

April 26-28 2019 – Columbus/Hocking Hills Field trip

Leader: Don Burlett

The trip began by driving to Pickerington Ponds Metropark on Friday where we got a “wet” look at the head of a Barn Owl in its nest box. Not great looks but a Barn Owl nonetheless. Then we drove south into Hocking Hills where the rain finally let up. We stopped at Lake Logan for some Forster’s Terns, Common Loons and a variety of swallows (Barn, Bank, Tree, Cliff and Northern Rough-winged) and Purple Martin. We were also greeted by our first Yellow-throated Warbler along with a number of other species.

The next morning, we began by joining a group from the “Birds in the Hills” festival on a private reserve. This was spectacular, in that we got very good looks at what is normally a difficult set of birds for us. Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler and a number of nice species were found here. From this location we hit a few miscellaneous spots for Northern Mockingbird and others



before heading to Clear Creek Park. Here we enjoyed nice looks at some additional warblers including a spectacular view of a Cerulean Warbler just 15-20 high in a tree in front of us. Later, we visited a site

where we got good looks at a Henslow's Sparrow. Saturday evening had us joining the festival for dinner and enjoying a nice talk about archeology and birds in Ohio. Very interesting and eye-opening.



Sunday morning we headed to Battelle Darby Creek Metropark where we were rewarded heartily for wading through very wet grass and cool temps (45°F) and winds out of the north. We enjoyed nice views of three American Bitterns flying around us, 13 Willets that we hunkered down, 7 Black-crowned Night-herons and other species. We enjoyed Sora, American Coot, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe as well as ducks and two grebes (Pied-billed and Horned). Finally, we headed to Prairie Oaks Metropark where we nabbed our last swallow of the trip (Cave Swallow) flying around the ponds.



When it all ended, we had tallied 119 species and were a very happy group. Thanks must be given to John Watts of the Columbus Metroparks system who helped guide us on Friday and Saturday and gave us note for Sunday. He also helped with our mingling with the festival folks. It was a rewarding trip and well worth future thought for a repeat.

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Mallard
Ruddy Duck
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated
Hummingbird
Virginia Rail
Sora
Common Gallinule
American Coot
Killdeer
Wilson's Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Willet
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ring-billed Gull
Forster's Tern
Common Loon
Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Cooper's Hawk
Bald Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Barn Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Flicker
American Kestrel
Merlin
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Northern Rough-winged
Swallow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Cave Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
House Finch
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow

Henslow's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Towhee
Yellow-breasted Chat
Eastern Meadowlark
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Cerulean Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Black-throated Green
Warbler
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow