



October 2020

Virtual Field Trip:

Cleveland Lakefront

Nature Preserve

Bird Walk Leader: Michelle Brosius

WCAS Board Member and Field Trip Co-Coordinator

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve



Photo: Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Sign by Michelle Brosius

The Port of Cleveland website describes Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP) as “a unique urban wildlife haven on Lake Erie” and it is certainly that and much more. The original shoreline was part of Gordon Park until 1962 when two old freighters were sunk offshore to create a breakwall. The land area between the breakwall and shoreline, known as Dike 14, was formed due to routine dumping of waste and sediment, primarily sand, soil, and clay, that was dredged from the Cuyahoga River between 1979 and 1999. The land quickly filled with plants, shrubs, and trees when Dike 14 ceased being used as a dumping area for sediment, and the area is now known as Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. The CLNP is comprised of 88-acres and has three trails covering 2.5 miles. The area is a diverse mix of habitats, including grasslands, forests, meadows, mudflats, shrublands, and wetlands.

For more information, please visit the Port of Cleveland website, [Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve](#).

Target Species



Fall Warblers



Photo: Wilson's Warbler at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

A warbler is a small songbird in the family *Parulidae*, most of which sport bright colors and interesting patterns in the spring; however, they tone down their plumage after breeding season which can make them more challenging to identify. Warblers primarily feed on insects and depend on a warm climate where their main food source can thrive. They therefore migrate to the tropics in the winter and return north in the spring as temperatures begin to rise.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon hosted a [fall warbler identification program](#) to help with some of those more “confusing” fall warblers. Ryan Jacob, ornithologist, naturalist, and bird-bander with Black Swamp Bird Observatory, discussed field marks and features to look for on fall warblers. The information presented is useful for newer birders as well as seasoned birders, and an extensive number of species are covered.

Target Species (cont.)



Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

“Golden-crowned Kinglets are boldly marked with a black eyebrow stripe and flashy lemon-yellow crest. A good look can require some patience, as they spend much of their time high up in dense spruce or fir foliage. To find them, listen for their high, thin call notes and song. Though barely larger than a hummingbird, this frenetically active bird can survive –40 degree nights, sometimes huddling together for warmth. They breed in the far north and montane west and visit most of North America during winter.” – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, [Golden-crowned Kinglet](#)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)

“A tiny bird seemingly overflowing with energy, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet forages almost frantically through lower branches of shrubs and trees. Its habit of constantly flicking its wings is a key identification clue. Smaller than a warbler or chickadee, this plain green-gray bird has a white eyering and a white bar on the wing. Alas, the male’s brilliant ruby crown patch usually stays hidden—your best chance to see it is to find an excited male singing in spring or summer.” – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, [Ruby-crowned Kinglet](#)



Photo: Golden-crowned Kinglet at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Target Species (cont.)



Sparrows



Photo: White-crowned Sparrow at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Sparrows have short, thick bills for crushing and eating seeds. Most species also eat insects. They are usually brown or gray in color and range from the smaller streaked sparrows to the larger towhees. Dark-eyed Juncos and Snow Buntings are also included in the sparrow family. Many sparrows have distinctive head patterns, as you can see in the photo to the left of the White-crowned Sparrow.

Learn how to [identify some common sparrows](#) at The Great Backyard Bird Count website.

Mary Ann & John Henderson

35 Species



Mary Ann and John birded on **October 8, 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**



Photo: Red-breasted Nuthatch at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

- 10 Canada Goose
- 3 Wood Duck
- 5 Mallard
- 7 Ring-billed Gull
- 2 Herring Gull
- 3 Turkey Vulture
- 1 Cooper's Hawk
- 1 Bald Eagle
- 1 Red-tailed Hawk
- 2 Downy Woodpecker
- 5 Northern Flicker
- 3 Eastern Phoebe
- 1 Blue-headed Vireo
- 2 Warbling Vireo
- 10 Blue Jay
- 3 Golden-crowned Kinglet
- 4 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 5 Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 1 House Wren
- 1 Carolina Wren
- 1 Brown Thrasher
- 1 Northern Mockingbird
- 6 American Robin
- 2 Cedar Waxwing

Mary Ann & John Henderson (cont.)



- 4 House Finch
- 3 American Goldfinch
- 5 Chipping Sparrow
- 7 Dark-eyed Junco
- 6 White-crowned Sparrow
- 4 White-throated Sparrow
- 2 Song Sparrow
- 3 Brown-headed Cowbird
- 1 Magnolia Warbler
- 2 Palm Warbler
- 26 Yellow-rumped Warbler



Photo: White-throated Sparrow at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Allen Rand

74 Species



Al participated in the field trip **FOUR** times!

Al visited CLNP on October 4, 13, 23, and 25.

- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Mourning Dove
- Chimney Swift
- Killdeer
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Bald Eagle
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Belted Kingfisher
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- **Pileated Woodpecker**
- Northern Flicker
- **Peregrine Falcon**
- Eastern Phoebe
- **Blue-headed Vireo**
- **Red-eyed Vireo**
- Blue Jay



Photo: Carolina Wren at CLNP by Al Rand

Allen Rand (cont.)



LIFER!



Photo: Purple Finch at CLNP by Al Rand

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Carolina Wren
- European Starling
- Gray Catbird
- Brown Thrasher
- Northern Mockingbird
- Swainson's Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin
- House Finch
- Purple Finch
- Cedar Waxwing
- American Goldfinch

Allen Rand (cont.)



Photos: Fox Sparrow (top), male Eastern Towhee (middle), female Eastern Towhee (bottom) at CLNP by Al Rand

- Fox Sparrow
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- Eastern Towhee
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Black-and-White Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Magnolia Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler

Allen Rand (cont.)



Photo: Female Red-winged Blackbird at CLNP by Al Rand

- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- American Redstart
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Northern Cardinal
- Indigo Bunting
-  Northern Saw-whet Owl (seen at Gordon Park)

Michelle Brosius

19 Species



Michelle visited CLNP on **October 16.**

I took Friday, October 16 off work to enjoy the golden autumn sunshine and crisp air at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. It had rained the day prior, bringing in a cold spell, which resulted in a 42°F starting temperature at 8:54 a.m., only warming up to a still cool 50°F by the time I left at 11:42 a.m. However, I dressed for the cooler temps and had a very pleasant walk.

I chose to walk the Perimeter Trail and was immediately inundated by sparrows. Walking a little further along the first leg of the trail I came across a **Marsh Wren!** This is a lifer for me! I thought it was a Carolina Wren until I was at home later in the day looking through my photos and something seemed off for this Carolina Wren. Carolinas are more chestnut in color and this bird in my photo was also missing the butterscotch belly. I pulled out my trusty *Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America* and after browsing through the Wren section I decided on a Marsh Wren as it has the bold white stripes on the black triangle on its back accompanied by a light belly.



Photo: Marsh Wren at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photo: White-throated Sparrow at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

It was a good day for sparrows at the preserve as there were easily a hundred sighted throughout my entire visit, consisting of mostly **White-crowned**, **White-throated**, **Song**, and **Dark-eyed Junco**. I paused on my walk to reflect on how far I've come in the three years I've been birding. Just a few years ago, sparrows were known to me as "little brown birds," except for the Junco which was a "little gray bird." I still need the help of a field guide (or friends on the Internet) with some sparrows, but these four I can identify on sight. My only warbler was the **Yellow-rumped**, which is pretty easy for me to identify with the bright yellow patch on its backside just above the tail, aka, rump.

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



I realized about a half hour into my walk that I was concentrating so much on taking pictures that I wasn't truly observing the birds around me. Perhaps balancing birding with photography is something that will come over time. In all I was still able to identify 19 species that I logged into eBird and observe bird behavior, mostly foraging and chasing one another.

I rounded a bend and saw a female **Northern Flicker** on the trail ahead. The closer I got on the approach, the farther she hopped away from me. I did manage to close the gap a little bit for a photo. All of a sudden a flock of approximately 15 blackbirds rose out of a nearby bush and gathered on a distant tree. I was hopeful they might be Rusty Blackbirds as that would have been a lifer for me, but alas, they were **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Still lovely.

