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~ News and Notes ~

Winter, Spring -2016

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**FRANKFORT GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT –**  
**It's FREE and you can count from home!**  
**Friday, February 12-Monday 15, 2016**



Count for as little as 15 minutes in your own backyard to help expand our understanding of birds! Feeder watchers are especially encouraged to participate! Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at Cornell and the National Audubon Society get a snapshot of winter birds, and look at their distribution. Please visit the website <http://birdcount.org> for more info and to submit your checklist.

Frankfort Audubon Society has several opportunities to help you participate. All events are free and open to the general public.

- On Thursday February 11, 6:30pm at Paul Sawyer library (319 Wapping Street) Hannah Helm will present information about our declining songbird populations and what people can do. This will include awareness of hazards facing birds and how to make yards more bird friendly, with proper houses, feeders and water. She will also introduce the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- On Saturday, February 13, 9am at the Picnic Shelter just outside Salato, at the Fish and Wildlife Headquarters (#1 Sportsmans Lane) a Frankfort Audubon member will conduct a bird walk around the lake or Habitek Trail. If the weather is cold there may some migrant ducks in the lake. This walk will last till around 11.
- On Sunday, February 14, 9am at the wetland parking lot at Cove Spring Park on highway 127, a Frankfort Audubon member will conduct a bird walk around the wetland. This is a good spot to look for wintering sparrows. This walk will last till around 11.

GBBC Checklists may be submitted at <http://birdcount.org> or eBird may also be used submit observations from a smartphone or tablet. eBird is now a free app on both the Android smartphones or iPhone, just search for eBird in the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

Powered by **eBird**

We will summarize the Frankfort GBBC results in the next newsletter.

**Frankfort Christmas Bird Count Results.** Peggy Gould, CBC coordinator, reported that we had 21 participants this year! AWESOME! Congrats to Barb Cornett of Life Adventure Center at Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary for hosting over half of those birders. On Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we had a total of 3,669 individuals of 64 different species in 422 hours of effort. The most common bird was the European Starling, but included a Bald Eagle, Sandhill Cranes, a late Spotted Sandpiper, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Also 6 Purple finches were reported so be sure to check your feeders carefully! **The tentative date for the 2016 CBC will be Saturday December 17, 2016.**



## ***ON THE HORIZON...***

**BIRDS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY Tuesday March 29, 6:30.** Once again the Woods and Water Land Trust (<http://woodsandwaterstrust.org>) will host a Natural History of Franklin County Series at the Paul Sawyer Library. The first presentation will be Tuesday March 29, 6:30

- ➔ Kate Slankard, avian biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will present on birds of conservation concern which occur in Franklin County. This will include species such as the Barn Owl, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon as well less well known species as the Grasshopper Sparrow and Prothonotary Warbler. Gary Sprandel a map maker with KDFWR and Frankfort Audubon volunteer will present locations of public birding sites in Franklin County
- ➔ The next newsletter will have information about the remaining programs in this excellent series.

**REFOREST FRANKFORT will be on Saturday April 2 at Kentucky State University**  
Members of Frankfort Audubon will be on hand to answer your bird questions!

**SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK: Sunday April 10** Join Frankfort Audubon Society in April for a guided walk to see “birds and blooms”. We will have details in the next newsletter

### **Bird News:**

#### **PROVIDING WATER FOR BIRDS IN WINTER by Hannah Helm.**

Many of us like to feed birds in winter, but did you know that fresh water may be even more important? Just like us birds need to drink water. When the weather gets below freezing, many usual water sources freeze over and birds waste energy searching for fresh water. You can help through the use of a bird bath deicer or heater. A deicer can be purchased for under \$25, but will not work in really cold temps. Heaters can be an entire unit that holds water or as a device that can be placed in an existing bird bath. There are even models that clip to a deck. They can be found locally, but the most variety is found online. Although a heater is the most carefree method of helping birds, you can also just put out fresh water several times a day. I also add a heated rock which helps keep the water unfrozen a little longer. So help our birds through winter, not all birds eat seeds, but they ALL need fresh water. I have been excited to see a Yellow-rumped Warbler at mine this winter!



- ➔ Come here Hannah’s presentation on helping birds, Thursday Feb 11, 6: 30 at the library.


**WINTERING WATERFOWL:** Since the beginning of the year, a good variety of waterfowl have been reported on our Frankfort Audubon Facebook page. This has included the Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, and Cackling Geese. Search for Frankfort Audubon or page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Frankfort-Audubon-Society/1399168577058356> We encourage everyone to submit observations.

**NINETY YEARS OF THE KENTUCKY WARBLER ARE NOW ONLINE!** Thanks to KOS and Department of Library Special Collections staff and students at Western Kentucky University, the first 90 volumes of the Kentucky Ornithological Society's quarterly journal are now online at [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler/](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/)

### **YOUR FRANKFORT AUDUBON CHAPTER 2016 TEAM LEADERS -**

**Robin Antenucci, President; Don Stosberg, Treasurer; Peggy Gould, CBC Coordinator; Newsletter: Gary Sprandel**  
**Additional Board Members –Don Dampier, Scott Hankla, Hannah Helm, Jessi Miller, Shawchyi Vorisek**

Contact us via email : [FrankfortAudubonChapter@gmail.com](mailto:FrankfortAudubonChapter@gmail.com)

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