

# Patch Chat: Douglass Park (Anna and Frederick)

Resources and References:

<https://douglasparknature.org/>



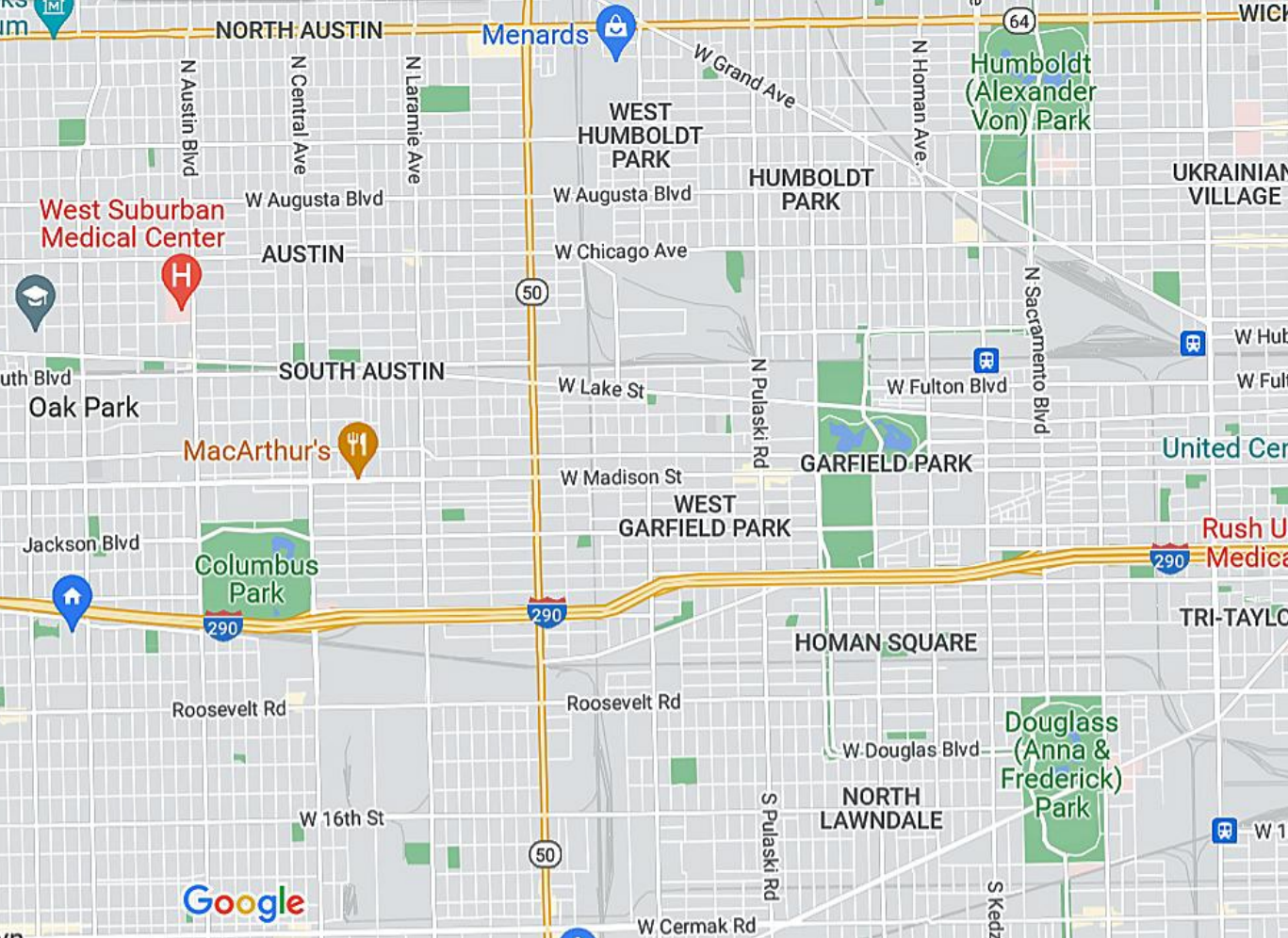
# Westside parks

## Humboldt, Garfield, Columbus, and Douglass Parks:

Once under the waters of ancestral Lake Michigan....

....then marsh and wet prairie....

....now islands of green in the city.



# Douglass Park neighborhood



## ACCESS:

Buses on Roosevelt Rd and Ogden.

Pink line just south of the park.

Parking on many roads and at the Cultural Center.

Bike lanes in the park and from the west.

# Major sections of Douglass Park: The Lagoons



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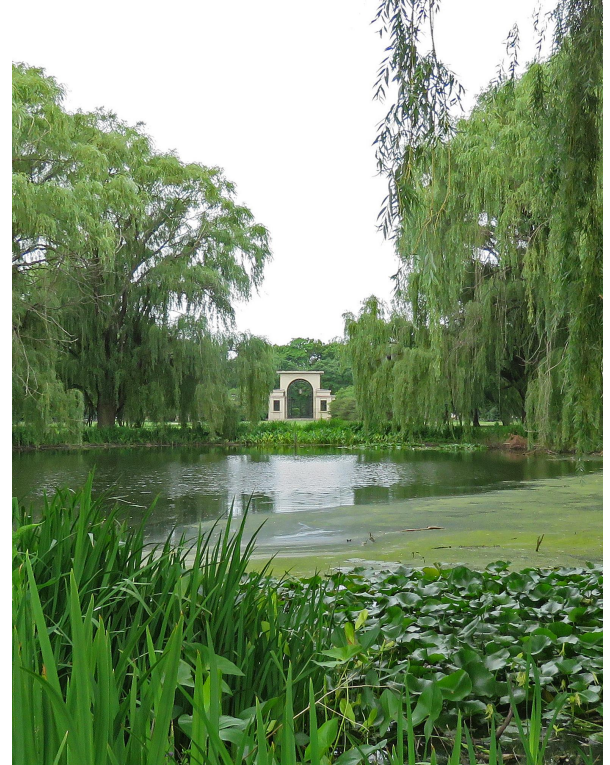
# Major sections of Douglass Park: The Sanctuary



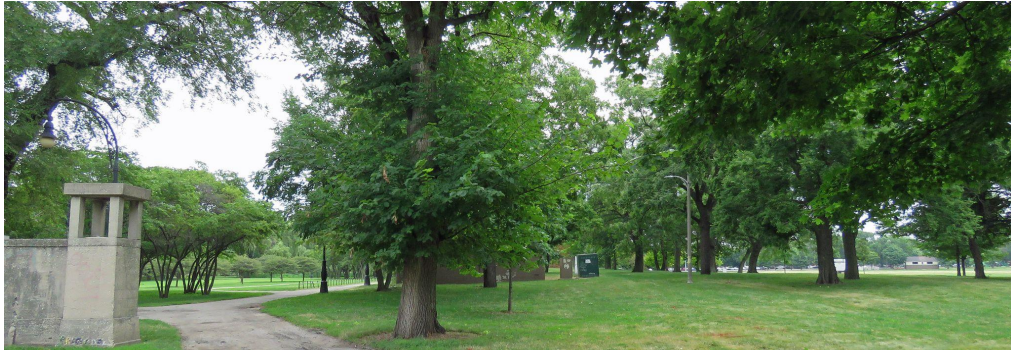
# Major sections of Douglass Park: The Sanctuary

