

BIRD SONGS

Newsletter of the North Lakeland
Discovery Center Bird Club

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Debby Wilson, Treasurer
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President's Message

by Mark Westphal

Happy 20th Bird Club! This August marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Discovery Center Bird Club. Twenty years ago, a group of thoughtful, dedicated individuals took the time and effort to formally develop the structure of what was to become the Discovery Center Bird Club. Written "Policies and Procedures" and "Regulations" were meticulously put into writing to help maintain the stated purpose of the Club. While the operation of the Club has at times been less formal than our written rules would suggest, our founding documents remind us that our Club has structure and purpose.

Over the past twenty years the Discovery Center Bird Club has brought knowledge, friendship, and joy to many people. Thursday morning outings and

organized field trips have given members direct, personal opportunities to find, identify, and observe a tremendous variety of birds. The skill and knowledge of our more veteran birders has been a much-appreciated gift to those less experienced in the fascinating world of birding. Because our Thursday morning outings occur with such ease and regularity it is easy to take them for granted. Somewhere behind the scenes there is a person or persons who organize, schedule, and communicate directions so all participants can arrive at the same time and in the right place for a positive birding experience. Record keepers both during and after Club outings compile and preserve a species list as part of our Club's history and mission.

Through the years, our summer programs, which have been open to the community free of charge, have attracted hundreds of people. These programs not only enrich the knowledge of our members but also help fulfill the part of our Club's mission statement that includes outreach and public education.

The publishing of our quarterly newsletter "BIRD SONGS" is done at the direction of our bylaws. Current issues recount activities and often provide reminders of future events. The newsletter gives contributors an opportunity to express their interest in a particular species, share their recent bird sightings and related travels. Past issues of "BIRD SONGS" help to preserve the history of our Club's activities and of our membership. The issues provide a record of all the bird species we have encountered throughout our twenty-year history.

Article II of the Discovery Center Bird Club regulations states the following: "The purpose shall be to provide for all interested persons to engage in activities related to birds and birding." Our Club does indeed have a clear stated purpose. Our "purpose" is further defined in our Written Policies and Regulations by phrases such as "birding skill improvement activities", "pursuit of bird observations", and "Research activities designed to contribute to mankind's body of knowledge." I believe we have remained true to our mission and purpose.

In pursuit of our Club's defined related goals, our members have also enjoyed less tangible benefits such as friendship, laughter, a sense of community, and occasionally a free botany lesson along the birding trail. The value of the human connections provided by our Club was keenly felt when it was lost during the Covid pandemic. After many months of social isolation, what a joy it was when our members could once again participate in Thursday morning outings and finally resume our in person monthly meetings at the Discovery Center. Our club helped to restore a sense of normalcy and connection to the natural world.

As my time as Bird Club President comes to a close, it is a natural time for reflection. Thanks to all the Bird Club Members who have helped to keep the Bird Club running smoothly during the past six years. I would also like to express my appreciation for the knowledgeable and friendly staff at the Discovery Center who have contributed to some of the "behind the scenes" operations and

activities of our Club. Being Bird Club President has given me the opportunity to work with a great group of people. I have enjoyed supporting the mission of our Club. The mission not only improved my personal knowledge of birds but has enhanced my personal growth and enrichment in the birding world. It also allowed me to help others learn the importance and joy of birds.

Thanks for all your support and kind words!

Species Profile: Double-crested Cormorant ***(Nannopterum auritus)***

Article by Linda Dunn, Photos from eBird



I love Cormorants! Every time we go to Ashland I look for Cormorants. When I joined the Bird Club in 2008 I was in Ashland alone and I saw a bird in the water I did not know. It kind of looked like a loon, but I knew it wasn't. Then it spread its wings. It looked like a dragon! I took a bunch of pictures and asked one of the naturalists at the Discovery Center when I got home. From then on I always looked for Cormorants when I went to Ashland.

Here are its vital statistics: the cormorants we see on Lake Superior are Double-crested Cormorants. Named for the 2 tufts of feathers that appear briefly during their breeding season. They are about 32 inches tall and weigh 42 to 88 ounces. Their wingspan is about 52 inches. They are brown-black with a small patch of

yellow orange skin on their face. They have webbed feet and dive as deep as 150 feet. There are several other species of Cormorants include the European, Pacific and Artic Cormorants.



