



A [Tropical Birding](#) SET DEPARTURE tour

## USA: THE WARBLER TOUR

### Kentucky-Ohio-Michigan

9-20 May 2019

#### **TOUR LEADER: ANDRES VASQUEZ**

Photos by guide Andres Vasquez and Participants Paul Greenall and Jeff Bleam



*A small photo example of all the superb birds we got on this tour. From left to right: Scarlet Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Sora, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Kirtland's Warbler, the last one was among 37 species of warblers seen on this tour – the maximum amount possible! (all of the above photographed by Andres Vasquez).*

## INTRODUCTION:

Scoring **ALL** of Eastern North America's **Warbler species (37 in total)**, on this year's tour was by far the best to the date. As a group, we got every one of the *Parulids* possible in Eastern USA including the only one that was elusive to us the previous time we ran this tour, the skittish **Connecticut Warbler** which was seen by most of the participants but sadly not all. Almost all of the other warblers were seen well by everyone including for instance "the big K", **Kirtland's**, the shy **Mourning**, **Cerulean**, and **Swainson's Warblers**, to name a few of the "hard ones". We also had great photo opportunities for most if not all of the warblers, with repeated eye-level views of basically all of them.



*We had superb close-up views of Cerulean Warbler in Shawnee SP (photo above by Andres Vasquez)*

Apart from this family of songbirds, (which is the main target of the tour of course), we always try to get as many of the other residents and migrant birds as we can. This tour is very dynamic and is meant to follow the local bird news in order to chase unusual or rare birds that may show up within easy reach. In this way, we chased (and found/twitched, as the British say) a lone **Whooping Crane**, various **Evening Grosbeaks**, a pair of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**, **Least Bittern**, **Little Gull**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, **Bobolinks**, **Dickcissel**, and a few more.

In the mammal list of 12 species seen, a short view of a **Bobcat** was a highlight, the same with the various views of **American Porcupines** we got at Tawas, MI.

**DAILY NARRATIVE:**

**May 10: Lexington to Red River Gorge and to Shawnee:** A pre-dawn departure was needed to drive from our hotel in Lexington towards the famed Red River Gorge; while packing the car we heard and saw the first official bird of the trip, **Common Nighthawk**. Our first stop was the enclosed forest along the famed Nada Tunnel. The *Rhododendrum* thickets here are the preferred habitat for the main target of the day, the dullish **Swainson's Warbler** (photo below by Jeff Bleam). It was dark and overcast so views and photos of this bird were difficult but happily every one of the participants got the bird and Jeff, the keenest of the photographers of the group, even got a nice photo. Later in the day, in a different spot within the same forest, we saw this shy species even better.



We found a few other birds in the same spot, like our first **Worm-eating Warbler**, a distant **Wilson's Warbler** and the quite common **Black-and-White Warbler**. We then moved towards the Rock Bridge Trail going after **Louisiana Waterthrush**, which breeds along the river on the bottom of the trail; this bird was very shy and only very short views were achieved. We walked all the loop trail and in the process, besides this Waterthrush, we saw a couple of **Hooded Warblers**, as well as **Black-throated Green Warblers**, the first **Northern Parula** of the tour, and a very cooperative **Pine Warbler**. The dirt road that leads to this great trail was also very productive, both on the way in and the way out. Among the birds that we saw there, it is worth mentioning **Ovenbird**, **Dawny**, **Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **Carolina Chickadee**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, and **Yellow-throated Warbler**.



Pine Warbler above (photo by Andres Vasquez) and Worm-eating Warbler below (photo by Jeff Bleam)



We had a great lunch near the entrance of the Rock Bridge Road at this small pub called SkyBridge where we got the best hamburger I have had in years. Both American and British participants were very happy with it.

After a couple hours of driving towards Shawnee Lodge in Southern Ohio, we stopped at a well known area where several grassland species were possible. Not too far from where we parked, we started the count with this cool **Grasshopper Sparrow** (photo below by Andres V.), and from then several followed: **Dickcissel**, **Bobolinks**, **Eastern MeadowLark**, and a few others. A prairie nearby produced the first and the most photogenic of the **Prairie Warblers** we found on the trip.



There was a portion of a field partially flooded, which attracted a few shorebirds like **Semipalmated Plover**, **Solitary**, **Least and Spotted Sandpipers**, **Killdeer**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. We birded around a little longer but we did not add a lot more to the list with exception of **Common Yellowthroat** and a distant **Cooper's Hawk** that we saw flying.

