



FIELD REPORT OF SHORT BIRDING TRIP NEAR MADISON AREA AND VISIT TO THE VORTEX OPTICS HEADQUARTER AT BARNEVELD IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN – USA.



Vortex Optics Headquarters at Barneveld Wisconsin - Photo by Ana Amable

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BIRDING LOCALITIES OF INTEREST

BARNEVELD PRAIRIE STATE NATURAL AREA.

This primitive, unmarked trail traverses steep terrain is a great place to see a remnant of the vast tallgrass prairies and savannas that once covered most of southern Wisconsin. Surrounded by an agricultural landscape, the hilltops and valleys at Barneveld Prairie provide habitat for colorful butterflies and uncommon birds that thrive in large, open, treeless landscapes. (The Nature Conservancy, 2021.)

The Conservancy purchased its first 79 acres at Barneveld Prairie in 1997 from Harold Thomas. In October 2002, the Conservancy bought an additional 892 acres at Barneveld Prairie from Dr. Richard and Margaret Botham. Located in the Town of Brigham, the property contains a diverse mix of prairie remnants, prairie pastures*, CRP lands, oak savanna, alfalfa fields, wetlands, row crop fields, and wooded draws. It provides important habitat for grassland birds like meadowlarks, bobolinks, vesper and grasshopper sparrows, dickcissels, and upland sandpipers, whose populations are declining worldwide. Loss of suitable habitat and the fragmentation of surviving grasslands are two of the major reasons for these declines. This parcel of land has been named the Muehllehner Addition to Barneveld Prairie in honor of Ursula and Gerd Muehllehner who made a generous donation to cover almost half of the acquisition cost. (The Nature Conservancy, 2021.).

BLUE MOUND STATE PARK – FLINT ROCK NATURE TRAIL 1.5 M

Blue Mound State Park is a state park in Wisconsin, United States, located atop the largest hill in the southern half of the state, near the village of Blue Mounds. The 1,153-acre (467 ha) park features a pair of observation towers affording views of the Wisconsin River valley and Baraboo Range to the north, the mounds, buttes, and rolling forests of the Driftless Area to the south and west, and the young glacial plains and city of Madison to the east.

West Blue Mound (elev. 1,716 ft (523 m)), the park's namesake, rises approximately 450 feet (140 m) above the Military Ridge. However, when viewed from several miles to the north or south, the apparent local relief becomes more like 600 to 950 feet (180 to 290 m). The mountain, as most of the other large mounds of the Driftless Area, is an outlier of Niagara dolomitic limestone. It is a monadnock, having been created through centuries of erosion, with the harder dolomite being more weather-resistant than the other surrounding rock of the region. (Wikipedia, 2021).

THE KEY TO THE BIRD LIST

* = Species heard only

Red – IUCN Red List Category

IOC = International Ornithological Congress

NACC = North American Classification Committee

SACC = South American Classification Committee

CT = National Audubon Society Climate Report

THE BIRDS

HERONS & EGRETS – ARDEIDAE

The monophyly of the family Ardeidae has never been seriously questioned other than the treatment of *Cochlearius* in a separate, monotypic family. Sequence of genera (and some species within genera) derives from the phylogeny of Sheldon (1987), Sheldon et al. (1995), McCracken & Sheldon (1998), Sheldon et al. (2000), and some unpublished data from Fred Sheldon. The family is often (e.g., MartV≠nez-Vilata and Motis (1992) subdivided into four subfamilies, but these do not correspond precisely to the branching pattern of the molecular phylogeny of Sheldon et al. (2000),

In which there is also some conflict depending on which molecular data-set is used (e.g., whether tiger-herons and *Cochlearius* are sister groups); thus, no subfamilial divisions are used here.

1. Great Blue Heron – *Ardea Herodias*

One individual flying overheard at Vortex headquarter parking lot. Payne & Risley (1976), Payne (1979), Sibley & Monroe (1990), and Martinez-Vilata and Motis (1992) considered *Ardea cinerea*, *A. herodias*, and *A. cocoi* to form a superspecies.

