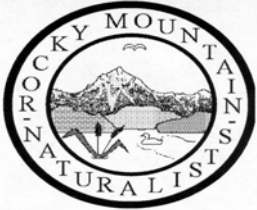


Rocky Mountain Naturalists Newsletter

RM naturalists newsletter is published quarterly
Volume 3, Issue 4

Winter 2006



Editors corner

Please send any articles or comments to
scoutfir@shaw.ca



Also, note that the deadline for articles
for the winter issue is March 21

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CLUB NEWS:

Check your emails for the next meeting of the RM Nats. usually at the Mt. Baker School. Check your e-mail for agendas and final locations.

Regular meeting dates for 2007 at the Mount Baker School

January 17 2007 - 7:30 - 9:30 PM

April 4, 2007 - 7:30 - 9:30 PM

June 4th week

October 3rd week

Outing leaders: Don't forget to jot down quick notes on your outing and pass them into the newsletter. Humour highlights, sightings and pictures work just fine.

Best of the season to you and your families



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.Cranbrook Xmas bird count (Greg Ross)

Team Anne (Anne Redfearn, Dianne Cooper, Darryl Calder), Team Sue (Sue Ross, Greg Ross, Bob Livsey, Linda Livsey)

	Species	Team Anne	Team Sue	Feeder Marianne	Feeder Tony	Feeder Bob	Feeder Debbie	Feeder Jim	Total
1	GBHE	1	2						3
2	CAGO	2							2
3	MALL	28	66						94
4	COGO	3	11						14
5	BUFF		13						13
6	HOME	3							3
7	BAEA	2	1						3
8	ROPI	47	102						149
9	NOPO	1	2						3
10	BEKI	1	2						3
11	DOWO				1	2			3
12	HAWO		2			2			4
13	NOFL	4	4	1	1	3	1	3	17
14	PIWO	1		1	1	3		1	7
15	GRJA		3			2	2		7
16	STJA		1			2			3
17	CLNU	10							10
18	BBMA		1						1
19	AMCR	14	39					3	56

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20	CORA	37	51				1		89
21	BCCH	11	59	6	5		2		83
22	MOCH	4	14	2	4		3		27
23	CH sp.	10	4			2		6	22
24	RBNU	4	4	2		2	2		14
25	WBNU	1					1		2
26	BRCR			1	1		1		3
27	AMDI	1	7						8
28	TOSO	2	2						4
29	BOWA	130	70						200
30	NOSH	1	1						2
31	EUST	40	15						55
32	SOSP	5							5
33	PIGR		4						4
34	CAFI		8						8
35	HOFI	21	103		5			35	164
36	RECR	3	8						11
37	EVGR		1						1
38	HOSP	6							6
37 SPECIES		390	603	13	18	18	13	48	1103
Sunny and Clear, -17 to -8									

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.Cranbrook Christmas Bird Count Highlights



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What is eBird? (Copied from the ebird.org/Canada site)

eBird, a project developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, provides a simple way for you to keep track of the birds you see anywhere in North America. You can retrieve information on your bird observations, from your backyard to your neighbourhood to your favourite bird-watching locations, at any time for your personal use. You can also access the entire historical database to find out what other eBirders are reporting from across North America. In addition, the cumulative eBird database is used by birdwatchers, scientists, and conservationists who want to know more about the distributions and movement patterns of birds across the continent.

The eBird database that you are helping to create can be used by

- *you*, to track your personal observations and maintain lists of all of the birds you've ever seen, those recorded at specific locations, or recorded over specific periods of time; or to create lists of birds recorded from various locations and dates based on the records of other eBirders.
- *other birders and amateur naturalists*, allowing them to learn about the birds in your region.
- *scientists*, to uncover patterns in bird movements and ranges across North America, including migratory pathways, wintering and breeding ranges, arrival and departure dates, range expansions and contractions, and a host of other important environmental relationships.
- *conservationists*, to identify important areas for birds based on current range distributions, and to track population trends that can be used to create management plans for endangered, threatened, and at-risk species.
- *educators*, who may use the cumulative database to teach students about birds and the scientific process, including collecting, analyzing, and interpreting results.
- *anyone*, to discover where species can be found throughout the year; which birds are regularly found at specific locations across North America; when certain species arrive or depart from their breeding and wintering grounds; and many other possibilities.
-

*A number of RM Nats have already started including their sightings in this database. See Greg or Diana if you need help with setting this up.

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RM Naturalist's Xmas Party

A whole host of RM Nats got up early on Dec. 9 and headed out to Dutch Creek for a pre-meal hike around the Hoodoos. While the snow wasn't too deep, a number of members slipped on their snowshoes and we began a trek to the top. And a very nice hike it was with spectacular views of the tops of the Hoodoos. After the outing, we headed over to Elaine Doran's place adjacent to Columbia lake where we relaxed and reminisced about the year. We had a great meal and then spent time doing the time-honored gift exchange. The event was lively as ever with everyone vying for the "Bateman" book, tea package, chocolates and the gargantuan Toberlone bar. What a great time it was. Special thanks to Elaine for hosting this year.



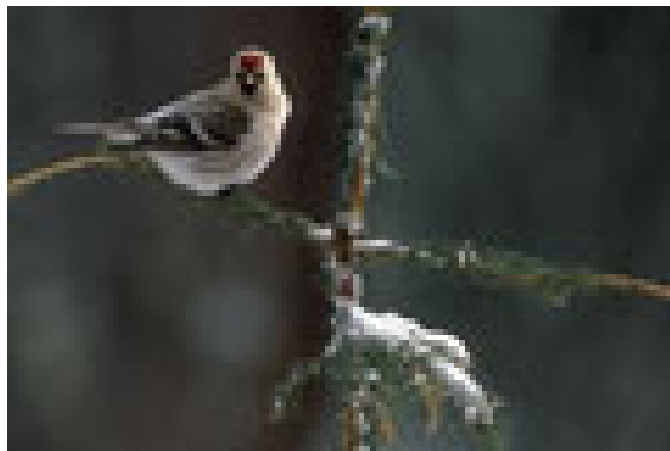
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Where are the Redpolls?

It seems it has been a couple of years since we have had the large flocks of redpolls attacking our feeders. Some small flocks have been sighted but certainly not like other years. Guess that is typical of an irruptive species. At any rate, a little Thoreau might be appropriate to lament the return of the redpoll.

"Standing there I am reminded of the incredible phenomenon of birds in winter, - that ere long amid the cold powdery snow, as it were a fruit of the season, will come twittering a flock of delicate crimson-tinged birds, lesser redpolls, to sport and feed on the seeds and buds now just ripe for them on the sunny side of a wood, shaking down the powdery snow there in their cheerful social feeding, as if it were high midsummer to them. These crimson aerial creatures have wings that would bear them quickly to the regions of summer, but here is all the summer they want. What a rich contrast! tropical colors, crimson breasts on cold white snow! Such etherealness, such delicacy in their forms, such ripeness in their colors, in this stern and barren season."

(Thoreau in Bent, Life Histories ..., Smithsonian Press, 1968)



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Winter Outings

Kimberley Xmas bird count
Dec. 30
Call Greg Ross

Owling night-Swansea/Gold Creek etc,
March 10, Meet at the Cranbrook
Husky at 7:p.m.
Tony W and Peter D.

**** We had very few winter outing proposals for the newsletter so please put some forward and we will put out a supplemental in January. All outing proposals go to Kathy Young**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to:
Rocky Mountain Naturalists
P.O. Box 791
Cranbrook, B.C.
V1C 4J5

\$25 for family
\$20 for individual

Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____ Postal Code _____

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