Double-crested Cormorants are found on saltwater shores and large inland waters. Like Lake Superior. Their feathers are not fully waterproof. That's why they are found posed on rocks or pilings with their wet wings spread to dry them.



In Vietnam, China, and Japan; fishermen train them to dive and catch fish without swallowing them. This is a centuries old tradition known as “duck fishing”.. A band is placed on their throat so they can't swallow the fish they catch. The fish is temporarily held in their gullet and regurgitated. Yuck.

We have been seeing fewer Cormorants in recent years because of a disease called “Newcastle Disease. It is a viral infection with a high mortality rate. Newcastle Disease Virus kills Cormorants, and they are also carriers of the

disease that affects all bird species. We have to hope they can overcome this disease.

Resources:

- Wisconsin DNR Website
- Wikipedia
- The Audubon Society
- Encyclopedia of North American Birds by John K Terres
- National Geographic Field Guide to the Eastern Birds of North America edited by Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan Alderfer

In Celebration

by Donna Roche



As a part of celebrating the Discovery Center Bird Club's 20th Anniversary, let's give THANK YOUS to many members who have and still are doing the jobs that make our club all that it is....GREAT!

There have been six Presidents of the Discovery Center Bird Club during the 20 years the club has existed. This photo taken at the June, 2025 monthly meeting and program of the four presidents who are still active in the club. Shown in the photo are Mark Westphal, who is the current president and will complete his term in September. Judy Cassady, John Randolph and Carne Andrews are past presidents. Two others, not shown, are Guy David now living in AZ and David Foster who passed away. Thank you for serving the club !

Along with serving as president, these folks have held other offices of the club over the years. Then, there are others who hold and held other board positions over the years who continue to be active members of the DC Bird Club. Hopefully

no one is left out : Ed Marshall, Donna Roche, Jon Cassady, Linda Dunn, Sarah Besadny, Debby Wilson, Amy Sheldon and Meg Sanders.

Two more categories of service to our Club are: On-going positions not covered by the club's board and positions for Special Projects. John Randolph is email coordinator and dispatcher. Sarah B. is BIRD SONGS editor, Birdathon leader, a Christmas Bird Count leader and club's statistician for bird species records. Donna R. coordinates the Thursday outings. The DC Bird Habitat Enclosure Committee members are Mark W., Bruce Bacon, Julie Hellwig, Jim Zedler, Carne A. and Donna R. Most of our club's other early projects don't need our hands-on-care anymore. The Bird Club started the Birding Festival and Bird City designation for Manitowish Waters. We do continue to maintain and replace our Discovery Center Birding Trail signage and Carne A. has worked on this.

Although these active members make up a large portion of the 20 years and now, there certainly are others no longer in the group who should be remembered. Original organization of the club: Zach Wilson, Sarah Donahue/Johnson, Mark Cheron (Artwork Logo), Guy D., David F., Darwin Wile. Board members: Betty Murphy, Peggy Johnson-Weissner, Jim & Karen Cramer, Bob & Sherlene Schmidt, Ann and Duanne Swift, Jim and Cynthia Krakowski.

Thank you to ALL who have gone beyond birding to making the DC Bird Club....SPECIAL & GREAT!

Up North Hammerheads: **Recap of the 2025 Birdathon**

By Sarah Besadny

It was cold and windy, but not raining, so we stuck to our scheduled date (May 19th) for our "big day" participation in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon (GWB). This is the 10th year that the Up North Hammerheads (our Bird Club's birdathon team) have participated. The Great Wisconsin Birdathon is sponsored by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and is a fund raising event to support various bird protection initiatives.

Five members of the bird club made up this years team: Frank Schroyer, Donna Roche, Linda Dunn, Mark Westphal and Sarah Besadny. The rules for participating in the GWB are simple, pick a day to bird between April 15 and June 15, raise as much money as you can and try to spot as many bird species as you can. We allow any species on the list as long as it was spotted on our big day by one of the members of the team. Therefore, 11 species were already added to our list before we all met as a group at Powell Tribal at 6:00 a.m. American Woodcocks in the road, Chipping Sparrows "chipping" from the trees, American

Robins singing their early dawn song ... it's a wonderful way to start any day but especially a birdathon day.

