



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Towpath Trail Tremont Bird Walk Report

Date & Time: Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: The Towpath Trail (Tremont), Cleveland, OH 44113 [Map](#)

Leader: Nancy Howell

Results: 28 Species, 10 Birders

Description: The monthly Tremont Bird Walks along the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon and Tremont West Development Corp. took place on Saturday, August 28, 2021. Throughout the week a heat and humidity wave hit the Cleveland area and Saturday was no exception. However, ten eager birders attended the morning's walk. Everyone was hydrated and most everyone carried water with them. With the heat the birding was anticipated as being on the slow side, but that was not true! Thank goodness for the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie for providing the water that we, and wildlife, need and appreciate.

Twenty-eight species were sighted on the walk. This time everyone in the group wanted to make a circular route rather than turning around at the fire station as had been done in the past. Everyone who chose to take the loop route was reminded to stay hydrated and let someone know if they were not feeling well, which is very important when leading a group.

As we gathered at the parking lot, the usual urban species, Rock Pigeon and European Starling were noted, and a couple of flocks of Double-crested Cormorant flew by, all heading northward, no doubt to the lake. The field and brushy areas heading down toward the towpath held House Finch, American Goldfinch, Gray Catbird, and a Great Blue Heron and Turkey Vulture flew overhead. Everyone got good views of the House Finch as they fed on seeds and the catbird was

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cooperative by perching on top of sumac bushes. We also spent time looking at several species of butterfly and noting the plants that were in bloom thus providing nectar and pollen for insects.

Reaching the river, and watching a freighter make a turn, we began to see more aquatic birds, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, Mallards, our friend “Lester” the Lesser Scaup, and Spotted Sandpiper. One of the participants saw a Green Heron on a log and we all got good looks. Continuing on the towpath along the river we added Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Northern Flicker, and then a Caspian Tern flew by. Nice! Two more Turkey Vultures were seen perched on an abandoned building. People commented on their size and everyone mentioned how much they liked Turkey Vultures. Awwwww.

At the fire station, the group took a little break and scanned the river. Mostly Ring-billed Gulls. All participants said they were feeling good and agreed to walk the loop which would take us a little farther from the river, past buildings and overgrown lots. Love the overgrown areas with vines, shrubs, and “weeds” as these can be good birding areas. As we began we spotted a Red-tailed Hawk. Barn Swallows perched on power lines near buildings and a small flock of House Sparrows dashed by. More shrubby areas got us House Wren, American Robin, and a second mockingbird. On the return trail a participant saw a Song Sparrow, and we added a Red-winged Blackbird. As we neared the towpath Canada Geese could be heard ... then seen. All along the trail additional goldfinch, gulls, starlings, and catbirds were seen, not to mention the late summer wildflowers and the number of Monarch butterflies.

Not bad for a hot, humid summer day. The following is the list of species and number of each species.

Bird List

#	Species	Count
1.	Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	35
2.	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	21
3.	Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	1
4.	Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)	7
5.	Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	2

6.	Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	1
7.	Ring-billed Gull (<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)	23
8.	Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	15
9.	Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)	1
10.	Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	26
11.	Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	1
12.	Green Heron (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	1
13.	Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	3
14.	Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	1
15.	Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	1
16.	Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)	3
17.	Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	4
18.	House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>)	3
19.	European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	24
20.	Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	3
21.	Northern Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	2
22.	American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	1
23.	House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	10
24.	House Finch (<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>)	6
25.	American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	13
26.	Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)	1
27.	Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	1
28.	Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	1

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