



A [Tropical Birding](#) SET DEPARTURE tour

USA: THE WARBLER TOUR
Kentucky-Ohio-Michigan

11-22 May 2017

TOUR LEADER: ANDRES VASQUEZ

Photos by Andres Vasquez



37 warblers seen in this trip including short but good views of the “big K” (Kirtland’s Warbler) and multiple views at most of the other warblers, all helping to make this a very enjoyable tour. Above, from left to right: Kirtland’s, Bay-breasted, and Golden-winged Warblers.

This was the most unpredictable migration season in several decades according to everybody we asked, and it was my feeling as well based on my experience in the past five years. Fortunately, our tour was designed and planned in such a way that we did not have to depend only on unpredictable migration movements but instead we visited breeding areas of most of the warblers, and we managed to see every single species but one of the 38 possible eastern US warblers. We only missed the difficult Connecticut, largely due to bad luck; a cold front that passed through while we were in the Upper Peninsula, and we just missed one that departed Magee Marsh just before we got there.



Apart from the fantastic wood warblers, during this tour we saw plenty of other great birds and mammals including **Evening Grosbeak** (photo above) at Hartwick Pines State Park, 14 species of ducks and swans, 7 woodpeckers, 11 species of sparrows including **Henslow's** and **Lark**, both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos**, flocks of **Dickcissels** and **Bobolinks**, and 16 species of shorebirds out of which close up views of **American Woodcock** were particularly appreciated. The most exciting mammal, among the 11 species seen, probably was a **Black Bear** that crossed a dirt road in front of our car.

This trip was also superb in terms of all the different areas we visited, from the beautiful hilly terrain of both Red River Gorge and Shawnee State Park, to the famous migrant traps of Tawas Point and Magee Marsh, and finishing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula boreal forests. Long distances are covered on this trip but it is worth every minute on the tarmac.

May 12: Lexington to the Red River Gorge and up to Shawnee: We had a pre-dawn departure from our hotel in Lexington to drive down to the scenic Red River Gorge area, within the Daniel Boone National Forest. After a tasty breakfast en-route in a local Kentuckian restaurant named Kathy's Country Kitchen, we drove to a picturesque site called the Nada Tunnel, where there is no shortage of Rhododendron thickets; these thickets are the preferred habitat for the main target of the day, **Swainson's Warbler** (photo below). This is one of the northernmost breeding spots for this special Parulid, and our only reliable area to find this species on the tour. Happily, upon arrival we heard two individuals singing from each side of the road and managed to track down both of them down. This bird is reclusive and somewhat shy, so it never really left the thicket from where it was singing; we had to walk into the Rhododendron to get it and we were rewarded with absolutely awesome views from eight feet away.



In the same area we found the first of several **Worm-eating Warblers**, which is another of the “southern” specialties on the itinerary, so we were very happy to see one right at the start of the tour. **Hooded, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white Warblers** (photo next page) also showed up. We returned to the car and went through the spooky tunnel before continuing down to another spot within the same area, the famed Rock Bridge Trail. This particular trail is another of the good spots for Swainson's Warbler and we heard two more individuals, including one with a very interesting local dialect which is different from any other I have heard of this species. The main target of this spot was the sometimes elusive **Louisiana Waterthrush** which breeds along the river on the bottom of the trail. On the way we managed to find a very cooperative **Pine Warbler**, but not much more since the weather started to look as if it was going to rain. I decided to hurry down the hill to get our target before we were rained out. It was a good decision, since not too long after we got to the bottom and tracked down a pair of waterthrushes, a heavy rain started to pour down on us and it did not stop for the rest of the morning. We ate lunch in a local pub called Sky Bridge Station which offered great hotdogs and quesadillas with craft beer.



After the tasty meal, we departed the area and started the long drive towards Shawnee State Forest near Portsmouth. En route, we stopped for a while on a reclaimed former strip mine which now has vast beautiful grasslands with scattered bushes here and there. The main goal was **Henslow's Sparrow** which is hard to track down given its soft and very high-pitch song; we did find one but we only managed fast flight views, happily at close range.