Since we've been doing this for many years, we know where to head to hopefully pick up target species. We walk down the dike road to Chewelah Lake expecting to see Barn Swallows swooping under and over the small bridge – and sure enough, there they were. On our way back up the dike road a large flock of birds flew from the other side of the tamarack stand and over our heads. Most of us had hats pulled down over our ears trying to stay warm but Frank's keen ears heard the “kip, kip, kip” from the flock – Red Crossbills! This sighting was energizing and for a brief time we forgot how cold and windy it was. We stopped at Sherman Lake to see if this usual “active spot” was active on this day ... and it was. Northern Waterthrush, White-crowned Sparrow, Cape May Warbler and a small flock of White-winged Crossbills were welcome additions to our checklist. Next it was over to Powell Vista. The walk down the dike path was one of the most unpleasant experiences I've had at Powell. The wind was so strong you couldn't hear birds and it blew the hat right off my head. Once we got to the “T” intersection, we had at least a little windbreak. We watched some waterfowl close by on the second pond and were surprised to see a Lesser Scaup swimming not too far from a Ring-necked Duck. What a great opportunity to study these two similar-looking species. We all stopped to listen to a fairly loud bird song – the song throwing us off for a bit – and rejoiced when we recognized it as a Wilson's Warbler and added it to our list. We left Powell with some blanks on our list that we usually fill in at Powell – Alder Flycatcher, Green-winged Teal, shorebirds – all absent while we were there. We made a quick stop at the Manitowish Waters Airport hoping to see an Eastern Bluebird, a species that has been there on past birdathon days and sure enough, the male was perched on a fence post. Our next destination was Presque Isle Ponds but part of Hwy W was closed so we ventured through the Winchester area and were able to add about 5 more species to our list after a quick walk through the Winchester Town Park. On to Presque Isle where we added some warblers and a Belted Kingfisher, but no Spotted Sandpiper this year. Our picnic lunch is at Cathedral Point in Boulder Junction. Because of the wind and cold we hadn't encountered ANY bugs all day ... until we got to the Point. There was a hatch of midges so thick they were landing on our faces and sandwiches -- no one complained, we were all just happy to be eating our lunches. We were able to spot some Ring-billed Gulls but didn't see any Common Mergansers or the Scarlet Tanager that is usually singing right at the parking area. We crossed Hwy M to Allequash and added Magnolia Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler to our list but we didn't see any Black Terns or see a Yellow-throated Vireo – two species we usually see there. Next we went to Vandercook Road hoping for Golden-winged Warbler. Again, no luck on that target species. We did however see a Great Blue Heron flying over Vandercook Lake and saw three Spotted Sandpipers (oddly enough) at Trilby Lake. A stop at the Fish Hatchery off Hwy J resulted in the addition of a Broad-winged Hawk and a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Our final stop on all of our birdathon days is downtown Minocqua. We always hope to add Chimney Swift

(yes we saw them!), Rock Pigeon (yes we added it), Mourning Dove (one was on the wire right at the Post Office Parking lot), House Finch (several were spotted) and House Sparrow (which we unfortunately didn't find this day). This diehard team of five celebrated a total of 97 species on our list by the time we said goodbye just before 6:00 p.m.

I've always recognized Birdathon Day as one of my very favorite days of the year and this year was no exception. No one complained about the less than ideal weather, no one complained about the added protein (aka bugs) on our sandwiches, everyone cheered each new species we were able to add to our checklist, everyone worked hard to spot birds and listen for bird song. Many thanks to team Up North Hammerheads 2025!! And a HUGE thank you to all who supported our team with a donation. We raised an amazing \$2,300!! As of this writing the Great Wisconsin Birdathon has raised \$124,228. What a wonderful thing to help out the birds that bring us all so much joy.



From left to right: Frank Schroyer (selfie photographer), Linda Dunn, Sarah Besadny, Donna Roche and Mark Westphal

Species List for the Up North Hammerheads, May 19th, 2025 Big Day

Canada Goose	Winter Wren
Trumpeter Swan	Sedge Wren
Wood Duck	Gray Catbird
Blue-winged Teal	European Starling
Mallard	Eastern Bluebird
Ring-necked Duck	Veery
Lesser Scaup	Hermit Thrush
Hooded Merganser	American Robin
Wild Turkey	House Finch
Ruffed Grouse	Purple Finch
Rock Pigeon	Red Crossbill
Mourning Dove	White-winged Crossbill
Chimney Swift	Pine Siskin
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	American Goldfinch
Sandhill Crane	Chipping Sparrow
American Woodcock	Clay-colored Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	White-crowned Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Common Loon	Song Sparrow
American Bittern	Lincoln's Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Baltimore Oriole
Northern Harrier	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Brown-headed Cowbird
Broad-winged Hawk	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Ovenbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Black-and-white Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler
Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat
Pileated Woodpecker	American Redstart
Merlin	Cape May Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula
Least Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Eastern Phoebe	Blackburnian Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Yellow Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blue Jay	Black-throated-blue Warbler
American Crow	Palm Warbler
Common Raven	Pine Warbler
Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Tree Swallow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
White-breasted Nuthatch	