We still needed to drive a couple more hours to get to our final destination for the day and the base for the next two nights, the beautiful Shawnee Lodge within the namesake state park. We thought no more new birds were to be found that day but an outstanding spotting by Paul, one of the participants, from his room balcony got us after dinner an **American Woodcock** that was feeding along the lodge's garden.



*Prairie Warbler above and Dickcissel below (photos by Andres Vasquez)*



**May 11: Shawnee State Forest:** we had a nice pre-breakfast birding excursion along one of the park's forest roads since the lodge does not serve breakfast before 8am. This was very productive for only lasting about an hour since we knocked down one of the main targets of the area, **Kentucky Warbler**, in the very first stop we did. We also found the first **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Wood Duck**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Northern Flicker**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Carolina Chickadee**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, and a couple other new warblers for the tour, **Black-and-white** and **Blackpoll**. We also saw again **Prairie** and **Yellow-throated Warblers**.



We went back to the lodge for breakfast and right after we moved back onto the forest roads in search of some other targets still required. It did not take too long before we found a good spot with several of our wanted species for the area like, the recently taxonomically-reevaluated **Yellow-breasted Chat** which is now alone in its own family and not within the wood warblers any more. We found there **White-eyed Vireo**, **American Redstart**, **Chipping Sparrow**, and **Indigo Bunting**. The main remaining target for the area made us wait until close to noon but when it showed up it really showed well; this was the gorgeous male **Cerulean Warbler** (photo above by Andres V.). We also achieved better views of the skittish **Louisiana Waterthrush** for the enjoyment of the all the participants.

Ready for lunch, we headed back to the lodge and right from the parking lot we had 3 raptors soaring: **Sharp-shinned Hark**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, and the first of many **Bald Eagles**. A little bit of birding during the free time after lunch produced, for a few of the participants, eye-level views of **Worm-eating** and **Yellow-throated Warblers**.



*Louisiana Waterthrush above and Yellow-breasted Chat below (photos by Andres Vasquez)*



The afternoon and evening were very successful around the reserve called “Edge of the Apalachian”. We found most of the expected ones we were still missing, like the gorgeous **Eastern Towhee** (photo below by Andres V.), a pair of **Wood Thrushes**, better views of **Northern Parula**, and (at last), an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** that we had heard but not seen a lot during the past days. A couple of somewhat surprising species for the area were a perched **Red-shouldered Hawk** and a skittish **Wild Turkey**. After a pizza dinner in the small town of West Union, we went for the last target of the area, the hulking **Chuck-will’s-Widow**. We arrived in the area in perfect time as the sun disappeared and soon we heard and saw two individuals circling above us; one perched visible for a few seconds even.



**May 12: Shawnee to Northern Ohio:** today we had ahead of us a long drive towards the south borders of Lake Erie where various awesome birding spots are found. We did a little pre-breakfast birding and the only new bird we got was a surprising **Pine Siskin** feeding on the ground in a random spot where we’d made a U-turn by mistake. After packing up and leaving behind this beautiful location, we got comfortable in the van and drove solid for a bit more than a couple of hours until we got to the town of Delaware, where we had lunch; we tried a well-rated Mexican but being Mother’s Day Sunday, we could not find a table so we settled for Subway.

North of town, we birded for a few hours in a nice local park where we found a few nice birds, starting with **Swamp Sparrow**, followed by **Virginia Rail**, **Sora** (photo on next page by Andres V.), **Ringed-necked** and **Wood Ducks**, **Common Gallinule**, **American Wigeon**, **Double-crested Cormorants**, and 5 species of swallows: **Tree**, **Northern Rough-winged**, **Bank**, **Barn**, and **Cliff Swallows** plus **Purple Martin**, all these from the same spot we were standing facing a reservoir.



**May 13 to 15: Magee Marsh:** This protected area is the most famous and exciting migrant trap of Ohio where the World-acclaimed boardwalk gives access to birders into the last stand of trees warblers can find in the southwest side of Lake Erie before doing the long flight across these waters. This is why we gave it three full days to explore this and other nearby birding spots. We were very anxious to be there based on the historical reputation and the reports of good birds we had been hearing over the past days. When we arrived, the weather was not particularly good, it was quite cold and rainy, and predictions made it look like it was going to be even worse; a lot of birders were scared off.

