

Bird Walk near Lynnwood Library

June 3, 2023

By Douglas Resnick

Our group met on a mild, sunny morning at Veterans Memorial Park, just south of the Lynnwood Library. We birded at the small park itself, allowing time for the last of the group to join us, then walked westward on the sidewalk along Veterans Way, continuing the eBird checklist. There is a fair amount of greenery between the houses here; so, we did see and hear a good number of birds, including Downy Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and the ubiquitous American Crow.

Our second site was Wilcox Park. The southern part of the park is a large lawn, bordered by a line of flagstaffs, on which flags were indeed flying on this rainless day. North of the lawn are two small hills, with the lawn continuing between them. We visited the southern part of each hill and the lawn before exiting the park via the historic Scriber Creek Bridge to the southwest. Along this route, we observed birds including Killdeer, Willow Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Cedar Valley Community School lies northwest of Wilcox Park. Some birds can usually be found around the school, but the big draws for birders are the pond and field just to the east. We walked a bit out of the way at first, to look for any bird that might be nesting on the cell tower to the west; we found nothing on top of the tower. Near the pond, we saw numerous Red-winged Blackbirds and European Starlings and several Barn Swallows. Looking eastward from the field, we were surprised to find a Green Heron flying to a tree next to the pond, then being chased away by a pair of the blackbirds. Looking still further east, we found an Osprey briefly circling, then landing on the cell tower.

We passed through the northern side of Wilcox Park on our way back to the library. We observed again some of the common birds, such as Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Spotted Towhee.

After a brief visit to the library, we resumed our birding along the Mesika Trail, just to the west. We walked the main trail plus the various spurs that connect the trail to the street west of the library. Surprisingly, of all the checklists for all the sites we visited this morning, this was the longest. In addition to observing the common birds, we heard a Mallard, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and an Orange-crowned Warbler, and we had a good view of a Northern Flicker (Red-shafted).

In sum, our observations, as reported in eBird, included 33 species. To cap off our morning, several of us adjourned to Zeeks Pizza in Lynnwood for lunch.