This is a great spot for sparrows, and we also saw: **Song**, **Savannah**, and very cooperative **Grasshopper Sparrows** (**photo next page**). We were also nicely surprised by a lone male **Dickcissel**, a couple male **Bobolinks**, two or three young male **Orchard Orioles**, and the first of many **Eastern Bluebirds** and **Eastern Meadowlarks**.



With still a little less than two hours to go we decided to call it a day since the rains never really stopped, and our quest for the Henslow's got us soaking wet, not only due to the falling rain, but also from the wet tall grass we needed to traverse to find the bird. We arrived late in the afternoon to the gorgeous Shawnee Lodge located within the Shawnee State Forest; we had dinner and prepared for the next day.

May 13: Shawnee State Forest: since breakfast here is not served very early, we decided to do some pre-breakfast birding along a nearby forest road. We found our first **Blue-winged Warblers** together with the only **Ovenbird** that we were going to see well on the trip, and another of the targets for the southern part of the tour, the gorgeous but sometimes elusive **Kentucky Warbler**. Hungry already, we returned to the hotel for a nice breakfast on the restaurant that overlooks the lush hilly forest. The areas around the parking lot held **Tufted Titmice** and the southern species of chickadee that we needed for the tour, **Carolina Chickadee**, which farther north gets replaced by the very similar Black-capped.

The rest of the morning we birded along the network of forest road that connect to the main road. These woodlands are particularly famous for the relative abundance of one of the most sought after warbler species, the otherwise scarce and difficult **Cerulean Warbler** (photo below). We had unmatched views of this canopy species that decided to cooperate exceptionally well for us today.



Throughout the day we enjoyed a few more sightings, and also found a few other warbler specialties of the area including **Yellow-throated Warbler**, another **Louisiana Waterthrush**, the normally skulking **Yellow-breasted Chat** and the bright **Prairie Warbler**. Other birds of note that we found included the miniscule **Least Flycatcher**, a bright male **Indigo Bunting**, the always nice to see **Pileated Woodpecker**, the striking songster **Wood Thrush**, and the only **Eastern Towhee** of the trip.

After an early dinner we decided to go out and try for **Chuck-will's-widow**. This species has an isolated population nearby, but despite our efforts we only managed to hear a couple of them but never really saw them. The outing was not a waste, since it produced the only **Blue Grosbeak** of the tour; we saw a pair just while the light was fading at dusk.

May 14; Shawnee to Northern Ohio: We had done well with the local specialties, so after a late breakfast at the lodge, we decided to start the long drive to the south shore of Lake Erie. We stopped along the way to check for some King Rails that were reported the day before in a small wetland south of Circleville. We managed to hear two individuals, along with a couple Soras, but they all remained hidden. The location gave us the only **Horned Lark** of the trip and the first few shorebirds: **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Plover**, and a group of about 12 **Short-billed Dowitchers**.

We briefly tried other spots to break the long drive, and those stops were nice, but we did not find much in the way of new trip birds. We were still a few hours away from our destination when we heard reports of two different sightings of Connecticut Warblers near Oregon, OH, so we decided to head there first with the hope that the birds would linger in the area. We did not have time to hit both spots, so we tried for the one at Pearson Metropark with no luck. By the time we arrived, close to 6pm, only a few of the most hopeful birders still lingered there, and sadly the bird was no longer being seen.

We decided to bird in the area for a little while just in case, and the walk was quite productive with our first **Canada Warbler** (photo below), the first of several super skulking **Mourning Warblers**, and a couple of the easier ones: **Magnolia** and **Bay-breasted Warblers**. We had a late dinner and checked into our hotel in Port Clinton which was going to be our base for the next four nights.



May 15: Magee Marsh and Oak Openings: The areas in northern Ohio are wonderful for spring birding; several migrant traps are scattered along the southern shore of Lake Erie. The most famous and exciting is the world-renowned Magee Marsh Wildlife Area where a 0.6 mile long boardwalk gives you the perfect vantage point to explore the swampy woodland. In this small strip of trees, large numbers of both birds and birders congregate every May; the former to rest and get a little food before crossing the lake, and the latter to admire the spectacular show; the birds are often so close that you can almost reach out and touch them.



