

A “BIG YEAR” CONTEST

The year 2011 will be a “Big Year” for anyone interested in birds and birding in the northwoods area! Sponsored by the Discovery Center Bird Club, the 2011 “Big Year” birding contest gives everyone who watches birds the chance to identify, record, and compare their sightings during 2011.

The rules are simple. Participants are asked to record each species of bird they observe throughout the year, noting date, time, and location of the bird. How the bird was identified will also be important—i.e. by call, sighting or both. There need not be verification by another person—participants are on their honor as birders.

Participants should report their tally of species to the contest moderator each month, on or before the 10th of the following month. The moderator will keep a record of all observations reported.

There will be five birding areas each contestant can enter:

- A. Backyard Birding - you must identify the bird while you are on your own property.
- B. The Lake Superior/ Northwoods area beyond your backyard.
- C. The State of Wisconsin beyond the Northwoods area.
- D. The United States outside the state of Wisconsin. Your bird can be anywhere in the 50 states outside Wisconsin for this category.
- E. No limit Birding. You can reports birds from anywhere in the world beyond the United States.

Participants may count the same species each time they identify it in a different area. For example, if an observer enters three categories--Back yard birding, Great Lakes/Northwoods, and State of Wisconsin--and identifies a robin in each area, the robin will count as three sightings. At the end of the year, all results will be tallied and winners reported on the North Lakeland Discovery Center website and at the 2012 Discovery Center Bird Club winter social.

You may enter as many areas as you like, at \$5 per area. To enter, please contact Jon Cassady at joncassady@frontier.com or by phone at 715-356-6230, prior to January 1, 2011. Late entries will be accepted, but participants must enter the contest before they start their count. Each month, starting in March 2011, monthly results will be posted at the Bird Club’s monthly meetings and on the North Lakeland Discovery Center’s website. However, since the results of the previous month need not be reported until the 10th of each month, the results reported may not include the all the birds observed during the previous month by participants.