

# Highlights from April 11 bird walk to Bear Creek Lake Park

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Chuck Aid

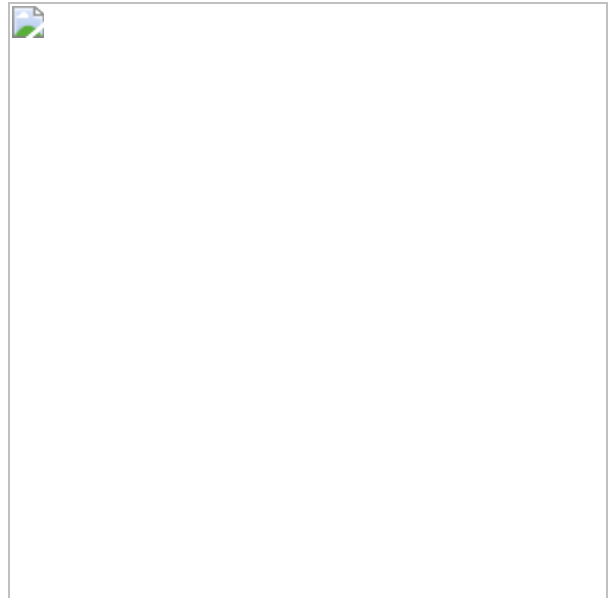
April 12, 2018

It was an interesting morning at Bear Creek Lake Park. We were never overwhelmed by scads of birds, and overall it seemed like a pretty slow morning. The main reservoir was being used by a fire-fighting helicopter practicing scooping water up for potential wildfire fighting this season – a bit disruptive to birds and birders. However, somehow by the end of the morning we managed to have tallied a respectable 38 species.

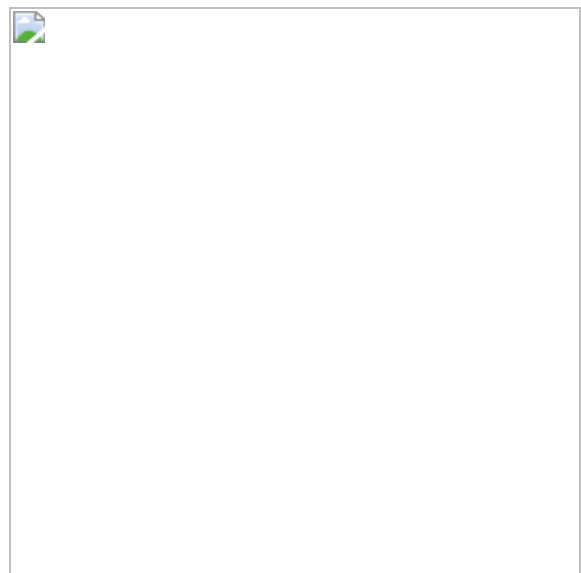
The number of duck species was not great – only seven, but we were able to get really great views of a pair of Cinnamon Teal, so that was nice. Also present in the same area were eight Green-winged Teal looking well furbished for breeding season. Double-crested Cormorants were noted carrying nesting material, and a single American White Pelican flew in while we were out at Pelican Point.

We were fortunate to see two of Colorado's three accipiter species, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk, and we noted four Red-tails in the area. As can be seen in the photo, the Killdeer were already taking care of one of the more important steps towards breeding success. We also saw a pair of Downy Woodpeckers hanging out together. The owl nest in the tree cavity by the entrance station seems to have had success, as we saw an apparent food delivery from the male to the female, and she was sitting high enough up in that cavity to cause us to assume that there were fuzzy nestlings underneath her.

As for other newly arrived migrants, we saw two Turkey Vultures, two Tree Swallows, four Barn Swallows, 44 American Robins, and 22 Common



Cinnamon Teal (c) Rachel Hutchison



Killdeer (c) Rachel Hutchison

Grackles. A special treat for us was getting to see two male Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers in full regalia – pretty nice!

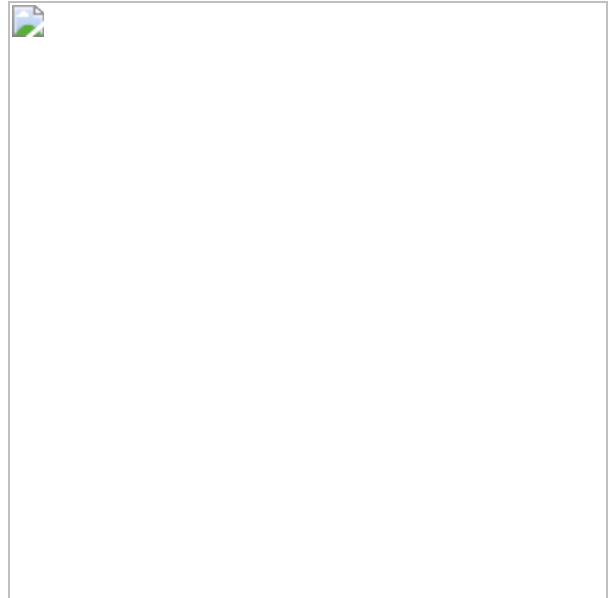
There was some very nice singing going on from Western Meadowlarks – some of it very inventive, and we were entertained by a dyslexic Song Sparrow (as noted by Inga Brennan), who kept putting the several short, sharp notes that we associate with onset of the song at the end of its song. Presumably, with a bit more practice, this will get sorted out in time for more focused breeding activity.

Hope to see you out on a bird walk soon!

Chuck Aid

Bear Creek Lake Park, Apr 11, 2018  
38 species

Canada Goose 16  
Cinnamon Teal 2  
Gadwall 7  
Mallard 36  
Green-winged Teal 8  
Redhead 3  
Lesser Scaup 2  
Bufflehead 4  
Double-crested Cormorant 14  
American White Pelican 1  
Great Blue Heron 2  
Turkey Vulture 2  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Cooper's Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 4  
Killdeer 2  
Rock Pigeon 1  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 6  
Mourning Dove 2  
Great Horned Owl 2  
Downy Woodpecker 2  
Northern Flicker 5  
American Kestrel 1  
Black-billed Magpie 20



Western Meadowlark (c) Rachel Hutchison

Tree Swallow 2  
Barn Swallow 4  
Black-capped Chickadee 5  
American Robin 44  
European Starling 15  
Audubon's Warbler 4  
Pink-sided Junco 1  
Song Sparrow 6  
Spotted Towhee 2  
Western Meadowlark 12  
Red-winged Blackbird 11  
Common Grackle 22  
House Finch 5  
House Sparrow 2