The first few hundred feet of the boardwalk produced several new birds for us like **Philadelphia** and **Warbling Vireos**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and of course warblers: **Prothonotary (photo left)**, **Tennessee**, **Nashville**, a lone **Orange-crowned**, **Blackburnian**, **Chestnut-sided**, and **Yellow-rumped** were all new for the trip, joining several that we had seen previously.

The access road to the boardwalk area produced a couple interesting birds like an almost tame **Sora** that for a long while foraged out in the open for us to have scope views. **Sandhill Cranes** were also feeding nearby. We saw the only **Hooded Merganser** (a female) of the tour and the first of various **Wood Ducks**. A few years ago, **Snowy Egrets** were hardly ever seen here, but lately we have been seeing

them every spring; new for us here was also a lone **Black-crowned Night-Heron**.

During the afternoon we visited Oak Openings Metropark where a localized and isolated population of the beautiful **Lark Sparrow (photo on next page)** breeds. It was not hard to find since they are rather tame along the grass fields right in the middle of the large park, and they even forage along the road. This spot is also famous for a local population of breeding **Summer Tanagers** which we also found easily. We did a little birding along the park and were amused by **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** visiting the flowers next to our car and a bold **Pileated Woodpecker (photo on next page)** that was foraging very low along the edge of the woodland.



May 16: Magee Marsh and Pointe Mouillee State Game Area: In the morning we went back to the boardwalk at Magee and managed to find a couple of new birds for the trip like **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, **Northern Parula** (photo below), and **Cape May**, **Wilson's**, **Blackpoll**, and **Black-throated Blue Warblers**. We also enjoyed better views of a **Mourning Warbler** for some of the group.



We had a leisurely lunch in Oregon, and then, crossed into Michigan to spend the afternoon at a wetland famous for shorebirds and waterfowl just south of Detroit called Pointe Mouillee State Game Area.

From the viewing platform on the north part of the area, we managed to see many new trip birds including a group of **American White Pelicans** that for some reason were lingering in the area. We saw a flock of **Whimbrel** flying by, various **Foster's Terns**, **Mute Swans**, **Ospreys**, and a few other more common species. We then moved to the main part of the reserve where we needed to walk about 1.5 miles round trip to reach some wetlands. With the use of scopes we found **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Green-winged** and **Blue-winged Teals**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Green Heron**, and a group of shorebirds that included **Solitary** and **Least Sandpipers**, **Semipalmated** and **Black-bellied Plovers**, and **Sanderlings**. On the way back we saw a group of birders staring intently at a random flooded field next to the road, so we stopped to see what the buzz was about, and our curiosity got rewarded with a full breeding plumage **White-rumped Sandpiper**.



Cape May (above) and Blackpoll Warblers (below) were displaying well at Magee that morning



May 17: Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, Maumee Bay State Park, and Magee Marsh: with another full day in the area we decided to visit other migrant traps and “play it by ear”, regularly checking for recent sightings of something interesting nearby. We started by “twitching” a long lingering **Snow Goose** that was reported near our hotel in Port Clinton. Afterwards we drove towards Metzger Marsh where we saw our first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in a day when we were going to see several more “Empids”, including better views of this one. A few warblers were moving along the woodland by the parking lot but nothing new for us so we decided to move to another spot. We drove to Maumee Bay State Park and walked the trails. We did not find much since it was a relatively slow migration day, but we were shown a roosting **Eastern Screech-Owl** (photo below) by a generous local birder.



The afternoon was much better than the morning, since a good number of migrants had arrived from the south. We decided to visit again the main migrant trap to play it safe and walked the boardwalk of Magee once more. The light was superb and the birds were quite low for great views and some photos. We got **Alder**, **Yellow-bellied**, and **Acadian Flycatchers**, short but good views of our only **Black-billed Cuckoo** (photo above left) of the trip as well as a couple **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**. A roosting **Common Nighthawk** was pointed out by one of our boardwalk friends. That afternoon we saw 17 species of warblers including **Black-throated Blue** which had been elusive to us until now. We also checked a known spot for **American Woodcock** and enjoyed prolonged quality-time with the bird.

Happy with the great sightings, we returned to our hotel and went to for dinner in a great local pizza place.



