

Grassy Island Bird and Insect Survey, July 3, 2006
Julie Craves, Rouge River Bird Observatory

9:30 AM - 1 PM

Birds – on or very near island only

numbers represent numbers of family units (singing males, family groups) unless indicated

* indicates Breeding Bird Atlas evidence of “probable” or “confirmed”

Double-crested Cormorant – 16 ind.

Great Blue Heron – 1 ind.

Canada Goose – 85 ind.

Mute Swan – 22 ind.

Wood Duck – 1 flyover

*Mallard – 8 ind.

[Peregrine Falcon flew over marina]

Spotted Sandpiper – 3 ind.

Ring-billed Gull & Herring Gull – flyovers and off shore

*Mourning Dove – 7

Belted Kingfisher – 1

*Downy Woodpecker – 6

Northern Flicker – 1

*Warbling Vireo – 17

*Tree Swallow – 7

*N. Rough-winged Swallow – 5

*Barn Swallow – 3

Carolina Wren – 1

*House Wren – 9

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1

*Wood Thrush – 1

*American Robin – 12

*Gray Catbird – 9

*European Starling – 3

*Cedar Waxwing – 5

*Yellow Warbler – 25

*Common Yellowthroat – 5

*Song Sparrow – 10

*Northern Cardinal – 5

Indigo Bunting – 1

*Red-winged Blackbird – 31

*Common Grackle – 2

*Brown-headed Cowbird – 6 (one being fed by Yellow Warbler)

*Baltimore Oriole – 5

*House Finch – 2

*American Goldfinch

Comments: Despite not being able to really penetrate the area, good diversity of expected breeding species, with high densities of Warbling Vireos and Yellow Warblers. Another summer visit, with machete, would probably yield a few additional species. The abundance of willows, presence of hawthorns, and location suggest this is likely an important site during spring migration.

Odonata

* = vouchered for placement in Univ. Michigan Museum Zoology Insect Div.

*Tule Bluet (*Enallagma carunculatum*)

Familiar Bluet (*Enallagma civile*)

*Stream Bluet (*Enallagma exsulans*)

*Orange Bluet (*Enallagma signatum*)

Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

Prince Baskettail (*Epitheca princeps*)

Black Saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*)

Comments: Surprising lack of odonata probably due to lack of surface water, near-shore emergent vegetation, or soft shoreline. *E. civile* and *E. carunculatum* most common; latter has been found in the county only along Detroit River.

Lepidoptera

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) – 1
E. Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) – 3
Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) – common and widespread
Lycaenidae sp., probably Eastern Tailed Blue (*Everes comyntas*) – 1
Polygonia sp., one that perched was Question Mark (*P. interrogationis*) – 3
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) – 1
Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) – 2
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) – 1
Least Skipper (*Ancyloxypha numitor*) – 2
European Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*) – 1, probable

Comments: Lack of nectaring sources at this time except at north end (knapweed). Host plants for *Vanessa atalanta* (stinging nettle, *Urtica gracilis*), *Nymphalis antiopa* (willows, *Salix* sp.), and *Papilio glaucus* (trees and shrubs, including *Salix* and *Populus* sp.) common; some milkweed (*Asclepias syrica*) for *Danaus plexippus*. Skippers and Satyridae use grasses, *Papilio polyxenes* favors Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*) and these host plants appeared scarce. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) seemed fairly common, so Hackberry Emperor, *Asterocampa celtis*, should be expected. Overall nectaring sources could be a limiting factor on the island.