We had to go regardless, we could not help ourselves; happily we were well rewarded with probably the best morning we had in the area. Birds were abundant, low, and cooperative. Many of the warbler species that we had not seen before were there within arm's reach. This was the case of **Chestnut-sided** (photo below by Andres V.), **Bay-breasted**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Magnolia**, **Nashville**, **Yellow**, **Cape May**, **Prothonotary**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and a few other passerines like **White-breasted** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches**.



We went back to the boardwalk every day but whenever we had a chance we visited other famed birding spots like Oak Openings Metro Park, Howard Marsh Metro Park, Maumee Bay State Park, and Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area; these areas produced a couple interesting birds that we did not see elsewhere. For instance Oak Openings gave us the striking **Lark Sparrow** and the bright **Summer Tanager** plus the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Black-capped Chickadees** in the process.



A male **Summer Tanager** above and **Horned Lark** below (photos by Andres V.)



Howard Marsh gave us a few shorebirds including the rare for the location **Black-necked Stilts**, plus a few regulars like **Dunlin, Least, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers**, and some waterfowl like **Trumpeter Swan, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwal, Mallard, Greater and Lesser Scaups, Bufflehead** and **Ruddy Ducks**. A personal favorite was quite cooperative, the **Horned Lark** shown on the previous page but the stars of the area were a couple of male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** that were apparently breeding in the area. In this spot we also found the only **Least Bittern** of the tour, a bird that was frustrating for most since only a couple of us managed to see the bird before it disappeared inside the tall reeds to never show up again.



*A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen at Magee (photo by Andres V.)*

One of the mornings was very dynamic and both rewarding and frustrating at the same time. We were in Magee Marsh when we received a hot tip about a possible **Connecticut Warbler** being seen in Maumee Bay, about 35mins ride away. This bird is rare, it was the only species we missed the previous tour and several years not even one individual gets seen during the migration madness in the area of Magee. Therefore, this bird had the true potential of being the very only chance for us to see this species so, once confirmed, we set sail and drove towards it and the fairly short ride felt like an eternity due to the tension involved. You can't stop worrying that by the time you arrive the bird may have just moved on. Happily, when we got there, we received the news that the bird was thought to still be present in this thick hedge, being heard just a few minutes earlier. So we started our vigil with high hopes. After a desperate 20 minutes of not a single sign, the bird showed up for a few seconds, enough for 3 of the participants to see the bird reasonably well but not satisfactorily well; the other participants did not see it since we were scattered along the edge of the thick patch to

cover more ground. By that time it was already way past noon and we were quite hungry so we decided to give it only a few more minutes there and afterwards move on for lunch.

As we were leaving I got another intriguing message from Sam Woods, one of our Tropical Birding guides that was walking the boardwalk at Magee; it said that there had been recently seen another Connecticut Warbler from the boardwalk but that it had not been refound for a while now. This meant that we had to go through the tension of the chase and the never-ending ride once again. Since the Magee bird was apparently not being seen we decided to stop, again at a Subway, to get a quick bite given that this would be the only chance to get food in the next 4 to 6 hours in case we had to do another long vigil for this warbler. We tried to do it as fast as possible and then zoomed towards the boardwalk. When we started to resume the drive, eating my sandwich while driving, I get the update that the bird is showing well in Magee but we were still some 20mins away. Finally when we arrived there, the bird had been last seen 10 minutes ago flying nervously inside a different hedge so we were not very hopeful this time. We had to give it a try and stayed there scanning every bird that moves there but after a solid hour or more we had to admit defeat. It was on the one had good that at least a few of the group saw the bird but it was sad that after all this running and chasing a couple participants came out empty handed. While we were looking for this frustrating bird, other warblers showed up. One participant, Ian, actually found a **Mourning Warbler** while others saw repeatedly this **Ovenbird** (photo below by Andres v.) which was such an undervalued consolation prize despite the great views it gave us.



Now, focusing again on the wonderful birding of the famous Magee's boardwalk, I can say that the repeated visits to the site had every time something new for us. We found the first **Wilson's, Blackburnian, Tennessee, and Canada Warblers**. Besides them, we also saw **Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owls, Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Wood Thrushes, Least and Willow Flycatchers**, and many more.



