



KLEINSTUCK PRESERVE

2024 Annual Bird Survey Summary

**Observations & reporting by
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The Kalamazoo Nature Center's daily spring migration surveys at Western Michigan University's Kleinstuck Preserve have continued since 1973. Using the same survey method every day allows researchers to track the movements of migrating birds as they make small and large pushes northward. The 2024 season, which lasted from March 19 – May 29, started out with a volunteer doing the survey for the first week since I was away on Spring Break. Most of this Spring can be wrapped up in one word WARM! The vegetation was early with full leaf out happening by the end of April instead of mid-May.

April was a month of above average temperatures for most of the month with good flights of birds. The two best days in April were on the 14th and 27th. Also, in April a Summer Tanager was found and remained at Kleinstuck for almost 12 days and was seen by me and a few other lucky birders who happened to stumble upon it. Summer Tanagers are more commonly found farther south but are one of the species predicted to move northward with warming temperatures and climate change.

May was also marked with many warm days and lots of southerly winds at night making for good migration movements almost every day. The best day of the season happened on May 13th when I finished with over 70 species. Some of the highlights this month were the Hooded Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher, both which only stayed for one day. The Hooded Warbler was very vocal singing for most of the morning while the Olive-sided Flycatcher was silently perched in a dead snag frequently making short flights out to capture flying insects. The most unusual species recorded this year was an American Bittern that was found on May 3rd by some other birders and I just missed seeing by a few minutes. The American Bittern is a secretive bird that is not usually visible for very long and before I could get there to see it the bird flew to a better hiding place and was not found again. American Bitterns breed in Northern Michigan, so this bird was moving through.

The season finished with 126 species which is close to the average. A personal highlight for me was seeing the Broad-winged Hawk pair set up a nest, which is the first time they have been documented doing so at Kleinstuck. I was able to see them most days in late April and all of May. This species more commonly nests in Northern Michigan and is a rare nester in Kalamazoo County, being usually found in larger tracts of land so it was quite a treat to see them here. Also, the Great Horned Owls nested and raised one young that fledged and hung out in a tree above the trail for a few days. Most of the warbler

species during this Spring were below or at average numbers except the Northern Parula for a second year in a row, which doubled its normal average yet again.

Information can be found using migration forecast maps from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. These tools predict each night's movement of birds using national weather radar. Learn more at:

[https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/migration-forecast-maps/.](https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/migration-forecast-maps/))

2024 KLEINSTUCK PRESERVE BIRD SURVEY SPECIES OBSERVED

Ducks, Geese, & Waterfowl	Woodpeckers	Treecreepers	Blackbirds & Allies
Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Creeper	Red-winged Blackbird
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Gnatcatchers	Rusty Blackbird
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Wrens	Brown-headed Cowbird
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	House Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Pheasants, Grouse, & Allies	Pileated Woodpecker	Winter Wren	New World Warblers
Wild Turkey	Tyrant Flycatchers	Carolina Wren	Ovenbird
Pigeons & Doves	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Starlings	Northern Waterthrush
Mourning Dove	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling	Golden-winged Warbler
Cuckoos	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Mockingbirds & Thrashers	Blue-winged Warbler
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Acadian Flycatcher	Gray Catbird	Black-and-white Warbler
Black-billed Cuckoo	Alder Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher	Tennessee Warbler
Swifts	Willow Flycatcher	Thrushes & Allies	Orange-crowned Warbler
Chimney Swift	Least Flycatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Nashville Warbler
Hummingbirds	Eastern Phoebe	Veery	Mourning Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Great Crested Flycatcher	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Kentucky Warbler
Cranes	Eastern Kingbird	Swainson's Thrush	Common Yellowthroat
Sandhill Crane	Vireos	Hermit Thrush	Hooded Warbler
Plovers	Yellow-throated Vireo	Wood Thrush	American Redstart
Killdeer	Blue-headed Vireo	American Robin	Cape May Warbler
Herons, Egrets & Bitterns	Warbling Vireo	Waxwings	Northern Parula
American Bittern	Red-eyed Vireo	Cedar Waxwing	Magnolia Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Crows & Jays	Old World Sparrows	Bay-breasted Warbler
Green Heron	Blue Jay	House Sparrow	Blackburnian Warbler
New World Vultures	American Crow	Finches & Allies	Yellow Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Chickadees & Titmice	House Finch	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Osprey	Black-capped Chickadee	Purple Finch	Blackpoll Warbler
Osprey	Tufted Titmouse	Pine Siskin	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Hawks, Eagles, Kites	Swallows	American Goldfinch	Palm Warbler
Bald Eagle	Tree Swallow	New World Sparrows	Pine Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Eastern Towhee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Kinglets	Field Sparrow	Canada Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Fox Sparrow	Wilson's Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Song Sparrow	Cardinals & Allies
Owls	Nuthatches	Lincoln's Sparrow	Scarlet Tanager
Great Horned Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow	Summer Tanager
Kingfishers	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher		White-crowned Sparrow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
		Dark-eyed Junco	Indigo Bunting



Wood Thrush



Black-capped Chickadee



Cooper's Hawk



Great Horned Owl Fledgling