

# Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – 6 PM

GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street

## Meeting Notes

Bruce Keifenheim  
Nelson Rosit  
Dave Lambeth  
Kevin Moore

Duane LeTexier  
Carter Hunter  
Tyler Manske, MPO  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

### I. Bikeway items: None

### II. Greenway Items

- A. 2023 Christmas Bird Count review:** Dave Lambeth, a local bird watcher, gave an overview of the Count. This was the 47th year that Dave participated in the Count. The Count was started over 125 years ago as an alternative to the holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." After the holiday celebration, participants would choose sides and go to the field with their guns. Whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. The counts are now done in the US, Canada, and possibly South America.

Seventeen people participated in the local field count this year. Nineteen participated in the feeder count, held three days before and after the field count. This year, 52 species were identified on Count Day, and 5 more were identified during Count Week. The count area is a fifteen-mile circle centered 1 mile east of the airport. Urban sprawl is growing fast and changing the count. The Eared grebe was spotted for the first time in MN CBC. This year, Mallards were found feeding in the lagoons at Crystal Sugar in EGF. Barred Owl is a regular site. Owls and woodpeckers can be found regularly in the trees between the Lincoln Golf Clubhouse and Elmwood Access. Higher temperatures and ornamental shrubs and trees have made it easier for more species to overwinter in GGF. Bald Eagles have become common since 2000.

- B. Proposed enhancements to fishing area near Desiree Drive and Rivers Edge:** On January 16, the GF City Council approved the request to pursue a design plan and funding application submittals. Kim is working with KLJ engineering on a contract for design work. Once that is in place, the design process will begin. Funding requests will be submitted to the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund and Garrison Diversion Fund.

### III. Other

- A. Enforcement of illegal motor vehicles in Greenway:** This continues to be a problem, especially in southern EGF. The motor vehicle users are not careful around nonmotorized users and it can be dangerous to be walking on the trails sometimes.

Next Meeting date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room A102

Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: 10 AM Tuesday, January 16, 2024, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Supporting documents: 2023 Christmas Bird Count report

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

**SUMMARY**  
**Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC**  
**December 17, 2023**

SPECIES	MN	ND	TOTAL
Cackling Goose	20		20
Canada Goose	2688	1363	4051
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	34		34
Mallard	180		180
<b>Redhead</b>	1		1
Lesser Scaup	1		1
Bufflehead	<u>CW</u>		CW
Common Goldeneye	1		1
Sharp-tailed Grouse		168	168
Greater Prairie-Chicken		CW	CW
Gray Partridge		78	78
Ring-necked Pheasant		2	2
<b>Eared Grebe</b>	1		1
Rock Pigeon	209	483	692
Eurasian Collared-Dove		5	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1
Bald Eagle	5	5	10
Red-tailed Hawk	1	CW	1
Rough-legged Hawk		6	6
Snowy Owl		CW	CW
Great Horned Owl	1	1	2
Barred Owl	CW	<u>CW</u>	CW
Downy Woodpecker	9	20	29
Hairy Woodpecker	10	14	24
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	2
Northern Flicker	2	6	8
Northern Shrike	<u>1</u>	3	4
American Kestrel	1		1

Merlin	2	1	3
Blue Jay	5	23	28
Black-billed Magpie		1	1
American Crow	63	126	189
Common Raven	1	3	4
Black-capped Chickadee	39	55	94
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	21	36
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3	4
European Starling	27	310	337
American Robin	233	151	384
Bohemian Waxwing		1	1
Cedar Waxwing	55	71	126
House Sparrow	55	80	135
House Finch	55	41	96
Purple Finch	3		3
Common Redpoll	3	11	14
Red Crossbill	86	23	109
Pine Siskin	306	595	901
American Goldfinch	12		12
Snow Bunting		1	1
Fox Sparrow	1		1
Dark-eyed Junco	87	130	217
White-throated Sparrow		8	8
Western Meadowlark		2	2
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>		CW	<u>CW</u>
Rusty Blackbird		2	2
Common Grackle	2		2
Northern Cardinal	11	7	18