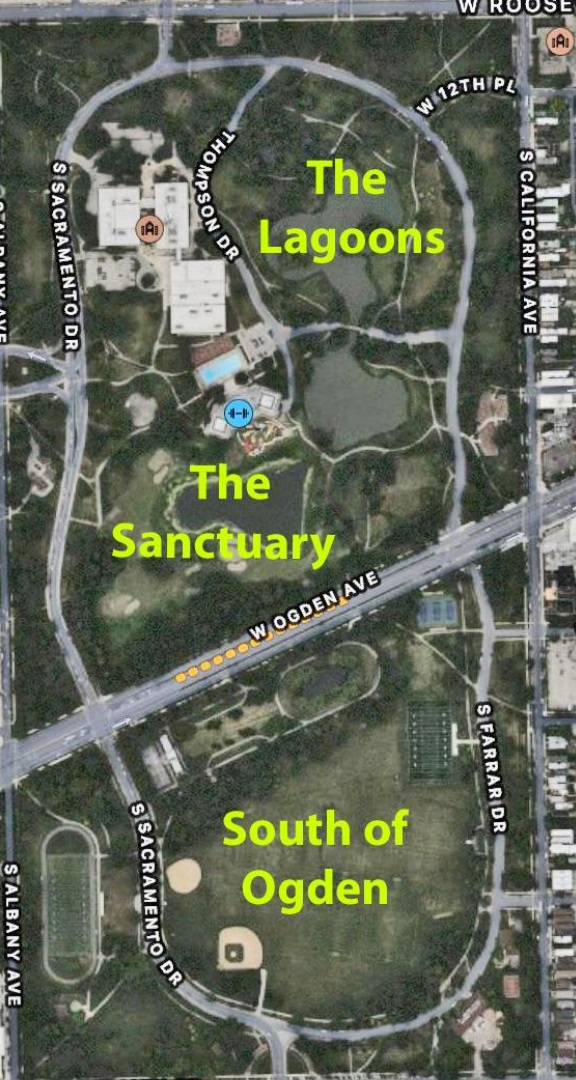


# Major sections of Douglass Park: South of Ogden



# Major sections of Douglass Park: South of Ogden





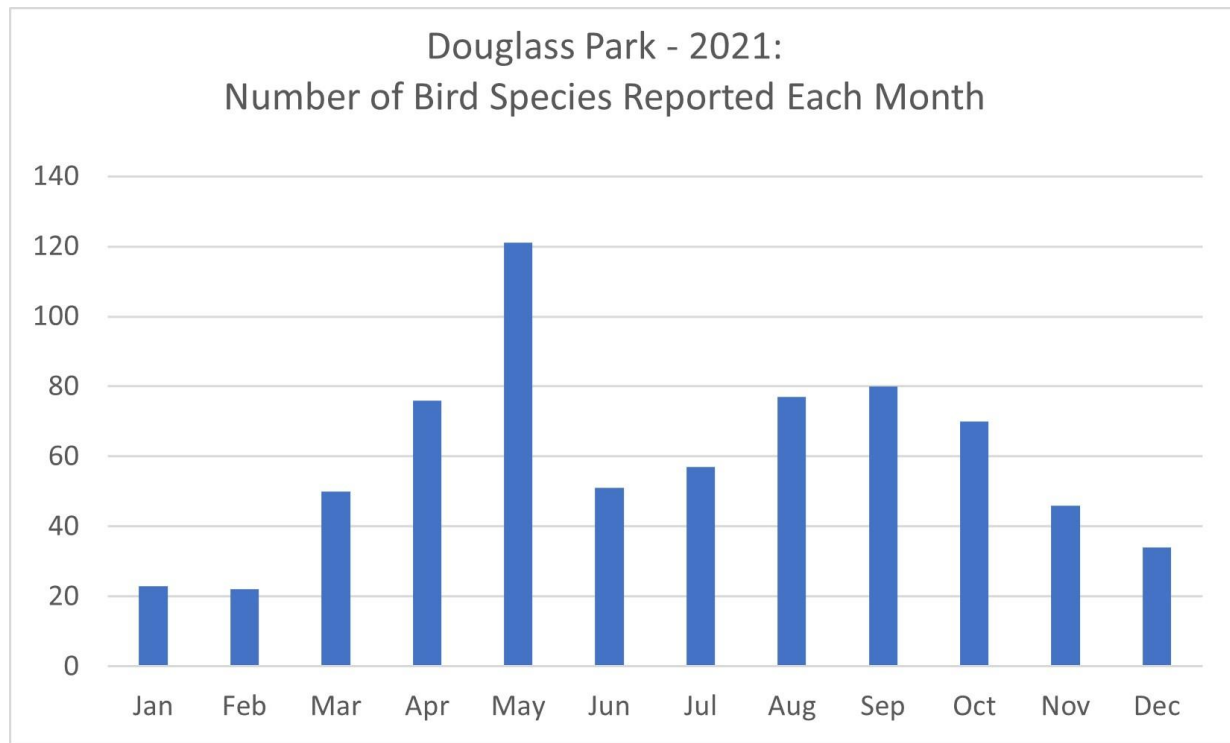
# Where are the birds? They use the whole park!

On Thursday morning, July 14, there were:

- 28 bird species around The Lagoons
- 26 bird species in The Sanctuary
- 12 bird species South of Ogden  
(where they were setting up for the Heat Wave concert)

Total number of species: **38**

# When Are the Birds in Douglass Park?



Number of bird  
species reported  
to eBird:

So far in 2022: 136

During 2021: 153

Since 1997: 208

# Spring Migration–First Arrivals



Nothing better signifies the snow melting and trees budding than the sounds of a Red-winged Blackbird setting up territory.

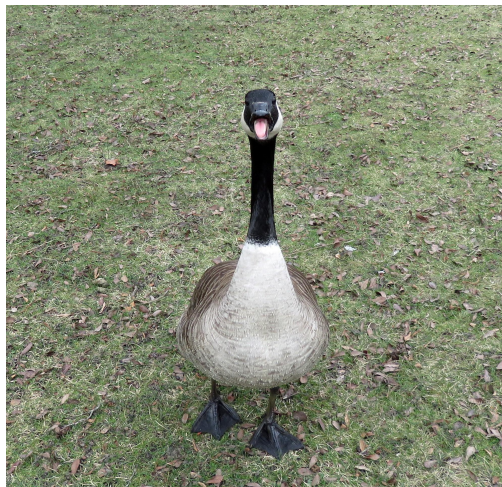


As soon as snow starts melting, the Killdeer start coming.

# With food comes birds



Song Sparrow on  
the open ground



Canada Goose on  
the open lawn



Bufflehead in the  
open water

# When the bugs emerge



A cacophony of thin, high-pitched three-note sequences marks the arrival of Golden-crowned Kinglets

Yellow-rumped Warblers whet the appetite for the incoming onslaught of warblers



Tree Swallows are typically the first swallow to show, though Barn Swallows are the ones that stick around

# The fun truly begins



# Elaenia Mania

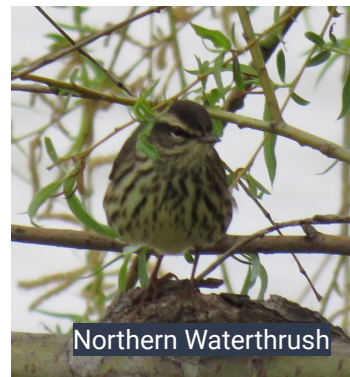
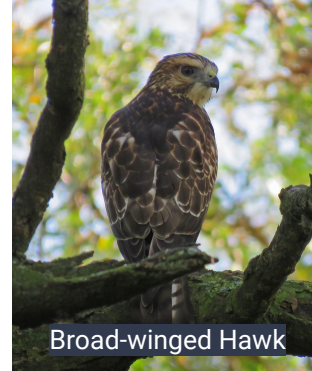
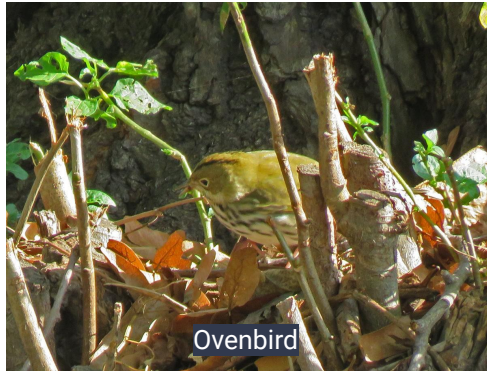
How an after school trip to see an American Bittern resulted in a long-fought identification battle and a first continental record of the South American flycatcher called Small-billed Elaenia.



# Peak: A day in the life



# Peak: Look everywhere



# The last migrants



Connecticut Warblers can be one of the hardest migrants to see, so make sure you know their song.

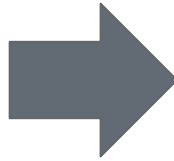


Yellow-billed Cuckoos can also be elusive, most easily seen as they fly between perches.



Look at any high up dead branches for a chance at Olive-sided Flycatchers.

# NESTING SEASON – April through August



From the first Canada Goose nest until the last American Goldfinch fledgling leaves the nest

# Lots of birds nest in Douglass Park!



Cedar Waxwing gathering  
nesting material.



Female Baltimore Oriole  
building her nest.



Male Common Yellowthroat  
with food for nestlings.

# eBird Breeding Codes

Osprey

**4 Cooper's Hawk** Hide Details

Details: Included three juveniles: One eating something on the nest.

Age & Sex:

	Juvenile	Immature	Adult	Age
Male				
Female				
Sex Unknown	3			1

Breeding: **FL R** Choose the highest possible code... Help...

Add data... Age & Sex

- Accipiter sp.
- Bald Eagle
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Buteo sp.
- hawk sp.
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl

Choose the highest possible code...

