

Birdwatching

Continued from page 11

sighting 84 different bird species. Second place was shared by The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., and Eagles Landing Golf Course in Berlin, Md., which both recorded 74 species during the 24-hour event.

Of the 25 birds that were most commonly sighted, the majority are fairly generalist species that can be found in a variety of habitats. Indeed, the top 25 list scarcely changed from last year, with sightings of red-winged blackbirds, mourning doves, European starlings, blue jays, and common grackles on 80 percent of the courses.

Though one would expect to find such common species topping the list of most national bird counts, several birds on the list may be benefiting from golf course habitat-enhancement projects. More than 50 percent of the courses reported bluebirds and tree swallows, benefactors of nest-box placement, while species such as red-winged blackbirds, green heron, great blue heron, and mallards may be benefiting from improved shoreline vegetation near water features.

Species that were sighted on only a few courses depend on specific habitat types and reflect the range of habitats that can be found on courses.

Eighteen courses sighted federally endangered or threatened species — good news for the bald eagles, wood storks, least terns and Florida scrub jays spotted, and a good indication of habitat diversity.

Results submitted showed a wide spread in species counted on the various participating courses (18 to 84 species). Yet the majority, 66 percent, counted 40 or more birds. An individual course's list largely reflects the size and diversity of natural habitat, the course's location, and the quality of environmental management. Other factors may include the skill of the designated bird-watcher, weather conditions, and the timing of the event. Courses that reported sighting the greatest number of birds were generally larger and contained more diverse or specialized habitats than those with fewer sightings.

While not a scientific study, this one-day count seems to confirm that the amount and diversity of wildlife habitat incorporated into a golf course is key to the number and variety of birds found on the property. The bird-count also reveals that properly managed golf courses can indeed provide habitat for a diversity of bird species.

Persons interested in obtaining a species listing should contact Audubon International at 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, N.Y. 12158; telephone 518-767-9051.

VITAL STATISTICS

Number of participants: 48
No. of courses counting more than 50 species: 21
No. of courses counting 40-49: 11
No. of courses counting 30-39: 13
No. counting less than 30 species: 3
Average (mean) number of species per course: 48
No. of federally endangered and threatened species sighted: 6
No. of courses sighting endangered/threatened species: 18
Total bird species sighted (all courses): 310

Legacy joins Signature

LONGWOOD, Fla. — The Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes, owned by Taylor Woodrow Communities, has become the third non-private golf course in the world to join the Audubon Cooperative Signature Sanctuary Program.

To achieve this status, each course must apply for membership before the design phase through a committee review process. Upon obtaining membership, the developers must comply with certain principles set by Audubon International for each natural setting.

Prior to development, the land at Alaqua Lakes was monitored for water quality, wildlife management and irrigation for three years. The 170-acre course is a nurturing habitat for wildlife, birds and native or indigenous plants.

"One day this type of process will be required if corporations want to build more golf courses, so this is our way to honor the ones who are already trying to save the environment," said AI President Ron Dodson.

Developers spent approximately \$150,000 more on construction and manhours to take care of this natural environment.



What other mowers dream of becoming.

Nestled in their sheds at night, ordinary mowers dream of only one thing: growing up to be a Kubota F-60 Series. And it's easy to see why.

The Kubota F-60 Series features our exclusive Auto Assist 4WD with Dual-Acting Overrunning clutch. It automatically transfers power to the rear wheels when the going gets tough. Or, you can manually engage 4WD on the go. Either way, it gives you unequalled traction and maneuverability while reducing the damage to your valuable turf.

The durable, independent hydraulic PTO clutch lets you engage and disengage PTO driven implements on the move. A real time-saver in tight situations.



Available with 60" or 70" side discharge mower or 60" or 72" rear discharge mower.



Visibility and maneuverability will increase your productivity.

Kubota's advanced E-TVCS diesel engines are designed to deliver maximum power with minimum vibration and noise. Plus, these super-efficient powerplants go a long way in cutting fuel costs and emissions.

Available in 22, 25 and 30 horsepower 4WD models, the Kubota F-60 Series also comes in a 25 horsepower 2WD model.

So if you're looking for a front-end mower that handles like a dream, see your authorized Kubota dealer today.

For more information please write to:

Kubota

KUBOTA TRACTOR CORPORATION

P.O. Box 2992-GCN
Torrance, CA 90509-2992
1-888-4KUBOTA ext. 407

Financing available through
Kubota Credit Corporation

© 1998 Kubota Tractor Corporation