NEW WORLD VULTURES – *CATHARTIDAE*

Ligon (1967) summarized previous evidence and presented new evidence on skeletal morphology, myology, and natal plumage that suggested that the Cathartidae were more closely related to the Ciconiidae than to other Falconiformes. <summarize subsequent evidence/against ciconiiform relationship, Sibley & Ahlquist (1990), Aves et al. (1994), Griffiths (1994), Mayr & Clarke (2003), Fain & Houde (2004) etc., >. Recent genetic data strongly refute a cathartid-stork relationship (Cracraft et al. 2004, Ericson et al. 2006, Gibb et al. 2006, Slack et al. 2007, Hackett et al. 2008). The monophyly of the Cathartidae is strongly supported by multiple data sets (e.g., REFS), and the family is sufficiently distinctive that fossil cathartids can be recognized as far back as the middle Eocene (e.g., Cracraft & Rich 1972).

2. Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

Couple flying over Barneveld Prairie, common. Jaramillo (2003) suggested that the resident tropical subspecies *ruficollis* [Tropical] and the southern subspecies group (*jota* [South Temperate] and "*falklandica*" [Falkland]) might merit recognition as separate species from the northern *Cathartes aura* group.

HAWKS AND EAGLES – *ACCIPITRIDAE*

The monophyly of the Accipitridae has never been seriously questioned, and recent comprehensive genetic analyses (Lerner & Mindell 2005, Griffiths et al. 2007, Lerner et al. 2008) confirm the monophyly of the family. Lerner & Mindell (2005) found that the Accipitridae consisted of fourteen principle lineages, which they designated with subfamily rank. Griffiths et al. (2007) found that the family consists of eight major lineages, which they designated using tribe, subtribe, and infratribe ranks; none of Peters (1931) subfamilies was found to be monophyletic [descended from a common evolutionary ancestor or ancestral group].

3. Red-tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*

One individual seen at Blue Mound Stare Park. The dark and variable populations breeding in western, central, and south-coastal Alaska, and in western Canada were formerly regarded as a distinct species, *B. harlani* (Audubon, 1831) [Harlan's Hawk], but are now treated as a race of *B. jamaicensis* (see Mindell 1983). Most subspecies differ only slightly and on average in plumage, and are barely distinguishable except by subjective judgment and considering location. Krider's may be only a morph. Harlan's Hawk (*B. j. harlani*) is the exception, and is nearly 100% identifiable. (Sibley 2014).

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS – *CHARADRIIDAE*

Sequence of genera follows Baker et al. (2012). Many classifications (mostly recently Cracraft 2013) divide the family into two subfamilies, Vanellinae and Charadriinae.

4. Killdeer - *Charadrius vociferus*

One seen at Vortex Headquarter parking lot. *Charadrius vociferus* was formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1919) placed in the monotypic genus *Oxyechus* but it has been included in *Charadrius* since Peters (1934).

GULLS & TERNS - *LARIDAE*

5. Ring-billed Gull - *Larus delawarensis* CT

One individual flying overheard at Vortex headquarter parking lot.

PIGEONS & DOVES – *COLUMBIDAE*

Jarvis et al. (2014) and Prum et al. (2015) found that the Columbiformes were sister to Old World Pteroclitiformes [Sandgrouse] and Mesitornithiformes [Mesites]. The monophyly of the Columbiformes has never been seriously questioned. Traditional classifications (e.g., Gibbs et al. 2001) treat the huge, extinct flightless pigeons of the Mascarene Islands as a separate family, Raphidae, but recognition of this family would certainly make both families paraphyletic because it would seem impossible that the three species of "Raphidae" are each other's closest relatives, but instead represent three independent colonizations of separate islands with subsequent convergent evolution. Within the Columbidae, Goodwin (1983) recognized five subfamilies, only one of which, Columbinae, occurs in the Western Hemisphere. These subfamily designations do not correspond to deep splits in the family. In fact, genetic data (Johnson 2004) indicate that the New World ground-doves are a distinctive group that are the sister group to a large sample of Old World and New World genera.

6. Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) - *Columba livia*

One seen flying across Barneveld Prairie. Previously known as "Rock Dove" (e.g., Sibley & Monroe 1990, BOU <REF>, Gibbs et al. 2001), as well as some recent South American literature (e.g., Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Hilty 2003). However, use of unmodified Rock Pigeon is incorrect according to general principles of English name usage because the Australian pigeons in the genus *Petrophassa* are also called "Rock Pigeon" (Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon, White-quilled Rock Pigeon). Dickinson & Remsen (2013) reverted to "Rock Dove" as primary name, and del Hoyo & Collar (2014) used "Rock Dove" as the only name.

