

## Bird Walk Report for July 10,2010



On Saturday, July 10, we held our monthly bird walk visiting Sondermann Park, a small jewel of a park in the heart of Colorado Springs. Located on the west side of I-25, off of the Fontanero exit, this park offers excellent birding with open fields, scrub oak and a riparian habitat due to the small stream which runs through the park.

Five of us wandered the park, heading up the hill into the open fields first while it was still cool as the day would prove to be quite warm. One of the first birds we saw was a pair of beautiful Bullock's Orioles. Throughout the morning, we were able to spot at least two to three more. Northern Flickers were in abundance. In one section of scrub oak we watched a Western Kingbird, a Scrub Jay and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. On the far ridge at the top of a pine tree, a Red-tailed Hawk sat sunning its belly. From several tree tops, Spotted Towhees called.

Moving down the hillside and into the shade of the willows and cottonwoods along the stream we spotted more birds: American Robins, a Western Wood-pewee, a Song Sparrow (which posed and serenaded us beautifully), House Wrens, Mourning Doves, and a pair of Black-capped Chickadee.

All in all, we saw a total of 21 species. Here is the full list:

Northern Flicker	Bullock's Oriole
Spotted Towhee	American Robin
Scrub Jay	American Crow
Western Kingbird	Downy Woodpecker
Red-tailed Hawk	House Wren
American Kestrel	Black-headed Grosbeak (young bird)
Mourning Dove	House Finch
Western Wood-Pewee	Flycatcher – not further identified, but probably a Hammond's Flycatcher
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Song Sparrow	
Brown-headed Cowbird	In addition, we saw one deer (doe) and one coyote.
White-breasted Nuthatch	
Blue Jay	

Please join us for our next bird walk on Saturday, August 14. We meet at the store and depart promptly at 7:00 a.m. to carpool to the bird walk site, Bear Creek Park. All skill levels are welcomed. Please RSVP so we know how many to expect. And, if you know of a good birding place, let us know. We are always open to suggestions!