

Field Trip Report: Stage Nature Center

April 8, 2023

Leader: Kayla Niner

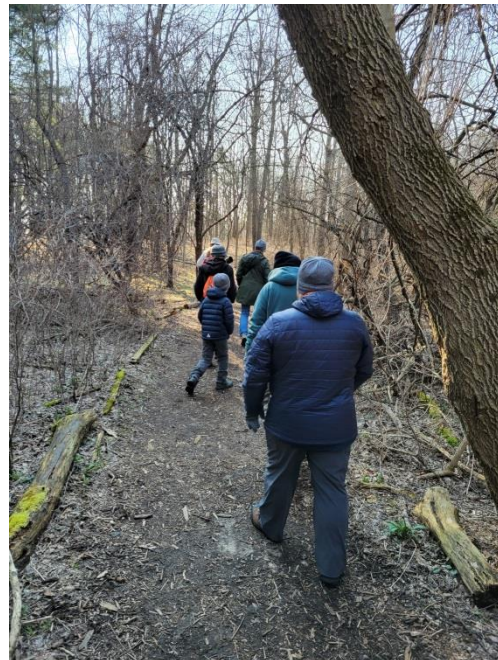


The morning air was full of birdsong when we arrived at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center in Troy, MI. It was a crisp morning that began below freezing, so eight birders bundled up and headed out on the trails to hunt for early migrants and, of course, wild turkeys. As we began the walk into the woods along the Rouge River we briefly stopped to admire a displaying Tom Turkey from afar. After snapping a few photos, the group moved through the old growth woods. Our first non-turkey sightings included a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Cooper's Hawk. We continued along the path, along a spot by the bridge that is normally good for New World sparrows, but that day none were present. The upland forest continued to have surprises, however, and we spotted a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Even though they are not often reported at that park, we could tell by the lines of holes on the tree he visited that he was no stranger to the area. It was a great find and everyone got good views of the bird. We also added a few Downy Woodpeckers to our list and a few of us spotted an Eastern Phoebe before it flew away. Further down the trail we finally re-found our Wild Turkeys and one tom was happy to give us a good show, displaying his tail feathers and warning us in a loud gobble that those hens were his! Before we

left the upland forest for the marshy part of the park the forest had one final surprise - a Pileated Woodpecker. Even the trip leader, who comes to the park often, had never seen one before at Stage Nature Center.

The marshy part of the park along the Blackbird Trail held some good birds as well, and we found Song Sparrows, a Northern Cardinal, and many Red-winged Blackbirds, one of which didn't quite sound like a Red-winged Blackbird --- it couldn't trill! We went up to the deck to check the stream and grassy area, but there were the area, except a few Northern Flickers, until a Double-Cormorant flew over. We all got good views of the bird continued northwards. Along the boardwalk, we briefly heard Winter Wrens! They have a delightful bubbling we all enjoyed. In the lowland area along the Bluebird found several Brown Creepers and Golden-Crowned

We ended the trip by visiting the nature center's captive appreciated the chance to see these owls up close as not possible with wild owls. We were all standing there captive birds and a few robins that were poking through surrounding lawn, when all of a sudden there was a loud sound. A bold Cooper's Hawk had just caught a robin feet from us and it sat next to the owl enclosure for a few before flying away with the robin. It was quite an to our field trip, and everyone admired the Cooper's also felt sorry for the Robin.



observation no birds in crested before it saw and song that Trail, we Kinglets.

owls. We typically is enjoying the the squawking barely ten moments exciting end Hawk, but



(Photo Credit: Ray Bosshard)



(Photo Credit: Kayla Niner)



(Photo Credit: Ray Bosshard)

(Photo credits from above: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Kayla Niner/Group Photo: Don Burlett)

Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center, Oakland, Michigan, US

Apr 8, 2023 7:51 AM - 11:15 AM

Protocol: Traveling, 2.79 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: Sunny. In the upper 20 rising to the low 40s.

33 species

- Canada Goose 4
- Wood Duck 2
- Mallard 12
- Wild Turkey 7
- Mourning Dove 1
- Double-crested Cormorant 1
- Turkey Vulture 1
- Cooper's Hawk 1
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1
- Red-bellied Woodpecker 4
- Downy Woodpecker 2
- Pileated Woodpecker 1
- Northern Flicker 6
- Eastern Phoebe 1
- Blue Jay 16
- American Crow 2
- Black-capped Chickadee 6
- Tufted Titmouse 3
- Tree Swallow 1
- Golden-crowned Kinglet 10
- White-breasted Nuthatch 4
- Red-breasted Nuthatch 1
- Brown Creeper 6
- Winter Wren 2
- Hermit Thrush 1

American Robin 6
House Sparrow 10
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 2
Song Sparrow 4
Red-winged Blackbird 8
Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Common Grackle 1
Northern Cardinal 6