

Live from Evergreen Lake – Dawn Chorus 2021

Brad Andres. June 1, 2021 :

After having a very socially distanced Dawn Chorus last year, we opted for a hybrid event to celebrate World Migratory Day in 2021. Twenty-four participants assembled at Evergreen Lake at 6 am on May 8th to see what migrants might be stopping by the lake. Unlike past years, coffee and breakfast were left to individual participants. Migratory bird celebrants were also offered the option to bird anywhere within the areas specified in our annual Birding Challenge (see <https://evergreenaudubon.org/nature-conservation/local-birding/>). At noon, we all gathered virtually to share our sightings of the morning.

At the Lake, things were pretty slow as the late spring continued. There were no warblers at Wilmot Creek or interesting sparrows in the wetlands, although Yellow Warblers were found at Bear Creek Lake Park. At the Lake, we were treated to some high bird drama as a pair of Bald Eagles worked to dispose an Osprey of its recent catch. Tormented, the Osprey eventually dropped its fish, which landed in the parking lot to the dismay of the eagles. Neither the eagles nor the osprey retrieved the fish and we couldn't find it either. A fisherman probably thought it was his lucky day!



American Avocet. Photo courtesy of
Bradford Winn.

Perhaps the best birds of the morning were two American Avocets off the boardwalk, and an American Dipper was found upstream on Bear Creek. In addition to the Yellow Warbler, observers away from the Lake added some nice species like Blue Jay, Plumbeous Vireo, Bushtit and Spotted Towhee. Stretching into Park County, we added Lesser Scaup, Wild Turkey and Hermit Thrush. By the time we convened at noon, teams had tallied 69 species. Not bad for the slow spring we have had! We hope to continue this hybrid approach to the Dawn Chorus and World Migratory Bird Day in the future. I hope this inspired all of us to get out and bird!

