

Recent Bird Sightings

(birds with white wings)



White-winged Crossbill

The bird of the year is undoubtedly the **White-winged Crossbill**. For the first time ever they have been recorded in every county in the state in the same year. The birding web sites have been clogged with reports and they were seen by four parties on our Christmas Bird Count.

Other winter finches have also invaded with many **Pine Siskins** and **Redpolls** being reported. At one time there were as many as 70 Redpolls coming to Joan & Will Wolfe's feeder. **Purple Finches** are also in good numbers, we have as many as a dozen at our feeder some days.

There was a report of 600+ **White-winged Scoters** off the harbor in Frankfort the weekend of the 22nd.

Since birds have the power of flight, they are continually turning up in unexpected places. This winter brought a first ever winter swallow for the UP, a **Barn Swallow** that was observed for two days desperately trying to find insects over a creek leading into Lake Superior.

I just heard from Alice VanZoeren that **Snowy Owls** are back in the Chum's Corner area. There have been 3 in the area of Wuerful baseball park - Tile Mart.

Remember to chime in with your sightings at the March Meeting.



White-winged Scoter

Thank You !

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their memberships and double thanks to all that contributed **more than asked**. Because of your generosity we can all look forward to great programs this year.

2009 Schedule

Details on another page of this newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE

Unlike the last several years only the first half of the year is detailed with this newsletter. Another newsletter will go out before July with the rest of the year's schedule, and you can always check the updated schedule at www.benzieaudubon.org. A **tentative** second half of the year is included on the refrigerator shortened list.

This year's schedule features a series of

Birding Skills

field trips. Starting with **Winter** (or will it be early spring?) birding on March 21st, the list so far includes:

- Waterfowl - April 18th**
- Warblers - May 16th**
- Birding by Ear - June 13th**
- Beginning Birding - June 20th**
- Fall Migration - ? (Sept 6th)**
- Sparrows - Sept. 26th**
- Sea Ducks - Nov. 11th**

Everyone of any birding skill level is welcome on any field trip, kids included.

For any trip that is in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore you are responsible for your park pass.

Dress for the weather and the location !

Benzie Audubon Web Site

www.benzieaudubon.org

Our web site is being kept up to date and enhanced by John Ester. Schedule of activities, membership information, etc. Especially look at the pictures page which is updated as new photos become available. Contact John if you have a photo to share.