

TEEN BIRDATHON

Anne Robertson with input from Hazel Taylor Quick, Abel Corbett and Beckett Robertson.

May 13-14 was the Teen Birdathon weekend. Although this did not attract many members we had a good time and recorded 78 species between us.

The weekend was rain free and mostly insect free. Three Teens met at Marshlands with Janis Grant who helped us spot about 40 species there and in Cataraqui Bay and Lemoine Point. Included in this list of many common species we noted a House Wren and Grey Catbird then Long-tailed Ducks and at Lemoine Point Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark as well as Orchard Oriole, Tree and Barn Swallows and two Turkey Vultures swooping low over the field. We then drove to the Robertson cottage with just two participants and had an evening walk to add Woodcock and eventually Whip Poor Will to our list. After a short night sleep we met Erwin Batalla and Alexandra Simmons at 6:00am at the gravel pit in the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. We birded the Bedford Road for some special sightings adding nesting Wood Duck, Northern Waterthrush, Loon, Scarlet Tanager a variety of Vireos and Sparrows. Next was a big breakfast at the cottage before meeting Gaye Beckwith for a walk around the pond near his house in Sydenham. Here the highlights were Gallinule, Tennessee Warbler, Green Heron and Bluebird. Lastly we met Kathy Webb who helped us solidify identification of several warblers amongst other things along the Opinicon Road to QUBS. Here we had lunch (spoiled by staff with extra cookies), filled in our checklists and then set off back to Kingston adding our last species at the causeway.

Throughout we saw many other species including 7 mammals and 4 reptiles.

A tired and happy bunch arrived home about 3:00pm. We learned so much from our mentors particularly many bird songs and sounds emphasising the importance of birding by ear. We wish to thank them all for their time spent with us.

Hazel (Friday only) says: It was so much fun! I learned so much and the guest (Janis Grant) that showed us birds was so knowledgeable. I've taught my parents about a lot of the things that I learned! Thank you for this opportunity.

Abel says: I enjoyed the Birdathon. I remember seeing three kinds of birds: a heron, a Yellow Warbler and a turkey. Our guides on the trip helped us identify birds and bird songs.

Beckett says: