10th Annual Victoria Park Bird Count

Results

March 19th

2021

WILDLIFE OF VICTORIA PARK

RESULTS OF THE 10TH ANNUAL VICTORIA PARK BIRD COUNT

by John Serrao

On March 21 — the last day of "winter" — the 10th Annual Victoria Park Bird Count was conducted on a beautiful, sunny, clear day. Eight of us spent the morning searching for birds in the 4 sections of Victoria Park, as we have every March since 2012. Our goal — to identify as many species as possible — was accomplished in victorious fashion as we found 67 different species — a new record! 49 of those species were seen by the group in the morning by stopping at "hotspots" such as the Victoria Gardens conservation areas and cow pasture, and the many ponds and lakes in the Commons, Hills, and Trails. I managed to find an additional 16 species in the afternoon by searching alone in the undeveloped areas and woods throughout Victoria Park. American Goldfinches were reported by Lynn Campbell at her feeders in the Gardens, and a Chuck-wills-widow by Ann McMillan was species #67.

Highlights of the morning included both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagle, several Swallow-tailed Kites, 3 Wood Storks, American Kestrel, Eastern Bluebird, close looks at 4 species of woodpeckers (Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, and Downy — the first 3 all in Victoria Hills), flocks of migrating Cedar Waxwings, 6 species of warblers (Yellow-rumped, Palm, Pine, Parula, Prairie, and Common Yellowthroat), and — best of all — a baby Great Horned Owl peeking out of its nest in Victoria Gardens!

In the afternoon I upped the warbler total to 8 with a Black and White Warbler and a Yellow-throated Warbler in the Gardens, and, in Victoria Hills, I saw a Cooper's Hawk harassing flocks of Fish Crows, Common Grackles, and Boat-tailed Grackles; a migrating Sharp-shinned Hawk; and a surprisingly late pair of overwintering Hooded Mergansers in a pond. In Victoria Trails, I found a pair of Mottled Ducks on a pond, and the first Purple Martins of the year circling and vocalizing high in the sky. Back in the Victoria Gardens conservation areas, I added Great Blue Heron (on a remote pond where an alligator was roaring!), House Wren, White-eyed Vireo, and — another big surprise — a covey of Bobwhite Quail! There was also a partially albino Wild Turkey walking along the shore of a pond and, finally, upon returning home at 6:45 PM, I was greeted by an Osprey and Ruby-throated Hummingbird in my own backyard.

(The complete list of 67 species can be seen on the Victoria Park website)

Chuck-wills- widow by Ann McMillan was species #67

Final List From 10th Annual Victoria Park Bird Count — March 19, 2021

Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
Great Blue Heron; Little Blue Heron; Tri-colored Heron; Snowy Egret; Great Egret; Cattle Egret
White Ibis
Wood Stork
Mottled Duck; Mallard; Muscovy Duck; Hooded Merganser
Black Vulture; Turkey Vulture
Swallow-tailed Kite; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Red-shouldered Hawk; Bald Eagle; Osprey; American Kestrel
Wild Turkey; Northern Bobwhite Quail
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Chuck-will's-Widow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-headed Woodpecker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Pileated Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker White-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay; American Crow; Fish Crow
Purple Martin; Tree Swallow
Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren; House Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Gray Catbird; Northern Mockingbird; Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Parula; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Prairie Warbler; Palm Warbler; Pine Warbler; Yellow-throated Warbler; Black and White warbler; Common Yellowthroat
Northern Cardinal
Eastern Towhee
Common Grackle; Boat-tailed Grackle
American Goldfinch