



Sunrise Birding LLC

www.sunrisebirding.com

MOUNT AUBURN

May 16, 2015

Trip Report & Species List

Leaders: Dan Berard, Gina Nichol & Steve Bird



On May 16, 2015, Sunrise Birding held their first trip to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge Massachusetts. This wasn't just the first trip for Sunrise, but for several of the 9 participants as well. Immediately upon entering through the Egyptian revival gates, we quickly forgot that we were in the middle of the city as the buildings and sounds of traffic were replaced by a wide diversity of trees and flowering shrubs and sounds of spring migrants.

After a few minutes of listening to which species were in the cemetery and judging by the overcast conditions, we developed our plan of attack – to look for skulking species and those that prefer shorter trees and shrubs on our way to George Washington Tower where we would catch up with the species that prefer taller trees like oaks and pines.

As we made our way up Indian Ridge, we discussed why the cemetery attracts a large amount of birds and how certain species move through the cemetery. The location of the cemetery and the diversity of habitats attract a wide variety of migrants; you never know what you'll find. This proved to be true right away as we got good looks at two Prairie Warblers low in a shrub, while a Wild Turkey walked down the road nearby. Continuing along the ridge, Steve kept a careful eye on the shrubs and quickly found an Ovenbird and a male Wilson's Warbler, two warblers often heard but not seen.

One of the most popular areas for birds and birders in Mt Auburn is The Dell, a small body of water surrounded by tall mature oaks, spruces and pines. Here, we found a vocal group of Blue Jays harassing a Great Horned Owl!

From The Dell we made our way to the George Washington Tower which proved to be the most productive spot of the day. A nearby flowering tree was acting like a migrant magnet and we were rewarded with eye level views of American Redstart (Photo: Gina Nichol), Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler. The nearby oaks and conifers were also very active with Great Crested Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager,

About Mount Auburn Cemetery:

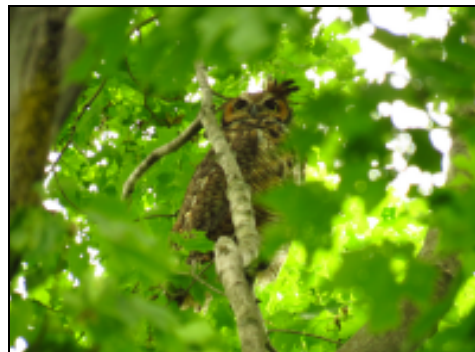
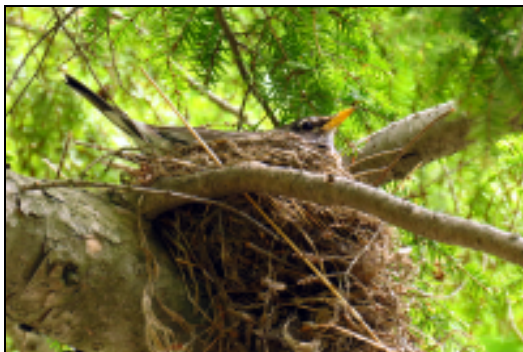
- **Established 1831**
- **Current area: 175 acres**
- **10 miles of roads & paths**
- **93,000 buried**
- **Bird species: 220**
- **5,500 trees (700 varieties)**
- **Added to the National Register of Historic Places April 21, 1975**

Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler and multiple Cape May Warblers (Photo: Dan Berard).

After an extremely productive morning, we had a picnic lunch by Halycon Lake and added a few new species to our list including a Northern Waterthrush. While deciding where to head first for the afternoon, a singing Bay-breasted Warbler made the decision pretty easy. We found the bird singing in the open and watched it for about five minutes as it lazily fed and sang among a stand of oaks and conifers.



For many birders, one of the species to find at Mt Auburn is Cape May Warbler and we were lucky enough to see three cooperative individuals. Bay-breasted Warbler (Photo: Dan Berard) is the other, perhaps even more coveted species to find. Having excellent looks at both Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were just some of the highlights to an excellent day of birding at one of North America's most beautifully landscaped parks.



Species list next page.

**In all, we found (heard and/or saw) 69 species of birds,
21 of those were warblers.**

Canada Goose
Mallard
Wild Turkey
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Red-tailed Hawk
Herring Gull
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Veery
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Blue-winged Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow



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