The north-facing side of the preserve didn't hold as many birds as the south and east-facing sides, but I did come across my first **Dark-eyed Junco** of the day along that section of the trail. Also, I was delighted to see a **Cooper's Hawk** fly overhead and then a few moments later a second Cooper's!



Photo: Female Northern Flicker at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photo: Female Mallard at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

The west-facing trail is where I saw the **Mallard**, a single duck floating serenely in Lake Erie. I came across more sparrows and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** along the way. Then, when I rounded back to the south side again, I stumbled upon my favorite sparrow, the **White-crowned!** There were three adults foraging on the trail and a juvenile off to the side sporting a chestnut and white cap instead of the black and white of its elders. I decided to walk the south and east sections of the trail again to take more pictures and then headed back to the gate. On my return journey a **Blue Jay** screeched at me from above. I said, “Fine, I got you,” as I logged him into eBird.

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photo: White-throated Sparrows at CLNP by Michelle Brosius



Photo: House Finch at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photo: White-throated Sparrow at CLNP by Michelle Brosius



Photo: White-throated and two White-crowned Sparrows at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photo: Yellow-rumped Warbler at CLNP by Michelle Brosius



Photo: White-crowned Sparrows at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photo: Marsh Wren at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

- Mallard
- Cooper's Hawk
- Downy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Blue Jay
- Black-capped Chickadee
-  Marsh Wren
- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin
- House Finch
- American Goldfinch
- Dark-eyed Junco
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

Shaun Missig

11 Species



Shaun visited CLNP **TWO** times!

I visited the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve 2 times in October, and I think I picked the 2 worst days! I was there on 10/26 and 10/27 at roughly 11am-2pm each day. These weren't the worst based on wildlife, but rather the weather conditions I was subjected to.

Monday (10/26) I was supposed to have a break from the rain during my visit, but shortly after I arrived, it began raining again and didn't let up for about an hour. At this point, I was thankful I have coverage on my camera and my lens, so just in case something got wet, I was covered! There was a period of heavier rain where I took cover under a tree, but I was able to venture out after about 30 minutes of hiding. Despite the less than favorable conditions, the wildlife was very active. I was in disbelief of all the birds that were flying back and forth, tree to tree. All the calls, and all the answers from what seemed like 10,000 birds. Even the woodland critters were getting into the excitement. At this point I was glad I stuck it out. My journey had begun on the Perimeter Trail where I really didn't see much other than **seagulls** floating in the wind. As I made my way to one of the shorter loop trails, I spotted a 6 point buck down the path from me. I was able to snap a few shots before he walked away.

