Holtz Bird Walk

May 15th– Bird Walk at Wild River State Park.

**All programs are free and open to the public
Refreshments usually provided**



Broken Records at Christmas Bird Count

Wild River Audubon has been counting birds for thirty four years and each year including 2009 some records were broken and yielded some surprises. Twenty five determined Auduboners hiked, skied, and drove around their wedge of the pie shaped territory scanning the sky, fields, ditches, feeders and open water tallying all that they saw.

Some might be surprised to learn that it is no longer unusual to see Robins in the winter. This year we tallied 218. The highest number we had before was 52 in 1998.



Our grand total was 4,746 birds and 46 species. In 2007 there were 48 species. The highest number of birds WRA ever counted was 5,671 in 1999 because Gloria Peterson had 1107 geese in her territory. This year there wasn't much open water and no small waterfowl such as mallards, teal, mergansers or scaups were counted. Undiscouraged, Section 1 led by Gloria saw the most birds and species.

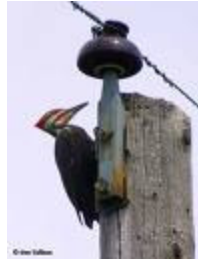
Another species not seen was the White-Winged Crossbill. The last time we recorded any was 1997.

Surprises continued. The most numerous bird this year was the Dark-eyed Junco- 677. The seasonal early bird was a Fox Sparrow.

They don't normally show up this soon. For the first time Blue Jays at 241 outnumbered the crows at 219. Half of the Horned Larks we have ever seen in the 34 years of the count, were counted this year. They numbered 110. We usually see about 3 times as many Downy Woodpeckers as Hairy Woodpeckers and that held true again this year. Our highest count of White-Breasted Nuthatches was this year. The averages is about 90, but this year there were 181.



Dorothy and Mike Chrun were the only ones who saw swans.



Twenty three Pileated Woodpeckers were spotted this year. New power poles are being installed along County Road 37 this year and they are being wrapped in hardware cloth. We were told it was to keep the woodpeckers from damaging them.

Wild River Audubon Society

Officers

President: Sue Leaf 651 257-6044
Vice President: Dann Adair 257-5627
Secretary: Sue Mahler 464-7890
Treasurer: Kim Pittsley 651 257-6740

Board of Directors

Dayle DeClercq '11 651 257-5045
Tom Anderson '11
Joe Sausen '11 651 674-8119
Jeremy Kalin '11 257-9861
Ken Reine '11 763 552-2455
Craig Roberts '11 651 257-0786
Jocelyn Warholm '11 651 257-9231

Audubon Adventures

Dann Adair 257-5627

Newsletter Editor

Bonnie DeClercq 651 257-5045

Newsletter Mailer

Jackie Lallier 213-0909

Membership

Ken Reine

Christmas Bird Count

Joe Sausen

Birdseed Sale

Dayle DeClercq

Webmaster

Craig Roberts

www.wildriveraudubon.org

Great Back Yard Bird Count 2010 Data Form

Please fill in all of the information requested.
Forms with incomplete information cannot be entered into the database.

Where did you make your observations?

Postal code: _____ Town: _____

State/Province: _____

Phone number (in case we need to contact you

with any questions: _____

Name: _____

Observation date and details

Important Note: Use a separate form for each day and location that you count. Do not add counts from different days or locations together.

(Circle one)

Fri. 2/12 Sat. 2/13 Sun. 2/14 Mon. 2/15

Count start time: _____ a.m./pm.

Total time: _____ hrs. _____ min.

I **am** reporting every species I saw _____ or

I am **not** reporting every species I saw _____

How many people participated in collecting the information you are reporting? _____

The observer (or group) rates the ability to detect and identify all species present as:

Fair ___ Good ___ Excellent ___

Weather conditions for detecting birds in the habitats visited were:

Poor ___ Fair ___ Good ___ Excellent ___

Location type:

Apartment ___ Feeders only ___ Yard ___ Large
Schoolyard ___ Office ___ Roadside ___ City/county
park ___ Federal land ___ Farm ___ Wastewater pond
___ Industrial site ___ Audubon reserve ___ Other
Nature reserve ___ Commercial property ___

Habitat(s) (Check **all** that apply):

Deciduous woods ___ Coniferous woods ___ Scrub
___ Grassland ___ Agricultural ___ Freshwater ___ Salt
water ___ Rural ___ Suburban ___ Urban ___

Bird Counts

Please write the highest number of birds of each species that you saw together at any one time. For example, if you watched a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos for 15 minutes and saw 3 juncos at a feeder, then 5, then 2, you would report 5, the highest number you saw at once. Do not add the numbers together (not 3+5+2). Be sure you write the species name (ex. "White-crowned Sparrow", not "Sparrow". If you cannot identify it, do not report it.

Thank you for participating.

Species Name

Highest Number Observed

*If you do not have internet access mail forms to:
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Attn: GBBC, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. If you do have internet access enter your counts at www.birdcount.org*

Count for Fun; Join the Backyard Bird Count

Take a mid-winter nature break with the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15th, 2010 and enter your sightings electronically at www.birdcount.org or mail in the data. January 16th Joe Sausen will present a program on the GBBC and answer questions at Peterson's Feed Mill in North Branch. Audubon Center of the Northwoods will also be there to present a program on raptors.

The GBBC is a perfect first step towards the intensive monitoring needed to discover how birds are affected by environmental change." said Janis Dickinson, the director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab.

Counters in February of 2009 Bird outdid themselves and surpassed 2008's all-time record of 85,700+ by submitting about 93,400 checklists!! 27 states set new records for checklists submitted, as did 8 Canadian provinces.

In species spotting news for 2009, the Northern Cardinal was bumped down to 15th place, with top billing going to the Snow Goose, which had over 1.3 million individuals recorded! For other exciting updates and summaries, visit www.birdcount.org. You can also explore maps, see beautiful photos, prize-drawing winners, and the list cities and towns that topped their state or province for the number of checklists submitted-our "checklist champs."

*Did you know that the Great Backyard Bird Count
was one of the answers on the game show Jeopardy?
See the link at www.birdcount.org*

www.wildriveraudubon.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Wild River Audubon
C/o Ken Reine
3330 Ten Oaks St
Cambridge, MN 55008-3810

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
North Branch,
MN 55056
Permit No. 50