

Berrien County Field Trip – April 21-23, 2017

Leader – Don Burlett

A hearty group of 10 birders joined together to root out a bunch of birds in Berrien County. The weather was cloudy and breezy and cool on Friday, a little less breezy but still cool on Saturday and was sunny and warmer on Sunday. We birded a variety of places. We first began birding around Three Oaks in search of the Eurasian Collared-doves. No luck. (We later found out they had moved slightly north but we didn't find them there either. We also birded the waste water lagoons just west of town and had good luck with species there, including immediately finding a Fish Crow.

We also birded Warren Woods State Park with success in finding Winter Wren, Louisiana Waterthrush and several other warblers. We also birded the area along Avery Road and Buffalo Road, unsuccessfully looking for Longspurs. We did see plenty of Brewer's Blackbird and other species. We also birded several times along W. Forest Lawn Road and visiting Kesling Nature Preserve.

We visited the beach in New Buffalo with little to show for our efforts. We also visited Galien River County Park and its canopy boardwalk. Highlights here included tremendous views of Blue-winged Teal in flight from above and the attack of the Sandhill Crane on the white-tailed deer nose.

Aside from the culinary delights (well, maybe too many burgers on Friday), it was a nice trip and everyone was involved in finding birds, of which we saw plenty. As usual, we look forward to another trip to this area, maybe in May next time.

95 species (listed below)

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

American Wigeon

Mallard

Blue-winged Teal

Northern Shoveler

Redhead

Ring-necked Duck

Greater Scaup

Lesser Scaup

White-winged Scoter

Bufflehead

Common Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser

Ruddy Duck

Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-shoulder Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Sora
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Wilson's Snipe
American Woodcock
Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Caspian Tern
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Eastern Phoebe
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Winter Wren
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Palm Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Towhee
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Purple Finch
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow