

REVIEW OF AUDUBON PARK FIELD TRIP FEBRUARY 20, 2015

29 degrees that was the temperature when I arrived at the park at 6.00 am; luckily it warmed up during the morning even if the wind was still cold. Four brave souls joined me for this monthly adventure.

At the marsh we saw three White Ibis, two Red-shouldered Hawks, some 40 American Robins, Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers, a Pileated Woodpecker and two Eastern Phoebes. At the ponds we were greeted by two Pied-billed Grebes that were it seemed at war; they were continually being chased by the other. A Common Gallinule (a rarity at the park) paid no attention.

This was in some ways a behavior day as we watched the “resident” Great Egret chase another for most of the morning. Normally the chased bird takes itself to another lake but not so this bird it stayed and stayed. When a second Great Blue Heron arrived the “resident” chased it off and the interloper took itself to the marsh. There were single Little Blue and Tricolored Herons and they were at peace with everyone.

We disturbed two White-tailed Deer one ran to cover but the other only ran so far before it stopped to look at us. Eventually it continued out of sight. On the far side of the ponds there were three Eastern Bluebirds and three Pine Warblers; one of the bluebirds was an adult male in the brightest of bright plumages. At the other end of the scale there were four Savannah Sparrows that we were able to study.

Above us the occasional Osprey or Bald Eagle was seen there was even a Red-tailed Hawk. As we were about to leave the ponds a River Otter swam towards us giving all of us great views. In all we saw or heard 47 species which considering the temperatures was not a bad total. I as I mentioned earlier I was there for an extra two hours and during that time I added Mallard, Mottled Duck, American Crow, Barred Owl, Orange-crowned Warbler and Swamp Sparrow. Amy Evenstad had a Forster’s Tern at the ponds but it did not show later.

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