A bright male **Scarlet Tanager** above and **Northern Parula** below (photos by **Andres V.**)





*Wilson's Warbler* above and *Blackburnian Warbler* below (photos by Andres V.)





*Blackpoll Warbler above (photo by Paul Greenall) and Bald Eagle below (photo by Andres V.)*



**May 16: Magee Marsh to Tawas City:** we had a marvelous time in northern Ohio enjoying the unmatched experience both in terms of birding and in terms of the social aspects of the boardwalk. It is not common to bird along with literally thousands of other fellow birders in a small area with enough birds to keep everybody happy. This birding spot is a World's one off for sure. After various days there, all the participants had already mastered how to move the strings of the social interaction of the boardwalk to get the best in terms of info about any new species seen.



We were ready to move on though and so, after a short last visit to the boardwalk that produced the best views of **Eastern Screech-Owl** (photo on left by **Andres V.**), we started the long drive northwards into Michigan. We had to do a logistical maneuver since we needed to switch the van we were using for another one; this was really an inconvenient since it took much longer than it should due to the incompetence of the rental car company. We lost a couple hours in the process and so at the end of the day we did not have any birding time in Tawas.

Nevertheless, on the way to Tawas I had found a record of a very interesting bird that was found the day before in Shiawasee NWR. This required only a very short detour to our route and we went for it, this was a no-brainer, after all, the species we were trying to get was a **Whooping Crane**. We had to do a bit of a walk to get this bird and in the process we did not get anything new but when we got to the spot where this crane was seen the previous day, we were rewarded not only with one **Whooping Crane** but also a **Sandhill**

**Crane** that was grazing next to it and then 5 other Sandhills that flew in at much closer range in front of the blind we were scanning from.

We were really happy with these sightings, they definitely made up for the uncomfortable time earlier in the day. On top of that, on the way back to the car we found a **Belted Kingfisher**, which was by then sort of a nemesis for one of the British participants who had this species as one of his own personal targets. Since by then we were all playing jokes on him about this kingfisher, we were all cheerful when he finally got it. We resumed the drive and got to Tawas after dusk.



A nice male **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen well in Magee just before departing the area (photo above by Andres V.)

**May 17: Tawas area:** we had ahead of us an exciting day in a completely new area and in a different ecosystem where we had a very serious target to get. We drove pre-dawn and pre-breakfast towards a famous spot where the state of Michigan plants and protects fields of Jack Pines for the vulnerable **Kirtland's Warbler** to breed; happily the efforts have been very successful. I like getting there right at the first rays of sun since that is when I think these birds sing the most, many times from the very top of these short pines and adjacent trees.

Upon arrival we could hear at least 2 individuals and it did not take too long to find one. This was a magic moment for one of the American participants since this was his very last ABA warbler species after a lifetime of search. Even though it was great, this first bird was a little distant so we decided to walk the road a bit more to see if we could find another one closer; well, we did not but when we were heading back to the car one individual decided to sing from a tree right next to the dirt road and we managed unmatched views as you can see on the photo in the next page.



The big K, Kirtland's Warbler above and a family of Wild Turkeys below (photos by Andres V.)



On the way back towards the city for breakfast, we stopped in the middle of the road to check some feeders that a local person had in his exposed open yard. These were very active with **Red-bellied, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Purple Finches, Black-capped Chickadees**, and a few more. The nicest sighting here was however a group of 7 **Wild Turkeys** that were openly displaying in this yard.



After breakfast, we visited another of the great North American migrant traps, Tawas Point. The ecosystem, the social aspect, and the mix of birds found in Tawas is very different from Magee and in many ways it feels nicer but at the end of the day it is very hard to pick a favorite among these two places. Anyways, right upon arrival, we found one of the duller of the warblers, **Orange-crowned Warbler** (photo above by Paul Greenall), but given that this was the very only warbler species we were still missing we celebrated it much; we had made it, we had recorded ALL the eastern US warblers!

That morning we also got a few other new things including **Bobolinks, Clay-colored Sparrow, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers**, and some mammals like **North American Porcupine, Virginia Opossum, and Striped Skunk**.



A male **Bobolink** above and **Clay-colored Sparrow** below (photos by Andres V.)