**Note:** Species names that are bold-faced have been seen five or fewer times.

**Summary:** 52 species reported for Count Day and 6 additional species during Count Week giving a total of 57 species. Total number of individuals = 8012

## MN Side of the Count:

**Twenty-six species on Count Day plus 2 additional species in Count Week = 28 species. Total Individuals = 4229**

**Effort:** 6 Field Participants in 4 parties. Total Party-hours = 11.75 and total party miles = 84 (8.75 hours and 80 miles in cars; 3 hours and 4 miles on foot). A total of 12 hours was spent by 3 feeder watchers.

**Participants in Field:** Sandy Aubol, Catherine Johnson, Terry and Joanne Johnson, Bruce Keifenheim, David Lambeth.  
**Feeder Watchers:** Sandy Aubol, Sandy Martens, Diane Wales.

## ND Side of the Count:

**35 Species on Count Day plus 5 additional species in Count Week = 40 species. Total Individuals = 3821**

**Effort:** 15 field participants in 13 parties. Total party-hours = 29.5 and total party miles = 304 (25 hours and 300 miles in cars, 4.5 hours and 4 miles on foot.. A total of 60 hours was spent by 16 feeder watchers.

**Participants in Field:** Patti Alleva, Sandy Aubol, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Adam Chambers, John Breker, Tim Driscoll, Deb Hanson, Catherine Johnson, Judy Johnson, Mike Jacobs, Terry and JoAnne Johnson, Seth Owens, Pat and Russ  
W i l b e r

**Feeder Watchers:** Brent Braga, Adam Chambers, Charlie Christianson, Tim Driscoll, Ken Drees, Ron Elgin, Erik Fritzell, Julie Gladwin, Gordon and Trudy Iseminger, Catherine Johnson, Heidi Lamb-Castle, AJ Miller, Merle Mikkelsen, Betsy Perkins, Rhonda Poellot.

## The Count Overall

**Time:** 8 AM to 5 PM

**52 Species on Count Day plus 5 species Count Week = 57 Species. Total Individuals = 8050**

**Effort:** 17 field participants, Total Party Hours = 41.0 (7.5 on foot and 33.5 in cars), Total Party Miles = 388 (8 on foot and 380 in cars).

Time spent by 19 feeder watchers = 72 hours.

**Weather:** Temperature range: 21 to 37 deg F. Winds 9-14 WNW in the morning increasing to as high as 35 in the afternoon. Skies variable but mostly cloudy. Snowpack = 0-3 inches. Open water below the dams on the Red River and Red Lake Rivers, and the Crystal Sugar lagoons in MN where warm water is discharged.

### General Comments:

This was the 63rd consecutive CBC for the GF-EGF Count.

Weather, which had been mild all fall, continued to be so during Count Day and Count Week. This allowed minimum maintenance roads to be driven, and more time than usual spent walking.

Eared Grebe and Northern Shoveler were the first records for this CBC; the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Swamp Sparrow was seen at a feeder during count week. Redhead was recorded for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and Bufflehead for the 5<sup>th</sup>. Fox Sparrow was present for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the last seven years.

Highest ever counts were obtained for American Robin {previous high of 146 in 1989} and Red Crossbill (previous high of 49 in 1972|. Canada Goose, Pine Siskin and Sharp-tailed Grouse were near their previous highs. Pine Siskin, swarming most feeding stations, was absent on last year's CBC. One Snowy Owl was seen on the last day of Count Week, thus avoiding being missed for only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 63 years..

This report and other CBC-related information will be archived under the Christmas Bird Count link at <http://grandcitiesbirdclub.weebly.com/>. Count results will be submitted to both the National Audubon Society and the Minnesota Ornithological Union.

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