

## Sit-a-Spell at Richardson-Taylor Preserve May 2, 2018

*Submitted by Julien McCarthy, Trip Leader*

Seven people showed up at the fabulous Richardson-Taylor Preserve to walk short distances between observation points, where we sat and snacked in portable chairs and let "nature do its thing" in front of us. Gee, did it ever work!

In every direction from the parking lot to the distant remnants of the beaver dam, birds were calling out and flying from tree to tree. Sometimes the melodious din made it difficult to sort out the songs. Of course, along with the birds we observed amphibians, mammals, flowers, insects, etc.

Scarlet Tanagers were abundant and squabbling for territory, while Blue-gray Gnatcatchers wheezed away in every direction. Stepping past columbine, running cedar and pink lady slippers, we eventually sat at the point where

we could scan the vast power line easement. There, Yellow-breasted Chats in numbers announced themselves to each other amidst the occasional Prairie Warblers' ascending trills. The good old Great Blue Herons flew transects along the length of the swamp, and overhead flew a Red-tailed Hawk, Black Vultures, and Turkey Vultures. That old Belted Kingfisher showed up too and perched close by an Eastern Kingbird high atop a grey dead snag.

With great effort, we finally jumped a wary female Wood Duck, which was fairly close to the Mallards. As we tromped along the trail, an occasional infant frog or toad would leap away from the edge, but not far enough to avoid a nice picture.

Sparrows were oddly sparse. We didn't even see a Swamp Sparrow, but the ever present Red-headed Woodpeckers put on a show for sure. Wow!

We logged 46 species between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., seeing approximately 12 species per hour. I think that's a thorough experience, and all of us really enjoyed it.



*Photo Credit: Jean Murdick*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Scarlet Tanager*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Red-headed Woodpecker*

Don't miss this "Hot Spot" for your birding recreation; it is one of our best.

Participants: Julien McCarthy, Jude Pate, Sandy Redden, Vicky Muller, Marsha Muller, Barbara Haralson, Jean Murdick



*Photo Credit: Jean Murdick*

### Bird List

Canada Goose  
Summer Tanager  
Ovenbird  
Chipping Sparrow  
Red-should. Hawk  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Scarlet Tanager  
Carolina Wren  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Common Yellowthroat  
Northern Cardinal  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Belted Kingfisher  
Blue Jay  
Eastern Wood-Pewee

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Tufted Titmouse  
Northern Parula  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Downy Woodpecker  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Tree Swallow  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Black-thr. Blue Warbler  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Prairie Warbler  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Wild Turkey  
Eastern Kingbird  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Turkey Vulture

Black Vulture  
Indigo Bunting  
Mourning Dove  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Orchard Oriole  
American Crow  
Pine Warbler  
White-thr. Sparrow  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Carolina Chickadee  
N.Rough-winged Swallow  
Eastern Phoebe  
Osprey



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Orchard Oriole*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Gray Catbird*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Eastern Kingbird*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Spotted Sandpiper*



*Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy, Ovenbird*