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Highlights from September 6 Bird Walk to Bear Creek Lake Park – Evergreen Audubon

4-5 minutes



Solitary Sandpiper (c) Bill Schmoker

Five of us had an incredible morning at Bear Creek Lake Park tallying 54 species (see list below). While we didn't see anything too unexpected, we did manage to see several species that you can never quite count on getting every time you're out, e.g. Ruddy Duck, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Blue Jay, Cliff Swallow, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Wilson's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, and Black-headed Grosbeak.



Brewer's Blackbird (c) Rob Raker

Highlights included two Solitary Sandpipers – note the light colored legs, the relatively dark back and wings with white dots, and the bright, white spectacles. Then, we had a large flock of Brewer's Blackbirds – note the very glossy plumage, and the yellow eye. Finally, we had some young Yellow-headed Blackbirds, atypically hanging out at the parking lot at Pelican Point.



Yellow-headed Blackbird (c) Rob Raker

Migration is well under way (under weigh – it is a nautical term, you know), and some species have apparently already moved on, or at least eluded us for the time being, e.g. Black-chinned

Hummers, the Empid flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Lazuli Buntings. Other species are apparently moving through on their way south, but “staging” here for a while in order to build up fat reserves, e.g. Solitary Sandpipers, Wilson’s Warblers, lots of Sparrows (we had seven species counting the two towhees), and the Yellow-headed and Brewer’s Blackbirds. On a personal note, I had five species of gulls at Chatfield on September 8 so they’re doing some moving through as well.

It’s really too bad that there were only five of us to discover and share this abundance of bird activity – 54 species! Don’t miss the next walk!

Good birding! Chuck

Bear Creek Lake Park, Sep 6, 2017

54 species

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) 2

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 22

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) 4

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) 4

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) 2

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) 16

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) 2

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) 1

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) 1

Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) 1

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 2

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) 1

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) 1

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) 2
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) 2
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) (*Columba livia* (Feral Pigeon)) 6
Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 26
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) 2
hummingbird sp. (*Trochilidae* sp.) 1
Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) 6
Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) 1
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 15
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) 1
Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) 1
Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) 2
Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) 4
Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) 1
Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) 25
American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 5
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 39
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) 11
Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) 5
White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) 1
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 17
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) 1
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 1
Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) 1
Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) 1
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) 9
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) 5
Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) 1
Spizella sp. (*Spizella* sp.) 4

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) 1
Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) 2
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 3
Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) 1
Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) 3
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) 1
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) 4
Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) 5
Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) 33
Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) 1
House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) 16
Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) 1
Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) 4
American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) 12