The Wisdom of Geese

by Mark Westphal

On those cool, crisp days when fall is in the air, I can't help but look skyward to the sight and sound of migrating geese. Their cooperation, single sense of purpose, and even noisy communication all add to the strength of the flock as they travel on their timeless and occasionally perilous journey. Their classic V formation is by ancient design. By flying in a V formation, the entire flock adds over seventy percent more efficiency than if each goose was flying alone. The goose at the head of the V is not necessarily an exceptional bird, just one willing to take the lead for a time and accept the challenge of being the first part of the invisible resistance of the atmosphere. Each bird in the formation reduces the air resistance for the one that follows behind it. After a while, the lead goose will drift further back in the formation, allowing another goose with renewed energy to take the point position. Throughout the long journey, many geese will take turns at the lead position. By sharing the load no single bird exhausts itself, allowing the entire flock to maintain its strength and complete the marvelous journey season after season. Humans can learn a lot from geese.

DC Bird Club Thursday Outings – Fall 2024 – Early Summer 2025

Recap of Outings with some Photos of the Birders!

By Donna Roche

Once again, members of the club get together at different locations on Thursdays, and other days, to bird. We have been doing this for quite a bit of time. Members of this club have been doing this as an organized official group of the North Lakeland Discovery Center since spring of 2005! Yes, that's right! This is the 20th anniversary of the Discovery Center Bird Club, the Thursday outings and the BIRD SONGS newsletter. Wow!!

The 'Recaps' have evolved over time and the printing of them with photos of the birders in BIRD SONGS is relatively new. The newest idea of sharing leadership of the outing is on its way to a 2nd year. Thank you so much to Colleen M, Dave W, Sarah B, Carne A, Debby W, Debbie and Steve S, Linda D, Frank S, and Denise H. for taking the lead on one or more outings! Thanks to these and others who volunteer to keep an 'eBird species list'. Thanks to John R. for keeping us all connected with the outing announcements each week and other info. And thanks also to Sarah B. for keeping the club's species records from the data we provide. Last, but not least, to our great members who 'show up' for Thursday outings, bring scopes, cameras and binoculars AND participate actively in BIRDING. We

will start with October of 2024 since it hasn't been printed yet and then on to early 2025!

All of you are appreciated and here you are:



The Recap of October 3, 2024 outing to Thunder Lake Wildlife Area written by Frank Schroyer: "12 Bird Club members met in the parking area of TLWA. We started with a minute of silence, just listening for birds around us. We tallied 9 total species before we even started walking! From there, we walked along Rice Lake Rd. noting several groups of Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler and White-crowned Sparrow. After that, we drove further into the Wildlife Area and found more groups of sparrows, which notably included 1 juvenile White-throated Sparrow. Due to a time crunch, we cut our walk to Rice Lake short and instead visited the boat landing of Thunder Lake. There, we were greeted by a Great Blue Heron and many, many American Coots on the lake. We could count a few hundred from our vantage point, but could see hundreds (likely thousands) more off in the distance on the lake. What a sight! In total, we found 20 species, which includes a Northern Flicker Denise and 1 spotted as we drove back to the parking area. Thanks to everyone for making the trip down to Thunder Lake -- it's worth the extra drive time!!"

*In addition to volunteering, planning and leading this outing, Frank also kept our ebird lists of **20 Species**....*



Recap of October 10, 2024 outing to Ashland. With Linda Dunn's help to arrange for Colleen M. and Tim O. leading our group in Ashland for the **THIRD** time this year, our bird club enjoyed some great birding on a beautiful fall day! We started out at Bayview Park and found cormorants sunning, gulls flying overhead and goldeneyes diving. The plan was to focus on searching the waters of Chequamegon Bay where we hoped to find more waterfowl as these species are migrating south. After a while, we moved our vehicles closer to the Oredock where renovations continue to connect road and pathway access from Hwy 2. With binoculars and scopes, we followed the watery path of two Horned Grebes in addition to swans and Black Ducks. From here we moved to Masloski Beach areas where all 4 of our spotting scopes were used to search the duck groups. We found 3 new species of duck and lots of geese! At the Long Bridge area, a small spit of sand out in the bay was the focus for some time especially for Tim and Dave W. They found a different gull which with photos evidence, Dave later confirmed was a Sabine's Gull! Good, persistent going!!

