

The Goldfinch



Daviess County Audubon Society

www.daviessaudubon.org

January 2008

Efforts to cool down heating up

Sierra Club emissions reduction proposal for city, county focus of January meeting

Local efforts to combat global warming will be the focus of the Jan. 14 meeting of the Daviess County Audubon Society.

An energy group, part of the Sierra Club, will discuss the Cool Cities/Cool Counties program, a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, a commitment they wish to secure in Owensboro and Daviess County. The DCAS session will be a warm-up for January presentations to Fiscal Court and Owensboro City Commission.

Sierra Club member Jill Flachskam noted the Cool Cities program was started by the mayor of Seattle, who was unhappy with the federal government's refusal to sign on to the Kyoto Protocol and decided to make the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement a sort of local stand-in for Kyoto.

According to the Cool Cities Web site, participating government entities agree to:

- * Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;

- * Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and

- * Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

Could it work here? That will be the point of discussion at 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at First Christian Church, J.R. Miller Blvd. and Seventh Street.

DCAS members play winning numbers game

South CBC count tops 29,000 birds

The rebound of the blue jay and two species on Audubon's rare Kentucky winter list were among the highlights for the annual south Daviess Christmas Bird Count, held Dec. 29.

In all, 55 species and 29,290 birds were spotted in south and southeastern Daviess County.

Once wracked by west Nile virus, a whopping 475 blue jays were recorded, more than twice as many as last year. On the rare list a veery, part of the thrush family was spotted by Carolyn Williams, Janet Howard and Brenda Eaden's team. Two teams: Steve Hahus/Mike Henshaw and Ken Hurm/Mary



Ken Hurm scans the landscape.

See South, Page 2

Larks, pipits headline west count

A bitter wind greeted 2008 and participants in the western Daviess County Christmas Bird Count, held Jan. 1. In all, 49 species and 9,228 individuals were spotted.

Perhaps the startling total of the day was 364 -- a conservative number of a flock of horned larks spotted by Mike Henshaw, Carolyn Williams and Charles Morris -- and only part of nearly 600 seen during the day. They also saw a spotted sandpiper, one of the few wading birds spotted during the holiday counts.

Marilee Thompson and Pat Augustine were hot on the trail of a northern harrier, when they hit a mother lode of 16 American pipits.

Common birds had their moments when they gathered in huge numbers. Brenda and Tony Eaden and Mary Kissel saw about 100 ring-billed gulls at English Park, and two teams had flocks of red-

See West, Page 2

South

From Page 1

Kissel recorded a total of 16 rusty blackbirds. The lone bird near Utica hung out not with a large flock of blackbirds nearby, but by Hurm's SUV, giving that team an eyeful of the brown markings around its face.

Henshaw and Hahus also were treated to a whopping 11 red-headed woodpeckers in their area. Going solo, Scott Harp recorded the lone brown creeper and winter wren for the day. It was Turkey Day (part 2) for Steve Anderson, Jill Flachskam and Henry Conner, with 26 of the day's 34 sightings.

Working with Ron Taylor, Joe Ford was pleased to tally a pileated woodpecker at Yellow Creek Park, but thought the day was notable for what he ... and others barely saw: robins. On count day, only one ... and only five were spotted among all teams, as compared to 259 last year. Ford surmised northern robins have yet to migrate to western Kentucky for the winter.

One stellar area on the count was the Camp Pennyroyal Girl Scout camp, where Brenda Little declared it the best day ever in the Powell Bird Blind, where she and Bill Little and nephew Aaron Bailey were treated to six chickadees and six titmice crowding feeders. Two red-bellied woodpeckers and two downy woodpeckers also visited.

Species spotted included: Red-winged blackbird (487), rusty blackbird (16), blue jay (475), bluebird (103), brown creeper (1), cardinal (309), Carolina chickadee (59), cowbird (280), crow (91), mourning dove (274), house finch (53), purple finch (1), yellow-shafted flicker (47), goldfinch (48), Canada goose (27), grackle (18,635), great blue heron (4), pied-billed grebe (1), northern harrier (1), red-shouldered hawk (3), red-tailed hawk (43), horned lark (7), dark-eyed junco (164), American kestrel (64), killdeer (10), belted kingfisher (1), mallard (6), eastern meadowlark (3), mockingbird (28), red-breasted nuthatch (2), white-breasted nuthatch (19), barn owl (1), pigeon (10), American robin (5), field sparrow (5), house sparrow (143), Savannah sparrow (12), song sparrow (64), tree sparrow (4), white-crowned sparrow (17), white-throated sparrow (75), starling (7,473), tufted titmouse (29), eastern towhee (29), wild turkey (34), cedar waxwing (12), downy woodpecker (20), hairy woodpecker (4), pileated woodpecker (3), red-bellied woodpecker (41), red-headed woodpecker (11), Carolina wren (25), winter wren (2), veery (1), chipping sparrow (8).

Following the morning count, birders enjoyed a delicious lunch, compliments of Sherry Henshaw.

West

From Page 1

winged blackbirds. Ken Hurm was amazed to see a flock of 400 rock doves.

Before trudging back out into the cold for afternoon session, Jan Howard hosted lunch at her home, providing much-needed warm soup.

Other participants included: Jill Flachskam, Henry Conner, Howard and Joe Ford, who was pleased to tally a pileated woodpecker at Panther Creek Park.

