

Creekside Coots reporting in...

THANK YOU so much for supporting our efforts! On May 21st, we set out to identify as many bird species as possible (with a goal of 65 species) in support of Columbus Audubon. Our day was wildly successful and we had a great time doing it! Appropriately, we ended both of our main birding sessions with seeing our namesake bird, the American Coot.



Here are some stats from the day:

Weather	58 degrees F, 8MPH N winds, intermittent rain, mostly cloudy, some PM sun
Hours Logged	6:00am-10:44pm (over 16 hours spent birding)
# Birds Seen	1075
# Lifers Total For Group	47
Lifer For The Most People	Tennessee Warbler
Distance Walked	11km (slow birding...)
Most Common Spp. Seen	Am. Robin (113), Red-winged BB (85), Tree Swallow (81), Chimney Swift (55), Cowbird (50), Canada Goose (48), Song Sparrow (46), Barn Swallow (38)

SPECIES TOTAL: 103

Favorite Birds of the Day:

Angelika Nelson: **Red-headed Woodpecker**
Heather Luedecke: calling **Barred Owl**
Jenny Bowman : **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**
Allison Guggenheimer: **Blackpoll Warbler**
Bridget Gladden: **American Woodcock**
Erica Szeyller: Young male **Orchard Oriole**

Location Notes:

We birded the Big Darby Creek corridor from Prairie Oaks Metro Park through Battelle-Darby Metropark. This stretch of park system is just outside the south east outerbelt within Franklin Co. We chose this area because it provides a diverse range of habitats for birds and frequently hosts rarities to the region. It is also a wonderful place for other outdoor pursuits, including: hiking, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, and biking.

Prairie Oaks Metro Park

Very dog friendly!

Habitats: Grassland, forest, lake, river

<http://www.metroparks.net/parks-and-trails/prairie-oaks/park-map/>

Battelle-Darby Metro Park

They have Bison!

Bring bug spray and rain boots!

Habitats: Grassland, forest, wetland, river

<http://www.metroparks.net/parks-and-trails/battelle-darby-creek/park-map/>



CREEKSIDE COOTS TIMELINE

6:00 AM

Start the morning at Darby Bend Lakes, **Prairie Oaks Metro Park**

Warblers! Featuring: Magnolia, Bay-breasted, & Blackburnian

Trails surrounding

Darby Bend Lakes:

Mix of unpaved, and gravel paths around the main lakes. We were treated with a diverse array of bird species and other flora/fauna, including a baby fox squirrel, turtles, fungi.



Angelika, Heather, & Jenny discuss the defining attributes for **Olive-sided flycatcher**: This bird was a lifer for Erica and Heather

9:00 AM

6:20 AM

Sycamore Plains Trail to Alder Trail: Scenic unpaved trails through fields and forest along the creek.

Barred Owl heard calling in the woods!

Other notables: Scarlet Tanager, Osprey, & Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Observed possible courtship behavior: 2 **Cedar Waxwings** passed a seed back and forth repeatedly

Other notables: Green Heron, Blackpoll, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo



Photo by: Jenny Bowman

12:00 PM

Morning session came to an end with good looks at an **American Coot** & **E.L. Fudge Cookies**

BREAK FOR LUNCH AND NAP*

*Well, for some of us... Angelika and Heather powered on!

3:25 PM

Rt. 40 across from Sunset Cemetery

Notables: Solitary Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Cooper's Hawk

4:10 PM

Cedar Ridge Hawthorn Trail

Notable species: Red-headed woodpecker, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, & Acadian Flycatcher

3:56 PM

Arrive at **Battelle Darby Metro Park**, started at **Kuhlwein Road Wetlands**: Gravel trail provides great opportunities to see grassland bird species.

Notable species: Horned Lark

Battelle Darby Metro Park Nature Center: Wonderful nature center with educational wildlife displays – Buffalo enclosures for viewing.

5:10 PM

Wet Prairie Teal and Harrier Trails:

Wear your rain boots! Best spot in Franklin Co. to see a diversity of wetland species.

6:00 PM

Watched the secretive **Henslow's Sparrow** sing his "tsi-lick" song.

Surrounded by the calls of **American Bitterns, Least Bitterns, & Soras** as we walked through the wetlands.

HIT 100 SPECIES!

Arrive back at Darby Bend Lakes, **Prairie Oaks Metro Park**

8:10 PM

We were rewarded for a hard day's work with a lovely sunset over the lake

Angelika, Bridget, & Allison enjoy the sun while walking back to the car. Our Battelle Darby session again ended with seeing an **American Coot!**

8:45 PM

Attended Full Moon Hike with special guests Amy Kulesza and Sara Faust

Final birds of the day: **Belted Kingfisher, Common Nighthawk, & American Woodcock**

10:44 PM