- NY Nest with Young
- NE Nest with Eggs
- FS Carrying Fecal Sac
- FY Feeding Young
- CF Carrying Food
- FL Recently Fledged Young
- ON Occupied Nest
- UN Used Nest (enter 0 if no birds seen)
- DD Distraction Display
- NB Nest Building
- CN Carrying Nesting Material
- PE Physiological Evidence
- B Woodpecker/Wren Nest Building
- A Agitated Behavior
- N Visiting Probable Nest Site
- C Courtship, Display, or Copulation

Windows Laptop

Northern Cardinal  
Cardinalis cardinalis

Number Observed  
1

Female ate fruit on the tray

BREEDING CODE

Choose a code below

F	H	S	S7	M
P	T	C	N	A
B	PE	CN	NB	DD
UN	ON	FL	CF	FY
FS	NE	NY		

iPhone

Species:		
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	
Possible	Singing Bird	
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	

# Baltimore Oriole

Species:	Baltimore Oriole	
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	21-Jun
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	21-Jun
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	9-Jun
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	
Possible	Singing Bird	1-May
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	



# Cooper's Hawks – Long tradition at Douglass



# Cooper's Hawks – 2022

Species:	Cooper's Hawk	
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	3-Jun
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	13-Apr
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	9-Apr
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	
Possible	Singing Bird	
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	



# Cooper's Hawks vs. Summer Smash



# Cooper's Hawks AFTER Summer Smash

Species:	Cooper's Hawk	
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	3-Jun
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	27-Jun
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	27-Jun
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	13-Apr
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	9-Apr
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	
Possible	Singing Bird	
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	



HIGHEST CODE 2022  
FOUND THE NEST

Canada Goose

Barn Swallow

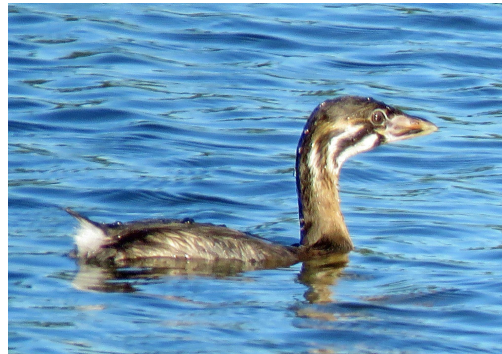
Baltimore Oriole

Cooper's Hawk

Eastern Kingbird

# Pied-billed Grebe – Feeding Young

Species:	Pied-billed Grebe	
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	3-Jun
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	3-Jun
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	
Possible	Singing Bird	3-Apr
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	



HIGHEST CODE 2022  
FEEDING YOUNG

Pied-billed Grebe

American Crow

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

European Starling

American Robin

Common Grackle

# Willow Flycatcher – Singing Present 7+ Days

Species:	Willow Flycatcher	
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	30-May
Possible	Singing Bird	19-May
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	



HIGHEST CODE 2022 SINGING 7+ DAYS
Willow Flycatcher
Song Sparrow
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler
Indigo Bunting

# American Goldfinch – Singing Bird

Species:	American Goldfinch	
Confidence	Meaning	Date
Confirmed	Nest with Young	
Confirmed	Nest with Eggs	
Confirmed	Feeding Young	
Confirmed	Carrying Food	
Confirmed	Recently Fledged Young	
Confirmed	Occupied Nest	
Confirmed	Used Nest	
Confirmed	Distraction Display	
Confirmed	Nest Building	
Confirmed	Carrying Nesting Material	
Probable	Agitated Behavior	
Probable	Visiting Probable Nesting Site	
Probable	Courtship, Display, or Copulation	
Probable	Territorial Defense	
Probable	Pair in Suitable Habitat	
Probable	Multiple (7+) Singing Birds	
Probable	Singing Bird Present 7+ Days	
Possible	Singing Bird	16-Apr
Possible	In Appropriate Habitat	



**HIGHEST CODE 2022  
SINGING BIRD**

**American Goldfinch**

**Black-capped Chickadee**

**Red-eyed Vireo**

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

Some birds nest elsewhere but catch food at Douglass.



Caspian Tern



Black-crowned Night Heron



Great Blue Heron



Herring Gull

# Douglass gets an assist for birds raised on its fish.



First juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron  
of 2022 (June 26, 2022)

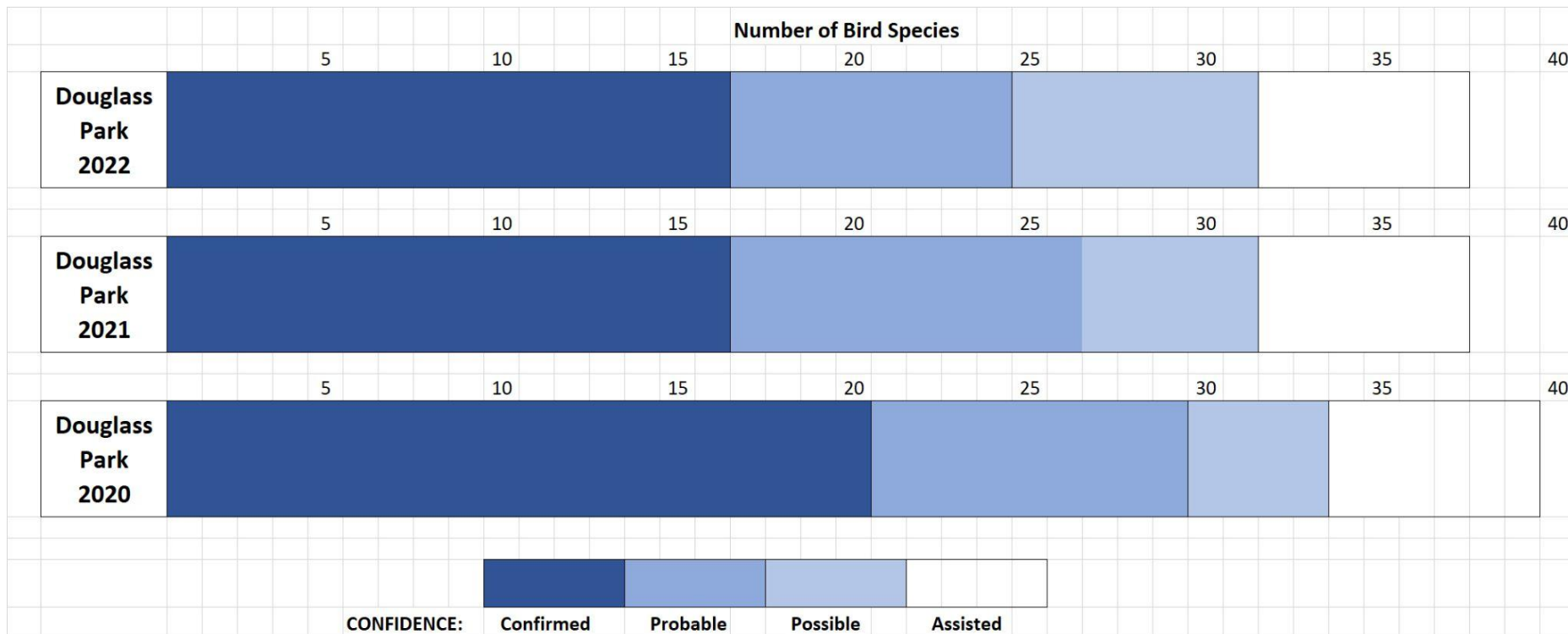


First juvenile Herring Gull  
of 2022 (July 11, 2022)