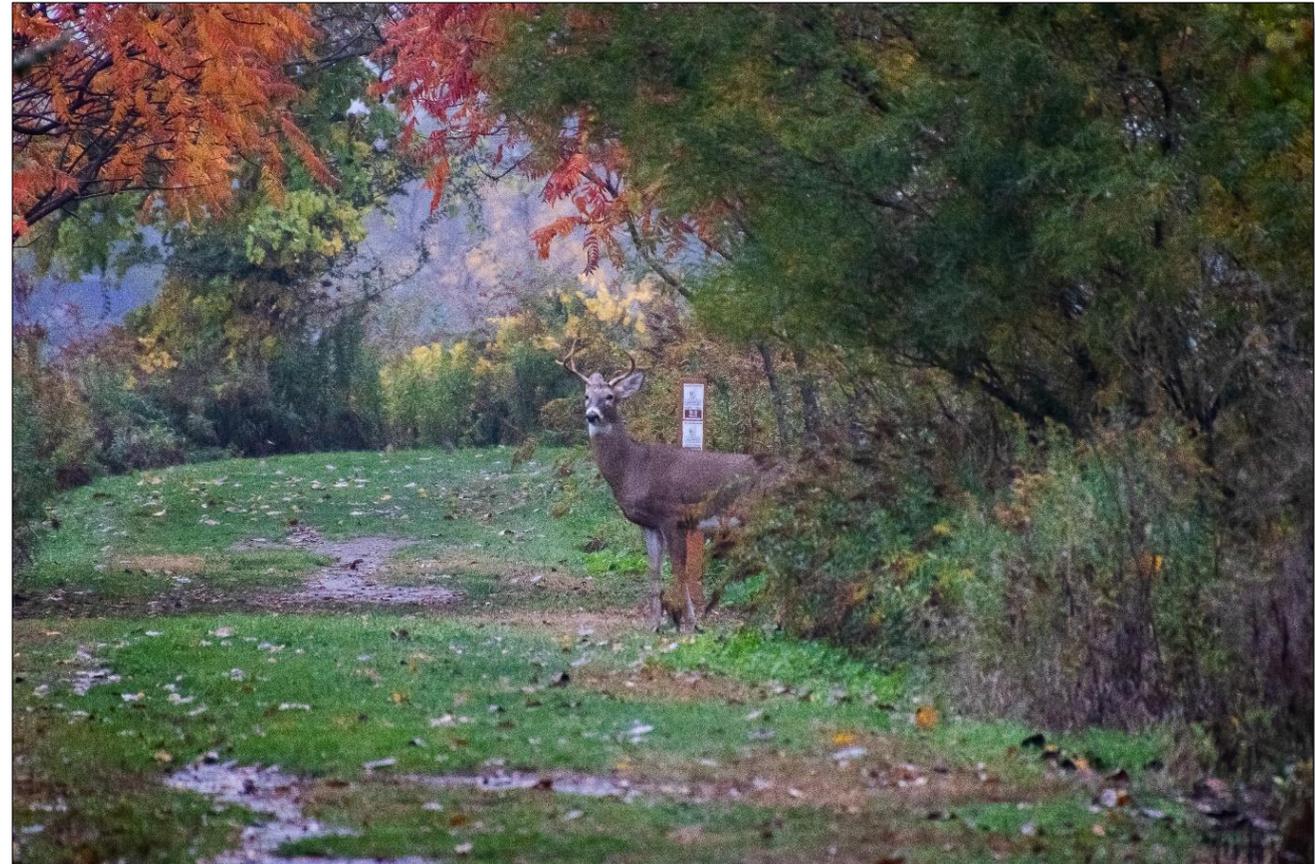


Photo: Six-point Buck at CLNP by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



I walked towards where he had entered the woods and saw several does near the path and I was able to get a few shots of them as well. They definitely acted more like “city deer” than others you see in the wild. They stared at me, but really didn’t care that I was there.

As I continued, I made my way towards the Monarch Trail. On this trail I spotted many **sparrows** and **kinglets**. These were the birds that were acting so crazy from the rain, and I was in awe at just how many there were. This is also the first time I have ever seen a kinglet, so I was excited to be able to snap some shots of them. They were very difficult to photograph as they jumped from branch to branch, reed to reed, and anything nearby. Many of the sparrows I saw were in full on winter mode. They were large and their bodies looked like they were going to eat their head. I’m not sure how they were flying, but they buzzed around like it was nothing. At the end of the Monarch Trail I was put back on the Perimeter Trail and found my way to the overlook. There was a nice view of downtown Cleveland, and more seagulls. Next I went to the Northern Harrier Trail and found more sparrows and kinglets. There wasn’t much else for me that day as the rain continued and I think the animals had enough of it. So I set my sights on the next day.



Photo: Doe at CLNP by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photo: Golden-crowned Kinglet by Shaun Missig



Photo: Song Sparrow by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



LIFER!



Photo: Saw-whet Owl by Shaun Missig

I arrived **Tuesday (10/27)** after 11am and I was there at just the right time. As I walked up next to the ranger station, there were a few people looking up into one of the pine trees. They had spotted an owl high up, and were trying to find the proper angle to get the shot. This owl was sitting within many branches and there were only 2 lines of sight to get the shot. I had first thought this could've been a screech owl based on its size and the fact that I couldn't see any color or detail to determine otherwise. I found out that it was actually a **Saw-whet Owl!** This was the first time I had seen one, or even heard of one for that matter. I was lucky enough to get a few shots and I was on my way.

