

Bird Survey of the Waukegan River: April through October 2002

Prepared on November 13, 2002 by
Joel Greenberg
3926 N. Washington
Westmont, IL 60559-1114

Introduction

This survey of the Waukegan River focused on two portions: the area near the mouth and Washington Park, including the wetland restoration. The dominant arboreal vegetation of Washington Park were typical floodplain species such as cottonwood, silver maple, box elder, and various willows. Other organisms of interest found at Washington Park were common toad and, in May, spawning white suckers.

The symbols used in the data sheets are as follows: F: Foraging; FO: Fly over; and R: Roosting. A total of 96 species were recorded over the six month survey. As expected, the overwhelming number of these were migrants. Only 21 number of species are suspected of breeding within the confines of the study area

Results

The following 21 species are considered to be probable nesters:

Mallard	Black-capped Chickadee
Spotted Sandpiper	House Wren
Mourning Dove	American Robin
Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird
Downy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Northern Flicker	European Starling
Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
American Crow	Indigo Bunting
Song Sparrow	Common Grackle
House Finch	American Goldfinch
House Sparrow	

The nesting species are- with the exceptions of the spotted sandpiper, belted kingfisher, and indigo bunting- generalists that are widespread and common. Given the habitat this was expected.

What was unexpected is the relatively few migrant species, and particularly the number of individuals, that utilized the sites. The mosaic of habitats- restored wetland, mature trees, grassy field, riverine woods- found within Washington Park is the type that ought to be highly attractive to passerine and other migrants. One explanation for the low use of this area is that excellent habitat exists at other places in the vicinity. I'm thinking here of the wooded bluffs along the lake and the habitat along the beach censused in previous years. Therefore, the

riparian areas looked at do not provide the "migrant trap" islands of habitat that sometimes occur in other urban park settings.

Despite, what I consider to be rather low use by migrants, the areas censused are still valuable. The river provides a corridor for dispersal inland, while the wetland restoration attracted the solitary sandpiper and common snipe. Undoubtedly, however, the single most significant avian use of the area was the black-crowned night-heron roost in the woods at the river's mouth. This endangered species, up to six individuals, were present at least in May and June. The absence of human traffic is certainly a factor in their use of the site.

Species	April 06	Ap 14	May 02	May 16	May 30	Ju 10	July 01	Au 31	Se 4	Se 9	Se 26	Oc 4	Oc 19	Oc 28
D-c Cormorant	FO:3				FO:1						FO:3		FO:2	
Gr-bl Heron		FO:2	F:3	F:2				F:1	F:1	F:1				
G. Egret			FO:1	FO:1						FO: 2				
Green Heron						F:1								
Bl-cr Night Heron			R:3	R:6	R:5	R:4								
C. Goose	F:4	F:5	FO:12		FO:9					F:8	F:6	FO:15	FO:8	F:3
Wood Duck		F:2	F:2									F:2		
Mallard	F:4	F:6	F:6	F:2	F:5	F:4	F:5	F:6	F:9	F:12	F:7	F:10	F:8	F:6
Gr-winged Teal												FO:2		
Turkey Vulture										FO:1				
Sh-shi Hawk													FO:1	
Coo Hawk		F:1			F:1									
Re-tailed Hawk	F:1									FO:1		FO:2		FO:1
Kestrel					F:1									
Sora														
S. Crane											FO:3			
Killdeer		F:1	F:2				F:1			FO:2	F:2			
Dunlin														
Sanderling										F:2		F:2		
Spot Sandpiper			F:2	F:2			F:1	F:3						
Sol Sandpiper								F:1						
Snipe													F:1	
Woodcock										F:1				
R b Gull	R:6	R:23	R:5	R:10	R:12	R:8	F:6	F:25	F:15	R:9	R:18	R:13	R:20	R:17
Herring Gull								F:3		R:2		R:5		R:2
Common Tern			F:2	F:3	F:2									
Forsters Tern				F:1										
Rock Dove	FO:6		FO:12						FO:7		FO:21			FO:5
Mourn Dove	F:5	F:4	F:7	F:2	F:2	FO:2			F:3	F:6			R:3	
Ye-bil Cuckoo					F:1									
C Nighthawk										FO:6				
C. Swift				FO:9	FO:8	FO:4	FO:2	FO:6		FO:5				