7. Mourning Dove - *Zenaida macroura*

Two seen at Blue Mound Estate Park. *Zenaida macroura* and *Z. auriculata* [Eared Dove] constitute a superspecies (Mayr and Short 1970).

WOODPECKERS – *PICIDAE*

The monophyly of the Picidae has never been seriously questioned. Within the Piciformes, evidence supports a sister relationship to the Old World Indicatoridae, Prybylko & Moore 2003, Cracraft et al. 2004, Fain & Houde 2004, Webb & Moore 2005, Benz et al. 2006, Ericson et al. 2006, Hackett et al. 2008). The linear arrangement and composition of genera below in general follows that of Short (1982), who placed the piculets in a separate subfamily, Picumninae, and divided the typical woodpeckers, Picinae, into six tribes, four of which have representatives in South America: Melanerpini for a broadly defined *Melanerpes* and *Sphyrapicus*; Campetherini for a broadly defined *Picoides* and *Veniliornis* (now *Dryobates*); Colapteni for *Piculus*, *Colaptes*, and *Celeus*; and Campephilini for *Dryocopus* and *Campephilus*. In general, Short's classification, culminating in a monographic treatment of the family (Short 1982), merged many previously recognized genera into many fewer, broadly defined genera. <incorp. Goodge 1972>. Genetic data (Webb & Moore 2005, Benz et al. 2006) that most of these groups are not monophyletic. Webb and Moore (2005), generally supported by Benz et al. (2006), recommended a classification with three tribes for the three major groups in the Picinae: (1) Malarpicini for *Colaptes*, *Piculus*, *Celeus*, *Dryocopus*, and several Old World genera; (2) Dendropicini for *Picoides*, *Veniliornis* (now *Dryobates*), *Melanerpes*, *Sphyrapicus*, and several Old World genera; and (3) *Campephilus*, *Chrysocolaptes*, and two Old World genera. Genetic data (Benz et al. 2006) support the monophyly and distinctiveness of the Picumninae (*Picumnus* and Old World *Sasia*, but not Caribbean *Nesocittes*) as the sister taxon to all other woodpeckers.

8. Red-headed Woodpecker - *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* CT

One male seen at Blue Mound State Park, great sight foraging together with a mixed species flock. probably the most handsome woodpecker in North America.

9. Red-bellied Woodpecker - *Melanerpes carolinus*

A pair seen at Blue Mound State Park, distinguished by its barred (zebra) back. *Melanerpes aurifrons* [Golden-fronted woodpeckers], *M. carolinus* [Red-bellied Woodpecker], *M. hoffmannii* [Hoffmann's woodpecker], *M. uropygialis* [Gila woodpecker], and *M. supercilialis* [West Indian woodpecker] appear to constitute a superspecies (Short 1982)

10. Hairy Woodpecker - *Picoides villosus* CT

Seen a pair at Blue Mound State Park. Four subspecies groups differ in plumage, and slightly in size, but not voice or structure; many are probably safely identifiable but reliability of differences needs to be worked out.

11. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – *Sphyrapicus varius* CT

Seen one male at Blue Mound State Park, foraging together with a mixed species flock. Formerly *S. nuchalis* [Red-naped Sapsucker] was considered conspecific with *S. varius* [Yellow-bellied Sapsucker], with or without inclusion also of *S. ruber* [Red-breasted Sapsucker]. Limited and localized hybridization occurs among the three species (Howell 1952); changes since Howell's work have been reported by Scott et al. (1976). *Sphyrapicus varius* [Yellow-bellied Sapsucker], *S. nuchalis* [Red-naped Sapsucker], and *S. ruber* [Red-breasted Sapsucker] constitute a superspecies (Mayr and Short 1970).