In the afternoon, we visited two different areas, first Tawas Lake where we did not see many new birds except for a great rarity for the area and time of year, a young **Golden Eagle** that was mobbed by a **Common Raven**, both seen at close range. Then we moved towards a beautiful wetland area called Tuttle Marsh where we added several birds to the list starting with a couple of very territorial **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, then a pair of **Black Terns** followed by a group of **Short-billed Dowitchers**, a flying over **American Bittern** and finally a few **Hermit Thrushes**. We went for dinner in the small town of Oscoda and right at dusk we headed back to the marsh to try for **Eastern Whip-poor-Will** which we saw very well, at least three different individuals.



**May 18: Tawas area:** With another full day in the area we decided to head back to the beautiful Tawas Point in search of some warblers that were not seen by everybody. Specifically we were looking for **Mourning Warbler**, focusing on a hedge where this species typically likes. It did not take too long and one of the participants that really wanted that bird found it. The feeders at the trail head produced an unexpected **Dark-eyed Junco**, afterwards walking down the trail to the point we saw a fly-by **Common Loon** and at the end of the trail we saw a very cooperative **Kentucky Warbler** (photo above by Andres V.) which is rare for the area but it had been showing well for two days in that spot. Right at the tip of the point we did a little of scanning into the lake waters and found a breeding-plumage **Little Gull**, a lone **White-winged Scoter** and three male **Long-tailed Ducks** in summer plumage. In the afternoon we visited the area of Au Gres where we found, in breeding grounds, **Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers**. At this stage of the tour we knew we were not going to add a lot to the list but the birding in Tawas area is so enjoyable.



*Golden-winged Warbler above and Blue-winged Warbler below (photos by Andres V.)*

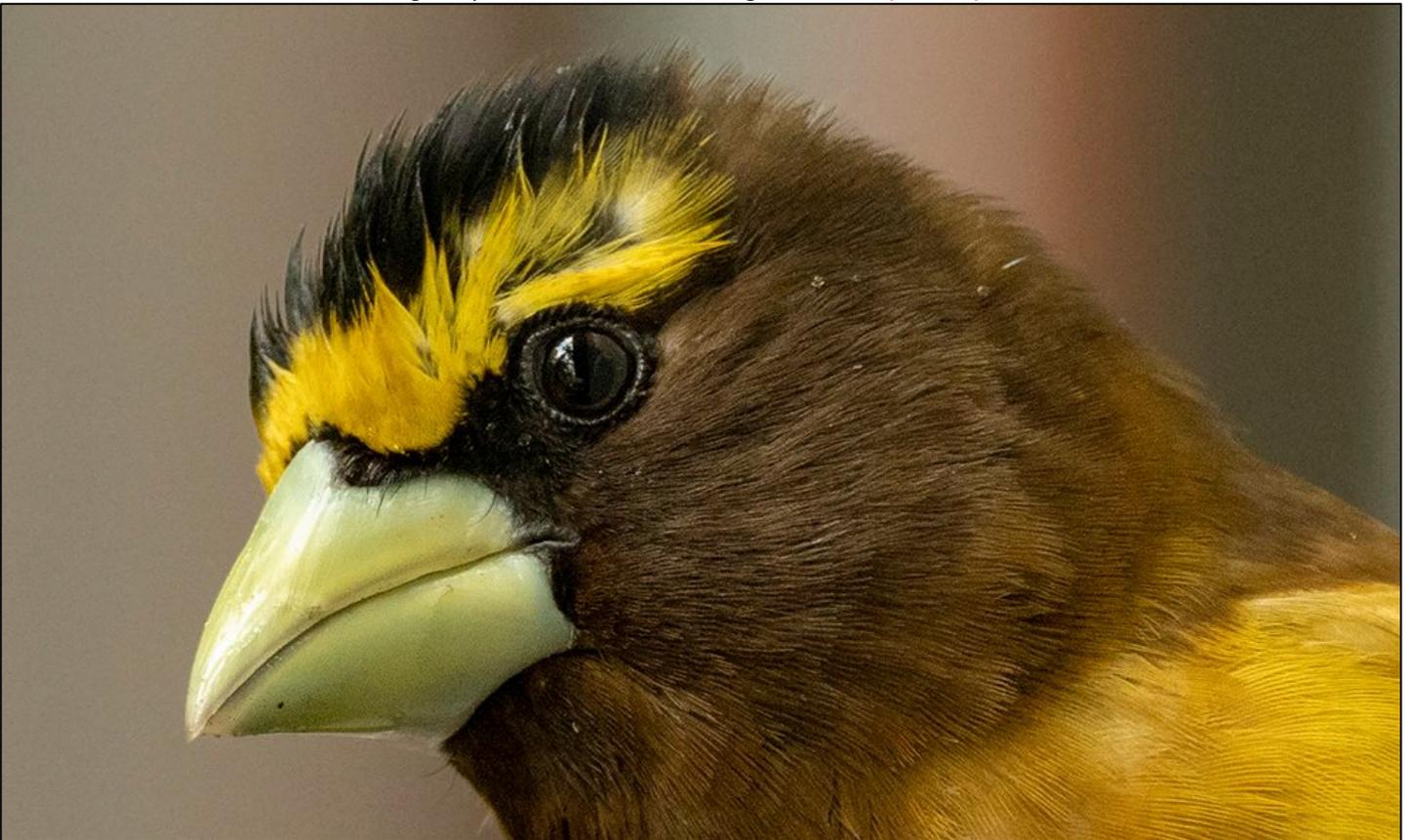


**May 19: Tawas to Grayling to Detroit:** The last birding day of the tour had arrived and having already achieved our main avian targets of the tour, all *Parulids* of eastern North America, we decided not to go back to the gorgeous Tawas for the potential arrival of a rare vagrant and instead we voted on going after one particular bird that would require a considerable extra driving time on a day that we had to put already a few hours to return to Detroit. This was well worth it if that meant we would get **Evening Grosbeaks** (*photo below by Andres V.*) at short photographic range, and we did.





We had a great photo session with **Evening Grosbeaks** (photos by **Andres V.**)



The very well known spot for this bird in Michigan is Hartwick Pines State Park, just north of Grayling. Here these awesome birds visit the feeders placed right outside the headquarters building. Also feeding on the seeds we saw **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, and White-breasted Nuthatch**. A short walk around the close grounds (given the very cold rainy weather) produced a nice **Brown Creeper** (*photo below by Andres V.*) which ended up being the last new bird of the tour.



After lunch in Grayling, we started to drive southwards to Detroit and we were hoping to stop at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area to pick up a couple of new birds that had been reported for the area the previous day. As we were approaching the area, the weather turned really nasty, with strong thunderstorms and wind due to a coldfront that was just starting to hit the area. This made the driving ugly and stressful but more importantly it meant we were not going to be able to visit Nayanquing as the forecast did not show any signs of improvement in the next couple hours. We decided to just continue our journey and arrive into Detroit for a quite enjoyable farewell dinner.

Our last chat as a group revealed the most memorable birds and experiences of the tour. In no particular order, the favorite birds of the tour included **Kirtland's, Cerulean, Swainson's, and Golden-winged Warblers, Whooping Crane, Evening Grosbeak, Eastern Whip-poor-will, American Woodcock**, and the skittish **Belted Kingfisher**. The mammals were also memorable, especially for the British participants who loved the Chipmunks, Skunk, Raccoon, and Porcupine.

## Final Checklist:

The final checklist for this year's tour reached **203 species** of birds **SEEN**; out of these, just one was only seen by the Tour Leader (**L**) and none were only heard records. We also saw **12 species of mammals**. This summary shows the great success of this tour in terms of having virtually all birds SEEN by at least one of the participants and, more importantly, almost all birds were seen by every participant with only a handful of birds missed by one or two participants. The final checklist stands as follows.

### **Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)**

1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
2	Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>
3	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
4	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
7	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>
8	Mallard	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
9	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
10	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>
11	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
12	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
13	Long-tailed Duck (L)	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
14	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
15	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
16	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser americanus</i>
17	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
18	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>

### **Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)**

19	Ring-necked Pheasant (introduced)	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
20	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>

### **Gaviidae (Loons)**

21	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
----	-------------	--------------------

### **Podicipedidae (Grebes)**

22	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
----	-------------------	----------------------------

### **Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)**

23	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
----	--------------------------	------------------------------

### **Pelecanidae (Pelicans)**

24	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
----	------------------------	----------------------------------

### **Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns)**

25	American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
26	Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>
27	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
28	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba egretta</i>
29	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
30	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>

**Cathartidae (New World Vultures)**

- 31 Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*  
 32 Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

