

May 5 2018 – Crosswinds Marsh – Oakwoods Metropark (Wildcard Field Trip)

Leader – Jeff Stacey

Early May is usually one of the best times of the year to be out birding. A group of 12 birders (including many new faces) took advantage of some great weather to attend this Wild Card field trip. For those unfamiliar with wild card trips, instead of choosing a destination months ahead of time, we decide a few days ahead of time based on which areas are seeing good birds.

The first stop on our itinerary was Crosswinds Marsh. We decided to follow the birds instead of the plan, mostly based on a singing Northern Waterthrush right near the entrance. While we only got to hear that bird, it led us into areas where we were able to enjoy a Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow among others. We couldn't leave without walking at least some of the boardwalk. Waterfowl was almost non-existent, but a Red-headed Woodpecker flew by for a nice surprise.

After a short drive to Oakwoods Metropark, the group continued on. Nashville and Tennessee Warblers were near the Nature Center as well as many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Deeper in the forest we saw Indigo Bunting and Blue-winged Warbler. All four usual vireo species were noted as well. On the return trip, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo showed up and gave everyone great looks – quite a treat for this species.

All in all we tallied 82 species (listed below).

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Mallard
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Solitary Sandpiper
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Least Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Waterthrush
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Bay-breasted Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Palm Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Field Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Eastern Meadowlark
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
American Goldfinch