

Field Trip Report - A Walk on Mt. Burdell

April 17, 2010

Leader: Neill Fogarty

On a mild, blue-skied day 12 of us joined Neill Fogarty on Mt. Burdell. While waiting for the group to assemble a Black-headed Grosbeak sounded in the pines across the way. Not long into the walk a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher posed long enough for good photos of this pint-sized stunner. A Warbling Vireo finally revealed himself after teasing us with his song.



In the trees Bushtits and Juncos were busy, in the sky Violet-green and Tree Swallows swirled. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher studied us from a dead branch. Western Bluebirds flitted along fence posts while a Western Kingbird crossed above us.

On the path ahead a Lark Sparrow foraged, in the background a flock of Cedar Waxwings flew back and forth. Acorn Woodpeckers in a communal tree were squawking about a



Starling who had moved in to a cavity below. Along the path we sighted Ash-throated Flycatchers, Savannah Sparrows, a quick glimpse of a Prairie Falcon streaking overhead and, later, a Cooper's Hawk. Second photo op of the day came courtesy of a vivid male Bullock's Oriole. House Wrens and Orange-crowned Warblers serenaded us throughout the walk. In Hidden Lake a few American Wigeons paddled. In the nearby willows a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers with one Townsend's Warbler in the mix darted at neck-craning heights.

At our feet a minute Tree Frog leaped from puddle to puddle. Further along in the trees several Brown Creepers and a White-breasted Nuthatch gave us a quick glimpse. While still in the trees we spied another Pacific-slope Flycatcher, a Hutton's Vireo

and a Northern Flicker making a beeline to another grove. A Red-shouldered Hawk shrieked and circled overhead, and in a clearing a Red-tailed Hawk made lazy circles in the sky. In all we saw 48 species and heard 7 others. Many thanks to Neill for his expertise and skill in ordering up great weather.

By Sandy Chilvers
Photos by Bob Chilvers