Shaun Missig (cont.)



I was hoping this was a good omen to the day, and it turned out that it was. The rain was not there, but it was colder than it had been and there was a little wind to contend with as well. As I entered, I didn't hear all of the calls I had heard the day before. I also started to the right on the Perimeter Trail, rather than the left. I did see a large bird (likely a hawk) but it flew away as soon as it saw me and I missed that shot. A **Blue Jay** then flew in and perched on a tree in the distance almost as if it were watching that large bird. I continued on the path and made it to the lake very quickly. There were seagulls again, but now there were a few **Double-crested Cormorants** flying and fishing as well.



Photo: Blue Jay by Shaun Missig



Photo: Double-crested Cormorant by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Down the path further I started to hear what sounded like chirping from a cardinal. I walked towards the sound and quickly discovered a chipmunk perched on a log at the perfect spot to amplify its chirping. He didn't seem to want his picture taken but I had snapped a few shots before he ran off in embarrassment. As with the previous day, the Monarch and Northern Harrier trails provided the most wildlife. I finally started to see **sparrows** and **kinglets** again, along with a juvenile **Robin**, and a very photogenic **Red-bellied Woodpecker**. The woodpecker was flying from tree to tree and would stop every now and again to eat some of the dark colored berries that were still left on some of the trees. As I made my way around the remaining trails, there wasn't much happening and I decided to leave. On my way out I did see a **wren** off the path, but it escaped me and my camera.



Photos: Juvenile American Robin (top), Chipmunk (middle), and Red-bellied Woodpecker (bottom) by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Before this trip, I didn't even know this area existed. I was happy to learn of this location and I will be making many trips here in the future. I enjoyed my visits and all the wildlife I found, despite the weather not being favorable.



Photos: Red-bellied Woodpecker at CLNP by Shaun Missig

- Blue Jay
- White-tailed Deer (Buck and Does)
- Chipmunk
- Double-crested Cormorant
-  Golden-crowned Kinglet
- American Robin
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
-  Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Song Sparrow
- Seagull
- Wren

Nancy Howell

79 Species



Nancy visited CLNP **SEVEN** times!

The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP), formerly known as Dike 14, has an interesting history. The property is owned and managed by the Cleveland Port Authority, but surrounded by the Cleveland Lakefront Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. It is important to know that Western Cuyahoga Audubon was part of a team that created an educational component to the CLNP. A field guide, now in its second or third printing, discusses the history and formation of the property as well as the plants and wildlife found there.

The property is being managed by The Port with assistance from the Cleveland Metroparks. Invasive and non-native species are in the process of being removed, a process which will take many years.

The 88 acres is rich in bird life and it was a wonderful place for the October Virtual Field Trip as migrant songbirds utilize the area heavily - thrushes, vireos, warblers, kinglets, sparrows, and more can be found. Michelle Brosius' choice for the virtual field trip AND another rare bird, the **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. Okay Michelle, what rarity will be next month?

I was able to visit CLNP 7 times during October. Each visit held wonderful sightings as well as adding to the warblers for the Fall Warbler Challenge. All visits to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve are listed on eBird. The 79 species tallied during the 7 visits is great.



Photo: Perimeter Trail at CLNP by Michelle Brosius

Nancy Howell (cont.)



October 5, 2020 - 58 species. With wooded areas, fields and Lake Erie, the species ran the gamut of waterfowl to warblers to sparrows and more. **Canada Geese, Mallard, Ring-billed Gull,** and **Double-crested Cormorant** made up the species that were on the lake. With varied habitat one also can get a variety of raptors and this day provided **Bald Eagle** and **Cooper's Hawk**. Migrant time - **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were sighted, the first of the fall for me. Lots of **Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flickers** were moving through the area and it seems CLNP is an area they like. **Red-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireo** along with **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were among the migrants. Here's more - **Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Marsh Wren** and **Swainson's Thrush**. Sparrows enjoy the property as well and today was a day for **Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Savannah, Song, Lincoln's,** and **Swamp Sparrows,** along with **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Eastern Towhee**. Thirteen warblers species were found - **Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Yellow, Palm, Black-throated Green** and **Wilson's Warblers** along with **Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart** and **Northern Parula**.