Above: **American Woodcock**; below left **Magnolia Warbler**; below right **Black-throated Blue Warbler**



May 18: Magee Marsh to Tawas: we had a long drive ahead of us, so we only had a couple hours to bird in the morning. With such a great afternoon the day before we decided to visit Magee Marsh one last time before saying goodbye to Ohio. Warblers were still putting on a nice show so it was a great farewell. We did not have anything new but we spent time enjoying amazing views of birds like **Blackburnian (photo below)** and **Chestnut-sided Warblers**.



At about 9am we decided to depart and headed west, then north. We had lunch at Saginaw in a very nice European-style café and then continued north for our first birding stop at Nyanquing Point State Wildlife Area where some interesting birds were reported the day before. When we arrived, the winds were so strong that hardly anything was perching exposed. We only managed a few widespread species such as **Swamp Sparrow, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper,** and **Northern Harrier**. The potential of the place was huge, but we were unlucky with the weather, particularly with the strong winds. On a good day I think the semi-flooded fields, the ponds, and the surrounding reeds could be teeming with migrants.

We continued northwards and stopped near Au Gres where we spent the rest of the afternoon looking for one particular warbler that we were still missing and that happily has a breeding territory in this area. Moving through dirt roads towards the target spot we saw our first **Wild Turkey** crossing the road. We also found pairs of both **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Northern Flicker**, several **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and a few other passerines that helped us break up the long journey.

It did not take too long to find our target after we got to the breeding spot. A gorgeous male **Golden-winged Warbler** (photo below) performed very nicely and obviously it was named right on the spot as the “bird of the day”. We enjoyed this guy for a while before we decided to move on in search of other species.



Apart from the Golden-wing, warblers seemed rather quiet, so we continued down to a grassy field where we saw two **Sedge Wrens** and heard other three. We decided to call it a day and continued on to Oscoda where we were based for two nights.

May 19: Tawas Area: We had a full day around Tawas Point, another famous migrant trap. Since we had found most of the migrant warblers, we decided to focus on perhaps the most famous bird of the area, the “Big K”, Kirtland’s Warbler. Just west of Oscoda, the state of Michigan is protecting breeding land for this near-threatened species. We had a very early breakfast and departed before dawn. On the way, we saw a couple of Eastern Whip-poor-wills that were sitting on the road, and that flushed up as we drove by.

We soon after arrived in the preferred habitat for Kirtland's Warbler, which is very specific: "large, fire-maintained homogeneous stands of 1-5 m tall jack pines *Pinus banksiana* on sandy soil (Mayfield 1992, Sykes 1997, Anon. 2008)." (Extracted from <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22721722/0>). From the car we could already hear an individual singing from the pine stand, so we walked towards that bird. We approached as close as we could from the road since entering the pine plantation is forbidden to protect the nests, which are placed on the ground.

The bird was close but quite hidden, given only quick views. When we heard the bird moving away, we decided to try for another individual that was singing farther along the road, which was even less cooperative. A few hundred yards ahead, another bird was singing, this time closer to the road, and we finally got very good views after a few minutes of patience; everyone was happy with their lifer **Kirtland's Warbler** (photo below).



Mission accomplished, pressure off, "Big K" in the pocket... so we had plenty of time to go after other birds. We started to go to Tawas Point, but first we made a brief stop at a well-known spot where **Bobolinks** (photo on next page) breed and forage. We spotted a pair of males that were singing near the road.

We then drove straight to the point with a couple of specific targets in mind. It took us a while to find the first one, **Palm Warbler**, which had been eluding us for a long time. In the same spot some of the group got brief views of our only **Northern Waterthrush**. The area produced a few other new birds like **Sanderling**, **Common Tern**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Cliff Swallow**, plus another **Summer Tanager** that had been hanging around there for a day or so.



We took a break in the middle of the day, and in the afternoon we visited Tuttle Marsh Wildlife Area. It was quiet mainly due to the cold front that was just starting to hit the region. We made several stops along the marsh to scan but it seemed like most birds were just trying to find shelter.

On the water we found **Lesser Scaup**, and **Belted Kingfisher** perched just above. Probably the most entertaining sighting we had that afternoon was a displaying **Common Raven** that was doing a circular flight and calling during the sudden dives or drops it took frequently during the flight. Another outstanding bird we had was a very cooperative **Virginia Rail** that was singing and foraging actively at the edge of a small pond.