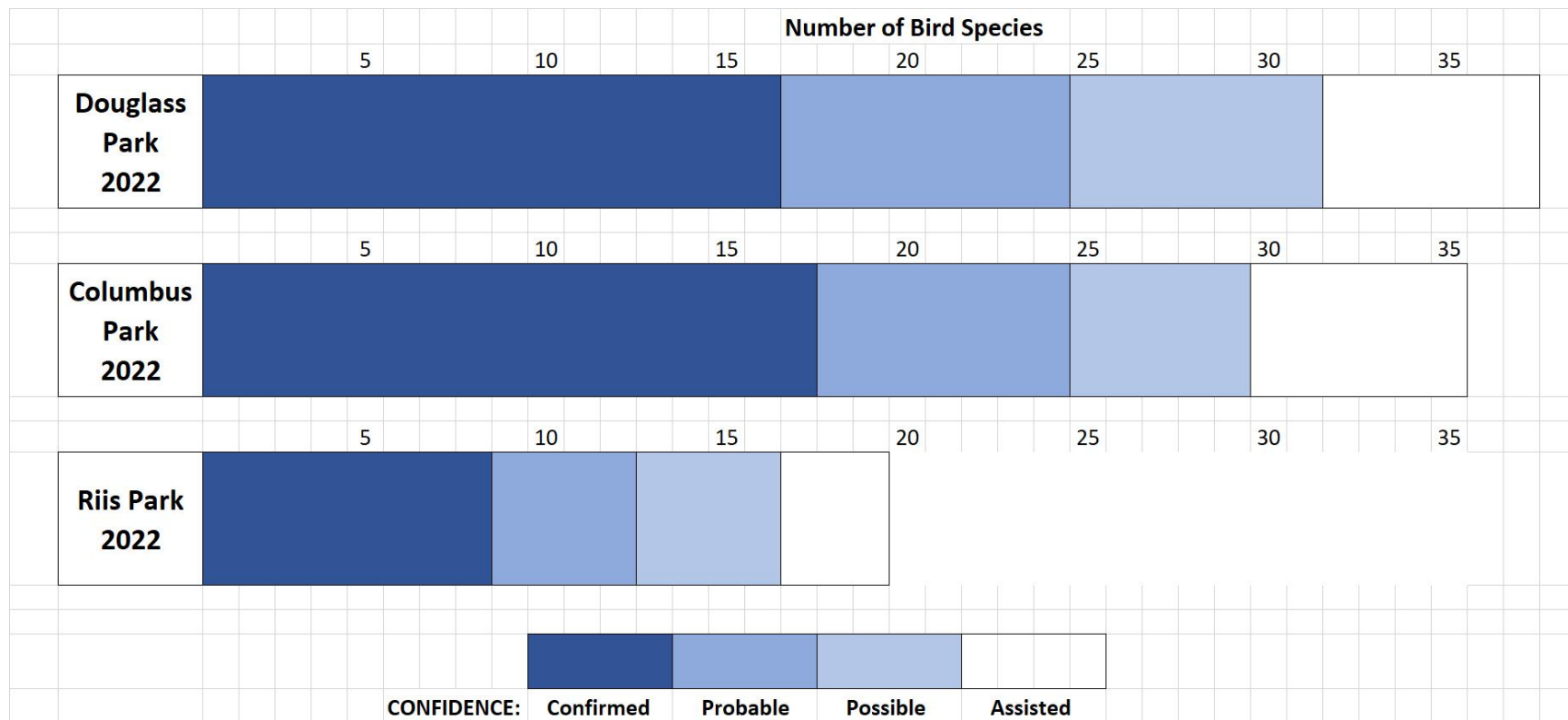
# 2022 Nesting Season Summary as of July 18

16	Cooper's Hawk				
15	Eastern Kingbird				
14	Barn Swallow				
13	Baltimore Oriole				
12	Pied-billed Grebe				
11	American Crow				
10	Bl-gr Gnatcatcher				
9	Eur Starling				
8	American Robin	D Woodpecker			
7	Common Grackle	Br-head Cowbird	E Wood-Pewee		
6	Gray Catbird	Warbling Vireo	Red-eyed Vireo	Chimney Swift	
5	House Sparrow	Willow Flycatcher	Bl-cap Chickadee	Ring-billed Gull	
4	Red-w Blackbird	Song Sparrow	Am Goldfinch	Herring Gull	
3	Canada Goose	C Yellowthroat	Cedar Waxwing	Caspian Tern	
2	Mallard	Yellow Warbler	Green Heron	Great Blue Heron	
1	N Cardinal	Indigo Bunting	Gr Cr Flycatcher	Bl-cr Night-Heron	
	CONFIRMED	PROBABLE	POSSIBLE	ASSISTED	
	TOTAL 37 SPECIES				

