

Birding

Fall Open Houses at the Almonte Lagoon

2021

Report by Michel Gauthier

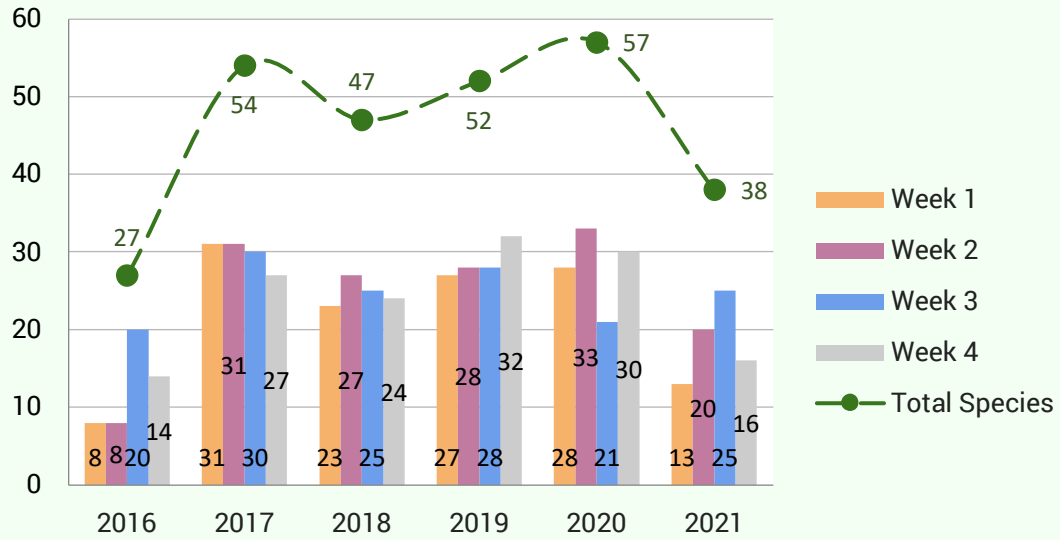
In September of 2021, the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, in order to instill a sense of continuity during yet another year of pandemic, held the four traditional Fall Open Houses at the Almonte Lagoon.

Let's say it right away: The birds did not cooperate. For a second year in a row, the total numbers were down, and the number of species reached a low not seen since 2016. Twenty-six MVFN members gathered the data shown in the following charts. Despite the disappointing numbers, they enjoyed the exercise of counting 925 birds and recording 38 species. Three species of note among the 38 were: American Bittern, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Marsh Wren.

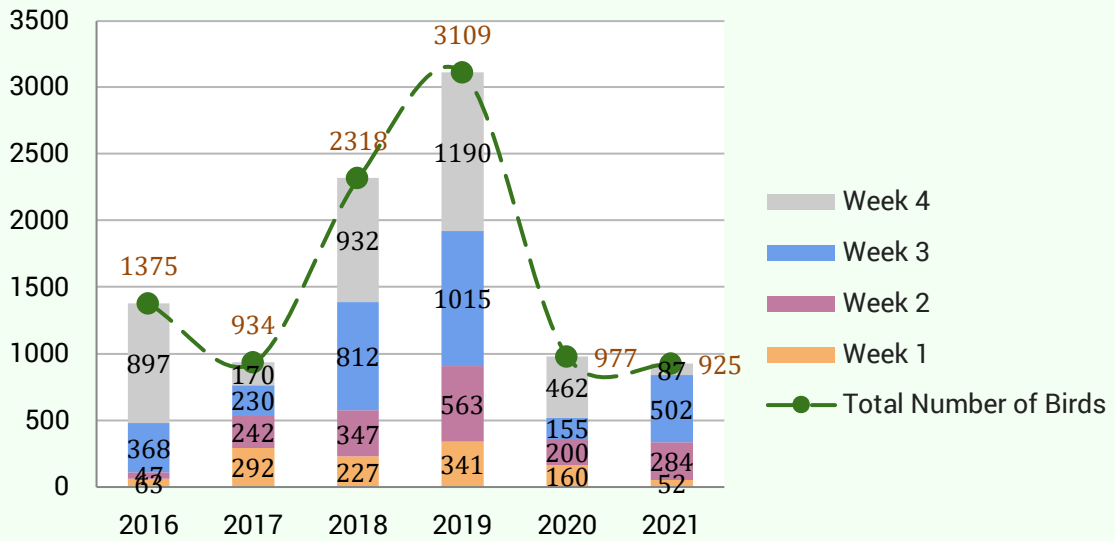
However dismal the numbers, our members remain optimistic. As they walked away from the bird-viewing shelter, they talked of exciting advances in the field of solar generation, the amazing improvements in battery storage capabilities, as well as the mind-boggling advances in the BEV world (Battery Powered Vehicles). All those technologies have the potential to revolutionize our world and do away with greenhouse emissions. Something that will be good not only for the birds, but also for every human being on the earth.

There is always a silver lining, if one looks hard enough.

Fall Open Houses Number of Species



Fall Open Houses Number of Birds



2021 – 38 Species – 925 Bords

American Bittern	1
American Black Duck	8
American Crow	22
American Goldfinch	11
American Wigeon	5
Bald Eagle	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Black-capped Chickadee	6
Blue Jay	19
Blue-winged Teal	22
Canada Goose	166
Cedar Waxwing	16
Common Grackle	1
Common Raven	1
Common Yellowthroat	1
Eastern Meadowlark	1
European Starling	53
Gadwall	1
Green-winged Teal	8
Hooded Merganser	24
Lesser Scaup	2
Mallard	148
Marsh Wren	1
Merlin	5
Northern Cardinal	1
Northern Pintail	3
Northern Shoveler	3
Pied-billed Grebe	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3
Red-winged Blackbird	308
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	6
Savannah Sparrow	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Song Sparrow	15
Turkey Vulture	30
White-breasted Nuthatch	4
Wood Duck	14
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6