



Siah St. Clair

The REDHEAD

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery



Spring 2019

A Special Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 13 No. 2

RHWO NEWS

2019 Research Info

The 2019 research at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR) will begin about May 1st with the field work beginning as soon as the annual prescribed burns are completed. This year all the areas prescribed will be burned, including the bison enclosure. The bison research will again be conducted in 2019 with the bison scheduled to arrive about May 25th.

This year will be the first year that the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) will be assisted by three Ornithological Research Technicians (ORTs). The ORTs will be Sarah Stewart, April Strzelczyk, and Alec Woolf. Watch for more information about them in the next issue.

The RhWR and CCESR have collaborated in securing funds to finance this year's research. Pending confirmation by the 2019 Legislative, which is always uncertain until signed by the Governor, we are confident that funds for July through the remainder of 2019 will come from a Legislative - Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant. Dr. Elena West, Sarah Stewart, and April Strzelczyk will receive their funding beginning on July 1st from these funds. Dr. West will be funded by the University of Minnesota through CCESR through June 2019. Sarah Stewart and April Strzelczyk will be funded through June 2019 by the RhWR. Alec Woolf will be funded through August 2019 by the RhWR. Because the RhWR has been aggressive in our plans for 2019, it is important that donors help by contributing to our matching gift program and the "Gift to Name a Bird" program. Watch the Summer issue for a full listing of contributors to this fascinating research project.

Again in 2019, volunteers will be contributing many hours of their time to this project by providing timely information to the researchers by monitoring for signs that red-headed woodpeckers (RHWOs) have selected nesting sites to lay their eggs. This will again allow researchers to catch the laying of the first egg to give validation to nest research.

Watch for opportunities to volunteer to do citizen science for the RhWR. This year the RhWR will be looking to enlist the help of volunteers to begin a program to monitor RHWO nests throughout our region. Dr. West has drafted a "Red-headed Woodpecker Suspected Nest Survey Form" that can be used throughout the region. If you have RHWOs in your area get a form, fill it out and send it to us. Contact us at rhwracm@comcast.net to get form and also to send it to us.

A Note from the Chair

Spring 2019

With the arrival of spring weather and longer days the active season for Red-headed Woodpeckers and for our project's activities is here. The volunteer training for nest surveys and other activities was held on April 13 at Cedar Creek ESR's Lindeman Center with nearly 50 eager Citizen Science Volunteers present. Heavy snow from the previous two days kept many from visiting their assigned areas, but interest is high to continue this very important work.

As I write this the RHWOs that migrated away last fall (about 80%) have not started to return, but are expected any day. Three new research technicians have been hired and are migrating towards Cedar Creek. They will arrive during the first ten days of May to begin intense summer research activities. Research coordinator Dr. Elena West is very busy ordering new tracking devices to place on more RHWOs, and preparing to recapture and download data from those who return wearing 2018 tracking devices.

Bi-monthly public RHWO hikes have been scheduled at Cedar Creek through spring and summer, so if any would like to see some of the research areas those hikes are a great chance, along with volunteering. Activities to visit other areas besides Cedar Creek where multiple sightings of RHWOs have been observed will also be occurring, along with advising land owners on how best to encourage and sustain RHWOs on their property.

We are still in the process of raising the funds to purchase all the nest cameras, tracking devices, other equipment, and to pay researcher salaries for this coming summer. So consider a donation to this project to help reach the important goal of improving the future of Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Siah St. Clair, Steering Committee Chair

Photo by Siah St. Clair



Join RHWO experts for guided bird hikes at CCESR on 1st Saturdays at 8:00 am and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm Meet leader at Fish Lake Nature Trail parking lot

Note From the Editor

Please review the volunteer opportunities on the back page. It is very important to get new people into an organization to keep it a vibrant entity. There are too many good organizations that do not refresh their volunteers to keep it going. While you may not feel ready to lead us yet, you may be ready sometime in the future. While many of us may continue for many years, you never know when circumstances dictate a change. This is an exciting group with plans well into the future. We need YOU to be part of them to help the RHWO recover!

This year the RhWR decided to add a 3rd ORT to cover the extensive research that was started in 2017. We know this was an aggressive approach, but felt it was needed because of the demands for research time relating to catching and recovering data from birds with gps backpacks. If you are able to donate, please do! Send your checks to the address listed in the two articles.

Jerry Bahls, Editor

Donors for Matching Grant Needed

The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) has an anonymous donor who is offering to match up to \$2500 for anyone who donates to RhWR. If you would like to donate to RhWR and have your donation matched by the Anonymous patron, send your donation to the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery at –

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0801

Please state that the donation is for the Anonymous match.

RhWR Contact Information

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

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Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery

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Make a Gift to Name a Bird

In 2018 the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) offered to give donors the opportunity to name captured red-headed woodpeckers (RHWO) if they donated either \$150 (cost of a radio transmitter) or \$500 (cost of a GPS pinpoint tracking device). In 2018 the RhWR received almost \$3000 in contributions to name birds – *Annie, Kathy, Eldon, Stewart, Jerry, Wilson, Juanita, Catesby, Markie, Maura, Ellen* (these are the reserved names to date). While these donations didn't cover all the cost of the tracking devices which the RhWR purchased, it contributed substantially to our fund raising success.

The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery is again offering this contribution opportunity. With a contribution of \$150 (cost of a radio transmitter) the donor will be able to name the bird receiving the transmitter. The donor will receive a post card with a picture of the named bird and additional information about it by the end of the breeding season. For a contribution of \$500 (cost of GPS pinpoint tracking device), in addition to the post card and the additional information about the activities of the bird they named, they will also receive 5 Greeting Cards with pictures of RHWOs taken by published photographer Siah St. Clair.

Please send your check made out to Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery and send to –

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0801

Include one or two names* you would like to name the bird. Please also include your mailing address and email address for follow-up correspondence.

*The RhWR reserves the right to reject a name if it is inappropriate.



Goals for the Upcoming RHWO Field Season at CCESR

Research for the coming red-headed woodpecker (RHWO) nesting season will begin in early May. Dr. Elena West, our lead scientist, will continue to supervise our research efforts in 2019. This season, three research technicians will join us to assist with field work. Below are the main goals of our current research and a list of the collaborative work between the researchers and our citizen scientists.

Main goals of current research at Cedar Creek Ecosystems Science Reserve (MN) and Oak Openings Region (OH)

- ◆ Determining the habitat characteristics and adult condition and behaviors associated with successful production of young recruited into the fall population (i.e., nest productivity and fledgling survival).
- ◆ Identifying the factors that influence whether RHWOs migrate (e.g., sex, body condition, immune function, food availability, weather, population density) and the consequences of migratory status on body condition and future productivity and fledgling survival.
- ◆ Migratory connectivity: identify wintering areas for migrating birds to form conservation partnerships that are required to manage and conserve the species throughout its annual cycle.
- ◆ Habitat use and diet: quantify adult and juvenile movement patterns, habitat associations, and diet for determination of species habitat requirements during the breeding season.
- ◆ Develop a long-term management plan for restoring oak savanna to support RHWOs and other oak habitat specialists in Minnesota and the Midwest.



Photo by Siah St. Clair

Collaborative work between researchers and citizen scientists at Cedar Creek

- ◆ Determination of nest locations and monitoring during the breeding season.
- ◆ Surveys to identify and document parental feeding effort and nest sanitation by RHWO pairs at nests.
- ◆ Documentation of various aspects of RHWO nesting biology and behaviors.
- ◆ Surveys to document fall caching locations and behavior by RHWOs.
- ◆ Surveys to determine fall and winter roost locations.
- ◆ Surveys to determine acorn availability.

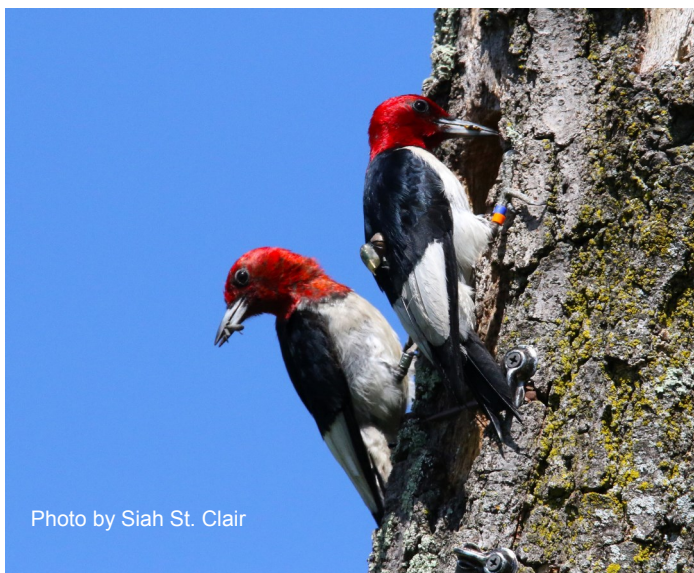


Photo by Siah St. Clair

Please visit www.rhworesearch.org for updates and information!

RhWR Fund Raiser

The Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery now has a fund raiser to help us get the money we need to continue our research efforts. His name is **Jim Stengel** and he can be contacted by phone at **612 721-9083** or by email at **slheidiss@yahoo.com**. If you know of an organization or individual that will donate money for research, please contact Jim.

RhWR Volunteer Opportunities

The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) has a need for many volunteers now and through the summer. Here is a list of them in the order of priority and a very brief description of the duties -

Communications Representative on Steering Committee -

Oversee website, newsletter and Facebook page and be communications advocate on Steering Committee

Newsletter Editor - Coordinate publication of newsletter

Webmaster - Manage the RhWR website

Lead Citizen Science Projects - Recruit and organize volunteers of RhWR citizen science projects

Do Citizen Science Projects (2019) - Monitor RhWR nest sites, Monitor roost sites, Monitor food eaten, Monitor mast (Please note this requires CCESR training.)

Email rhwracm@comcast.net to sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities or to ask any questions.

Next RhWR Steering Committee Meeting

The RhWR Steering Committee usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be on May 15, 2019 at the Brookdale Library at 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy in Brooklyn Center at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please encourage friends to attend also. For current information check our website at www.RedheadRecovery.org.

Important Dates

Research Team Meeting	May 10, 2019
Steering Committee Meeting	May 15, 2019
End Controlled Burns at CCESR	May 15, 2019
Bison Arrive at CCESR	May 25, 2019
CCESR RHWO Day	June 15, 2019

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403-0801

Save that Snag!

Place
Stamp
Here

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program Membership Application

I'd like to join! Please add me as a member of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) at the rate of \$20/year! Please send my membership information to the address at right.

I'd like to renew! Renew my RhWR membership for \$20/year.

Yes, I'd like to join Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis also! Please add me as a member of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (\$20) and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (\$12) at the rate of \$32/year. Please send my membership information and *Kingfisher* to the address at right.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Send this application and make check payable to:

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - RhWR
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0801