



Madtown Peeps met at Yahara Park in Madison May 23rd at 6:00pm. We were fortunate to have a warm, sunny evening. We began our walk along the lakeshore and quickly tallied several species that we did not see last year, including Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers and American Redstart. Warbling Vireos and Eastern Kingbirds were singing from the cottonwoods and Cedar Waxwings were flying to and fro amongst the street trees. There had been a recent hatch of midges, so every step in the grass sent up puffs of midges, much to 6-year old Sylvia's dismay.

Right along the dirt path, the kids found a dead bird. Kim asked the kids what kind of bird it was and after several good guesses, revealed that it was a Swainson's Thrush. Cause of death was unknown. A debate ensued about whether we could count a dead bird on our Birdathon list. In the end, we decided it counted!

Continuing on Lakeland Ave towards Hudson Park, we tallied Baltimore Oriole, Barn and Tree Swallows, and House Wren. Eleven-year old Oscar was our data recorder and carefully entered each sighting into eBird via his mom's smart phone. At Hudson Park, we spotted Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers. Hannah got a quick look at a flock of pelicans flying over the lake and several Mallards were loafing near the shore. Further down Lakeland Ave, we saw several Swainson's Thrushes (alive!), a Bay-breasted Warbler, and a lone Hairy Woodpecker.

We walked over to Circle Park to see the female Cooper's Hawk on her nest, likely the same pair that we saw during last year's Birdathon. We could just make out her tail jutting out of the nest. Then we

headed over to the Chocolate Shoppe for some ice cream to celebrate our walk. Our last bird of the night was a Common Nighthawk flying and calling overhead. We finished our Birdathon with 32 species. Below is our list:

- 10 Mallard
- 5 Common Nighthawk
- 1 Chimney Swift
- 6 Ring-billed Gull
- 6 American White Pelican
- 1 Cooper's Hawk -- In nest
- 1 Hairy Woodpecker
- 2 Eastern Kingbird
- 3 Warbling Vireo
- 1 American Crow
- 1 Tree Swallow
- 5 Barn Swallow
- 3 Black-capped Chickadee
- 1 House Wren
- 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- 4 Swainson's Thrush -- One Dead
- 1 American Robin
- 1 Gray Catbird
- 6 European Starling
- 4 Cedar Waxwing
- 1 Chipping Sparrow
- 1 Baltimore Oriole
- 3 Red-winged Blackbird
- 5 Common Grackle
- 1 Tennessee Warbler
- 1 American Redstart
- 2 Magnolia Warbler
- 1 Bay-breasted Warbler
- 4 Blackpoll Warbler
- 1 Black-throated Green Warbler
- 1 Northern Cardinal
- 6 House Sparrow