# Douglass Park Year-to-Year Comparisons

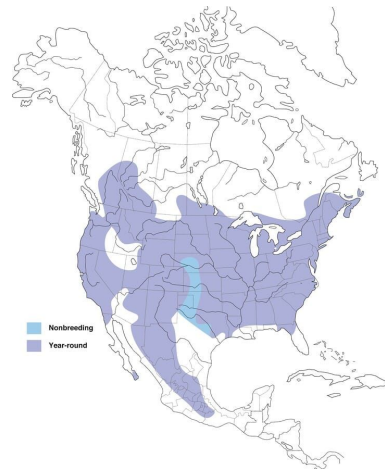


# Comparing Westside Parks for 2022 (mid July)

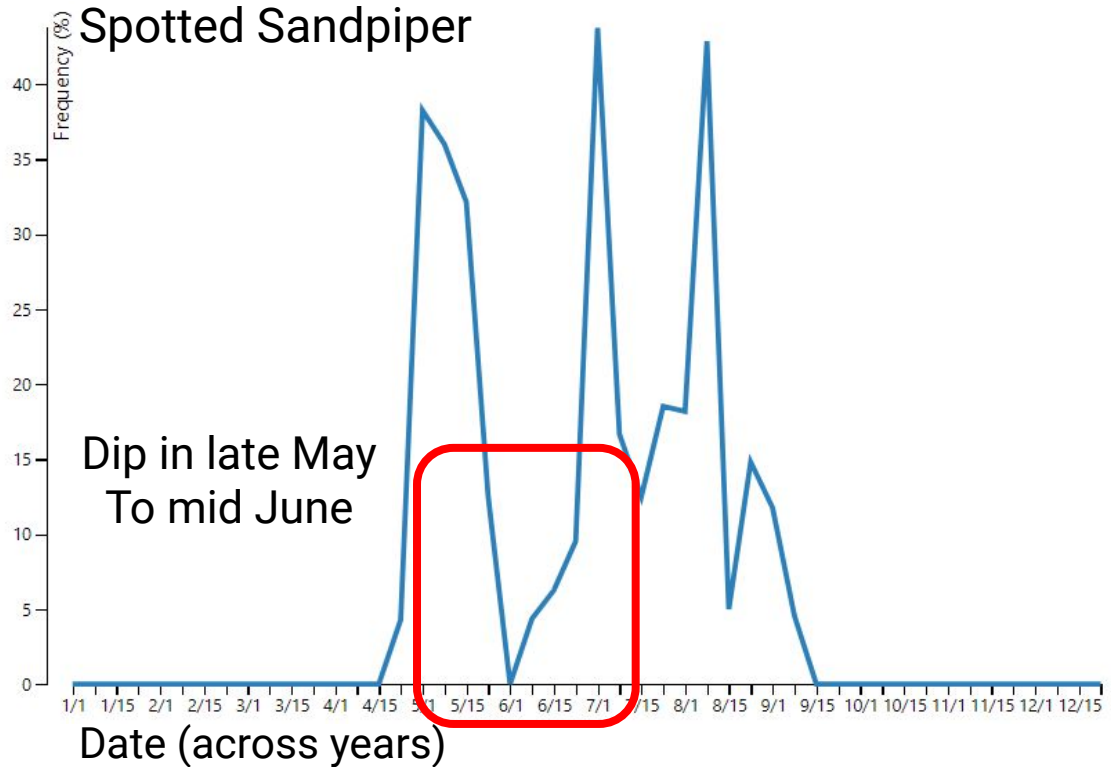


# Fall: Post-breeding Wanderers

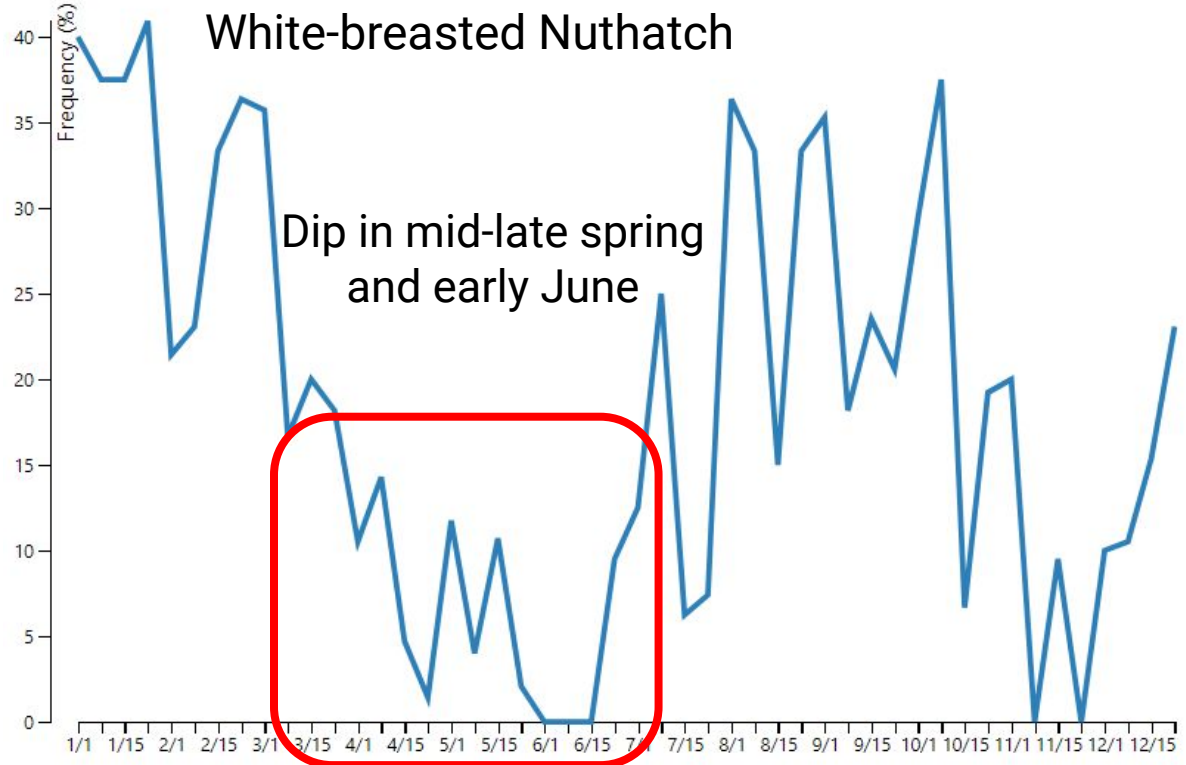
- Just because a species uses the park's habitats and breeds in the area doesn't mean it will breed there!
- Post-breeding wanderers difficult to detect, but regular monitoring can reveal interesting trends we otherwise miss



# Fall: Post-breeding Wanderers



# Fall: Post-breeding Wanderers



# Fall: Shorebirding

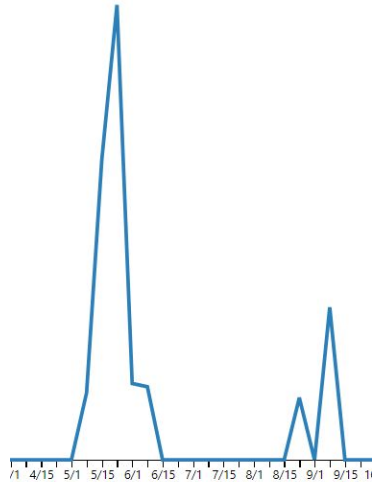
- Traditional shorebirding season is late summer to early fall, and Douglass park has a frequently flooded field
- Now those mud-prone fields are often occupied by festivals



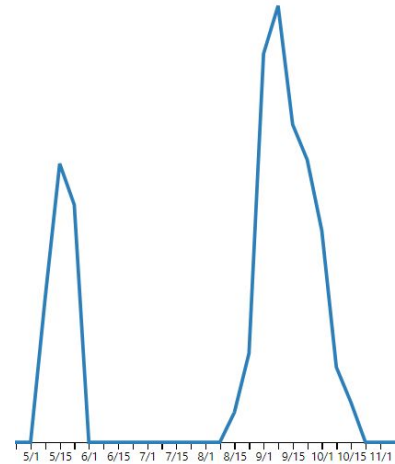
# Fall: Early fall migration (warblers!)

- Same idea as spring, with similar spots working well
- Broader migration “envelopes”, as with most places in fall
- Some species easier in Spring than Fall or vice versa

Mourning Warbler



Blackpoll Warblers



# Fall: Mid fall migration (seeds and fruits)

- Sparrows and such around the park like in spring, but with a new twist revolving around seeding flowers and fruiting trees
- Trees include hawthorns, hackberries, serviceberries, and crab apples



American Robin in Hawthorn



Red-bellied Woodpecker in Hackberry



Swainson's Thrush in Hawthorn

# Fall: Mid fall migration (seeds and fruits)

- Many seeding wildflowers attract sparrows and finches, also host insects for late-season warblers
- Notable flowers include Black-eyed Susans, Goldenrods, and Coneflowers



Black-throated Green Warbler



Vesper Sparrow



White-crowned Sparrows



Orange-crowned Warbler

# Fall to winter: Finches

- Heavy users of seeds, with goldfinches switching with the seasons (summer thistle → fall wildflowers → winter burdock)
- Redpolls will join in later in the season (also like ash trees)

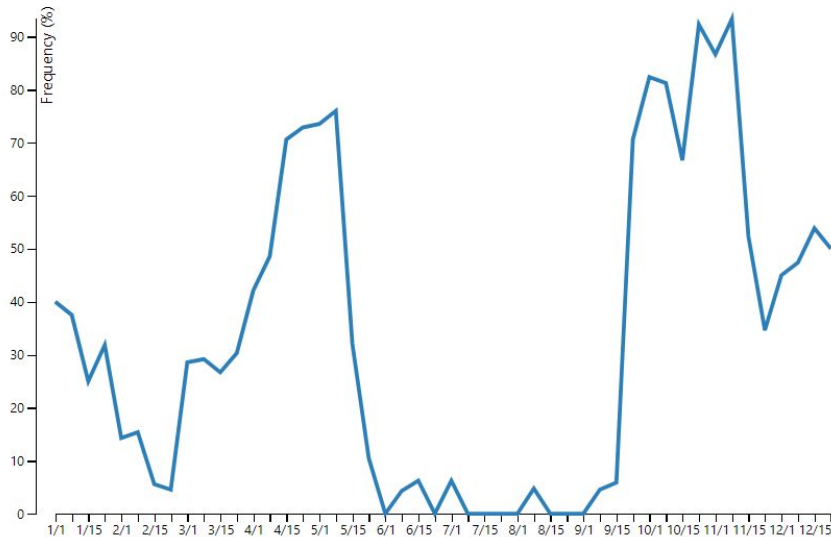


# Fall to winter: Half-hardies

- Species that start winter in the park, but don't make it to spring
- Some species try more than others, and have variable levels of success



