

**BENJAMIN F. GOSS
BIRD CLUB**

The Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club was founded to increase knowledge and appreciation of birds through education, research, preservation and conservation, and to provide public awareness of birds and their role in the environment - all of which remains our goal and purpose to this day.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held Retzer Nature Center, S14 W28167 Madison Street, Waukesha, WI 53188

Retzer Nature Center is located about 4 miles west of Waukesha, near the end of Madison Street.

**UP-COMING
EVENTS**

- **November 20**
**Wildlife in Need Center
SUPPLY DRIVE**
- **December 17**
Christmas Bird Count

For a full schedule, see the second page of the newsletter

THE GOSS HAWK

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 16, 2016

The Big Sit!

THE BIG SIT! at Retzer Nature Center on October 8 was the first special event for the Goss Bird Club this season. This was the second annual Big Sit held by the club, having tallied 37 species in the first rendition. For consistency, the same location was used as last year so we could compare the results to the first count.

The count began at 4:15 AM when Ramona and Paul reached the count circle. Orion's belt was visible, and conditions were excellent for night birding. A hooting GREAT HORNED OWL made for an exciting start to the day. Tim and Spence arrived about 6:00 and another handful of birds were heard before sunrise including a fly-by AM. WOODCOCK and calling SWAINSON'S THRUSH.

As the morning progressed, large numbers of standard birds such as CEDAR WAXWINGS and EA. BLUEBIRDS ate their breakfast in the berry trees at the top of the hill, and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS flew back and forth overhead. More "interesting" birds came by the count circle as well. A fly-over AM. PIPIT and a pair of CHIMNEY SWIFTS were nice surprises, and a raptor initially spotted by Paul and identified by the group as an immature accipiter was quickly confirmed as a MERLIN when it flew away to grab it's own breakfast.



Anne and Tim spot a bird on the horizon. Is it bird #38?

Mid morning brought fresh blood to the circle as Ann, Paula and Anne joined the crew, but despite the extra pairs of eyes, it became harder to come by new species as the hours passed. Spence called in a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER but failed to attract a nuthatch, which the group had assumed would make its presence known by lunch time.

An immature BALD EAGLE flew over the circle for species #37, tying us with last year, so with about 5 hours left in the count, we had high hopes that we could reach 40. We still had not seen a grackle or nuthatch, so we were sure our chances were high. A slow afternoon became even slower however.

New birds were hard to come by, but we enjoyed chatting with visitors to the nature center who hiked past the circle. In the early afternoon, a group that Larry Kascht had led through the oak savanna stopped by the count circle which provided opportunity for us to tell folks about our bird club. And while the group was there, a pair of ROCK PIGEONS flew for species #38, surpassing our count from last year!

If lunch time was slow, the afternoon was slower. We searched through flocks of geese and blackbirds for a species we had not yet seen, all to no avail. Then Ramona pointed out an raptor that quickly darted over the hill and away from the circle. Hoping that it was a sharpie, Tim left the circle to try and confirm the ID, but never re-found the bird.

While he was gone, however, the folks remaining in the circle saw a different raptor fly overhead. It certainly wasn't like anything that was seen before that day, and after a review of the pictures on Ramona's camera, it was confirmed that a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, species #39, had migrated over the count circle on its way south.

The rest of the afternoon provided more opportunities for interaction with hikers and a few interesting birds that escaped identification, but we could not find any new birds, so the counted ended with 39 species. Although we didn't reach our goal of 40, we all had a great time birding and sitting!



THE BIG SIT
Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club @ Retzer NC

1. Great Horned Owl	34. Am Pipit
2. Mallard	35. Chimney Swift
3. Woodcock	36. Downy W
4. Swainson Thrush	37. Nuthatch
5. Crow	38. Rock Dove
6. Robin	39. Red shouldered Hawk
7. Cardinal	
8. Field Sparrow	
9. Am Goldfinch	
10. Burrowing Owl	
11. Blue Jay	
12. Cedar Waxwing	
13. Red Blackbird	
14. Yellow-rumped Warbler	
15. No. Flicker	
16. Canada Goose	
17. Field Sparrow	
18. House Finch	



Wildlife In Need Center - Supply Drive 11/20

On November 20, Mandy Feavel from the Wildlife In Need Center located in Oconomowoc, will visit and tell us about their facility, their animals, and their mission to save as many of our wild furry, feathered and yes, slimy friends as they can.

In conjunction with this event, we will hold a Supply Drive to collect much needed supplies for the care center. WINC receives no financial assistance from public sources, so they are 100% reliant on donations from folks like us. They gladly

welcome cash donations as well as in-kind gifts of cleaning supplies, food items for wildlife, ground and maintenance equipment, among many other things.

When Mandy visits, our goal is to collect so many supplies that Mandy needs help carrying them all to her vehicle!

The Wildlife In Need Center is dedicated to wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education. WINC rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife and releases

healthy animals back into their natural habitat.

WINC also delivers educational programming to area elementary schools and to residents of all ages including scout groups, civic groups and senior citizens. The overall message of the programs is to encourage an understanding and appreciation of Wisconsin wildlife and to provide practical, real life applications on the best way for humans to interact with wildlife.



News and Notes

- Check out our new website! The newly designed website is still in construction, but the basics are finished and up-to-date! www.gosbirdclub.org
- Mark your calendars for the Waukesha Christmas Bird Count conducted by the club on December 17th. Compilation dinner to follow at the Chancery in Waukesha.
- Paula Stich has offered to take over these duties and has put together a great display. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist Paula, let her know. And don't forget to contact her with any submissions. paulabirder@gmail.com
- Thank you for taking the time to read the debut issue of The Goss Hawk, the newsletter for our bird club. In the future, we would love to include member submitted articles and notes. If you would like to submit an item for inclusion, please contact Tim Hahn. thahnbirder@gmail.com

*“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.
— John Muir*

2016 - 2017 Event Schedule

- October 16 - SOCAL Birding - Anne Moretti
- November 20 - Mandy Feavel, Animal Care Manager Wildlife In Need Center
- December 17 - Christmas Bird Count
- January 8 – Tim Lizotte: WI DNR Public Lands Specialist
- February 19 - Jeff Bahls “A Boy Gone Fowl” - My Life Working with Cavity Nesters
- March 19 - Tom Schultz Bird Identification Tips
- April 16 - Daryl Christensen Update: Kirtland’s Warbler in WI
- May 6 or 13 - May Count