Photo: Eastern Towhee at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Photo: Yellow-rumped Warbler at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Oct. 8, 2020 - 48 species. Once again waterfowl, gulls, and cormorant made the list due to Lake Erie's proximity. The number of migrant **Northern Flickers** was still high. Both **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were also in good numbers with Ruby-crowns nearly twice the number of Golden's. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were tootling their "tin horn" calls in good numbers as well. **Wrens** included the resident **Carolina, House** and the diminutive **Winter Wren**. One resident **Northern Mockingbird** made an appearance, always fun. A newer migrant, **Hermit Thrush**, seemed to take the place of Swainson's Thrush this day. **Pine Siskins** were heard overhead, but did not settle into any of the vegetation. Sparrow species were similar to sightings a few days ago. It was nice to see **Rusty Blackbirds** splashing in a pool of water. The variety of warblers was lower than 3 days ago. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were present in large numbers and I probably undercounted them.

Oct. 11, 2020 - 51 species. Lake Erie waterbirds were about the same as previous reports, but a **Great Black-backed Gull** was sighted on the breakwall. An **Osprey** as well as **Bald Eagle** skirted the shoreline. Again, **Northern Flickers** in good numbers. Nice to have **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireos** sighted. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were twice as numerous as **Golden-crowns**. **Brown Creeper, Winter Wren** a few **Gray Catbirds**, both **Swainson's** and **Hermit Thrush** as well as **Pine Siskins** were noted. Once again a good variety of sparrow species, this time with more **White-crowned** than **White-throated Sparrows**. Both were in double digit numbers. A bit of an uptick in warblers with **Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Palm, Yellow-rumped** and **Black-throated Green** as well as **Common Yellowthroat** being sighted. Yellow-rumps were everywhere!

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Oct. 18, 2020 - 30 species. As you may note the number of species was down from the previous week. Weather was not as good and birds may have been a bit more reluctant to be seen. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a good sighting and only one **Northern Flicker** today! **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were low in number (no Golden-crowns today). **Winter Wren** and **Hermit Thrush** numbers were up and I was surprised to see a couple of **Gray Catbirds**. This day the **White-throated Sparrows** outdid the **White-crowned Sparrows** in numbers by nearly 2:1. Warbler species are dropping as we are nearing the end of the main warbler migration. **Nashville**, **Yellow-rumped** (still in good numbers) and **Common Yellowthroat** were all that were found.

Oct. 21, 2020 - 37 species. Despite the wind, overcast skies, and heavy drizzle part of the day, the birds were still out and about. Nice to see a **Bald Eagle** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Still had a couple of **Eastern Phoebes**, a **Blue-headed Vireo**, more **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** than **Golden-crowns**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Marsh Wren**, and **Hermit Thrush**. The number of **White-crowned** and **White-throated Sparrows** were almost neck and neck. A good find was a **Vesper Sparrow** among many **Song Sparrows**. Wait, what? A bit of an increase in warblers it's getting late guys. Sighted were **Orange-crowned**, **Nashville**, **Palm**, lots of **Yellow-rumps**, **Black-throated Green** and **Wilson's**. Had to add information on eBird on the **Wilson's** due to it being a rarity at this time of the year. It was unmistakable.



