

2012 Spring Fling in Central Ohio

by Chloe Degitz, OYBC Student Member



As I was standing outside, waiting for OYBC Advisor Gerry to pick me up in the morning at 7:30 a.m., I realized that it was extremely cold and it probably wasn't going to get any warmer -- how right I was. Despite the extreme cold, everyone had a blast as we traipsed all around Central Ohio!

First, we started at the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, Ohio State University's experimental wetlands, where we had fun with our guides Alex Champagne and Alex Hughes of the OSU Ornithology Club. They took us on a tour of the surrounding area and helped point out some of the 174 species that can be seen in the wetlands.

We got done a little early, so Alex C. said he could take us into the wetlands areas that are closed to the public. Although the boardwalks were slippery and covered in Canada Goose poo, everyone had fun posing for the cameras. Then, as we were leaving the wetlands, some of us spotted what we thought was a Sora...pretty cool, considering these birds are difficult to see.

After (sadly) leaving the wetlands, we went a short distance to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center where we ate lunch and listened to Tom Bain -- a birder, naturalist & conservationist. Tom was kind enough to spend some time teaching us about warbler identification. He taught us about some cool warblers and their sounds. Here's one: "If I sees you, I will seize you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt." What warbler is that? That warbler is a Warbling Vireo.



The brief reprieve from the cold was over and it was back outside to Blendon Woods Metro Park to have a tour with Bruce Simpson, the park naturalist. He took us to some of the places where he had seen interesting birds. Then, we went to a nearby lake where we saw some Wood Ducks, a Green Heron, Mallards, Wild Turkeys, and many others.

After the wonderful tour with Bruce, we headed over to the Hoover Reservoir Park Boardwalk to check out an awesome Osprey nesting platform. With Columbus Audubon President Bill Heck as our guide, we also saw many other birds, like a Forster's Tern, Common Tern, American Coot and a Common Loon (spotted by Trevor). Then we headed to a path near the boardwalk where we saw a Palm Warbler.

It was a wonderful, fun-filled, chilly day and I want to say a big thank you to all the guides, mentors and the OYBC members who drove all the way from Michigan. I enjoyed identifying birds, hanging out with friends, meeting new bird lovers and the best end to a great birding trip.....ice cream!



THE DAY'S BIRD LIST

compiled by Aaron Tayal, OYBC student member and John Sawvel, OYBC Advisor

OSU WETLANDS

Canada Goose
Caspian Tern
Eastern Phoebe
Black-and-white Warbler
Yellow Throated Warbler
Mallard
Wood Duck
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Sora
Turkey Vulture
Barn Swallow
Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Mourning Dove
Tree Swallow
American Crow
American Goldfinch
American Robin
Blue Jay
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Brown-headed Cowbird
Carolina Chickadee
Chipping Sparrow
Common Grackle
European Starling
Gray Catbird
House Finch
House Sparrow
House Wren
Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker
Palm Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Song Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse
Warbling Vireo
White-breasted Nuthatch
White-throated Sparrow
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

HOOVER RESERVOIR PARK

Common Loon
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture
Warbling Vireo
Eastern Bluebird
Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Osprey
American Coot
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull

Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin
European Starling
Palm Warbler
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

BLENDON WOODS METRO PARK

Pied-billed Grebe
Green Heron
Cooper's Hawk
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Carolina Wren
Downy Woodpecker
American Crow
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Red-tailed Hawk
Wild Turkey
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow