

SIGHTINGS on the Nature Trail at Phillis Bridge Farm

Birds seen or heard:

Grey Catbirds – very numerous

American Robin – very numerous

American Bittern

Brown Thrashers – Seen on one morning, multiple individuals probably migrating through

Eastern Towhees- at least two, probably more, most likely nesting though only observed males (singing on turf and foraging)

Yellow Warblers, males singing on turf, females foraging, most likely nesting

Brown Headed Cowbirds – numerous pairs, many males, one pair copulating

American Redstart – female observed, probably migrating through

Chestnut Sided Warbler – male

Blue Winged Warbler (only by ear so I could be fooled) - this would be a very significant bird- they like disturbed transitional habitat.

Blue Jays

Wood Thrush – by ear, but numerous individuals heard

Hermit Thrush – seen but not heard

House Wrens –singing on turf, at least two individuals

Red Bellied Woodpeckers

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpeckers

Blue Jay – numerous, one observed on the nest -which is right at the upper junction of the red and yellow trails

Rose Breasted Grosbeak – Nesting Pair!

Green Herron- heard in the woods and then observed flying over the back field

Red Winged Blackbirds – numerous males guarding turf

Song Sparrows

Field Sparrows

White-throated sparrows - calling

White-crowned sparrows - calling

Baltimore Orioles- pair, probably nesting

Northern Cardinal

Common Yellow Throat- at least two pairs observed, possibly three, singing on turf

White Breasted Nuthatch

Black Capped Chickadee – calling, adult observed with fledgling following learning foraging techniques

American Goldfinch

Cedar Waxwings

Killdeer (working the newly turned fields by the hothouses)

Eastern Phoebe

Eastern Wood Pewee

Barn Swallows (living of course on our barn!)

House Sparrows

European Starlings

Red-winged Blackbird

Northern Flicker

Red-tailed Hawk

American Kestrel

Oven Bird (by ear, at least two separate individuals singing on turf)

Red-bellied Woodpeckers

Red Eyed Vireo (by ear)

Red Tailed Hawk

Mourning Doves

Tufted Titmouse – calling

The remains (feathers mostly) of a Turkey

Other critters include the ubiquitous **White Tailed Deer**, snorting and carrying on, **Chip-monks, Grey Squirrels, Field Mice**

From Mark Eis on the trail April 2008

While out marking the trail, the following bird species were observed or heard:

- Numerous Cedar Waxwing
- Brown-headed Cowbirds - at least two separate pairs, calling
- Red-bellied Woodpeckers engaging in courtship activities including calling, tapping, and antagonistic interaction (assuming it was two males and one female but I really didn't get a close enough look)
- Tufted Titmouse – calling
- Black-capped Chickadee – calling
- Eastern Phoebe - at least two separate pairs, courting, and calling
- Blue Jays
- Northern Cardinals
- Hairy Woodpecker
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Barn Swallows
- Numerous American Robins
- White-crowned Sparrows - calling
- White-throated Sparrows - calling
- Song Sparrows - singing
- Northern Flicker
- Red-winged Blackbird
- American Bittern - pretty sure I heard one calling from the marsh area north of where the trail turns and jumps the fence by the large white oak at the edge of the sheep meadow

Not many wild flowers were out.

The skunk cabbage were up and some other small shoots here and there.

March 27, 2009 – from Mark Eis, as part of his report for the Board's April 27 meeting

While out I noted the following:

- a.. Lots of wood pecker action- drumming, etc. species noted were Red Bellied, Hairy, Downy, and Flicker.
- b.. Scared up a large raptor from fairly close range. From its reluctance to flush, the silence of its flight, and the over all very grey color pallet it leads me to believe it may have been a Great Horned Owl - Just a guess though
- c.. We have an abundance of Brown Headed Cowbirds on the farm right now. Oh goody.
- d.. Spotted numerous Eastern Bluebirds. They may be actually able to eek out some suitable cavity nesting sights. My guess is the placement of some paired nesting boxes (one for the Tree Swallows, one for the Bluebirds just like you see on the Thruway right-of-way) would ensure a nice healthy population of these voracious insect eaters on the farm. I saw them both in the open oak woods back by the old jeep and in the open area around Sheep's Nose.
- e.. Saw Coyote scat on the marshy section of the trail between the deer fence and Sheep's Nose - Lots of fur
- f.. Saw numerous white tailed deer. Good Coyote food apparently.
- g.. Also saw a Red-Tailed Hawk and an American Kestrel.