Time to relax and eat our packed lunches was the next thing on our minds and the idea of doing so at Prentice Park's pavilion was a great one! We also shared some treats including the last of the goodies Colleen is so generous to bring us! Then we were ready to set off for a short hike around the park. We also decided that a visit to Whittlesey Creek NWR would be a good idea for the folks that hadn't been there on our earlier outing. We didn't find much, but picked up our only warbler of the day... A Yellow-rumps. It was a great day!! Thank you so much Tim and Colleen for your generous support to look for birds in Ashland.

Thanks so much to Denise for keeping the ebird **list of 33 species....** a 'Trip List' that as Denise states 'ebird makes so easy for anyone to combine a couple or several individual lists to make total list'!



Recap October 17, 2024 day trip to Wausau: To my pleasant surprise, our day in Wausau was my best experience in a long time... We were a nice-sized group with a special member guest, the weather was delightful, we had a nice selection of bird species at two parks, the visit to the Yawkey/Woodson Art Museum's 'Birds in Art' was great with time to walk the grounds and our lunch was a good and interesting experience! Lynn Barber joined us for birding. You will remember that she presented a monthly program for our club last year and joined us for the Minocqua CBC. We found more and different birds than often at the parks... scaup, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow and Juncos. We ate lunch at the Velveteen Plum and our group gave the food, the service and décor 'a thumbs up'. Although, there was no interesting story about the name.... too bad. **Species list was 17.**

Oooops, I couldn't find a photo..... So sorry :{

Recap October 24, 2024 outing to Little Turtle Flowage: We started with a meet up in Manitowish and did a brief check for birds. At the flowage parking area and overlook we found the water level very low. Seven BC members spent 2 hours along the Blue Bird trail and a short trek into the newly logged circular trail that has been thickly wooded for many years. Although the logging was selective and a lot of slash was left to cover the ground, it was a very different look. We did find chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers sticking it out in their unrequested renovated homesteads. They are the true tough guys! Many of these species make it through northern Wisconsin winters and in this case, they will have to do it with new circumstances. Good luck to them all!! On our walk back along the open trail, someone spotted a flock of birds flying far off past the osprey nesting tree. We weren't sure what they were, but they were flying in our direction. As they came closer, we heard the call of the Trumpeter Swan. They kept coming to almost overhead, but suddenly must have seen us and veered sharply away and down to land just out of our view along a narrow strip of water! It was a nice ending to our birding day. Thanks to Carne A., for keeping the **ebird lists that totaled 13 Species.**



Recap of October 31, 2024 outing to Powell Marsh. It was a chilly, breezy, rainy morning at Powell Marsh. Our small group met at the Vista Flowage parking area and headed south on the dike. We were treated to a flyover of a flock of about 30 Rusty Blackbirds. Two Trumpeter Swans were the only birds that we could see on the pool along the dike. We were quite excited to see a small group of ducks flying toward us, we were hoping they would land on the pool, but they kept flying. We were able to identify 4 Ring-necked Ducks. We turned south when we reached the second pool and walked to the Marsh Road crossing. We could see a much larger group of ducks flying in the distance, but we were unable to make an identification. Along the dike there were a number of American Tree Sparrows. We decided to call it a morning, but as we were standing by our cards, mourning the end of another season of bird outings, a Blue Jay flew along the tree line and a flock of 19 Canada Geese flew overhead. Everyone then headed for home to get warm and dry. Thanks, Frank for keeping the **eBird list of 6 Species.** Dave W.

Now, we'll jump to spring 2025!



Recap of May first outing to Powell May 1, 2025 - Marsh Vista Dike:

To prepare for this 1st of the season recap, I happened to look up the recap I wrote 2 years ago when the first outing was also at Powell. It was interesting to me because

it showed some similarities and some definite differences of our groups and the birds we found.

