

2005 Birdathon Report

The 2005 Birdathon began as one of the coldest, if not wettest. It was also the latest we have held the event in many years. Nine Birders met at Muscatatuck Wildlife refuge in the early morning and began slogging through the cold wind and wet fields. Results were quick in coming. Yellow Warblers, Towhee, Wood Thrush....The rains held off but the wind stayed up and cold. The list kept growing and we borrowed assistance from a veteran birder, Big Eared Bob, who helped us track a Warbling Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler by their calls. Chris "Mad Math" Lang kept us warm with an endless array of anecdotes, obscure facts, and tasteless (but funny) jokes. He also had the best binoculars and was willing to share them for only small charge. A Yellow Throated Vireo, a pink billed Field Sparrow, ahh....

Brandon "Ground Squirrel" Bierly demonstrated good eyesight and birding skills beyond his years. He would have dumped us for Big Eared Bob if we let him. About 1 PM he convinced us that his eyesight was failing from hunger and since most of us are half blind we opted for lunch. Ground Squirrel's favorite bird of the morning was the River Otter.

The afternoon was much warmer and featured occasional sunshine. We reconvened at the Falls of the Ohio State Park and began the afternoon with a walk down the Woodland Trail. Ground Squirrel and Teresa "Meter Maid" Bierly had already scoped a Caspian Tern and a couple of gulls species off the far wall. Along the trail we added Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Summer Tanager.

Next we headed up river to the Wetland Trail behind Noah's Ark. There we were rewarded with a Green Heron and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Contributors Mary "Biker Babe", and Libby "Hawkeye" Coyte came along to monitored our methods to insure "Count Accuracy". We rejected shooting the birds "for an accurate record" and they grudgingly agreed to trust us.

Meanwhile the Marvelous Maxwells were making time at Charlestown State Park and Rod "Feather Friendly" Goforth was chalking them up at the Louisville Nature Center. (No, Rod, we can't count the zoo birds.)

Our final venue of the evening was the Loop Island Wetlands in New Albany. A pleasant walk and a flock of Night Herons completed our list. We made it to Mad Math's at dusk for the Birder's Banquet.

It was a rousing party. Mick "Whistle Lips" Edelen, Roberta "Hot Wheels" McLemore, and Roger "Big Dog" Reese did a rousing Karioke rendition of White Bird - 6 times. Ground Squirrel kept promoting the avian qualities of the River Otter, and Feather Friendly couldn't understand why we would include European Starlings and not the Zoo's Flamingos. In spite of these arbitrary restrictions we ended up with a record count of 92 Species! Ka Ching!

This was a great time and a pleasure to have new folks participating. Thanks to all of our Birders and Contributors. An Invoice is attached to the bottom of the Bird List. You can access this list and other information at our Website, www.kavaudubon.org (as soon as Mad Math gets it posted.)

Our SincereThanks,

David "Eco-Geek" Coyte