

Bird Walks at Ronald Bog Park and Hamlin Park

May 6, 2023

By Douglas Resnick

Our group of seven met in the parking lot of Ronald Bog Park. The showers that were falling seemed to have encouraged the presence of some wildlife. Before we started walking, we were able to observe numerous Canada Geese and goslings on the lawn beside the lot, along with a couple of Mallards and an American Crow. It took us a while to realize that there was another goose present, this one sitting still atop the park's moss-covered kiosk, perhaps upon a nest.

Our route around the park had a sort of "U" shape. We began in the northeast section of the park, site of the Pacific Northwest Conifer Arboretum, described in detail on the kiosk. We then proceeded westward, stopping at the shelter beside the park's pond, where we listened to the singing of a Wilson's Warbler. As we resumed walking, we saw a pair of geese land in a large tree, apparently nesting there, and we heard a Killdeer call out. After we rounded the corner of 175th and Meridian, we caught sight, between its dives into the pond, of a Pied-billed Grebe. After turning the next corner, we came upon a pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds engaged in apparent courtship while perched on a parked car's side-view mirror. When we reached the pond's southern viewpoint on 172nd, we could see that the geese in the tree had taken over a nest that had earlier in the season been used by a pair of eagles. We reversed our "U," pausing along the northern arm twice, the better to appreciate a group of Yellow-rumped Warblers and a nearby sculpture, "The Ponies."

The second part of the walk was at Hamlin Park. There are lots of trails here. Our route began at the parking lot on 160th, aka Hamlin Park Road. We proceeded eastward along the nearby paved trail, then northward and onto the unpaved trail with primitive stairs that started at the Cascade Orienteering Club's sign. American Robins sang often as we worked our way to the northeast corner of the park at 165th and 22nd. We also heard frequent calls from a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. We soon changed course to the southwest in order to reach the park's main trail near its southern start; the Black-throated Gray Warbler's song accompanied us. A Common Raven called several times, as we proceeded onward and through a meadow, until we reached the northern end of the main trail at 168th and 16th. The route up to this point had been easy to follow, but the return trip to the parking lot through the western side of the park required careful consideration. During this part of the journey, we saw an Anna's Hummingbird and heard a Hutton's Vireo.

In sum, our observations, as reported in eBird, included 34 species. To cap off our morning, several of us adjourned to Snohomish Pie Co. in Mountlake Terrace for lunch.