We had 19 folks attend this year's first outing and 18 members attended in 2023, despite the fact that this year we started at 7 a.m and we met at 8 a.m. at the earlier date! The 2023 group did spend more time traveling farther at the later time. Although it was said that the water level was high both years, the total birds and total ducks and birds 'in the air' was much higher in 2023 than this year. There were 45 species of birds to 27 in 2025.

Anyway, back to just this year. It was great to be birding again with our great group on an overcast and cool first of May morning. We were greeted with views of loons and swans but saw very few ducks or duck species. Along the first dike, I think our best bird was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet along with just a few sparrows. We got good, long views of Greater Yellowlegs, Sandhill Cranes and an immature Bald Eagle. Those and also a pair of Common Loons also gave us nice fly-over and landing looks.

*Thanks to Liz S. for keeping the eBird lists and Dave W. corroborated. **22 Species***



Recap of May 8th outing to Frog Lake and Pines SNA. *It was a clear, bright and cold morning for our visit to Frog Lake and Pines after many years of not coming here. There was no need to worry about black flies or any other bugs besides ticks, it was too cold for them to flap their wings! At first, it was the same for the birds, but they managed to call from spots or flit here and there for their 'breakfast' as was the case for the White-throated Sparrows who moved noiselessly across our path. The first part of the walk is through some giant white pines littered with the debris of old and new fallen trees. This kind of habitat proved true what kind of birds utilize it with Pine Warblers, Black-throated Greens up in the canopy and Ovenbirds and a Winter Wren heard lower down. At the lake edge, a Mallard was the sole bird and the lake view was very nice. We walked the full distance to the campsite along the Manitowish River overlook. We were pleased to find several*

*species of bird here – kingfisher, sandpiper, and merganser. It was enjoyable to visit here without having to wear a head-net, but from now on FOR THE BIRDS, I hope there will be lots of small flies and mosquitoes to feed them and their young! Thank you to Liz S. for keeping eBird list. **21 Species***



Recap of May 15th, 2025 outing to Ashland area. Our Bird Club group of 4 drove to Ashland on a very pleasant trip which changed during the day to both very foggy and then very windy with white caps on the bay water. Here we met up with Colleen, Tim and a friend. We spotted only a few Common Terns, Am. Black Ducks and Common Merganser during a short time plus 3 species of warbler. At the Oredock, it was great to see a Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and 2 more species of warbler. We spent 1 ½ hours walking our usual walk and found 35 species of birds including a Green Heron fly-over, a beautifully singing Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole. Next, we moved on to the Long Bridge/Head of the Bay area for views over the water to a very interesting spit of sand with Tim 'scoping' and then a walk through the lowland shore edge. Here we found Bruce Bacon doing bird banding for a Northland College group. The 'spit' was as interesting as it was last fall with Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover and 1 American Avocet! We also added 4 more species of duck. We thanked Colleen and Tim for leading this great day as they were heading to other commitments. Our group of 4 went to the NGR Visitor Center for lunch and a walk around the grounds. Check out the species listed below. Donna kept 5 eBird lists which are combined here into a Trip Report for the total species of the day. **Total 56 Species**



Recap of May 22nd outing to Statenaker Road area in Lac du Flambeau. Dave W. lead a group of 13 at two locations in this area. We met on quiet Plummer Road and walked about ½ mile while stopping often to listen to the songs and calls of many birds. This area reminded me somewhat of the Dove Road area in Lake Tomahawk because of the kind of woods that were on either side of the road and because of the kind of bird we were hearing here. Among the 22 species of birds we heard were Ruffed Grouse, Veery, Gray Catbird and Eastern Towhee. We also heard 4 species of warblers including Golden-winged Warbler. Then we moved our cars to another area with large tamaracks and boggy wetland plants. Here we found some of the same species of birds plus an Eastern Bluebird, Wood-Pewee and Red-bellied Woodpecker and an additional 6 species of warblers!. The parula sang often and we got a glimpse of the bird. We especially enjoyed a pine warbler gathering nesting materials and scampering along the ground level debris. It was a very enjoyable bird outing with lots of discussion about the different bird habitats in this area. We appreciate Dave's knowledge and dedicated birding in a great area. Thanks, Dave for leading and keeping the combined list that totaled **32 Species**.