Species spotted included: Red-winged blackbird (1,767), blue jay (122), bluebird (42), American pipit (16), mockingbird (12), cardinal (92), Carolina chickadee (28), crow (3), mourning dove (49), Eurasian collared dove (32), house finch (6), yellow-shafted flicker (1), goldfinch (21), Canada goose (63), grackle (1,452), great blue heron (1), northern harrier (4), red-tailed hawk (15), sharp-shinned hawk (1), Cooper's hawk (1), horned lark (595), dark-eyed junco (105), American kestrel (28), killdeer (24), mallard (16), eastern meadowlark (35), red-breasted nuthatch (1), white-breasted nuthatch (5), rock dove (579), American robin (33), field sparrow (2), house sparrow (94), song sparrow (15), white-crowned sparrow (6), white-throated sparrow (14), starling (3,748), tufted titmouse (7), eastern towhee (4), wild turkey (26), cedar waxwing (12), downy woodpecker (13), pileated woodpecker (3), red-bellied woodpecker (23), Carolina wren (8), turkey vulture (1), spotted sandpiper (1), eastern wood pewee (1), ring-billed gull (104) and yellow-bellied sapsucker (3). These totals will be forwarded to the Kentucky Ornithological Society for its records.



From left: Jill Flachskam, Henry Conner, Brenda Eaden, Marilee Thompson and Pat Augustine enjoy lunch after a cold morning of birding.

Maceo count is filled with drama

Tony and Brenda Eaden's new home in Maceo was christened in style with 33 species recorded during the Christmas Bird Count period.

Most of those were tallied Dec. 27, when Janet Howard and Rose Ann Radzelovage joined them for birding in the varied habitat at their home and in far eastern Daviess County, such as Carpenters and Kingfisher lakes. For many years, the Maceo-Yelvington area hosted the Bert Powell-led count, and this year's total will be used for Kentucky Ornithological Society records.

The day was highlighted by a true "Wild Kingdom" moment. As the group drove into a cemetery, they witnessed a male kestrel with a fresh kill of a male cardinal. The relatively similar size of predator and prey impressed Radzelovage. The group also flushed the "widow" female cardinal soon after. They also had 43 wild turkeys during the count week.

In all, 281 individuals were recorded: Carolina chickadee (8), dark-eyed junco (40), blue jay (15), white-throated sparrow (2), tufted titmouse (6), cardinal (26), downy woodpecker (5), eastern towhee (5), yellow-shafted flicker (3), tree sparrow (3), chipping sparrow (4), grackle (3), goldfinch (4), eastern meadowlark (2), mallard (13), Carolina wren (3), field sparrow (4), song sparrow (10), starling (19), American kestrel (5), great blue heron (1), bluebird (9), mockingbird (5), red bellied woodpecker (3), ring-billed gull (1), house sparrow (1), crow (2), white-crowned sparrow (2), red-tailed hawk (3), Canada geese (28), hairy woodpecker (1), wild turkey (43), Cooper's hawk (1).



Abigail Tyson, left, and Jasmine Allen were part of the Wayland CBC team.

Wayland students put new birding skills into practice

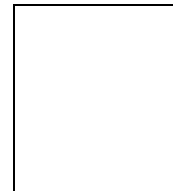
It was a practice Christmas Bird Count Dec. 19 for Wayland Alexander's Junior Audubon Society, but it was serious science for the kids and adults who visited the campus and Ohio County birding spots. Club sponsors were joined by eight kids, four parents and members Charles Morris and Janet Howard.

Near Rough River, adult spotters saw a bald eagle, news of which left the kids incredulous. However, students and co-sponsor Starla Cravens spotted nine species on their campus count, including a brown thrasher. Three students, four parents and two club sponsors counted birds at Ohio County Park. One student, third-grader Tanner Schock, counted a chipping sparrow at the park, meticulously consulting his guide and noting field marks to defend its inclusion in a large flock of sparrows, co-sponsor Brenda Little said.

Results from Scott Harp's count – which included red-headed woodpeckers – were not available, but to date, 39 species were seen: red-tailed hawk (12), blue jay (82), song sparrow (6), northern mockingbird (8), starling (1,911), eastern towhee (8), field sparrow (3), white-crowned sparrow (8), cardinal (62), northern harrier (1), eastern bluebird (31), dark-eyed junco (42), white-throated sparrow (29), northern flicker (3), mourning dove (40), red-winged blackbird (150), American crow (34), red-bellied woodpecker (3), tufted titmouse (6), pileated woodpecker (1), American kestrel (15), Savannah sparrow (1), rock dove (26), turkey vulture (10), bald eagle (1), killdeer (39), northern pintail (1), mallard (14), northern shoveler (2), common grackle (1,326), Carolina chickadee (4), eastern meadowlark (3), white-breasted nuthatch (2), Carolina wren (7), house sparrow (3), brown thrasher (4), house finch (7), Canada goose (12), tree sparrow (5).

The count concluded a memorable end to 2007. Along with national funds for the group, Little said a local church opted to buy the kids six more pairs of binoculars and fold-out bird guides. With the National Audubon Society re-opening the funding process for Kentucky projects, they also plan to seek additional monies for snacks and other program expenses.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Celebrate Groundhog Day with snow geese, bald eagles

The next field trip will be Feb. 2 to Ballard County Wildlife Managements Area, west of Paducah. The last mid-winter trip to Ballard, with its stunning looks at bald eagles and thousands of snow geese, is still being talked about, so mark your calendars now!

Please meet at 8 a.m. at Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Ticket sellers raise cash for club

Daviess Audubon members were able to sell 118 tickets for Christmas at Panther Creek lighting display. The club will receive \$2 of every \$3 ticket sold, so the club should net \$236 for its efforts.

Thanks for the memories

Bonnie Terrizzi passes along thanks for the memory book DCAS members compiled for her father, Bert Powell, after the death of his wife, Millie.

“What a wonderful and thoughtful gift that you (project organizer Rose Ann Radzelovage) and the bird club did for Dad. He was so touched (me too) and has read and re-read your treasured memory book.”

For news, dues

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