

Bird Walk at Two Sites in Lynnwood

December 2, 2023

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I planned this outing with the previous year's December outing in mind; last year I had to cancel due to snow. Based on the site's location near public facilities and major streets without hills, I expected that the first site for today's outing would be reachable, even after a snowfall: the Lynnwood Golf Course Trail. As it happened, there was no snow this year; even better, the rain stopped before we began walking, and during the course of our walk the clouds parted to let through some sunlight.

The trail runs in a loop around the golf course, and we proceeded counterclockwise. From the start, one opportunity for finding birds lay in the trail itself. We frequently saw Dark-eyed Juncos foraging there, along with an occasional Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, or Spotted Towhee. In the skies overhead, Glaucous-winged Gulls and American Crows passed by. In the trees and bushes we saw Kinglets, both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned, along with Chickadees, both Chestnut-backed and Black-capped. On two occasions, the smaller birds flocked together in a mixed group.

As we continued, additional opportunities for sighting arose. Atop light-poles in the Edmonds College athletic field to the north, many Rock Pigeons were resting. Beside a pond in the golf course, American Wigeons foraged in the grass. In a further pond, we spied several Hooded Mergansers and a single Ring-necked Duck. From time to time we heard a Northern Flicker call, but it was only near the end of the walk that the bird came into view, when it was briefly joined by a second Northern Flicker.

With no snow on the streets, there was no impediment to visiting a second, local site: South Lynnwood Park. To start with, we walked past the recently improved play facilities, in order to reach the stream on the eastern side. We followed it to the northern edge of the park, then back southward to the Interurban Trail. That trail took us past Hall Lake, to where another stream flowed, its waters joining the lake. We saw again many of the woodland birds mentioned above, but also a number of Golden-crowned Sparrows and a White-crowned Sparrow. At one point, a Double-crested Cormorant flew above us, and through the gaps between houses we were able to spot a Bufflehead and a Pied-billed Grebe in the lake.

We finished at noon, having recorded observations of 31 species in eBird. Several of us then reconvened at Patty's Eggiest for lunch.