

REVIEW OF AUDUBON PARK FIELD TRIP JANUARY 16, 2015

The weather looked like it might cause the field trip to be cancelled but the rains stopped before the count was due to start. Whilst the wind was cold it became otherwise a nice sunny day. Four people joined me on what was a very profitable outing. I think we were out for some 4 ½ hours so it could not have been boring.

Bob Stalnaker saw the bird of the day before the count actually started an American Bittern was at the marsh. That is just the third record of this species. In all we saw 60 species (I had another five species before the count started (Mallard, Northern Pintail, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl and American Pipit)) making for a total of 65 species in all.

We did not see anything in the first piece of woodland so we tried the marsh; here we did better. There were some 20 Yellow-rumped Warblers feeding in the trees with them were three Pine Warblers and a Yellow-throated Warbler. That was an improvement there were small flocks of American Robins flying over and the occasional American Goldfinch was heard. The first of 605 Fish Crows also flew to the north-west

At the ponds the numbers of egrets, ibis were down but most species were present. There were three Anhinga's and a Double-crested Cormorant feeding in the deepest pond with an Osprey circling overhead. Further away we watched a Bald Eagle circling with a Red-tailed Hawk. A flock of nine Killdeer were roosting in a field with two Eastern Bluebirds and a number of Palm Warblers hunting for insects in the same area. On the last pond there were four Pied-billed Grebes, two Green-winged Teal and two Hooded Mergansers all of them allowed a close approach. In this area we also had a Sora and four Savannah Sparrows.

As usual we walked the section of the bike trail that ran alongside the park. Here we had a Red-tailed Hawk being mobbed by two Red-shouldered Hawks. A flock of warblers produced a Black-and-white Warbler and a Blue-headed Vireo. At the swamp we watched two agitated Pileated Woodpeckers I could not see what they were concerned about. Second Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Yellow-throated Warblers were seen there. Finally at the marsh a Sedge Wren was calling we had missed it earlier.

Harry Robinson