

Field Trip Report: Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center (City of Troy)

April 7, 2024

Leader: Kayla Niner

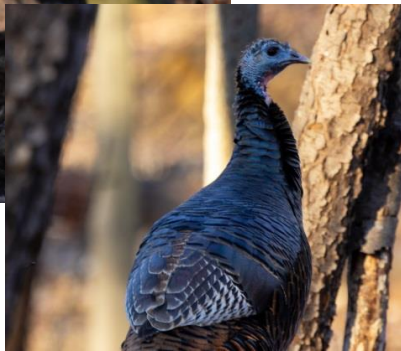
The morning started off cool and clear when six birders met at Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center in Troy with the hopes of finding some displaying Wild Turkeys. They headed out toward the Nature Center where they heard some honking. Two Canada Geese were walking across the top of the Nature Center roof! The group stopped and enjoyed this odd sight and continued into the trails.



Not too many birds were present in the old growth forest, but several woodpeckers were heard, including Downy, Red-bellied, and Northern Flicker. Also in the old growth forest was the only Wild Turkey we saw - a single hen that called a few times for us. Somewhere else, a tom gobbled an answer, but we never found him. At the end of the forest path where it lets out in to the Bluebird path, we found a male Eastern Bluebird sitting on top of the bat house.

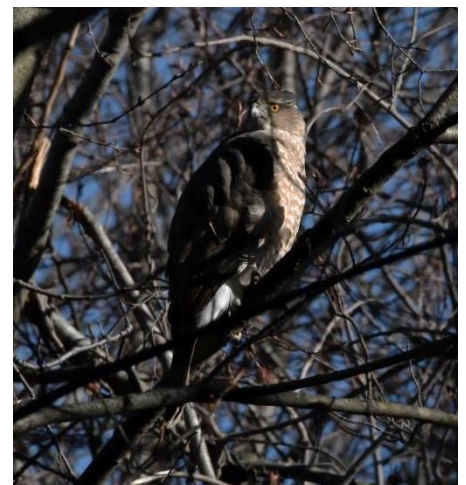


We continued down the Blackbird Loop where we heard many Red-winged Blackbirds, including one the trip leader had heard the previous year - an odd bird that doesn't trill. Perhaps he found a mate last year and returned to the same spot to try again. We visited the boardwalk tower and lurked on the observation deck for a while, but we only found a few Song Sparrows.



Next climbed to the top of the hill where a stand of pines sits near the outdoor classroom and we found some Chickadees and Kinglets, both Ruby and Golden-crowned. We decided to take a break on the benches and watch the

trees for a little bit and we spotted an adult Cooper's Hawk. We watched it for a little while and she flew - right up into a nest that was partially built! This was a real treat to see. We then backtracked along the Bluebird Trail by the meadow and we found some American Goldfinches and some Tree Swallows, but still no Turkeys.



As we headed back to the Nature Center, we saw our first American Red Squirrel, which a member of our party had been looking forward to seeing and the cute little squirrel posed for a few pictures before scurrying off. We visited the owls briefly before deciding to call it a day. As we turned to leave, however, we saw a second Cooper's Hawk, likely the mate of the one in the pines. We walked to the parking lot, satisfied with our 29 species, but wanting to round it up to 30. We lucked out on hearing some House Sparrows by the Nature Center and we left with a nice round number, despite the lack of the hoped-for displaying turkeys.



Photo credits:

Canada Goose on Roof – Kayla Niner

Eastern Bluebird – Malissa Bossardet

Wild Turkey (top left, zoomed out) – Kayla Niner

Wild Turkey (bottom right, zoomed in) – Malissa Bossardet

Cooper's Hawk – Kayla Niner

Song Sparrow – Malissa Bossardet

American Robin – Andrea Niner

American Red Squirrel – Kayla Niner

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

Apr 7, 2024 7:50 AM - 11:10 AM

Protocol: Traveling, 2.87 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: Mostly sunny. In the mid-30s rising into the mid-40s.

30 species

Canada Goose 4

Mallard 5

Wild Turkey 2

Mourning Dove 2

Killdeer 1

Turkey Vulture 1

Cooper's Hawk 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker 3

Downy Woodpecker 2

Northern Flicker 1

Blue Jay 6

American Crow 2

Black-capped Chickadee 12

Tufted Titmouse 4

Tree Swallow 2

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet 6

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Brown Creeper 1

Carolina Wren 1

European Starling 2

Eastern Bluebird 1

American Robin 6
House Sparrow 4
American Goldfinch 4
Dark-eyed Junco 2
Song Sparrow 6
Red-winged Blackbird 6
Brown-headed Cowbird 4
Northern Cardinal 4