

Bird Walks in Kenmore and Kirkland

July 1, 2023

By Douglas Resnick

Our group of birders visited two sites on this day: Saint Edward State Park and Juanita Bay Park.

Saint Edward State Park is a large, multi-use park. It includes a cluster of buildings, known as "The Lodge"; a fancy playground; several parking lots; and numerous nature trails. There are grassy fields near the parking lot closest to the playground, which is where our walk began, but for the most part, the trails we followed led us among trees and bushes. Of the many trails available, we walked along the ones east and northeast of The Lodge.

As might be expected in a woody area, many of our observations were by ear, rather than by eye. We heard 3 woodpeckers: Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, and Pileated Woodpecker. Among the smaller birds, we heard Brown Creeper, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. Perhaps the most frequent calls and songs were delivered by Swainson's Thrushes; only once did one of us spy one of these birds. We had less trouble viewing some of the more common birds: Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee.

We met at 8:00 AM at the first site, when the weather was cool. We remained cool, even as the day advanced, while we walked in the shade of trees. Having spent about two and a half hours there, we then drove to Juanita Bay Park, a site more open to the sun and accordingly warmer in the late morning.

At this site, we mostly followed the asphalt paths, which provide convenient access to the West Boardwalk and the East Boardwalk. The boardwalks provide views of wetlands along their length and of Juanita Bay at their far ends. Our most startling view came near the start of this walk: an Osprey with a fish was chased by a Bald Eagle, which was then joined by a second eagle; perforce, the Osprey dropped the fish. A more subdued encounter awaited us on the West Boardwalk, from which we heard the call of a Virginia Rail. We continued studying the scene until we were able to spot a juvenile scurrying between the reeds. On the bay, we sighted Wood Ducks, Mallards, many Canada Geese, and one American Coot.

Our outing ended at 12:54 PM. Our combined eBird checklists included 34 species.