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS – TYRANNIDAE

Sibley & Ahlquist (1985, 1990) found that the Tyrannidae consisted of two major groups, the "Mionectidae" for *Mionectes* and several genera of small flycatchers placed in the subfamily Elaeniinae (sensu Traylor 1979a); Sibley & Ahlquist's data also indicated that the "Mionectidae" and Tyrannidae were not sister groups. Subsequent analyses (S. Lanyon 1985, W. Lanyon 1988a, b) did not support such a division. However, Chesser (2004) found the same deep division in the Tyrannidae, but found that the two groups were sisters. Tello et al. (2009) found that *Mionectes* was deeply embedded in the Tyrannidae and sister to *Leptopogon*. For detailed discussions of relationships among genera, see Traylor (1977) and W. Lanyon (1985, 1986, 1988a, 1988b, 1988c). [incorp. Birdsley (2002), Fitzpatrick 2004]. Tello et al. (2009) have conducted the first comprehensive, gene-based analysis of relationships within the family and have discovered a number of novel relationships not yet reflected in the classification above or the Notes below, including grouping of *Onychorhynchus*, *Myiobius*, and *Terenotriccus* with *Oxyruncus* (Oxyruncidae). Ohlson et al. (2013) proposed dividing the Tyrannidae into families: Onychorhynchidae (for *Onychorhynchus*, *Myiobius*, and *Terenotriccus*), Platyrinchidae (for *Calyptura*, *Neopipo*, and *Platyrinchus*), Tachurididae (for *Tachuris*), Rhynchocyclidae (for *Mionectes* through *Oncostoma*, with three subfamilies), and Tyrannidae (with remaining genera, divided into five subfamilies and several additional tribes); this was followed by Dickinson & Christidis (2014). See Franz (2015) correction of Tachurididae to Tachuridae. See Fjeldså et al. (2018) for new information on relationships within the fluvicoline group. The current Tyrannidae tentatively includes genera placed in the following subfamilies by other authors: Rhynchocyclinae, Fluvicolinae, Pipromorphinae, Hirundininae, Elaeniinae, Triccininae, and Muscigrallinae. The tentative linear sequence of genera within broadly defined Tyrannidae follows the sequence of genera in Dickinson & Christidis (2014) for their Tachuridae through Tyrannidae.

12. Eastern Wood-Pewee - *Contopus virens*

Heard and seen at Blue Mound State Park

One seen at Shawnee Lookout Park. *C. virens*, *C. sordidulus*, and *C. cinereus* constitute a superspecies (Sibley and Monroe 1990). Meyer de Schauensee (1966, 1970) considered *Contopus sordidulus* to be conspecific with *Contopus virens*, with the composite name "Wood Pewee", but this treatment has seldom been followed, before (e.g., AOU 1957). Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered the subspecies *punensis* of southwestern Ecuador and northwestern Peru to represent a separate species from *Contopus cinereus* based on vocal differences.

13. Willow Flycatcher - *Empidonax traillii* CT

One seen at Barneveld Prairie. Two groups may be distinguishable in the field, with subtle differences in plumage and possibly in voice. More study is needed to determine the reliability of ID features. (Sibley, 2015).

14. Great Crested Flycatcher - *Myiarchus crinitus*

Heard and seen one at Blue Mound State Park.

VIREOS – VIREONIDAE

The Vireonidae was formerly placed, based on some morphological studies (e.g., Beecher 1953, Tordoff 1954a), in or next to the nine-primaried oscines in linear sequences (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Ridgely & Tudor 1989); however, genetic data (e.g., Johnson et al. 1988, Sheldon & Gill 1996, Cicero & Johnson 2001, Barker et al. 2002, 2004, Treplin et al. 2008) have confirmed Sibley & Ahlquist's (1982, 1990) once-controversial finding that the Vireonidae is part of the Corvida lineage. Slager et al. (2014) confirmed the monophyly of the family (including Indomalayan *Pteruthius* and *Erpornis*, as discovered by Reddy & Cracraft 2007). *Cyclarhis* and *Vireolanius* were formerly treated in separate families, Cyclarhiidae and Vireolaniidae (e.g., Hellmayr 1935, REFs), but see Zimmer (1942b), Barlow & James (1975), Raikow (1978), Orenstein & Barlow (1981), and Sibley & Ahlquist (1982) for inclusion within the Vireonidae. Retention of these groups as subfamilies (e.g., Blake 1968a) within the Vireonidae was contested by early genetic data (Johnson et al. 1988, Cicero & Johnson 2001), and more recent, more comprehensive surveys (Slager et al. 2014) are unable to conclusively resolve the topology of the deepest branches. <incorp. Murray et al. check Hamilton 1962>. The classification adopted here follows Slager et al. (2014).

