

## Kane County Audubon Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018

Hickory Knolls Discovery Center– St. Charles

KCA President, Bob Andrini, welcomed new members, guests, and regular members to the January meeting of Kane County Audubon.

**Attendance:** 75

**Sightings:** Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Common Redpoll, Bald Eagle, Redhead duck, Fox Sparrow, Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, Rough-legged Hawk, Tufted Titmouse, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Check the Kane County Audubon website for current sightings.

### **New Business:**

- Presidential report: Kane County Audubon now has 214 members, up from 205 members in November 2017.
- The chapter had 57 trips on 2017 with 221 bird species seen.
- KCA has had 3 trips to date in 2018 with 32 bird species seen.
- Tim Balassie reported on the Big Rock Circle CBC held on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This year reported the highest species count in 5 years. 78 species counted, with 20,000 individual birds counted. Pileated woodpecker counts have increased in Kane County. There was a high count of 35 Eurasian collared doves, high counts of Northern Shrike, high counts of Yellow-rumped warblers, Ross's goose and Hermit thrush.
- Fermi Circle CBC had 99 species counted
- The newly established Rutland Circle held December 30<sup>th</sup> in the bitter cold had 66 species counted.
- The CBC for Youth that was scheduled to be held at Red Oak Nature Center in North Aurora was cancelled due to the lack of children signing up.
- There will be a Christmas Bird Count for Youth on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. If you are interested in being a guide, contact Tim Balassie. Attendees must sign up for this program. To date, 2 people have signed up.
- The Gail Borden Library in Elgin will announce Kane County Audubon events.
- Kane County Audubon has received a thank you note from Operation Migration for the donation made.
- New KCA bird checklists are available for 2018. You will find them on the table in the hall.

- Notify Bob Andrini if you are not receiving the newsletter, or emails announcing rambles.
- The newsletter can be found on the Kane County Audubon website.
- Trish Beckjord spoke briefly about the next meeting format regarding the Fox River Valley Conservation Initiative. Brochures are on the table regarding this organization and an artist who does paintings of the Fox River.
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**Presentation:** John Bates, curator of the Field Museum in Chicago, spoke on collecting birds for one of the best bird collections in the world, as well as the culture of peoples living in the areas of Africa where the Field Museum researchers work, study and collect species.

**Treats:** Jackie Bowman, Rhonda Nelson, Jane McMillan, Jeff Andresen.

**Raffle:** Trellis donated bird feeder, with stained glass tray; cardinal pillow and ornament; cardinal pottery, vase and plate; Nyjer sock feeder and cardinal picture frame; 2 Chick-filet gift cards and cardinal hand towel, plus cardinal planter; handwarmers, insulated cup, coaster and \$5 Starbucks card; suet cake basket feeder with suet and mealworm cake; Trellis donated bag of birdseed with 2 birdseed cups; cardinal sweatshirt, large; bird feeder with seed; jar of honey from Orion Organics plus plush cardinal.

**Walks and Trips:**

January 13<sup>th</sup>, Quarry Park, Batavia. 8am. John Sprovieri

January 20<sup>th</sup>, Fabian FP, west side. 8am. Nancy Schnaitman

January 27-28<sup>th</sup> Illinois Audubon Society Bald Eagle Weekend

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nelson Lake 8am, Theresa LeCompte

February 10<sup>th</sup>. Bliss Woods, 8am Mary Oshsenschlager

February 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting 7pm. Fox River Valley Conservation Initiatives; Trish Beckjord

**Adjournment:** Nancy Schnaitman, secretary.