



## Magnuson Park Wetland Sweeps

Magnuson Park has areas of wetland that are important to monitor for their bird diversity and abundance. In order to monitor these areas, a protocol that deviates from the standard Neighborhood Bird Project (NBP) protocol was devised and implemented for wetland areas at Magnuson Park.

### Description

Include wetland sweeps as part of the usual NBP loop surveys that take place once each month e.g. the second Saturday of the month. The NBP count start time remains constant throughout much of the year with a minor change to accommodate shortened days in the winter.

The wetland areas at Magnuson Park are defined as those that were excavated and subsequently replanted during the various phases of restoration work. Wetland sites are divided into four areas (Figure 1. below). The wetlands at Magnuson Park are as follows; #1 is all the Promontory Ponds plus the Shore Pond, #2 is Crescent Pond and the Marsh Ponds, #3 is all the Entrance Ponds plus the Headwaters, #4 is Grove Marsh.



1. Wetland Divisions at Magnuson Park. This map labels the four wetland areas at Magnuson Park.

# Neighborhood Bird Project



## **The Sweep Count**

Begin the 'wetland sweep' by recording the start time on the data sheet as each group gets to the wetlands area. There is no time limit for wetland sweeps. Record data in the wetland sweep section of the data sheet, then record every bird using the wetlands. When the sweep is complete, record the end time on the data sheet. The four wetland sweep sections are "matched" with certain NBP loops within the park.

In the same method as standard sweep counts, walk through the wetland area and count every species as "seen" or "heard". When necessary, take time to stop periodically to observe and record species, i.e. stand on spots along the shoreline to count ducks. A bird recorded as "seen" must be seen interacting with the wetland habitat. This includes birds such as swallows flying below canopy cover, or raptors that are believed to be hunting in flight within the wetlands. A bird recorded as "heard" must be believed to be vocalizing within the wetlands, not just heard while doing the sweep. "Fly-over" is not used in the wetland sweep. Birds that continue flying beyond the wetland or flying at a great height are not recorded.

When recording raptors, record the time they are seen in the margins of the data sheet. Someone, most likely the park leader, will go back through and determine if multiple Cooper's Hawk sightings (for example) are the same Cooper's Hawk, or different individuals. The process of removing double counts will be at the discretion of the park NBP leader.

There are no limits or set times to pish during a wetland sweep, but it should be indicated on the data sheet whether or not pishing was used.