15. Red-eyed Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus**

Heard at Blue Mound State Park. The two groups are sometimes regarded as separate species because of a wide hiatus in distribution, but recent biochemical studies (Johnson and Zink 1985) indicate that chivi (Vieillot, 1817) [Chivi Vireo] and olivaceus [Red-eyed Vireo] are closely related and presumably conspecific, whereas *V. flavoviridis* is distinct at the species level; the approach of the breeding ranges (with no suggestion of any intergradation) of the chivi group and *flavoviridis* in eastern Panama and northwestern Colombia also supports recognition of *flavoviridis* at the species level. The resident population on Fernando de Noronha, formerly considered to be conspecific with the chivi group, is recognized as a species, *V. gracilirostris* Sharpe, 1890, by Olson (1994). *Vireo olivaceus*, *V. gracilirostris*, *V. flavoviridis*, *V. altiloquus*, and *V. magister* are also closely related and may constitute a superspecies (Blake in Paynter 1968, Mayr and Short 1970, Sibley and Monroe 1990).

CROWS & JAYS – CORVIDAE

For information on relationships among genera, see Peters (1962), Hardy (1969), Mayr and Short (1970), Goodwin (1976), Sibley and Ahlquist (1990), Sibley and Monroe (1990) and Espinosa de los Monteros (1997).

The genera in South America are part of a group of New World jays the monophyly of which is supported by genetic (Ericson et al. 2005, Ekman and Ericson 2006) and morphological (Manegold 2008) characters.

16. Blue Jay - *Cyanocitta cristata*

Several seen at Blue Mound State Park. *Cyanocitta stelleri* [Steller's Jay] and *C. cristata* hybridize occasionally in central Colorado; they may constitute a superspecies (Mayr and Short 1970).

17. American Crow – *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Seen at Barneveld Prairie and couple more at Blue Mound State Park. Also known as Common Crow. *Corvus brachyrhynchos* and *C. caurinus* [Northwestern Crow]. Are closely related and may be conspecific (Johnston 1961, Phillips 1986); they constitute a superspecies. Although a few authors consider *C. brachyrhynchos* and the Old World *C. corone* [Carrion Crow] to be closely related (or even conspecific) (Meise 1928, Dorst 1947, Dement'ev and Gladkov 1954), the relationships of the latter appear to be with other Old World species (Goodwin 1976). Mayr and Short (1970) considered *C. brachyrhynchos* and *C. nasicus* [Cuban Crow] to constitute a superspecies, but see Goodwin (1976).

SWALLOWS & MARTINS – HIRUNDINIDAE

The swallows are a distinctive family with no certain close relatives (Sheldon & Gill 1996, REFS), although some data suggest a relationship to the Alaudidae (Treplin et al. 2008).

Recent genetic data indicate that they may be part of a primarily Old World radiation of "sylvioid" families such as babblers and tits (Barker et al. 2004), including the Alaudidae (Johansson et al. 2008).

18. Northern Rough-winged Swallow - *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Seen flying over the fields at Barneveld Prairie. Phillips (1986) treated the two groups as distinct species, *S. serripennis* [Northern Rough-winged Swallow] and *S. ridgwayi* Nelson, 1901 [Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow]. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* and *S. ruficollis* were formerly considered conspecific [Roughwinged Swallow], but sympatric breeding has been discovered in Costa Rica (Stiles 1981).

19. Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*

Seen flying over the fields at Barneveld Prairie. The New World populations of *Hirundo rustica* were formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1904) treated as a separate species, *H. erythrogastra*, from Old World populations, but they were treated as conspecific by van Rossem (1934), Hellmayr (1935).

NUTHATCHES – *SITTIDAE*

20. White-breasted (Eastern) Nuthatch – *Sitta carolinensis* CT

Heard and seen at Blue Mound State Park. Vocal, morphological, and ecological differences among Pacific coast, interior montane, and eastern populations merit further investigation with respect to species limits. A few authors regard *S. carolinensis* and the Old World *S. leucopsis* [White-cheeked Nuthatch] Gould, 1850 to be closely related, but see Mayr and Short (1970).

GNATCATCHERS – *POLIOPTILIDAE*

21. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - *Poliophtila caerulea*

One seen at Blue Mound State Park. Two subspecies differ slightly in plumage and voice and might be reliably identified out of range, more study is needed. (Sibley, 2015).

