



KLEINSTUCK PRESERVE

2021 Annual Bird Survey Summary

Observations & reporting by
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Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) Photo: J. Brenneman - 5/20/21

The Kalamazoo Nature Center has been surveying Western Michigan University's Kleinstuck Preserve daily during the spring migration since 1973. By doing the same survey method every day, we can track the movements of migrating birds as they make small and large pushes northward. This year's survey, which extended from March 22, 2021 – May 25, 2021, was a little unusual given the warm temperatures in April, followed by a record cold week in mid-May, and then hot weather the next week.

The 2021 season started out normally, with some of the early migrants already at Kleinstuck from the first day of the survey. The early migrating species are birds that usually overwinter in the southern parts of the U.S. and are not neo-tropical migrants that go to Central and South America. These early migrating birds usually are gone by the time the majority of the neo-tropical species comes through a bit later in the season.

This year, like almost every year, there was a lull in the migration during mid-April when the species composition and count does not change much. This usually happens because all the early season migrants, which have a more varied diet, have already arrived. Later-arriving birds, which tend to be more insect-eating species, wait to a bit longer until temperatures, especially night temperatures, are more conducive for insect species to flourish. The lull this year was finally broken on April 27th, with 21 new species for the year arriving in just a 3-day period.



Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) Photo: J. Brenneman - 5/7/21

Unfortunately, this arrival of birds was followed by record-setting cold weather for about a 10-day period in May. The unfavorable weather stalled the migration in most of the northern states, leaving birds to the south of us waiting for the weather to break. The cold-spell was broken on May 15th, resulting in another major push of birds that added 20 more new species for the year.

However, this migratory delay came at a cost. The weather then turned hot with many nights of strong southerly breezes, so that birds waiting to the south moved northward to our area in a very big hurry. This rapid flush caused most migration to end around May 23rd, with only a few individual migrating birds found during the following couple days at Kleinstuck.

Altogether, we finished this year with 132 species, which is a fairly typical count. There were two species of special note this year that we do not see very often: a Kentucky Warbler and a White-eyed Vireo. Both of these species are far more common south of us in Ohio and Indiana. The Kentucky Warbler was seen May 1st and 2nd. The last time this species was documented at Kleinstuck was in 2009. The White-eyed Vireo showed up on May 5th and was heard and seen sporadically until May 12th. The last time this species was documented in Kleinstuck was in 2016.

The entire list of species found in 2021 is included below. Historic lists of species found at Kleinstuck Preserve over a 34-year period (observations from 1973-2007) may be found at:

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u486/2015/Copy%20of%20KNC-KleinstuckBirdList.pdf>.

2021 KLEINSTUCK PRESERVE BIRD SURVEY SPECIES OBSERVED

Acadian Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Kentucky Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Alder Flycatcher	Chimney Swift	Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Crow	Chipping Sparrow	Least Flycatcher	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Goldfinch	Common Grackle	Lincoln's Sparrow	Rusty Blackbird
American Redstart	Common Yellowthroat	Louisiana Waterthrush	Sandhill Crane
American Robin	Cooper's Hawk	Magnolia Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
American Tree Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	Mallard	Sharp-shinned Hawk
American Woodcock	Downy Woodpecker	Mourning Dove	Solitary Sandpiper
Baltimore Oriole	Eastern Bluebird	Mourning Warbler	Song Sparrow
Barn Swallow	Eastern Kingbird	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Swainson's Thrush
Barred Owl	Eastern Phoebe	Nashville Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Bay-breasted Warbler	Eastern Towhee	Northern Cardinal	Tennessee Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Flicker	Tree Swallow
Black-and-white Warbler	European Starling	Northern Parula	Tufted Titmouse
Black-billed Cuckoo	Field Sparrow	Northern Waterthrush	Turkey Vulture
Blackburnian Warbler	Fox Sparrow	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Veery
Black-capped Chickadee	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Orange-crowned Warbler	Virginia Rail
Blackpoll Warbler	Golden-winged Warbler	Osprey	Warbling Vireo
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Gray Catbird	Ovenbird	White-breasted Nuthatch
Black-throated Green Warbler	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Palm Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Blue Jay	Great Blue Heron	Philadelphia Vireo	White-eyed Vireo
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Great Egret	Pied-billed Grebe	White-throated Sparrow
Blue-headed Vireo	Great Horned Owl	Pileated Woodpecker	Willow Flycatcher
Blue-winged Warbler	Great-crested Flycatcher	Pine Siskin	Wilson's Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Green Heron	Pine Warbler	Winter Wren
Brown Creeper	Hairy Woodpecker	Purple Finch	Wood Duck
Brown Thrasher	Hermit Thrush	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Wood Thrush
Brown-headed Cowbird	Hooded Merganser	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Yellow Warbler
Canada Goose	Hooded Warbler	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Canada Warbler	House Finch	Red-shouldered Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Cape May Warbler	House Sparrow	Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Carolina Wren	House Wren	Red-winged Blackbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Cedar Waxwing	Indigo Bunting	Rock Pigeon	Yellow-throated Vireo

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