May 20: Tawas to the Upper Peninsula: With 37 species of warblers in the bag out of 38 possible, we decided to focus our efforts on the only one missing, the difficult Connecticut Warbler. For that one, at least for this year, we attempted to find it on its breeding grounds in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. While still a bit early in the season, we were hopeful since there had been a few reports of birds migrating through Ohio. In order to maximize our chances, we left Oscoda early in the morning.



I had already planned a couple of stops to break up the long journey, and at the same time trying to get some new birds for the trip. The first was a couple hours away near the west shore of Houghton Lake, just south of Grayling. A large marsh holds a nice population of **American Bittern** and it did not take long before we saw one flying above the marsh in front of us for an extended time, so that we enjoyed it thoroughly.

Next stop was Hartwick Pines State Park just north of Grayling which is famous for the reliable **Evening Grosbeaks (photo left)** that visit daily the feeders just outside the headquarters building. We were happy to see several of these striking birds together with a couple other typical feeder species.

We did not stay long, since we were still a couple hours away from our desired destination and therefore we continued to Gaylord for lunch. Not long after we found ourselves crossing the Mackinac Straight, which connects Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, and separates the Upper Peninsula from the rest of Michigan.

The weather was really bad - cold and rainy. Birds were very quiet in the areas we birded north of Trout Lake. We did not really find much that afternoon birdwise, just a few birds we had seen before like a responsive **Pine Warbler** (photo below) and a **Hairy Woodpecker** that we tracked down thanks to its tapping. The sound got us excited, since we were expecting or at least hoping for a Black-backed. The best sighting of the day was probably a beautiful **Black Bear** that crossed the road in front of our car. We continued to our hotel for a late dinner and a deserved rest after a long day.



May 21: The Upper Peninsula to Detroit: The last day of the tour started again very cold, windy and rainy so our chance to find that one last warbler were very low. Not much was singing, and the only new bird for the trip was a sharp-looking **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, fully displaying its bright crest. At around mid-morning we were out of time, so started to head southwards.

On the way to Detroit, we stopped again Nayanquing Point, and managed to spot two male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** that we missed on our previous visit. There were a lot more shorebirds this time but the only new bird for the tour that we got in that flock was **Ruddy Turnstone**. Continuing our journey, we had a couple of hours in Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge but again we did not get anything new for the trip. We had one last night in a hotel near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, and enjoyed talking about favorite birds and moments of this fun tour over a nice farewell dinner.

Bird list:

The final list for this year's tour was 198 species of bird recorded, out of 44 families. We saw 11 species of mammals.

3 were only seen by the tour leader (L) and 5 were only heard (H).

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

H Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>
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Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

H Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
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Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
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Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
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Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
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Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Pandionidae (Osprey)	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
L Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
L Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)	
H King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Gruidae (Cranes)	
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>
Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)	
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
L Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>

Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>
Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Cuculidae (Cuckoos)	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>
Strigidae (Owls)	
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>
Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)	
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
H Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>
Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>
Apodidae (Swifts)	
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
Picidae (Woodpeckers)	
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>

Alaudidae (Larks)

Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
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Hirundinidae (Swallows)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>

Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)

Carolina Chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
H Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>

Poliptilidae (Gnatcatchers)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliptila caerulea</i>
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Regulidae (Kinglets)

Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>

Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)	
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Sturnidae (Starlings)	
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Bombycillidae (Waxwings)	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Parulidae (New World Warblers)	
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>
Nashville Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>
Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Setophaga kirtlandii</i>
Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>
Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>
Pine Warbler	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	<i>Setophaga coronata coronata</i>
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>
Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>
Canada Warbler	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>
Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)	
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)	
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>
Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)	
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Eastern Meadowlark</i>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)	
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus***Most likely mammals**

Eastern Cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus

Eastern Chipmunk

Tamias striatus

Woodchuck

Marmota caligata

Eastern Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

Eastern Fox Squirrel

Sciurus niger

Red Squirrel

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

North American Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum

Raccoon

Procyon lotor

Common Muskrat

Ondatra zibethica

American black bear

Ursus americanus

White-tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus

American Redstarts (**photo above**) are often tame and easy to photograph along the boardwalk of Magee Marsh.