

# 2004 KAVAS Birdathon Species List – 4/27/03

\*Denotes first time Birdathon sighting

American Coot  
American Crow  
American Goldfinch  
American Robin  
American Widgeon  
Belted Kingfisher  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Blue Jay  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Blue-winged Teal  
Bob White Quail  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Canada Goose  
Carolina Chickadee  
Carolina Wren  
Chipping Sparrow  
Chimney Swift  
Common Grackle  
Common Snipe\*  
Cooper's Hawk  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Downy Woodpecker  
Eastern Bluebird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Eastern Phoebe  
English Sparrow  
European Starling  
Great Blue Heron

Great White Egret\*  
Green-winged Teal  
Hairy Woodpecker  
House Finch  
Killdeer  
Mallard  
Magnolia Warbler\*  
Merlin  
Mourning Dove  
Northern Cardinal  
Northern Mockingbird  
Northern Shoveler  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Prairie Warbler\*  
Purple Martin  
Purple Finch  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Rock Dove  
Ruby Crowned Kinglet  
Rufous-sided Towhee  
Scarlet Tanager\*  
Song Sparrow  
Swainson's Thrush  
Tree Swallow  
Tufted Titmouse  
Turkey Vulture  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
White-crowned Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Wood Duck  
Wood Thrush  
Worm Eating Warbler\*  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Yellow-Shafted Flicker

In the interest of innovation our groups tried a variety of birding dates this year. Dick Maxwell described the situation correctly – “Too early!” His was the middle date. His claim of, “No Birds!” was an exaggeration. He saw a starling, a crow, and a Swainson's Thrush (whose biological clock was obviously running fast according to Dick.) Roger Reese, one of our more prolific birders, chose the earliest date in hopes of catching more

waterfowl. He immediately left town and hasn't been heard from since. Better luck next year, Roger.

Events conspired to push group three to the day of Thunder Over Louisville. While this group did the best – supporting Dick's hypothesis -it wasn't all that great. It would have been much better if we could have gotten down to the Falls of the Ohio. This year's list has not a single gull. Quite galling! So, our species total for 2004 is a fairly miserable 66 – almost 30% below our chapter high.

Never the less, Group Three had a very nice day with some special moments. We began the day at Loop Island Wetlands at the confluence of Silver Creek and the Ohio River in New Albany. Owner Al Goodman gave us the historical background of the area while we meandered through this wetland treasure. Across the pond a Great White Egret was surreally white against the new foliage, and a dozen or more Black Crowned Night Herons stalked along the shore. Mallards, Wood Duck, and Teal were abundant in this oasis away from the high water of the river. Mick Edelen and I were particularly pleased to see a Prairie Warbler in the low woods along the grass levy.

Next we took a spin through Lapping Park. The best there was a wonderful look at a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker. Not only is it fun to say, it is an elegant little woodpecker with the most beautiful rich red patch on the top front of it's head. The fact that Roger had seen one already didn't matter.

After lunch we headed out to Charlestown State Park. The birding was OK - We kicked up some quail, and spotted a Merlin and Cooper's Hawk - but the Celandine Poppies were incredible.

The next stop was the wetland trail, fields and hedgerows at Noah's Ark in Jeffersonville near Allison Lane. The boardwalk through this remnant of Jeffersonville's once extensive wetlands is fascinating – even with military aircraft buzzing overhead. We kicked up Snipe(they do exist!), got up close and personal with a pair of Red Shouldered hawks, and saw Kinglets and Gnatcatchers as well as the more common marsh denizens.

Anxious to get across the river we headed for the trail at the Louisville Nature Center. What a treat! A great look at a Worm Eating Warbler (a first for both Mick and I), a Magnolia Warbler, and a big bold Pileated Woodpecker.

Exhausted, we retired to my place in Clifton. Mick was scanning the huge elm above us and topped off the day with a cherry red Scarlet Tanager. Delicious!

We might not have gotten out and had all this fun without your support. Thank you.

Till next year,

David Coyte

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Dear

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Thank you.

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