The Vandercook outing was led by Sarah B. and the Recap was written by her: "On Thursday, May 29th. 11 birders met at the boat landing parking lot on the north end of Big Arbor Vitae. 10 people proceeded to Vandercook while Ed M. stayed back to bird the north end of the lake. The area of Vandercook that we have birded for several years is maturing – the Aspen are quite a bit taller and the whole stand is very dense with vegetation. The area seems potentially too mature to attract Golden-winged Warbler, a target species for our trips there, and in fact we did not see one. However, it's ideal habitat for other species such as Gray Catbird, Veery and Eastern Towhee. The morning was a color show for sure – American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak all offering great looks at these magnificently colored birds. The biggest treat for many was a pair of Scarlet Tanagers in a tree without much foliage providing spectacular views and photo ops. We proceeded down the road a bit and were treated to more color – Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Bluebirds and Yellow Warbler all vying for our attention. We wrapped up the morning along Buckhorn Road at the creek and enjoyed seeing Eastern Kingbird, more orioles and an eaglet balancing on the edge of the nest." Sarah totaled 42 species for the morning in 2 eBird lists. Thanks so much, Sarah, for a great outing!



Recap of Thursday, June 5, 2025 – Little Turtle Flowage. The morning started out quite cool and misty but warmed up quickly for the 12 birders who participated in this day's walk. We found the water level of the flowage main pool low. There were birds around, but no ducks or waterfowl. We did find quantities of Red-winged Blackbirds, Tree Swallows and sparrows defending their nesting areas along the shores. I had noted that a DNR truck was parked at the gate area and we stopped to talk with 2 DNR personnel who were cleaning out the same clogged drainpipe that they need to clear out each year from beaver work. However, it was nice for us because they took time to explain to us about their objective for these pools to raise wild rice. We moved on along the trail to the rise with benches where we could look out over the fine view. We did find a couple of Wood Ducks and heard geese, loon and cranes. It was interesting that we heard Chestnut-side Warbler, catbird and Yellow Warbler sooner along the trail perhaps because there is more young aspen growth than open fields. The real change however came as we walked into the recently cut woods. We found a good number of warblers here and were delighted by the views we had of them. We found 10 species of warblers! We also saw Brown Thrasher singing high up in a bare tree. For some time, Mark was pointing out a strange, harsh 'bark' he was hearing. Finally, we all heard it and it was identified as a Ring-necked Pheasant! Since we never did see the bird, we hope that ebird will accept this listing which I believe Dave W. was able to record the sound for his list! We walked all the way to the bridge over the Little Turtle River and found Joe's Shack/XC ski warming house. We had a nice walk back along the outside of the woods trail. Our total species list was 39! It was a good long walk, we enjoyed a lot of birds, the beauty of the area with a good crop of dragonflies as our insect companions! Look at Donna R.'s list of **39 species**



Recap of Van Vliet Hemlocks with Debby W. leading. This outing was proof that you don't have to see birds to have a good bird outing! We saw only 1 species of bird this morning... it was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and it was taking a look at us for us to see it! The rest of our species were only heard. And it was delightful to hear them. The walk on the Van Vliet trails was very green with mainly ferns and spring plants on the ground level and full canopies of hemlocks and deciduous trees. Perhaps the very cool weather kept any birds from flitting around. It was still both in surrounding noise and wind... perfect to listen for sitting birds! We were able to concentrate on the chippy notes of the Wood-Pewee, the chip note of the Great Flycatcher, the flute song of the Hermit Thrush and the 7 different songs of the warblers that were out and about. Debby W. did a nice job of pacing our walk with lots of stops to identify the birds. Thank you, Debby!!

Species list of 19 Species



Recap of June 19, 2025 outing Willow Flowage area. Seven club members birded today starting in boat landing parking lot. We heard birds from the start, but not for as long because a garbage truck came in to empty the bins at the far side and then the driver took a break with the engine running.... Which is what any birds did!! We didn't find any birds at the base of the dam and it was quiet at our usual shore edge and overlook. A baby bird was spotted on the ground and Dick T. took full advantage of the photo opportunity to capture the fuzzy little grackle! On the nature trail, we found seven species of warblers and other wood's species. The day started out very pleasant and sunny and became more cloudy as we walked along the very green nature trail. The birding was good and interesting, especially near the new growth aspen area. **Liz S. recorded 22 Species**



