

Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club

August 2018



Northern Shrike by Nancy Halliday



Lark Sparrow at CSBBS by Fran Morel, 2018

What's Been Happening at Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary?

By Libby Hill

Monarchs fill the air and the aroma of lush milkweed greets volunteers and passers-by on the southwest corner of Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary (CSBBS). Bright yellow *Coreopsis Lanceolata* have been in bloom for a month, and flocks of American Goldfinches are now feasting on their seed.

This spring, Suzanne Checchia organized a group of 6 volunteers for daily early morning bird monitoring. eBird records indicate that since the beginning of 2018, 117 species of birds have visited the Sanctuary, including 20 species of warblers in April and May! Other noteworthy appearances included a leucistic American Robin that spent a couple of weeks in late April and a Lark Sparrow, seen several times between April 28 and May 4. Reports of the Lark Sparrow sparked a lot of interest and drew many area birders to CSBBS, including Al Stokie, who remarked, "I was surprised at how many birds were at such a small location." We plan to monitor again during fall migration. If you would like to volunteer for this, contact Suzanne at smchecchia@aol.com.

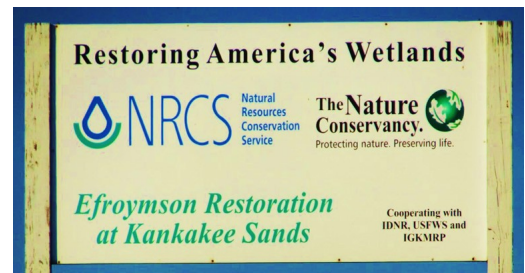
Bird monitoring, planting, weeding and watering are ongoing activities at CSBBS. Volunteers cleared out weeds near what's called the "bump-out", the viewing area close to the kiosk on the west side of the Sanctuary, a section dedicated to the memory of Missy Hedges. Then they planted Pale Purple Coneflower, Lead Plant and Butterfly Weed.

With help from the Northwestern IT department, our dedicated volunteers worked to clear invasive Quack Grass and Bouncing Bet to make way for a denser thicket of shrubs for migrating birds. Northwestern's Athletic Department helped us plant sand-loving Shiny Sumac, Sweet Fern, New Jersey Tea, Sand Cherry, Bearberry and Creeping Juniper. Additional funding for this area was provided by a generous gift from ENSBC member Tamima Itani, in memory of Bird Club members Carolyn Smith and Millie & Don Funk, and by the Gratch Family Donor Advised Fund of the Evanston Community Foundation.

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An Excellent Birding Excursion in Northwest Indiana

By Mark Vaughan



In dawn's first light on Sunday, May 20th, 8 early risers headed for a day in the country. Willow Slough (WS) and Kankakee Sands (KS) were the destination. These two parcels comprise over 30,000 acres of what, historically, had been The Grand Marsh of the Kankakee, originally more than 500,000 acres. The area is staging a restoration through the generous philanthropy of the Efroymsen Family and the efforts of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. These two tracts are a birding mecca especially during migration and the summer breeding season.



Song Sparrow by Mark Vaughan

During a leisurely breakfast at the WS picnic area, we were entertained by numerous Red-headed Woodpeckers and the aerial acrobatics of Eastern Kingbirds. The birding was so good that we lingered there instead of covering the planned territory! After adjourning for lunch in the small town of Morocco, we headed for KS where lots of grassland birds were easily seen.

The KS tract is managed by The Nature Conservancy, and last year bison were introduced to improve the habitat for grassland birds and other animals. While not our primary focus, the bison herd was a special treat. The last free-range Indiana bison were seen in around the 1820s.

Down slightly from last year's field trip, we still observed a respectable 58 species. If the 2018 migration is the new normal, next year's trip may have even better numbers to report.



100 Years and Counting!!!

The ENSBC Board, together with former Club Presidents, is deep into planning activities for our year-long 100th birthday celebration throughout 2019.

We've lined up a panoply of program speakers who, as young members of ENSBC, got their sea-legs (so to speak) in the Club, and who've gone on to become prominent in the worlds of birding and natural history. A highlight of the March meeting – the month the Club was founded in 1919 – will be a light dinner and social hour before the program. Festivities will start at 6 pm.

We are planning a photo exhibit in the Evanston Public Library, along with a display of books, many of which ENSBC gave to the Library years ago to build its bird book collection. Also, we'll be giving away static-cling decals with our enhanced Peregrine logo to all members.

These are just some of the activities in the works. And, of course, we'll have our usual field trips – as well as an ENSBC-100 trip to the Pantanal in Brazil. We encourage celebration suggestions and ideas from members!! Let us know if you'd like to volunteer in helping celebrate this great birthday year. Email our Board President, Gerry Ginsburg, gnginsburg@sbcglobal.net.

