

Search for Unusual Sparrows

October 22, 2016

By Roberta Newton

On a cool and breezy Saturday morning, October 22, 2016, nine birders left Lake Brandt Marina to hunt for sparrows. The trek lead by Scott DePue included Amy Hanson, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Roberta Newton, Kimberly O'Neill (a new birder), Lou Skrabec, Matt Wangerin, and Ann Van Sant. The most notable sparrow was the Vesper Sparrow who posed in the open for photos on Strader Road. Other sparrow species included: Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow. A couple of Dark-eyed Juncos and Eastern Towhees were also logged. A trip back to Lake Brandt Marina captured Bonaparte Gulls and a Forster's Tern. The number of species located at Price Park and Highwoods/Retention Pond areas reflect midday and breezy conditions. Overall we were pleased to identify 57 species.



Vesper Sparrow
Photo Credit: Ann Van Sant

	Species	Lake Brandt Marina	Bronco Lane	Strader Road	Price Park/Highwoods
1	Canada Goose		x		
2	Ruddy Duck	x			
3	Pied-billed Grebe	x			
4	Double-crested Cormorant	x			
5	Great Blue Heron	x		x	x
6	Great Egret	x			
7	Black Vulture	x	x	x	
8	Turkey Vulture		x	x	x
9	Sharp-shinned Hawk		x		
10	Red-shoulder Hawk		x		
11	Red-tail Hawk			x	x
12	Killdeer		x		
13	Bonaparte's Gull	x			
14	Forster's Tern	x			
15	Rock Pigeon		x		
16	Mourning Dove		x		
17	Red-bellied Woodpecker		x	x	
18	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			x	
19	Downey Woodpecker		x	x	
20	Northern Flicker		x		
21	Eastern Phoebe		x	x	x
22	Blue Jay		x	x	x
23	American Crow	x	x	x	x

24	Common Raven			x	
25	Tree Swallow	x	x		
26	Carolina Chickadee		x	x	x
27	Tufted Titmouse		x	x	
28	White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x		x
29	Brown-headed Nuthatch		x	x	
30	Carolina Wren		x		x
31	Golden-crowned Kinglet		x	x	
32	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x	
33	Eastern Bluebird	x	x	x	x
34	Hermit Thrush				x
35	American Robin		x		
36	Gray Catbird		x		
37	Brown Thrasher		x		x
38	Northern Mockingbird		x	x	x
39	European Starling	x			
40	American Pipit		x		
41	Palm Warbler (western)		x		
42	Cape May Warbler		x		
43	Yellow-rumped Warbler		x		x
44	Chipping Sparrow		x	x	x
45	Field Sparrow		x		
46	Dark-eyed Junco		x		
47	White-throated Sparrow		x		x
48	Vesper Sparrow			x	
49	Song Sparrow		x	x	
50	Swamp Sparrow			x	x
51	Eastern Towhee		x		
52	Northern Cardinal	x	x	x	x
53	Red-winged Blackbird		x		
54	Eastern Meadowlark		x	x	
55	Common Grackle		x		
56	Brown-headed Cowbird		x		
57	House Finch		x		