



Waxwings in the Twinberries

At Quiet Water, we are so lucky to share our space with many other species. One of my favorites are the Waxwings. We have both Cedar and Bohemian waxwings with us right now. The picture above is of a Cedar Waxwing, with his yellow waistcoat and natty yellow and scarlet trimmings. Waxwings are gregarious, meaning if you find one, you will find many. They make a wheezy kind of noise, or what my bird book calls a soft high-pitched twitter. Wheeze I say and once you hear it you will recognize it anywhere. Waxwings are fairly common birds, but even though that might be true, I still love seeing them. They are so gorgeous, with their dramatic black mask.

The waxwings, like many other birds are really enjoying the twinberries (pictured above) in the riparian area. If you stop still and look into the shrubs when you hear the wheeze, you will see waxwings, and lots of other birds gobbling up the dark purple fruit (in pairs, hence the name). Early in the spring the twinberries start to bloom, with yellow tubular flowers. The hummingbirds love them! Twinberries need room to grow, and lots of water so the banks of the river are perfect for their needs.