WRENS – *TROGLODYTIDAE*

Traditional classifications (e.g., Mayr & Amadon 1951, Wetmore 1960, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) placed the Troglodytidae near the Sittidae, Certhiidae, Mimidae, and Cinclidae to reflect proposed relationships to those families (e.g., Beecher 1953). Genetic data (Sibley & Ahlquist 1990, Sheldon & Gill 1996, Barker et al. 2004, Voelker & Spellman 2004, Treplin et al. 2008) indicate a close relationship to the Polioptilidae.

22. Northern House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*

Seen and heard at Blue Mound State Park. The International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature has been asked (Bull. Zool. Nomenclature 53: 187-190, 1996) to conserve the widely used specific name *aedon* despite the fact that *T. domesticus* (Wilson, 1808) has priority; see Banks and Browning (1995). Species limits within this complex are not well understood. Groups: *T. aedon* [Northern House-Wren], *T. brunneicollis* Sclater, 1858 [Brown-throated Wren], *T. musculus* Naumann, 1823 [Southern House-Wren], *T. martinicensis* (Sclater, 1866) [Antillean HouseWren], and *T. beani* Ridgway, 1885 [Cozumel Wren]. *Troglodytes aedon* and *T. brunneicollis* intergrade through intermediate breeding populations in southern Arizona (Marshall 1956, Phillips et al. 1964, Lanyon 1960), but intergradation between *brunneicollis* and *musculus* in an area of close approach in north-central Oaxaca has not been definitely established (Monroe 1968, Binford 1989). *Troglodytes beani* appears to be part of the *T. martinicensis* complex. Many or all of the distinctive Caribbean subspecies included within the *T. martinicensis* group may each warrant species status. Brumfield and Capparella (1996) suggested that the *musculus* group and probably the *brunneicollis* group are specifically distinct from *aedon*, but study of parapatric populations is needed to resolve species limits in this complex. See comments under *T. ochraceus*.

THRUSHES – *TURDIDAE*

The limits of the Turdidae, as traditionally defined (e.g., REFS) are almost certainly incorrect. Genetic data (Cibois & Cracraft 2004, Treplin et al. 2008, Sangster et al. 2010)

Indicate that the mostly Old World saxicoline genera are more closely related to members of the traditional Muscicapidae than to the Turdidae; this would require a merger of the two families or a transfer of the saxicoline genera (e.g., *Oenanthe*) to the Muscicapidae.

Within the remaining Turdidae, genetic data (Klicka et al. 2005, Sangster et al. 2010) indicate that *Myadestes* is more closely related to a group that includes the Old World genera *Stizorhina* and *Neocossyphus* than it is to other New World thrushes; Olson (1989) and Pasquet et al. (1999) proposed recognition of a separate subfamily for this group, Myadestinae.

23. Eastern Bluebird - *Sialia sialis*

A pair seen at Blue Mound State Park. Differences in two subspecies groups are slight, despite disjunct range, perhaps not identifiable out of range, but more study is warranted. (Sibley, 2015).

24. Veery - *Catharus fuscescens* CT

Heard and seen at Blue Mound State Park. Subspecies show only slight and average differences in overall color and are not safely identified in the field. (Sibley, 2015).

25. American Robin - *Turdus migratorius*

Seen several at Blue Mound State Park. Formerly known in American literature as the Robin. Groups: *T. migratorius* [American Robin] and *T. confinis* Baird, 1864 [San Lucas Robin].

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS – MIMIDAE

Recent genetic data (Barker et al. 2002, 2004, Cibois & Cracraft 2004, Voelker & Spellman 2004, Johansson et al. 2008, Treplin et al. 2008) have confirmed once-controversial findings (e.g., Beecher 1953, Stallcup 1961, Sibley & Ahlquist 1980, 1984, 1985, 1990) that the Mimidae and Sturnidae are sister families, suggested originally by the morphological analysis of Beecher (1953). Within the Mimidae, genetic data (Hunt et al. 2001, Cibois & Cracraft 2004, Lovette & Rubenstein 2007, Lovette et al. 2012) indicate two main groups: (1) a Caribbean group that also includes *Dumetella*, and (2) *Mimus* + *Nesomimus* + *Toxostoma* + extralimital *Oreoscoptes*.

26. Gray Catbird – *Dumetella carolinensis*

Heard and seen at Barneveld Prairie and Blue Mound State Park.

27. Brown Thrasher - *Toxostoma rufum*

Seen one at Barneveld Prairie. *Toxostoma rufum*, *T. longirostre* [Long-billed Thrasher], and *T. guttatum* [Cozumel Thrasher] constitute a superspecies (Mayr and Short 1970).