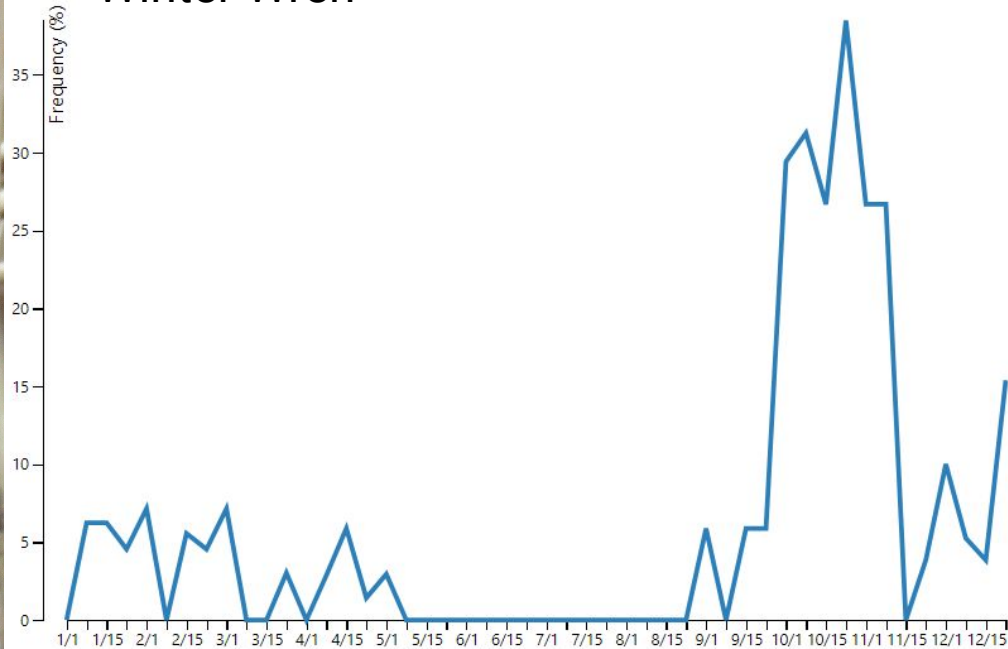
Swamp Sparrow



# Fall to winter: Half-hardies



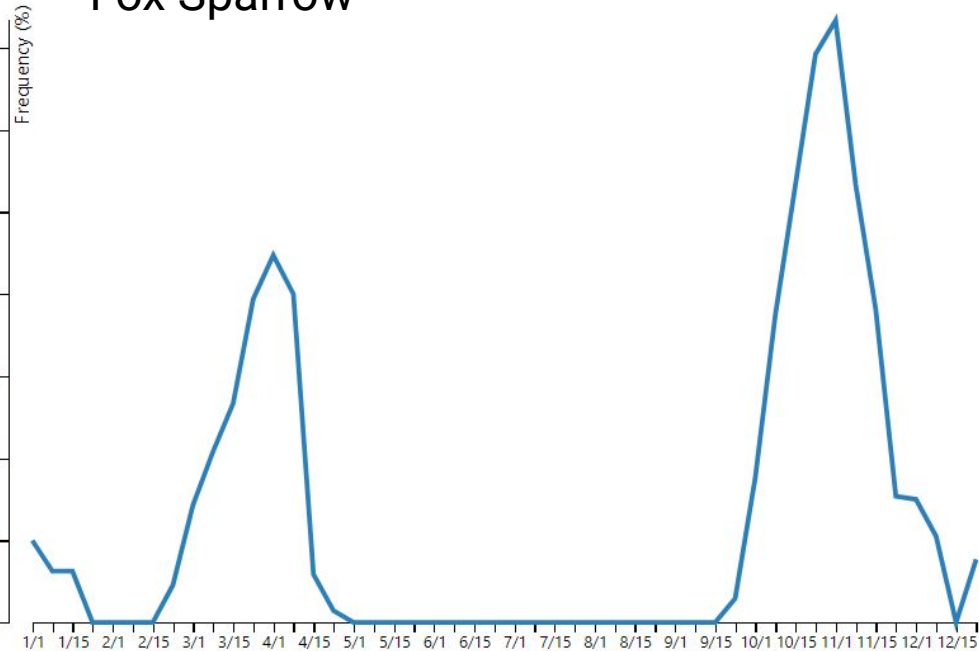
Winter Wren



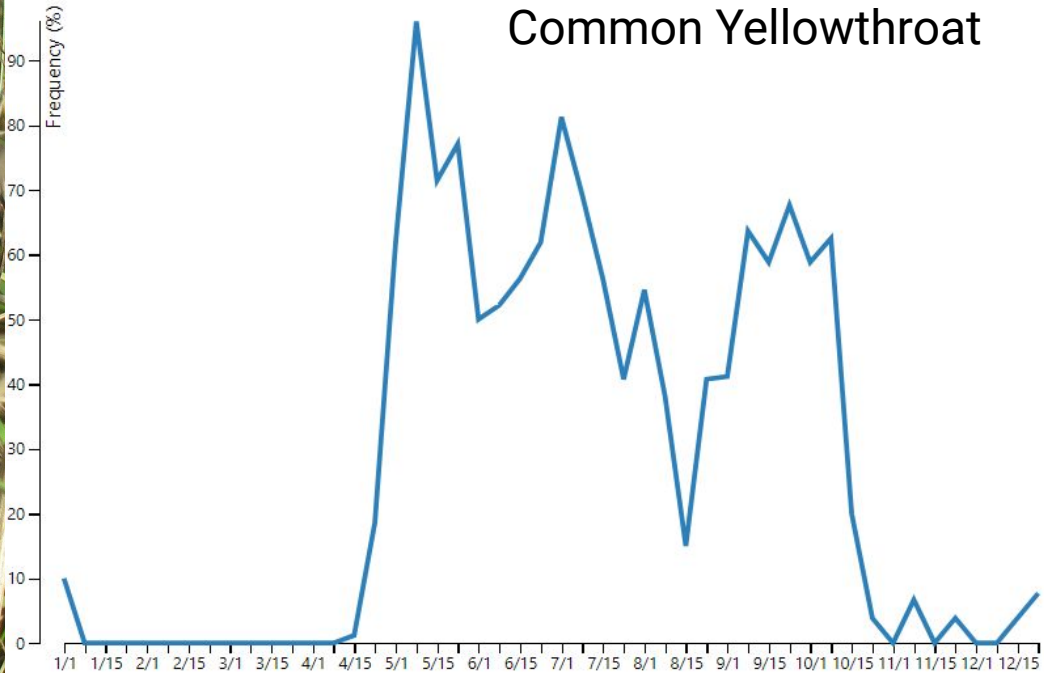
# Fall to winter: Half-hardies



Fox Sparrow

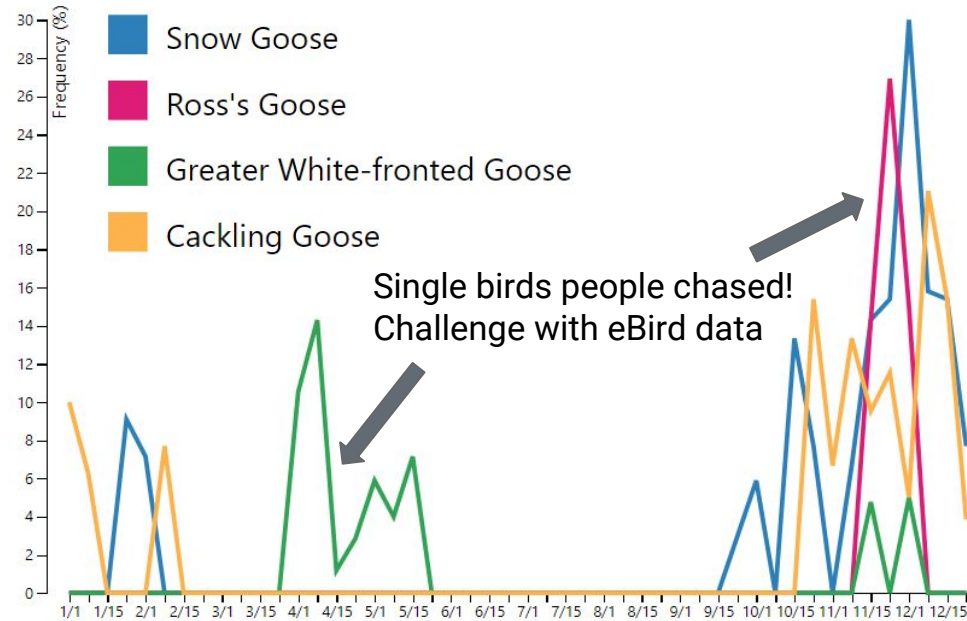


# Fall to winter: Half-hardies

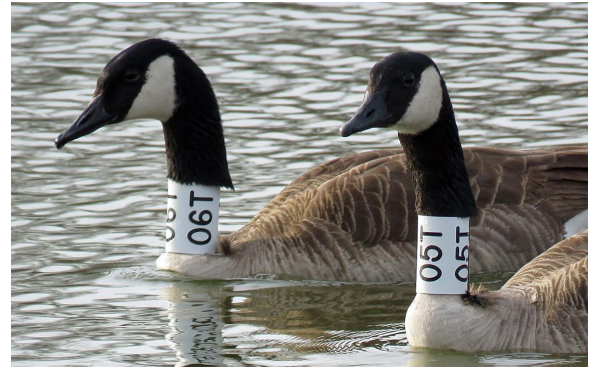


# Fall to winter: Geese

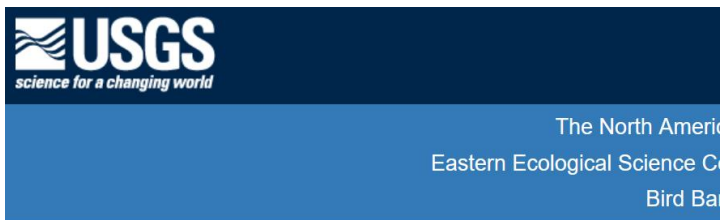
- Less common geese tend to show up in fall, variably stay into the winter



# Marked Canada Geese – Leg or Neck



# Marked Canada Geese – Leg (tarsus) markers



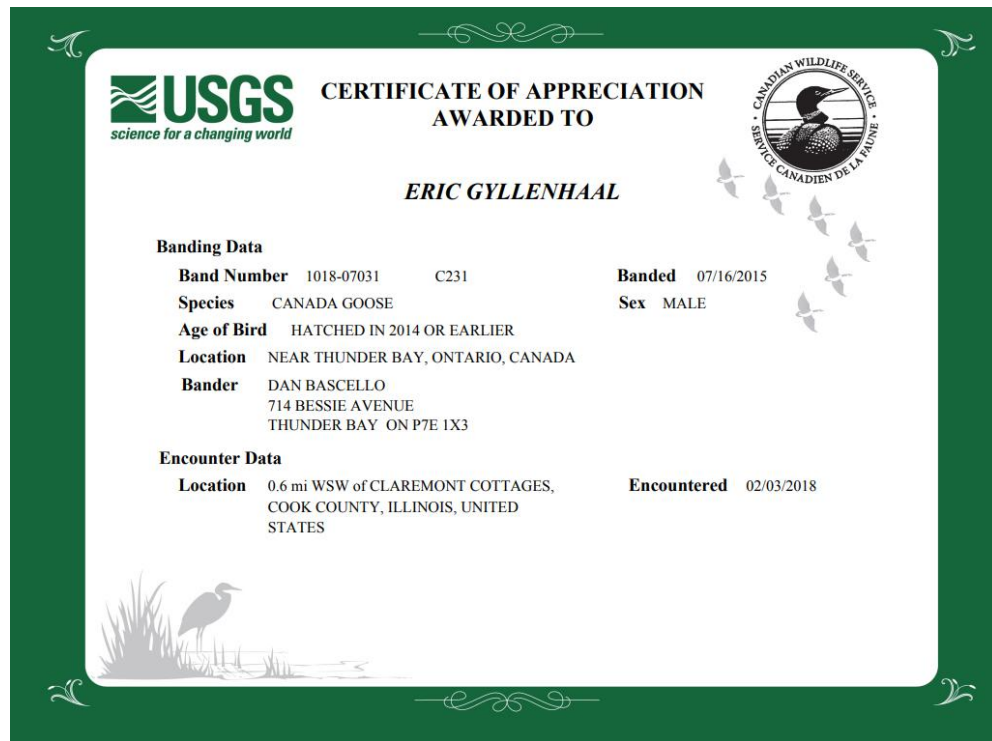
Start Who What About Band, Bird, and Date Color Marker Info Encounter Location Contact Info

Report a bird with a federal band or color marker

Continue >>

En Fra

Examples of [federal bands](#) and [color markers](#)



# Marked Canada Geese – Leg markers C231 and C120



Cool Seasons (Sep-Apr)	Appearances:	
	C120	C231
2021-2022	12	5
2020-2021	5	10
2019-2020	7	3
2018-2019	9	2
2017-2018	5	6
2016-2017	12	
2015-2016	2	
2014-2015	2	
<b>Times recorded:</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26</b>

<b>C231:</b>			
Banded near Thunder Bay, Ontario			
On July 16, 2015			
Hatched 2014 or earlier			
(so at least 7 years old last winter)			
Male			

<b>C120:</b>			
Banded near Thunder Bay, Ontario			
On July 14, 2014			
When too young to fly			
(so ~7.5 years old last winter)			
Female			

# Marked Canada Geese – A few things we discovered

I've recorded about 90 Thunder Bay geese in Douglass or Columbus Parks.  
There are more than 1000 observations total.

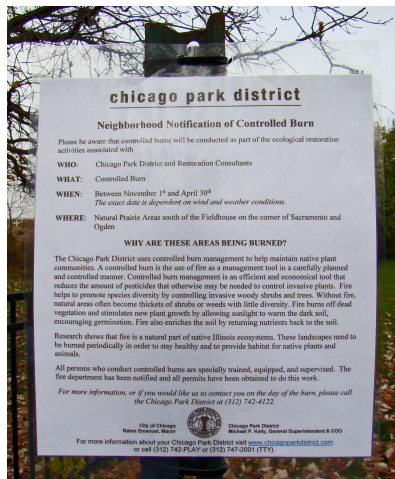
- On average, about 2% of the winter geese in Douglass Park have Thunder Bay markers.
- Many of these geese return to the same park year after year. None have been found in both Douglass and Columbus Parks.
- They usually hang out with the same set of marked geese. The geese they hang out with may be the same age or different ages.

But where do they go the rest of the year?

# Natural Area Management: Origins



# Natural Area Management: Burns



# Natural Area Management: Clearing brush



# Natural Area Management: New plantings



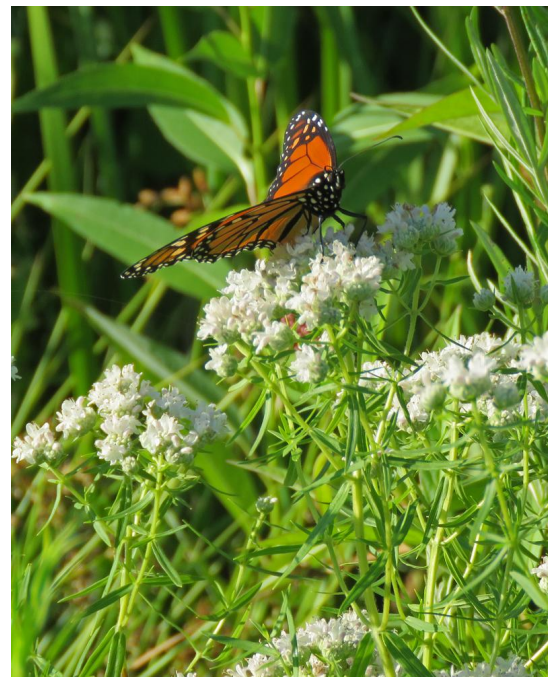
# Natural Area Management: New wildflowers



Culver's Root



Rattlesnake Master



Mountain-mint

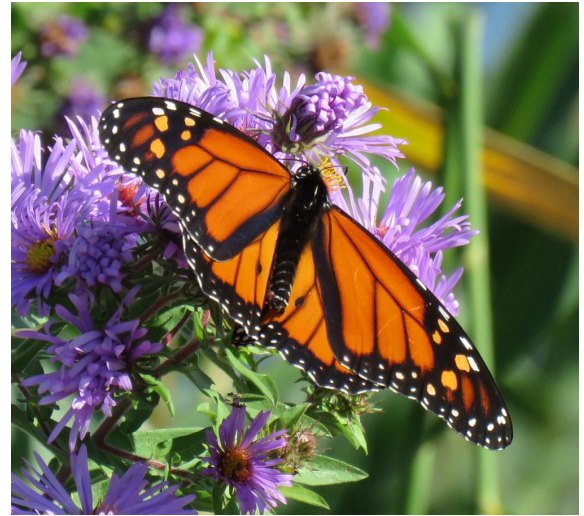
# Natural Area Management: Lots on insects



Dogbane Leaf Beetle



Grasshopper




Monarch Butterfly

# Natural Area Management: Food for birds



American Kestrel eating a grasshopper.

# Outreach to the Community: eBird Hotspot

 eBird [Submit](#) [Explore](#) [My eBird](#) [Science](#) [About](#) [News](#) [Help](#)

[Donate](#) [Eric D Gyllenhaal \(AFGEFGEDG\)](#) [Language](#)

[Change location](#) [Year-round, All years](#)

## Douglass (Anna & Frederick) Park, Chicago

[Cook County, Illinois, US](#) [Directions](#) [Map](#)

### Overview

[Illustrated Checklist](#)

**VIEW MY...**

[My eBird](#)  
[Life List](#)  
[Target Species](#)  
[Checklists](#)

**EXPLORE...**

[Hotspot Map](#)  
[Bar Charts](#)  
[Media](#)  
[Printable Checklist](#)

**208**  
Species observed

**1396**  
Complete checklists

### Sightings


Updated 1 sec ago.

[Last seen](#) [First seen](#) [High counts](#) [Show all details](#)

SPECIES NAME ▲	COUNT	DATE	OBSERVER
1. <a href="#">Snow Goose</a>	1	2 Dec 2012	Aaron Gyllenhaal
2. <a href="#">Ross's Goose</a>	1	19 Nov 2013	Eric D Gyllenhaal
3. <a href="#">Greater White-fronted Goose</a>	1	19 Nov 2016	Eric D Gyllenhaal
4. <a href="#">Cackling Goose</a>	3	18 Nov 2007	Eric D Gyllenhaal
5. <a href="#">Canada Goose</a>	2	30 Nov 2003	Luis Munoz
Cackling/Canada Goose	3	23 Dec 2020	Eric D Gyllenhaal
6. <a href="#">Trumpeter Swan</a>	1	29 Mar 2014	Cathy Haibach

