

BOGFEST BIRD COUNT – SATURDAY MAY 5, 2018

Sightings by Kirsten Burling (Not counting individual birds, except where noted)

[As I was driving to the wetland, a Killdeer flew calling, south to north over Eglinton Ave, W of Mavis Rd., east of Creditview Rd]

6:30am, 7°C, sunny,

A man driving by us said that he lives on the other side of the wetland and has **raccoon** and a large **opossum** coming into his yard.

Pre-Bogfest bird count

From Willowvale Gardens road and sidewalk:

- Common Loon, 1 flew over south to north
- Cormorant, 3 flew over SE to NW, presumably Double-crested (*not distinguished from the Neo-tropical Cormorant seen at Darlington*)
- Mourning Dove, 2 (pair) flew in and landed at the edge (dirt) of the east paved path. One calling. One appeared to want to mate. The other seemed nervous about the group of people (us) approaching. One flew across the road to a tree.
- Mallard, pair near same east paved path (eating grass?)
- Common Grackle, several
- House Sparrow flew into tree
- Canada Goose, pair flew onto park lawn
- Ring-billed Gull flew over
- American Robin
- Red-winged Blackbird, 2 males
- Barn Swallow, 2 foraging
- American Crow flew by east to west, south of the wetland
- American Goldfinch, female in boulevard tree, north side of road

Also:

- Chorus Frogs - north end of wetland

7:10 am

From observation deck: 43.586370, -79.688844

- Canada Goose
- Common Grackle
- American Robin
- Red-winged Blackbird, several males; 2 females, 1 collecting and carrying nesting material (grasses) from the north mineral cultural meadow near the deck into the cattails on the near shore of the wetland (north-east organic shallow marsh). She made several such gathering trips.
- Ring-billed Gull flew over
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flew into large willow at north west end of wetland.
- Cormorant, presumably Double-crested but neither I nor Kathleen could discern any colour. 7 flying west of the wetland, flew NW
- Barn Swallow, 2 foraging over the wetland and adjacent lawns
- Yellow-rumped Warbler foraging in trees
- Warbler sp., probably female Yellow Warbler (from below, all yellow from bill to base of tail) foraging in trees
- Redstart, female foraging low in shrubs
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet foraging, flitting in saplings & shrubs just north of wetland
- American Crow chasing and engaging (attacking?) a Common Raven, flying over the residential area, south to north on the west side of wetland, then NE.
- Song Sparrow perched high in a tree at the NE corner of the north cultural meadow. It did not sing. It just sat there looking around. It was still there when we returned from the bird walk at about 9:00

From the east side of the wetland:

- Red-winged blackbird, male whose epaulettes were more of an orangy-red than red.
- Common Grackle, 5 high in a tree at the edge of the wetland.
- Northern Cardinal, pair inside the wetland fence: male singing high in tree, then joined the female in low vegetation, near the fence.
- Common Loon flew south to north, right overhead. I could see its 'necklace' very well.

Also:

- Eastern Cottontail ran into shrubs by fence.

From where the paved path bends away from the wetland toward the school:

43.585842, -79.687065

- Chorus Frogs were quite vocal here
- Canada Goose in water in wetland

From the rise on the lawn, looking south:

- Yellow-rumped Warbler flying back and forth from the shrubs at the west edge of the field to the mowed grass at the edge of the field.
- Canada Goose, pair with 4 young goslings with big bellies. Later 3 took shelter from the sun (or were they hiding?) under a bench.
- American Goldfinch, male in White Pine sapling at edge of field.

From the edge of the football fields:

- Palm Warbler flitting through shrubs and on ground between the field and the wetland fence.
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- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, male singing high in tree near wetland fence. Heard earlier and again after it flew.
- Barn Swallow, 2 foraging over wetland and fields
- Tree Swallow foraging over wetland
- Rough-winged Swallow foraging over wetland
- Least Flycatcher heard by me. *Joyce LeChasseur (SPNC) saw an Empidonax flycatcher but did not hear it and so could not identify it. It may have been the same bird.*

Also:

- Garter Snake, dead about 1 1/2 feet long. South of the north benches. It may have been stepped on as it was lying across the path to the fence and its middle was flattened. One of the students thought he stepped on it, which he may have, but it was long dead - the eyes were gone.
- Chorus Frog chorus near the SE end of the wetland

Walking back north:

- Mallard, pair on far east side of field near paved path, foraging (eating grass?)
- Blue Jay, 7 flying west to east fairly high
- Northern Flicker heard then seen flying from inside the wetland south to north in the trees along the edge of the wetland. It flew out then back inside the fence.

From the NW end of the wetland at the fence at the end of Willowside Court : 43.585008, -79.688366

- *White-throated Sparrow heard by Ron Corkum, SPNC*
- Yellow Warbler heard singing in the wetland

From Willowside Court:
Outing ended 9:15 am

- House Finch, 2 male; 1 flew into Spruce near a nest which contained a strip of plastic bag and a lot of soft fuzzy material like kapok or raw cotton stuffing. The tree was on the front lawn of a house on west side of Willowside Court, near the north end.
- House Sparrow flew across the road to a house roof.
- Turkey Vulture foraging high, NW of here
- Cormorant flying high heading NW
- Blue Jay, 7 or 8 flying west to east, fairly high, north of here.

During the pollinator outing 11:00 - 12:00:

Eastern Cottontail on park lawn ran toward houses on east side of park

No moths or butterflies were seen. There were various small flies (some may have been midges) and possibly small bees/wasps. The only flowers seen were Dandelions, and Winter Aconite (?) on the east side of the park and Manitoba Maple on the west side. There were a few Trout Lily flowering inside the wetland fence on the east side of the wetland.