



Bird Count April 24, 2017

We began birding at 8:00a.m. The weather was gorgeous, dry, and calm. The temperature was 53 degrees by 10:00. Must have been in the mid 40's as we began. We birded and counted until 11:00, which was consistent with our previous fall count. The following birds (34 species in all) were heard and observed in that 3 hour period of time:

- 15 Canadian geese, with one gosling fatality noted in the Cottonwood grove on the back river frontage, at the base of the tree with the large nest (sorry to report)
- 8 Turkey vultures
- 2 Steller's jays
- 18 Black-billed magpies
- 7 American crows
- 5 European starlings
- 2 Eurasian collared dove
- 23 Red-winged blackbirds
- 2 Brewer's sparrows
- 27 Mallard ducks
- 3 Common mergansers
- 18 Tree swallows
- 4 Song sparrows
- 2 Violet-green swallows
- 3 Northern flickers
- 17 American Goldfinches
- 2 Ospreys
- 2 Double-crested cormorants
- 1 Lincoln's sparrow
- 5 American coots
- 2 Cinnamon teal ducks
- 8 American robins
- 1 White-breasted nuthatch
- 1 Black-capped chickadee
- 1 Killdeer
- 1 Broad-tailed hummingbird
- 1 Myrtle warbler
- 1 Red-tailed hawk
- 2 House wrens
- 2 Northern rough-winged swallows
- 2 Great blue herons
- 1 American kestrel
- 5 Brewer's blackbirds

In addition to the incredible bird sights and sounds, we observed a young deer up front/center of the main gate, and several snake tracks on the northern side of the property, on a dirt trail near the pond and a Swallowtail butterfly that Susan remarked on. One interesting note, is upon looking up the birds for proper spellings, the web uses lower case lettering for the 2nd part of the name (except there is a capital G in Goldfinch). In other words, they only capitalize the first part of the name. I get the feeling it's like writing recipes and is subject to change. Let me know if you have further knowledge on this (to be most proper and correct), and also if you have a preference.

Thanks again Ed and Patti, we had a wonderful outing! The Cuntz family would love to attend the 100th anniversary celebration...Wouldn't miss it!! Wow, since 1917 ~ AWESOME!!

Best wishes and happy everything till the next time (:
Dave will follow up with some photos to come.
Prepared by Jennifer Cuntz - 4/24/17