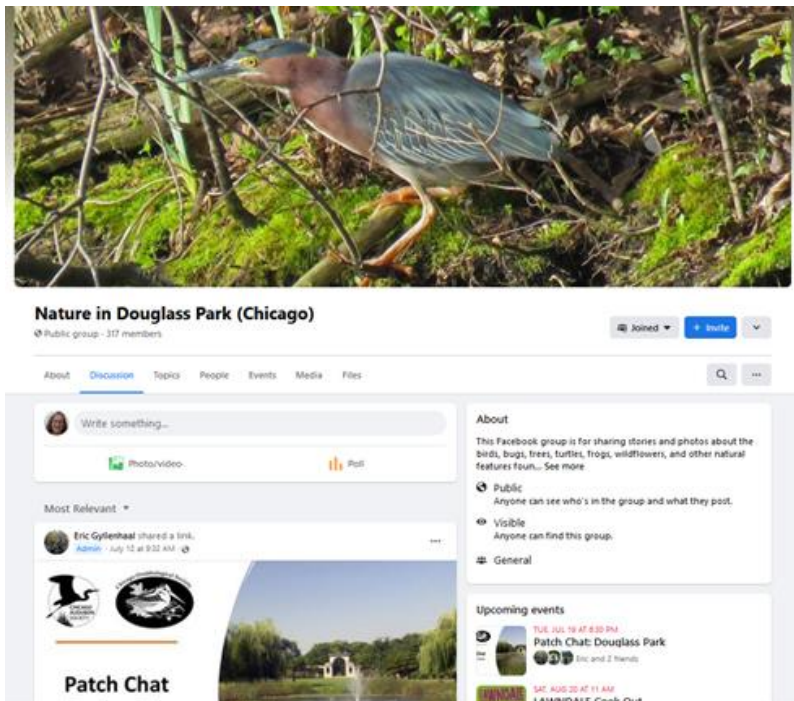
### Top media

UPLOADED IN LAST 30 DAYS

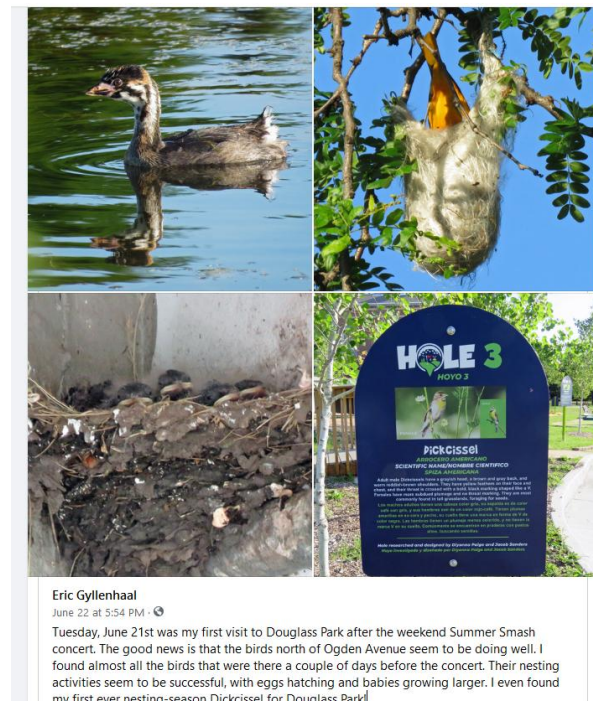


<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L108460>

# Outreach to the Community: Facebook



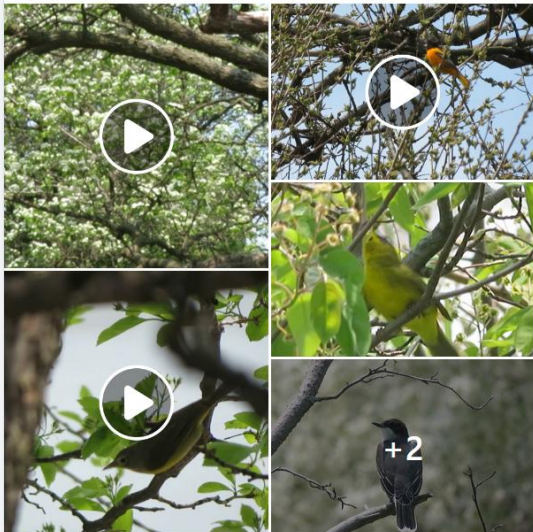
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DouglasParkNature>



# Outreach to the Community: Facebook

Discussion Topics Media Files People

Savannah Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow... See more




View insights 66 post reach >

Discussion Topics Media Files People

Eric Gyllenhaal shared a link.  
Admin · May 13 ·

In case you were wondering:




BLOCKCLUBCHICAGO.ORG  
Douglass 18 Mini Golf Will Soon Reopen With Concession Stand And Patio Dining At West Side Park

View insights 176 post reach >

5 Comments 1 Share

Discussion Topics Media Files People

7 hrs ·



## Trash Talk #3

Mega fests are slated to fence off Douglass Park for a minimum of 46 days this year during the summer months.

- Let's pick up some trash
- Document the park
- Get petitions signed
- And strategize for next steps to get the mega fests out of the park.

Sunday  
July 24  
12-2pm  
18th and  
California

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DouglasParkNature>

# Outreach to the Community: Blog/Website

## *What Lives in Douglas Park?*

About Douglass Park

Birds

Birds in Summer

Birds in Fall

Birds in Winter

Birds in Spring

Mammals

Amphibians and Reptiles

Fish

Insects

Wildflowers

For Educators and Parents



<https://douglasparknature.org/>

## Nature in Douglass Park

*A closer look at the animals and plants that live in Douglass Park on Chicago's Westside*



Home About Douglass Park Birds Mammals Amphibians and Reptiles Fish Insects Wildflowers For Educators and Parents

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For Educators and Parents

Recent Posts

## Make Your Own Home Nature Museum at Douglass Park!

Posted on April 22, 2022 by saltthesandbox

We helped children and their adults get started with their own home nature museums during Douglass Park's Earth Day celebration on April 23rd, 2022. Children could sift natural history specimens from the sandbox, select specimens from the free Home Nature Museum Shop, and spin to win even more specimens.

For those who want to add more specimens to their collections, here are some ideas:

- You can find lots of interesting rocks and fossils on Lake Michigan beaches. Check out the Field Museum's *Beachgoer's Guide to Lake Michigan Fossils and Rocks*: <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/blog/beachgoers-guide-lake-michigan-fossils-and-rocks>
- You can visit Mr. Eric's Nature Collector's Garden at 1003 South Elmwood in Oak Park, Illinois. The garden is open all day, every day, and includes more rock, mineral, fossil, and shell specimens like the ones you sifted from the sandbox at Douglass Park: <https://www.oakpark.com/2021/01/26/a-neighbor-who-rocks/>
- You can attend the Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association Show at Kane County Fairground during Memorial Day Weekend (May 28 and 29, 2022). Kids can make free collections of small minerals and fossils, and there are lots of rocks, minerals, and fossils to purchase in quantities ranging from <https://www.chicagolandgems.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoKOykiAwyo&t=11s>

# One of the inspirations for Douglass 18 project



This is the Douglass Park bird guide developed by Sara Haymann with support from Eric Gyllenhaal. It premiered at the 2017 Earth Day celebration at Douglass Park.

Haman Cross used this guide as a starting point for working with the Douglass 18 teens as they selected and researched the 18 bird species represented in the mini-golf course.

Video by Sara Heymann.

# Douglass 18 – Beginning and goals

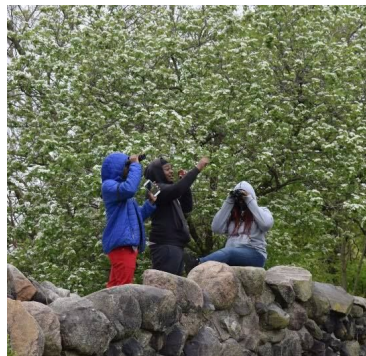


- Haman Cross (being interviewed on the left), Lawndale artist, spurred on renovation and future developments
- Used for community engagement (in art and natural history) and recreation (new resource, plans for concession stand)

# Douglass 18 – Design phase



# Douglass 18 – Design phase



# Douglass 18 Mini-golf – Before...



# Douglass 18 Mini-golf – Construction Phase



# Douglass 18 Mini-golf – Examples of holes



# It took many people and organizations to create Douglass 18!

The Douglass 18 project would not have been possible without the support of the many dedicated partners including:

- Chicago Park District
- Haman Cross III
- Eric Hotchkiss
- Sheila McNary
- Open Architecture Chicago
- David Brown of the UIC School of Architecture
- Firehouse Community Arts Center
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago at Homan Square
- The Trust for Public Land
- site design group, ltd.
- and Lincoln Park Zoo.

And of course, all the teens who designed the 18 bird-themed golf holes.

Douglass 18 open hours vary week to week.



# A Sense of Place for Douglass Park

