

BOGDIVERSITY THURSDAY



—*from Head Naturalist Clinton*

BioBlitz Biodiversity

POST #40—August 4, 2022

It is the week of the 10th Annual Sax-Zim Bog BioBlitz.

Traditionally, this event is where we often get our biggest bump in documenting biodiversity in a season... and in one day no less!

By the numbers, this event has grown by leaps and bounds. The first BioBlitz had more field trip leaders attend than participants! Since then, however, we have averaged around 40-50 attendees to the event. We also usual are able to find around a dozen field trip leaders, who give graciously of their time and expertise to help lead trips for this event. Without the attendance of so many folks and the expertise shared in the field, this event would not be nearly as successful!

In the last few years, we have documented around 600 species during each BioBlitz, with an average of 120 new species for the region documented! On Sax-Zim Bog BioBlitz 6 we documented our greatest number of new species with 135 new species documented. Sax-Zim Bog BioBlitz 9 documented our highest number of species in one day, with 725 species observed. When

we mention new species to the area, it means new to us and our list. At one time or another someone has likely observed these species, but these are just the first instances of us cataloguing them! All of these new discoveries has lead to our understanding of this place and its biodiversity. If you would like to read more about our past BioBlitzes, we have ended most with fairly substantial write ups on our Bog Blog! Here is where you can read more: <https://saxzim.org/category/bog-bioblitz/>

For the last few BioBlitzes we have given folks a chance to help document the biodiversity seen during the day via iNaturalist! Here are the projects that include the last four Sax-Zim Bog BioBlitzes:

BioBlitz 7: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/sax-zim-bog-bioblitz-7>

BioBlitz 8: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/sax-zim-bog-bioblitz-8>

BioBlitz 9: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/sax-zim-bog-bioblitz-9>

BioBlitz 10: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/sax-zim-bog-bioblitz-10>

The BioBlitz is a fantastic event that gets folks to look at plants or bugs or birds or fungi in a different way, hopefully to inspire further exploration in your own backyard. Below are a few new additions to our species list from past BioBlitzes! Information and identification of each species included in their photos below.

(Photos below by Head Naturalist Clinton)



Braun's Stonewort was an exciting find during one of our recent BioBlitzes! This aquatic plant is in the family Chara, all of which are fairly stiff, feeling less like a plant and more like something made of plastic. A really cool plant and a fun find in the ditch on Stone Lake Road.



Dawson's Spur-throated Grasshopper was first documented during a Bioblitz. This is an awesome little grasshopper, that, as an adult, lacks full wings typical of most grasshoppers. A beautiful species to be sure.



Golden Moonglow Lichen is a favorite during summer lichen field trips. It is commonly found on gravestones in the Sax-Zim Bog and, you guessed it, was first documented during a bioblitz!



One of the most surprising plant finds during a bioblitz was this species: Red-stemmed or Great Lakes Gentian. Very similar to Bottle Gentian, this species grows only around the Great Lakes Region. The first specimen we documented was along the boardwalk at Fringed Gentian Bog!



And it wouldn't be a complete post about biodiversity without including a moth! We have had great luck at bioblitzes documenting moth biodiversity. This beauty is Chocolate Prominent, a fuzzy and striking moth only observed three times in the Sax-Zim Bog so far!