Photo: White-throated Sparrow at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Photo: Winter Wren at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Oct. 25, 2020 - 45 species. Late October, overcast, cool day yet the birding was good. Sparrows making a great appearance along with other good finds. Waterfowl, gulls, cormorants - yup, Lake Erie produced nice things including a **Great Black-backed Gull** on the water and 150 **Double-crested Cormorants** flying over. Don't see **Belted Kingfisher** often, but one was hunting in a cove where there were fewer waves. Two raptors today - **Bald Eagle** and **Cooper's Hawk**. Still finding **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and many **Winter Wrens**. At first I thought the same wren was following me and popping out along the trail again and again. Still located a **Gray Catbird** and several **Hermit Thrush**. More **American Goldfinch** today than other days visiting. Sparrows were numerous (I know I undercounted the number of Junco, White-throat's, White-crown's and Song's.) **Chipping**, **Field**, **Fox**, **White-crowned** topped **White-throated**, **Song**, **Lincoln's**, **Swamp** as well as lots of **Dark-eyed Junco** and a few **Eastern Towhee**. Didn't anticipate a lot of warbler variety - surprise! While only 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen, so was a **Tennessee** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler**. The last 2 are rare at this time of year at the CLNP so eBird needed verification which was provided.

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Oct. 30, 2020 - 30 species. I hadn't planned on heading out to CLNP but with the reports that the Northern Saw-whet Owl was there, I had to see it and while at the Nature Preserve, take a walk. It was a raw weather afternoon with heavy, overcast skies, sprinkles and sleet, and wind. Dressing appropriately is the key. One of the first birds sighted were the **Wild Turkeys** actually on an adjacent property, but still counted on my eBird sighting. Lots of **Dark-eyed Juncos** and a mix of other sparrows, were in the short grass along the drive and parking area. Sparrows included **Song, Chipping, White-throated** and **White-crowned**. Yes, in high in one of the pines along the wood chip path perched the **Northern Saw-whet Owl** seemingly unconcerned about the people walking beneath it or the wind. Yay! Being out in the afternoon with the weather conditions I was pleased to find many of the "regulars". Lots of **Ring-billed Gulls** along with a few **Herring Gulls** and **Double-crested Cormorants** plied Lake Erie's choppy water. An adult **Bald Eagle** flew over early in my walk and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was sighted later. I don't think in all of my other visits that I had **Great Blue Heron** until today. An equal number of **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were tallied, but only singles of **Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Pine Siskin**. Sparrows in the Preserve included **Field Sparrow**, a few more **Juncos**, more **White-crowned** than **White-throated Sparrows**, and even **Song Sparrows** outnumbered White-throats. Just a few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen.



Photo: Northern Saw-whet Owl at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Nancy Howell (cont.)



- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Wild Turkey
- Mourning Dove
- Chimney Swift
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Cooper's Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Eastern Phoebe
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Carolina Wren
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Swainson's Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- European Starling
- Cedar Waxwing
- House Sparrow
- House Finch
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- Chipping Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Song Sparrow

Nancy Howell (cont.)



- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- Eastern Towhee
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- American Redstart
- Northern Parula
- Magnolia Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Photo: Nashville Warbler at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn



Tom visited CLNP **FOUR** times! October 5, 8, 13, & 27.

October 5. In the woods a **Common Yellowthroat** (warbler) paused long enough for a focused shot. **Hermit Thrushes** are migrating too.



Photo: Common Yellowthroat at CLNP by Tom Fishburn



Photo: Hermit Thrush at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



What joy! A flurry of **flickers** were flying back and forth. The only **Red-eyed Vireo** I saw this day. The eye would be red in the right light on an adult. This could be a young'n.



Photo: Northern Flicker at CLNP by Tom Fishburn



Photo: Red-eyed Vireo at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



October 8. When I arrived on October 8th I heard the chatter as soon as I got out of my car. I quickly grabbed my camera and saw this one high up in the pine. I WANTED to see this bird. High up in the pine - **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - there were several scurrying about near the CLNP parking lot.



Photos: Red-breasted Nuthatch at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



The only **Field Sparrow** I saw on October 8th at the CLNP Dike 14. And a **Pine Siskin** on the fence.



Photos: Field Sparrow at CLNP by Tom Fishburn



Photos: Pine Siskin at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



A **Palm Warbler** gets settled. Only because it constantly pumped its tail I was able to identify this Palm Warbler myself.



