



# WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## Tremont Towpath Trail Urban Bird Walk Report

**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2022

**Location:** Towpath Trail, Scranton Flats

**Leaders:** Nancy Howell, Al Rand

**Results:** 42 Species, 1 Taxa, 8 Birders

By Nancy Howell

Last month's write-up ended with the line, "... we were glad that the walk was ending as we were all a bit chilly and wet. Let's hope for good weather soon!" April's walk started off cool but quickly heated up to summertime temperatures and layers of clothing needed to be peeled off. Eight participants joined the April 23 Tremont Urban Bird Walk with 42 species of birds sighted.

The usual birds greeted us while we waited for participants to arrive, American Robin, Rock Pigeon, European Starling, Mourning Dove, Common Grackle, flyovers of Double-crested Cormorant and gulls. Great Blue Heron also were flybys that are not seen every month. One bird flying by caught our attention. It was stocky and short tailed, somewhat like a starling, but bulkier ... Eastern Meadowlark! Surprise!

At the overlook LOTS of Herring Gulls and many fewer Ring-billed Gulls perched on the gravel piles or floated in the river. It was hard to get an accurate count, but we did our best. A few Canada Geese were scattered among the gulls and a pair of Canadas had a raft of 5 goslings in tow. Lots of rowers were out on the river as well which stirred up the gulls. We scanned the Innerbelt Bridge for any signs of Peregrine Falcons. No luck.

Heading into the Cuyahoga River valley many robins, starlings, Common Grackles, House Finch and American Goldfinch were sighted. Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, a single Yellow-rumped Warbler and a couple of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted before reaching the platform that extends into the river.

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Lots more gulls were sighted, primarily Herring Gulls on the far shore. Scanning through the gulls, several of them had darker gray backs and wings as compared with the Herring Gulls, but were about the size of Herrings - Lesser Black-backed Gulls - nice! We also noticed a couple of Bonaparte's Gulls on the river. We were going to run into many more of these small gulls as we moved on. Additional Canada Geese, a few Mallards, a Spotted Sandpiper worked the shoreline and Barn Swallows zoomed around us. We looked for the Peregrine Falcons on the Innerbelt Bridge, the lift bridge, as well as the Hope Memorial Bridge, on which there is a peregrine nest box, but no luck. We were also missing our friend "Lester" the Lesser Scaup that usually hangs out in the area. But as we headed north on the towpath we found "Lester", all alone, snoozing and keeping out of the way of the rowers. Tree Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows were sighted along with Northern Cardinal, Belted Kingfisher, a single American Crow, House Sparrow, flyover of Killdeer and Turkey Vulture.

As we neared Collision Bend more gulls - lots of Bonaparte's and a smattering of Ring-bills and Herring. But wait, a larger gull in the water that was paler and had white wing-tips ... a Glaucous Gull. Another interesting find. A pair of Bufflehead were found too.

We picked up Chimney Swift along the way and by the time we reached Collision Bend the temperature had really risen. This led to many raptors in the sky using the thermals and, no doubt, the heat rising from the downtown buildings. It was difficult to identify some of the birds as they were up very high. A couple participants could get views of a few such as Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Peregrine Falcon along with Turkey Vultures. With the heat things quieted down bird-wise with the exception of Northern Mockingbirds who sang to their heart's content. We played a little game and guessed some of the species of birds the mockingbirds were mimicking.

As we headed back toward the parking area one of the Peregrines was located on the lift bridge near the Innerbelt Bridge. Yay. Now where they are nesting ... we were not able to determine. Stay tuned.

## Bird List

#	Species	Count
1.	Canada Goose ( <i>Branta canadensis</i> )	24
2.	Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	5
3.	Lesser Scaup ( <i>Aythya affinis</i> )	1
4.	Bufflehead ( <i>Bucephala albeola</i> )	2
5.	Rock Pigeon ( <i>Columba livia</i> )	8
6.	Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )	4

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7,	Chimney Swift ( <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> )	3
8.	Killdeer ( <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> )	5
9.	Spotted Sandpiper ( <i>Actitis macularius</i> )	1
10.	Bonaparte's Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i> )	193
11.	Ring-billed Gull ( <i>Larus delawarensis</i> )	45
12.	Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	460
13.	Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> )	7
14.	Glaucous Gull ( <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> )	1
	Larus sp.	50
15.	Double-crested Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> )	36
16.	Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> )	2
17.	Turkey Vulture ( <i>Cathartes aura</i> )	2
18.	Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	1
19.	Cooper's Hawk ( <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> )	1
20.	Broad-winged Hawk ( <i>Buteo platypterus</i> )	4
21.	Belted Kingfisher ( <i>Megaceryl alcyon</i> )	2
22.	Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	1
23.	Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	3
24.	American Crow ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )	1
25.	Northern Rough-winged Swallow ( <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> )	5
26.	Tree Swallow ( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )	6
27.	Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	5
28.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus calendula</i> )	5
29.	European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	9
30.	Northern Mockingbird ( <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> )	3

31.	American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )	8
32.	House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )	7
33.	House Finch ( <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i> )	5
34.	American Goldfinch ( <i>Spinus tristis</i> )	6
35.	White-throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )	2
36.	Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )	4
37.	Eastern Meadowlark ( <i>Sturnella magna</i> )	1
38.	Red-winged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )	6
39.	Brown-headed Cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> )	2
40.	Common Grackle ( <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> )	36
41.	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) ( <i>Setophaga coronata</i> )	1
42.	Northern Cardinal ( <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> )	5

## Photos

No photos provided for April's walk. No photographers joined our walk in April, so we hope that more birders and photographers will join the walks. Your photos will be shown here ... you never know if your photos will make you rich and famous ... okay, okay, maybe not rich and famous, but people do appreciate the photos.