In total we have planted 368 shrubs and perennial flowers this May and June, with the help of more than 110 volunteers! We've appreciated work by Cub Scouts from Lincolnwood School, Middle Schoolers from Y.O.U., NU students and our summer intern, Lily Jones, Environmental Science major from Oberlin College.

We are now busy watering and weeding, especially during hot dry spells, and would welcome your help. Join us on Thursday afternoons from 3-5:30 pm, or on

Saturday mornings August 11, September 15 and October 13 from 9:00-11:30.

If you can help water new plantings at other times, please click dpelz888@SBCglobal.net to contact David Pelzer. You'll be among friends, butterflies and, hopefully, birds.

For more information, visit our website:
www.clarkstreetbeachbirdsantuary.org.

*Monarch on milkweed
at the Bird Sanctuary by
Lily Jones, CSBBS intern*

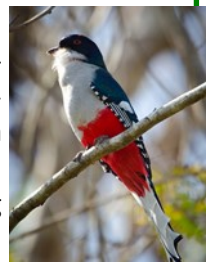


*Black-eyed Susans at the CSBBS
by Lily Jones*

Tuesday Night Fall Programs, 7:30 p.m. The Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd, Evanston

September 25: Libby Hill and ENSBC Cuba travelers, "Cuba Libre! Birding on the Caribbean's Biggest Island."

Cuba is a land of beautiful landscapes, endemic birds, wonderful people, vintage cars and constant music. Led by our own Josh Engel and a great local guide, an ENSBC group traveled from the hills west of Havana to the barrier islands to the east and the swamps in the south. We covered a lot of ground and found nearly all the endemic birds, including the spectacular Cuban Trogon, remarkable Bee Hummingbird, and rare Zapata Wren. Despite Cuba's being something of a "forbidden land" for Americans, we found the traveling to be easy, the people to be welcoming, and the birds to be fabulous. Libby returned on a birding trip to Cuba two months later, visiting different locations. Join us as we tell tales and show slides of ENSBC in Cuba.



October 23: Terry Miesle, "Chasing the Rusty-patched Bumblebee." The Rusty-patched Bumblebee has become the poster child for our dangerously declining wild native bees. Why it was chosen, how it became endangered, and what can be done about it are the topics of Terry Miesle's beautifully illustrated talk. Terry has been formally monitoring insects, focusing on bees, at Fermilab Natural Areas since 2014 and is involved with the Native Bee Awareness Initiative.



Field Trips Comin' up this Fall



Thursdays in September: Perkins Woods. A Cook County Forest Preserve District “Bird the Preserves” walk. Look for fall warblers, thrushes and other migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. corner of Ewing Ave. and Grant St. Leaders: Josh Engel and John Bates.

Saturdays, September 8 and 15: Northwestern University Campus. The NU campus has long been a stop-over for migrants of all kinds headed south. Park on the lakeside of the upper deck of the south parking lot off Sheridan Rd. and Clark St., north of Clark St. beach, at 8:30 a.m. Leaders: Libby Hill and Nancy Halliday/Sarah Flax.

Friday, October 12, 2018: The Grove. Expect sparrows, a few late warblers and other passerines, maybe a hawk or 2 if the winds are right. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at The Grove: east side of Milwaukee Ave., just south of Lake Ave., Glenview, in the second parking lot that leads to the Interpretive Center. Leader: Jeff Sanders.

An Exciting ENSBC Trip Scheduled for Fall 2019!

Announcing the Club's 100th Birthday Celebration International Trip to Brazil: Pantanal and Cerrado with an Iguassu Falls extension.

The trip will be led by Josh Engel of Red Hill Birding, with local guides.
October 2-12, 2019. Booking is now open.

The Pantanal is the largest tropical wetland in the world and is a land of superlatives. Wildlife is amazingly abundant, and its seasonally flooded plain attracts immense quantities of birds, in addition to being one of the most mammal-rich areas of South America. For more information and to register, contact Libby Hill, libbyhill@comcast.net.

Thanks for joining the flock!

The following are new ENSBC members:



Anne Beal	Wilmette, IL	Marylou J. Miller	Skokie, IL
Nancy Bradt & Laury Lewis	Evanston, IL	Jeanne Mueller	Evanston, IL
Christopher Brochu	Iowa City, IA	Kitty Nagler	Evanston, IL
Michael Delia & Cathy Mathis	Evanston, IL	Peg O'Neil	Evanston, IL
Pamela Feldman	Evanston, IL	Doris Osman	Highland Park, IL
John Flanagan	Wilmette, IL	Nava Phillips	Evanston, IL
Cameron Flint	Evanston, IL	Nancy Pinchar	Evanston, IL
Heidi Levin	Chicago, IL	Teri Ruiz	Glenview, IL
Kevin McCann	Deerfield, IL	Bobbi Scheff	Evanston, IL
Jim McCarthy	Wilmette, IL	Amanda Tichacek	Skokie, IL