

Fernhill Wetlands Report

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My experience at Fernhill Wetlands in Forest Grove, Oregon was actually really interesting. When I first got there, it was freezing and there was a chilly wind. I thought there wouldn't be as many birds as I would like to see. I went there with six people, including me, and stayed there for just about two hours. The wetlands start out with one huge pond and behind that, are a few other ponds and just different trails to go on. Right when I started to walk on the main trail, I saw two hawks circling around a little section of trees. I was amazed when I saw them because they were just gorgeous! I have always liked how hawks, eagles, and falcons flew.


I cut off into a different run-off trail and saw a bunch of ducks! My dad was with me, and he really knows how to identify ducks. He saw lots of Mallards, a few Ring-Necked, and some Wood Ducks. I brought my binoculars and looked at the ducks, when I saw something swimming in the water. It was a beaver or nutria. I couldn't really tell, but I thought it was really cute. After that, we kept going on the trail and saw a lot of geese. Geese are everywhere in Fernhill, but none of them pecked at me. They just ran away. We kept walking which felt like two or three miles of no birds. After walking and freezing myself, my sister spotted a hawk! I think it was the two that I saw earlier, and they were so graceful.

One thing that I remember and I always will, were two gigantic geese. They were always together and they flew together. I decided to name the loud one Wilbert, and the one that followed I named Xavier. My sister's friend, Joey, would squawk at them, and they would squawk back! It was so funny.

As we figured out, the path we were on went around the whole entire wetland. We got there just around 4:00 p.m. and the sun set around 6:00 p.m.. We didn't have time to go all the way around, so we had to head back which took forever. It would have been more interesting if we saw some birds. We got back on the main trail, and decided to go half way around it just

one more time before heading back. Fernhill has some gazebos that are just set around the ponds for people to rest or get a better look at birds. We stood in the gazebos and waited for a bit if any birds would come by if we were quiet. None came, but we didn't even notice the large white birds out in the distance. There was one which was a little closer, and that was a swan. The other three out in the distance were herons as far as I could tell.

It being Oregon, there was some pretty bad weather. It started to rain so we started to walk back to the car. Near the parking lot, was a group of ducks. They just stared and came really close while squawking at us. My dad wasn't sure what they were, but he thinks they were Ring-necked. They too were adorable.

Even though it was freezing, I would definitely not mind going again. It was really fun to just look at the birds and see the different types that I normally don't see on a daily basis. I did see more birds and different species. I would definitely recommend coming to Fernhill Wetlands or any other birding hot spot. Just don't fall into the mucky water! 

Learn a Term



Wetlands are areas where the soil is almost always saturated with moisture or where most of the ground is covered with shallow water, permanently or part of the

time. Wetlands support plants adapted for these wet conditions. Swamps, marshes, and bogs are kinds of wetlands.