

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (VDCR)

28 SEPTEMBER 2019

FREDERICKSBURG BIRDING CLUB (FBC) report by Tim Stamps. Photos by T. Stamps except as noted.

Participants: Michael Lott, Jim Goehring, Andrew Dolby, Tim Stamps, Curtis Martin, Jamie Rich, Tanya Chapman, and Kim Payne. Birds Observed: 39 Species



Green Tree Frog on VDCR Logo.

The FBC gathered at the Park's Visitor Center just inside the entry gate at 0730. A couple Hairy Woodpeckers, a Wood Thrush, and a Northern Cardinal were sounding off in the low light of the overcast morning. To everyone's delight, many Green Tree Frogs were found on an information kiosk, and numerous photos were taken. Then, we discovered that the mown grass along the sidewalk was teeming with the little frogs, and as we walked along, we were driving dozens of the creatures in front of us. It wasn't quite as spectacular as wildebeest migrations in the Serengeti, but it was an interesting "eruption" of these little animals that are usually concealed in their marshy habitats.

We then drove to the primary parking area to bird near the picnic grounds and Potomac River. The gray sky wasn't conducive to distinguishing details of the birds high in the tree canopies. Carolina Wrens and Bluebirds were abundant, as were Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Various additional species were detected in a mixed foraging flock, to include: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Pine Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, and White-breasted Nuthatch.



Candidates for "Warbler Neck" aches and pains.



Great Blue Heron catches a snack.

Along the Potomac River shoreline, we observed Laughing Gulls, a couple Double-Crested Cormorants, a Bald Eagle, and two Great Blue Herons. One heron gave us a close look as it waded along a rock jetty and came up with a small fish.

The group then hiked uphill to river overlooks and historic remnants of Civil War gun batteries and the "Fairfax" house. A half dozen Mallards were seen in the river.



We left the park and made a stop at the Julie Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve in Prince William County. The preserve began as a wetlands mitigation bank and has since been turned over to Prince William County. As the steward of this wetlands bank, Prince William County funded the design and construction (by others) of a 3,000' Neabsco Creek Boardwalk, part of the National Park Service's Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The large engineered boardwalk across Neabsco Creek was phenomenal. We encountered one small flock of warblers, a Green Heron, and several Catbirds in the wooded area. On the boardwalk itself,

there were excellent marsh views, Mallards, probable Blue-winged Teal, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Canada Geese. This boardwalk should provide some



Black and Yellow Garden Spider

excellent views of marsh birds and waterfowl as the vegetation dies back in the fall/winter.

Birds were not very photogenic today, but a couple large spiders were located close to the boardwalk that couldn't fly away.



Great Egret by Jim Goehring

BIRD LIST:

Canada Goose
Mallard
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Chimney Swift
Laughing Gull
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay

American Crow
Fish Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Gray Catbird
Eastern Bluebird
Wood Thrush
American Goldfinch
Red-winged blackbird
Black-and-white warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Northern Cardinal