STARLINGS & MYNAS - STURNIDAE

28. European Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris*

Several at Barneveld township. Also known as the Starling or Common Starling. *Sturnus vulgaris* and *S. unicolor* Temminck, 1820 [Spotless Starling], of the western Mediterranean region, constitute a superspecies (Sibley and Monroe 1990).

WAXWINGS - BOMBYCILLIDAE

29. Cedar Waxwing - *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Three seen at Barneveld Prairie.

WOOD WARBLERS – PARULIDAE

Several genetic data sets indicate that the sister family of the Parulidae is the Icteridae (e.g., Bledsoe 1988, Barker et al. 2002, Yuri & Mindell 2002) [and get other subsequent REFS]. <incorp. Lovette & Bermingham 1999> The family was known in the older literature as "Compsothlypidae." Genetic data (Lovette et al. 2010) indicates that the traditional sequence of genera needs modification to reflect relationships among the genera, e.g., *Seiurus* is sister to all other Parulidae, and *Helmitheros* is then sister to all other genera.

30. Common Yellowthroat - *Geothlypis trichas**

Heard only at Barneveld Prairie. Groups: *G. chapalensis* Nelson, 1903 [Chapala Yellowthroat] and *G. trichas* [Common Yellowthroat]. Species limits and relationships within the genus are generally poorly understood and require further study.

31. Yellow Warbler - *Setophaga petechia**

Heard only at Barneveld Prairie. Three major groups are distinctive. Within the Northern group it is often possible to identify migrants as belonging to, for example, a northern population based on drab color and/or timing of migration, but this is not enough to allow a subspecies label. Golden and Mangrove populations are both distinctive and identifiable. (Sibley, 2015).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – EMBERIZIDAE

Genetic data (Bledsoe 1988, Sibley & Ahlquist 1990, Loughheed et al. 2000, Burns et al. 2002, 2003, Klicka et al. 2007, Sedano & Burns 2010 -- check Groth-Barrowclough etc.) indicate that the family Emberizidae as traditionally constituted is polyphyletic, with most genera occurring in South America belonging to the tanager lineage; some morphological data (Clark 1986) also support this. The only genera in South America traditionally placed in the Emberizidae for which genetic data indicate that they are true Emberizidae (now Passerellidae) are: *Zonotrichia*, *Ammodramus*, *Aimophila* (DaCosta et al. 2009), *Arremon*, and *Atlapetes*; the majority have been found to be members of the Thraupidae; see Note 1 under that family. Barker et al. (2013) and Klicka et al. (2014) found that even a more narrowly defined Emberizidae was not a monophyletic group and that recognition of a new family, Passerellidae, was required for all New World members of Emberizidae. This was adopted by Chesser et al. (2017). Klicka et al. (2014) also found that the phylogenetic relationships among genera and species in this family are not reflected in traditional linear sequences.

32. Grasshopper Sparrow - *Ammodramus savannarum*

Heard and seen in nesting grounds at Barneveld Prairie. Four subspecies. Differences in plumage might allow confident identification of some individuals in the field, but on current knowledge none are considered identifiable. (Sibley, 2015).

33. Henslow's Sparrow - *Centronyx henslowii* (CT)

Several heard and seen in nesting grounds at Barneveld Prairie.

34. Field Sparrow - *Spizella pusilla*

Few seen at Barneveld Prairie. *Spizella pusilla* and *S. wortheni* [Worthen's Sparrow] constitute a superspecies (Sibley and Monroe 1990).

35. Eastern Towhee - *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Two seen at Blue Mound State Park. Populations in the southeast differ from northern birds in eye color and slightly in plumage, but intergrade broadly so that variation is mostly clinal. Sibley (2014).