Photos: Palm Warbler at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



I was fascinated by the lighter shades on this **Dark-eyed Junco**. I ended up taking 60 shots of this intriguing Junco.



Photos: Dark-eyed Junco at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



October 13. A backlit photo of a **White-crowned Sparrow** down the wet trail at CLNP aka Dike 14. Likely the resident **Cooper's Hawk** that has been around hunting at the CLNP.



Photo: White-crowned Sparrow by Tom Fishburn

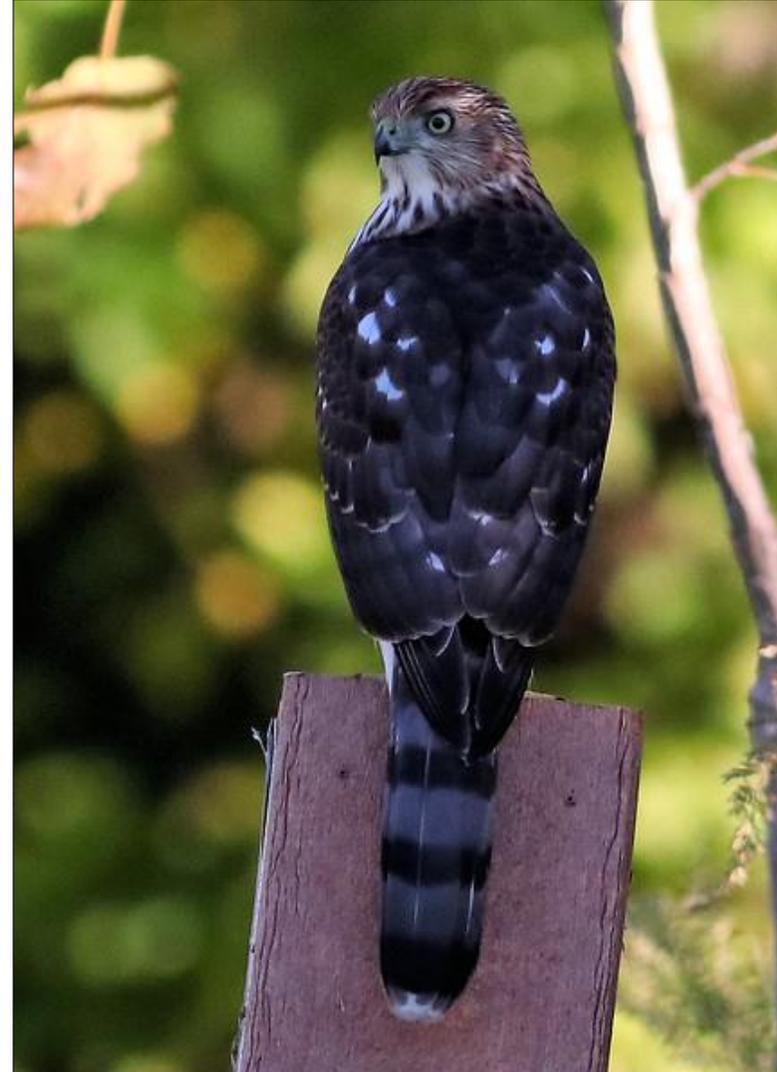


Photo: Cooper's Hawk by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



October 27. Amazing how Deb Sweeney spotted this **Northern Saw-whet Owl** 30 feet or more up in the pine. Jen Brumfield identified this **Red-necked Phalarope** out aways in Lake Erie off the north-east corner of Dike 14.



Photo: Northern Saw-whet Owl by Tom Fishburn



Photo: Red-necked Phalarope by Tom Fishburn

Thank you!



Photo: Chipping Sparrow at CLNP by Tom Fishburn

Mary Ann & John Henderson
Al Rand
Shaun Missig
Nancy Howell
Tom Fishburn

&

**Port of Cleveland for Cleveland Lakefront
Nature Preserve!**

The CLNP is located directly behind the
Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront Office at
8701 Lakeshore Blvd. NE, Cleveland, OH
44108.

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