

## Participant Comments on American Prairie Reserve/Bowdoin Field Trip

The trip to Bowdoin last weekend was amazing for me. I don't consider myself a birdwatcher, although I love nature. I went along with Flathead Audubon to hopefully see the American Prairie Reserve, but the muddy roads did not allow us to visit there. Instead we went to Bowdoin and the experience was wonderful! The weather was beautiful and the folks on the trip were more than kind and helpful. Being a novice birdwatcher, I could have been totally overwhelmed by the amount of information that was shared all day long, and by the HUGE number of birds, especially water birds, that we saw. Instead, the folks on the trip were eager to explain things I probably needed to know and they were continually making sure I got to see what was on the spotting scope. I learned so much!!! At the end of the day, we estimated we had seen at least 80 types of birds. Over dinner, someone asked each of us to talk about the neatest thing we saw that day and whether we had added any new birds to our life list. Since I had started my life list that very day, I had to say that I had added at least 50 new birds to my life list!!! Being in nature as a birdwatcher is a lovely way to spend the day, but to spend it with such kind teachers and friendly people was also a wonderful experience! Thank you all for the amazing weekend!! Maria

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Kathy,

I so enjoyed my trip to Malta and surrounding area last week end; what a wonderful experience. Although not getting to visit the American Prairie Reserve was disappointing, it certainly didn't put a damper on the trip.

My favorite part of this trip was getting to bird with such a nice group of people who are knowledgeable and fun to hang out with. I feel that my ability to identify sparrows has grown by leaps and bounds after our side trip through the CMR! Our trip through Bowdoin was amazing in every way possible. I consider myself a beginner when it comes to birding and was absolutely amazed at the variety and numbers of birds we saw that day.

A very special thanks to you, Kathy, for making this trip possible for me and the rest of the group. I think I can speak for all of us when I say your efforts were very appreciated. The trip was well organized and a fabulous learning experience. Again, thank you! Debra

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Best trip ever. Thanks Kathy ...Clancy

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We arrived as a group at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge at approx. 8:00 am, on May 21st and spent the next 9 hours enthralled with the beauty and abundance of bird life at the Reserve. We observed over 80 species of birds along a 15 mile route circling the refuge. In addition to the large numbers of Franklin gulls, Black-necked stilts, American Avocets, Wilson's phalaropes, Red-necked phalaropes, Eared grebes, and American white pelicans, we also saw a singular Red-headed woodpecker and Blackpoll warbler along with many other species...far too many to mention. It was a truly memorable birding experience in a most remarkable place. Thank you, Kathy!" ... Mary