Grasshopper Sparrow by the Guide to the Sibley Birds, Second Edition | Page 522 Grasshopper Sparrow



Henslow's Sparrow by the Guide to the Sibley Birds, Second Edition | Page 523 Henslow's Sparrow

CARDINALS AND BUNTINGS – *CARDINALIDAE*

This group is treated as a family, following AOU (1998). Tordoff (1954a) defined the group on the basis of shared characters of the skull to consist of *Caryothraustes*, *Cyanocompsa*, *Passerina*, *Pheucticus*, *Cardinalis*, *Saltator*, and *Spiza*, as well as extralimital *Rhodothraupis*. Sushkin (1924) considered *Saltator* to be a thick-billed tanager rather than a cardinalid or emberizid. Klicka et al. (2000) failed to find genetic support for inclusion of *Saltator* in this family, and this was later confirmed by Klicka et al. (2007), whose genetic data showed that the Cardinalidae, as defined above, is highly polyphyletic. A monophyletic Cardinalidae would require removal of *Saltator* and *Parkerthraustes* and inclusion of *Amaurospiza*, and *Granatellus*. Barker et al. (2013) confirmed that the genera listed here are members of the Cardinalidae. The current sequence of species in this family is meaningless and will be re-evaluated once proposals are processed.

36. Northern Cardinal - *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Heard and seen at Blue Mound State Park, common. Sibley (2014) Two subspecies groups are reliably distinguished by bill shape and plumage pattern. Groups: *C. cardinalis* [Common Cardinal] and *C. carneus* (Lesson, 1842) [Long-crested Cardinal]. Also known as the Cardinal or Common Cardinal. *Cardinalis cardinalis* and the South American *C. phoeniceus* Bonaparte, 1838 [Vermilion Cardinal], may constitute a superspecies (Mayr and Short 1970, Paynter 1970).

37. Indigo Bunting - *Passerina cyanea*

Seen one male at Blue Mound State Park

38. Dickcissel - *Spiza Americana*

Heard and seen several individuals at Barneveld Prairie

ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS – *ICTERIDAE*

39. Bobolink - *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* *CT

Heard only at Barneveld Prairie.

40. Red-winged Blackbird - *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Common. Two subspecies groups represent extremes of variation and are reliably distinguished by plumage and differ slightly in song, but intermediate populations exist. Populations in southern Florida may differ in song and plumage and deserve more study. (Sibley, 2015).

41. Eastern Meadowlark - *Sturnella magna*

Seen at Barneveld Prairie. Two subspecies groups can apparently be distinguished by plumage color and voice, although identifying either within the range of the other would be extremely difficult. (Sibley, 2015).

42. Common Grackle - *Quiscalus quiscula*

Several seen at Blue Mound State Park. Two subspecies groups are reliably identified in adult male plumage, somewhat less distinctive in females. Many intergrades occur in a relatively narrow band where ranges meet from Louisiana to New England. (Sibley, 2015).

43. Brown-headed Cowbird - *Molothrus ater*

Several seen at Blue Mound State Park. Differences in flight calls and in gape color of juveniles might allow identification of subspecies. More study is needed (Sibley, 2015).

OTHER WILDLIFE

RODENTIA (CASTORIDAE & SCIURIDAE)

1. Eastern Gray Squirrel - *Ondatra zibethicus*
Seen at Blue Mound State Park.
2. Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel – *Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*
Heard at Barneveld Prairie and seen one at parking lot.

LEPIDOPTERA (NYMPHALIDAE)

3. Monarch Butterfly - *Danaus plexippus*
Several seen at Barneveld Prairie

ANURA (BUFONIDAE & RANIDAE)

4. American Toad – *Anaxyrus americanus*
Seen at Blue Mound State Park



American Toad – Photo by Ana Amable

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- Thanks to Adrian Lesak of Vortex Optics for the excellent performance during birding at Barneveld Prairie Nature Area.

FIELD GEAR USED

- Razor UHD 8x42mm and Razor UHD 10x42mm Vortex binoculars
- Razor 85MM Vortex Angular Scoping Scope
- Summit Vortex Tripode
- eBird APP
- Merlin App
- Samsung Galaxy Note20 Phone

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MORE PICTURES OF THE BIRDING SITES



Barneveld Prairie State Natural Area - Photo by Ana Amable



Bird Leader Adrian Lesak and Richard Amable at Barneveld Prairie State Natural Area - Photo by Ana Amable



From left to the Right Adrian Lesak, Richard Amable and Ana Amable at Barneveld Prairie State Natural Area
Photo by Ana Amable



Flint Rock trail at Blue Mound State Park - Photo by Ana Amable



Blue Mound State Park - Photo by Ana Amable



West Tower at Blue Mound State Park - Photo by Ana Amable



Blue Mound State Park - Photo by Ana Amable



From left to right Ana Amable, Shamus Terry and Richard Amable – Photo by Ana Amable

THE END