R-t Hummingbird										F:1				
B. Kingfisher	F:2	F:1	F:1	F:1			F:1		F:1					F:1
R-h Woodpecker										FO:1				
R-b Woodpecker	F:1		F:2	F:1							F:1		F:2	
Y-b Sapsucker												F:1	F:2	
D Woodpecker		F:2	F:1		F:1					F:2		F:2		F:1
H Woodpecker														
N Flicker	F:2	F:1		F:2		F:1	F:2			F:1			F:3	
E Wood-Pewee				F:1	F:2					F:2				
Alder Flycatcher					F:1									
Empid (sp)										F:2				
E Phoebe											F:1			
G-c Flycatcher			F:1											
P. Martin								FO:1						
Tr Swallow		F:5	F:2	F:4					F:1	F:3				
Barn Swallow				F:3			F:1		F:1	F:1				
Bank Swallow					FO:1									
R-w Swallow				F:3										
Blue Jay	F:2	F:3	F:6	F:3	F:4	F:2	F:3	F:2		F:3	F:2		FO:2	
A Crow	F:5	F:10	F:3	F:9	F:7	F:5	F:10	F:5	F:2	F:6	F:9	F:6	F:6	F:4
Bl-ca Chickadee	F:2	F:3	F:1	F:2	F:4	F:1	F:3	F:1	F:1	F:4	F:2	F:3	F:2	F:1
W-b Nuthatch	F:2						F:2		F:1				F:2	
House Wren				F:1	F:1					F:1				
Winter Wren	F:1										F:1	F:1		
B-g Gnatcatcher				F:1										
Hermit Thrush		F:1	F:1								F:1	F:2	F:1	F:2
Swains Thrush				F:1						F:2	F:1			
A Robin	F:8	F:5	F:4	F:3	F:2	F:6	F:2	F:2		F:4				
G Catbird					F:2		F:2			F:1				
C Waxwing		F:8		FO:6		F:3				FO:4		FO:7	FO:4	F:9
R-c Kinglet			F:2	F:4						F:5	F:3	F:4	F:2	F:2
G-c Kinglet	F:1	F:1										F:6	F:5	F:5
E Starling	F:5		F:3	F:16	F:9	F:10	F:3	F:10		FO:7	FO:4		FO:8	FO:12

Y-th Vireo					F:1									
War Vireo				F:1										
Red-e Vireo				F:1	F:1					F:1				
Tenn Warbler				F:1						F:1				
Yel-ru Warbler			F:3	F:7						F:4	F:6	F:5	F:3	
Palm Warbler			F:1	F:2						F:3	F:5	F:2	F:1	
Yell Warbler				F:2										
Magnolia Warbler										F:1				
Bl-thr G Warbler										F:1				
Ch-si Warbler					F:2							F:1		
Blackpoll Warbler										F:2				
Ovenbird					F:1									
N Yellowthroat					F:1									
Wilson's Warbler				F:1						F:1				
A Redstart				F:1	F:2			F:1		F:2				
N Cardinal	F:1	F:2	F:1	F:2	F:2	F:1		F:1		F:2	F:2		F:3	F:2
Ro-br Grosbeak				F:1										
I Bunting					F:2	F:3	F:4							
D-e Junco	F:1	F:2										F:2	F:5	F:6
Fox Sparrow	F:1											F:3	F:1	F:1
Lincoln's Sparrow			F:2							F:1				
Song Sparrow		F:1		F:3	F:2	F:1	F:2			F:3	F:2		F:1	F:2
Wh-thr Sparrow				F:1						F:2	F:3	F:5	F:3	F:3
Wh-cr Sparrow											F:2			F:1
Swamp Sparrow			F:1										F:1	
Red-win Blackbird	F:3	F:2												
C. Grackle	F:4	F:1	F:10	F:4	F:8	F:6	F:2			F:7	F:3		F:4	
B-h Cowbird				F:2	F:3									
B Oriole			F:1	F:1										
Ho Finch	F:1		F:2	F:3	F:2	F:1				F:2				F:2
A Goldfinch		F:3	F:5	F:7	F:6	F:4	F:2	F:3		F:4	F:3	F:7	F:3	F:3
H Sparrow	F:6	F:2	F:7	F:2	F:5	F:3	F:3			F:5	F:7	F:4	F:2	F:4

REGIONAL AIRPORT

BEVIER PARK

BB BIRD SANCTUARY

BONNIE BROOK GOLF COURSE

LAKE PITTS

LAKE JARONIK

NORTH BRANCH WAUKEGAN RIVER

LARSEN NATURE PRESERVE

YEOMAN PARK

POWELL PARK

RAY BRADBURY PARK

WASHINGTON PARK

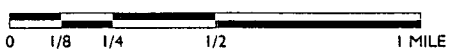
ROOSEVELT PARK

LAKE MICHIGAN

WAUKEGAN RIVER

LEGEND

- WAUKEGAN RIVER
- - - RIVER (UNDERGROUND)
- PUBLIC PARKS
- · · MAJOR ROAD



NORTH

SCALE IN MILES