Oakland Owlets @ Lake St. Clair Metropark

Oakland Owlets families and friends gathered at Lake St. Clair Metropark on Saturday June 19 to explore the marshes and trails at the park. The weather was partly cloudy and muggy with rain predicted. Luckily, the rain held until the field trip concluded. The group hiked to the Day Sail area from the Nature Center Parking Lot. Along the way species like Yellow Warblers and Red-winged Blackbirds were abundant and repeatedly called.



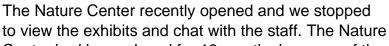
A Great Blue Heron and Green Heron grabbed everyone's attention early. Both birds



were close enough to see their feeding behaviors. The wetlands provide ideal habitat for herons.

Blanche Wicke, co-leader, spotted a resident Greathorned Owl. Although distant, everyone focused on the bird perching on the tree across the marsh. Lake St. Clair is known for the owl bucket that Greathorned Owls have used as a nest for decades. This year however, the owls did not nest in the bucket.

The group meandered through the cattail marsh along a boardwalk where water snakes and frogs floated as Marsh Wren's songs were ever-present. At the Day Sail Parking lot, a pair of Foster's Terns flew into the bay.



Center had been closed for 19 months because of the pandemic.



A view of an active colony of Cormorants was the final stop of the field trip. Numerous nests were observed on a small island across the water from the boat launch parking lot.

Spotting scopes provided close views of the **Double-crested Cormorants** along with the rare Neotropic Cormorant which was also nesting in the colony. For many in the group this was a

life bird. Thirty-seven species and 424 individuals were reported to eBird.



June 19, 2021, YBC Field Trip Report – Lake St. Clair Metropark.

The Bird Checklist is as follows:

Canada Goose Mute Swan Wood Duck Mallard

Mourning Dove Sandhill Crane Ring-billed Gull Forster's Tern

Neotropic Cormorant

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron Green Heron Great Horned Owl

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Northern Flicker Warbling Vireo

Blue Jay

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren
European Starling
American Robin
House Sparrow
House Finch

American Goldfinch Song Sparrow

Baltimore Oriole

Red-winged Blackbird Brown-headed Cowbird

Common Grackle

Common Yellowthroat

Yellow Warbler Northern Cardinal

A special thanks to Blanche Wicke for assisting with this field trip and Rashmi Overbeek for providing photos. Thank you as well to all the participants.

Photo Credits; Kathleen Dougherty, Rashmi Overbeek & Photo Gallery.