**Pandionidae (Osprey)**

- 33 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*

**Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)**

- 34 Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*  
 35 Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*  
 36 Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*  
 37 Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*  
 38 Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*  
 39 Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*  
 40 Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus platypterus*  
 41 Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis borealis*

**Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)**

- 42 Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola limicola*  
 43 Sora *Porzana carolina*  
 44 Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*  
 45 American Coot *Fulica americana*

**Gruidae (Cranes)**

- 46 Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*  
 47 Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

**Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)**

- 48 Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus*

**Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)**

- 49 Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
 50 Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

**Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)**

- 51 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*  
 52 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*  
 53 Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*  
 54 Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*  
 55 American Woodcock *Scolopax minor*  
 56 Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*  
 57 Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*  
 58 Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

**Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)**

- 59 Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*  
 60 Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*  
 61 Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*  
 62 Herring Gull *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*  
 63 Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*  
 64 Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*  
 65 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

66	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>
	<b>Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>	
67	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
68	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
	<b>Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>	
69	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
70	Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>
	<b>Strigidae (Owls)</b>	
71	Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>
72	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
	<b>Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)</b>	
73	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
74	Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>
75	Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>
	<b>Apodidae (Swifts)</b>	
76	Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
	<b>Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)</b>	
77	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
	<b>Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)</b>	
78	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
	<b>Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>	
79	Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
80	Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
81	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
82	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
83	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
84	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
85	Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
	<b>Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)</b>	
86	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
87	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius columbarius</i>
88	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>
	<b>Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)</b>	
89	Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
90	Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii traillii</i>
91	Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
92	Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
93	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
94	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
	<b>Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)</b>	
95	White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
96	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
97	Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>
98	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>

99	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus olivaceus</i>
	<b>Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)</b>	
100	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
101	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
102	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
	<b>Alaudidae (Larks)</b>	
103	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
	<b>Hirundinidae (Swallows)</b>	
104	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
105	Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
106	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
107	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
108	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica erythrogaster</i>
109	Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
	<b>Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)</b>	
110	Carolina Chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>
111	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
112	Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>
	<b>Sittidae (Nuthatches)</b>	
113	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
114	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
	<b>Certhiidae (Treecreepers)</b>	
115	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>
	<b>Troglodytidae (Wrens)</b>	
116	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon aedon</i>
117	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
118	Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
	<b>Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)</b>	
119	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>
	<b>Regulidae (Kinglets)</b>	
120	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>
	<b>Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)</b>	
121	Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
122	Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>
123	Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>
124	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
125	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
126	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
127	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
	<b>Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)</b>	
128	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
129	Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>
130	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
	<b>Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>	

131	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
	<b><i>Bombycillidae (Waxwings)</i></b>	
132	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
	<b><i>Parulidae (New World Warblers)</i></b>	
133	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>
134	Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>
135	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>
136	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>
137	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>
138	Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>
139	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
140	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
141	Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>
142	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>
143	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>
144	Nashville Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>
145	Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>
146	Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>
147	Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>
148	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
149	Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>
150	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
151	Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Setophaga kirtlandii</i>
152	Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>
153	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>
154	Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>
155	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>
156	Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>
157	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>
158	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>
159	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>
160	Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>
161	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>
162	Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>
163	Pine Warbler	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>
164	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata coronata</i>
165	Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>
166	Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>
167	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>
168	Canada Warbler	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>
169	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>
	<b><i>Emberizidae (New World Buntings and Sparrows)</i></b>	
170	Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
171	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>

172	Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>
173	Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>
174	Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
175	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
176	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
177	White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
178	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
179	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
180	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
181	Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>
182	Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
	<b><i>Icteriidae (Yellow-breasted Chat)</i></b>	
183	Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens auricollis</i>
	<b><i>Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)</i></b>	
184	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
185	Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>
186	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
187	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
188	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
189	Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>
	<b><i>Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)</i></b>	
190	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
191	Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>
192	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
193	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius spurius</i>
194	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
195	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
196	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
197	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
	<b><i>Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)</i></b>	
198	Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
199	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
200	Purple Finch	<i>Haemorhous purpureus purpureus</i>
201	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus pinus</i>
202	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
	<b><i>Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)</i></b>	
203	House Sparrow (introduced)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
	<b>MAMMALS</b>	
1	Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
2	Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
3	Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
4	Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
5	Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>

6	American Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
7	North American Porupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
8	Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
9	Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
10	Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
11	White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
12	Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>



A male **Cape May Warbler** was very cooperative while feeding along the low blooming bushes next to the boardwalk at Magee Marsh. (photo by Andres V.)