Recap Natural Lakes area outing, June 26, 2025 started with thoughts of being a Bike or Hike bird outing as you can see by checking out Debbie S. in the photo wearing her bike helmet. However, with all the rain over night and small chance of rain to come, she didn't find a lot of biker company. Being a 'good sport' and having already left another hat option at home, she lead the walking hike with this one! And it was a good hike with a group of 11 walking a paved road around Natural Lakes. We found birds regularly along the way, but had to be content with just hearing them. Views of birds were hard to find in lush growth of trees, shrubs, ferns and with the overcast skies that obscured the color of the birds. No matter, it didn't rain on the group and after a couple of birding hours we enjoyed a promised ice

cream cone or root beer float. Thanks for the hospitality Debbie and Steve and 35 species of birds, including 10 kinds of warblers! (Note: Two birders or SOBs [aka Spouse of Birder] didn't catch up with photo-ed group ☹...where are you Jim & Steve?)

More photos and Recaps to come in the next Bird Songs and after more DC Bird Club 2025 Thursday Outings!!

Life List Quarterly: Second Quarter 2025

by Sarah Besadny

As we celebrate and reflect on the past 20 years of the Discovery Center Bird Club, I have been publishing the birds first spotted by the Club in 5-year increments. In the last newsletter I highlighted some of the many species that were recorded by the Club in it's first 5 years of existence: 2004 and 2008. This issue will cover 2009 – 2013. However, before we get to that, we need to celebrate the addition of a NEW species to the Club's Life List: an **American Avocet** seen on the trip to Ashland on May, 15th. Congratulations to the group who travelled to Ashland that day. This addition brings the Club's Life List up to 276 (including two hybrids and the removal of the Hoary Redpoll as a separate species).

Now on to the species added to the Club's Life List between 2009 and 2013. For those of you who were members of the Bird Club at that time, do you recall seeing some of these species? Many of these bird species haven't been seen again by the Club since their first recording.

Snow Goose	10/12/12
Cackling Goose	10/8/09
Mute Swan	6/30/11
Tundra Swan	5/24/13
Surf Scoter	10/10/13
Common Goldeneye	5/16/09
Ruddy Duck	4/22/10
Sharp-tailed Grouse	4/18/09
Greater Prairie-Chicken	4/21/10
Red-necked Grebe	6/3/11
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5/21/12
Common Nighthawk	6/5/10
Eastern Whip-poor-will	6/3/11
Chimney Swift	5/21/09
Virginia Rail	5/29/09
Common Gallinule	6/5/10
Black-necked Stilt	6/5/10
Ruddy Turnstone	6/5/10

Glossy Ibis	6/5/10
White-faced Ibis	6/5/10
Short-eared Owl	4/19/12
Acadian Flycatcher	5/22/12
Bell's Vireo	5/23/12
Boreal Chickadee	6/18/09
Northern House Wren	5/21/09
Carolina Wren	5/21/12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6/5/10
Varied Thrush	1/30/09
Hoary Redpoll *	12/15/12
Fox Sparrow	10/21/10
Harris's Sparrow	9/24/10
Vesper Sparrow	6/18/09
Henslow's Sparrow	6/5/10
Yellow-headed Blackbird	4/22/10
Western Meadowlark	4/21/10
Orchard Oriole	6/5/10

Long-billed Dowitcher	5/16/09
Wilson's Phalarope	5/24/13
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/20/13
Franklin's Gull	5/16/09
Iceland Gull	2/16/12
Lesser Black-backed Gull	9/20/13
Great Black-backed Gull	2/16/12
Forster's Tern	6/5/10
Least Bittern	6/5/10

Golden-winged Warbler	5/27/10
Blue-winged Warbler	5/22/12
Prothonotary Warbler	5/22/12
Orange-crowned Warbler	5/16/09
Kentucky Warbler	5/22/12
Kirtland's Warbler	5/24/13
Cerulean Warbler	5/22/12
Yellow-throated Warbler	5/22/12
Dickcissel	6/5/10

* No longer a separate species

Photo Journal

Photos and Captions by Mark Westphal



A Tom Turkey struts his stuff

*This Broad-winged Hawk was
photographed during the
Birdathon*





Above: A Bobolink sighting at Powell Marsh

Below: A Song Sparrow gathers food for a hungry brood. Yum!





*An Osprey guards
the nest from a
nearby perch*



*The small but mighty
Marsh Wren claims
his territory in the
cattails at Powell
Marsh*