

# Birding by Sound

## Hamilton Lakes Park and Bog Garden

### May 8, 2016

*By Julien McCarthy*

At 49 species, Jane and Craig Lawrence's trip to Hamilton Lakes Park and the Bog Garden was wonderfully revealing. There were 22 people on this excursion – a reflection of the popularity of this area for birding and the careful, thorough leadership we have come to enjoy from these two folks.



*Chestnut-sided Warbler*  
*Photo Credit: tringa.org*

As we strolled along the trail in Hamilton Lakes Park, warblers were singing all through the lush canopy. Some of us struggled with the difference between the Black-throated Blue Warbler and the Northern Parula Warbler, but Jane set us straight on that. We saw a Magnolia Warbler, a really nice treat, and soon thereafter, up popped a Chestnut-sided Warbler putting on a show: WOW!

As we learned to sort out the various warbler songs (there were many different ones singing), the expected indigenous birds were there as well. There were several novice birders in the group who benefitted highly with everything from how to adjust binoculars to how to identify life birds. Such nurturing really is one reason why we gather. We assemble to share each other's strengths and to have the joy of seeing/hearing our wild fowl together.

At the end of this part of the trip, we were treated to the incredible nesting Mississippi Kites. They were easily seen soaring around, and we could also watch the nest. As well, we found a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest and had a ball observing the Yellow-crowned Heron's nest right in the middle of the neighborhood. The residents are all very proud that these birds are nesting there.

On to the Bog Garden. There we got great looks at a Yellow Warbler while being surrounded by those precious Mallard ducklings all piled up together napping and posing for pictures. All at once somebody sighted two birds together on a sandbar—there were the Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers side by side. What a great lesson in bird identification! Finally, the expected Hooded Warbler sang out for a while, bringing our trip to the perfect end.

Show up folks because these PBC trips are exceptionally rewarding, informative, and great fun.