

Buckeye Birding: Biggest Week | Species List

May 4 – 11, 2019 | Compiled by Pat Lueders



With Guides Dan Donaldson & Pat Lueders & 12 participants: Maureen, Holly, Tom, Brian, John, Debbie, Doug, Eileen, Jeff, Dave, Norma, & Judy

Summary: What a delightful week this group spent in the Lake Erie area from Cleveland to Maumee Bay enjoying the birds, scenery, nature, and companionship of other birders. Each member contributed to the success of the large number and variety of birds seen, and the enjoyable week of friendship and good humor. We visited the famous Magee Marsh boardwalk many times watching and identifying 27 species of warblers, indeed experiencing “The Biggest Week in Birding”!

BIRDS (156 species recorded):

Anatidae: Ducks, Geese and Swans (12)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—Seen daily in good numbers at all locations

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*—Four were seen at Ottawa NWR in the same lake with Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*—Over 80 were counted in the water & on the levees at Ottawa NWR

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—Seen often around ponds & best seen from the Maumee Bay boardwalk

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—Seen in ponds on the drive at Ottawa NWR

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—With other duck species in ponds at Ottawa NWR

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—In lake at Ottawa NWR with other waterfowl

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Seen often in ponds at many locations

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*—Scope views during visit to Howard Marsh Metropark

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*—Males & females at Howard Marsh Metropark

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*—Only one pair, seen at Howard Marsh Metropark

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—Wow, in breeding plumage! Males & females at Howard Marsh Metropark

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—Seen at Ottawa NWR & Howard Marsh Metropark

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (2)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—Spotted daily in a field near Howard Marsh Metropark

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Seen daily at all locations

Cuculidae: Cuckoos (2)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*—Multiple birds seen by all from the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*—Rare than Yellow-billed, seen the same day for nice comparisons

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars (1)

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*—Roosting on a branch along the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Apodidae: Swifts (1)

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*—Seen & heard daily at all locations

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (1)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*—Best looks at the feeder at Oak Openings' Window on Wildlife

Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules and Coots (4)

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*—(HO) So close! Two heard, but we couldn't get these birds to show themselves

Sora *Porzana carolina*—Best looks ever! Two were seen feeding in the open from the Maumee Bay boardwalk

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*—Quite a few seen during the wildlife drive at Ottawa NWR

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Seen often in area ponds & lakes

Gruidae: Cranes (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*—Four flew over the Magee Marsh boardwalk vocalizing & seen by many

Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—Seen by one of the vans in a field near the Ottawa NWR

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—Often seen & heard, best views at Howard Marsh Metropark

Scolopacidae: Sandpiper and Allies (8)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—Four spotted flying over the lake & followed in the scope from Metzger Marsh

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*—Most plentiful shorebird of the trip, seen in good numbers at Howard Marsh

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—Seen feeding along the shore at Howard Marsh

American Woodcock *Scolopax minor*—In addition to one seen from the Magee Marsh boardwalk, on our night walk we watched & heard a number of them demonstrating near the cabins at Maumee Bay after sunset

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—A few were seen on our visit to the Howard Marsh Metropark

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*—Seen well by all at the Howard Marsh Metropark

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—Seen feeding with Dunlin for a nice comparison in a field near Howard Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—Close looks in the same field with Greater Yellowlegs & Dunlin

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (7)

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*—Seen sitting on the levee at the Metzger Marsh causeway

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—Seen almost daily at all locations near Lake Erie

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*—Seen almost daily at all locations near Lake Erie

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—Spotted feeding over the lake on visit to Ottawa NWR

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*—Followed in the scope, a few seen feeding over water at Howard Marsh Metropark

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*—Best looks of individuals sitting on the levee from the Metzger Marsh causeway

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*—Seen sitting & flying with Common Terns for nice comparisons on Metzger Marsh causeway

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Seen frequently whenever we were around water

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—Five seen by the trailing van as they flew over the lead van while touring Ottawa NWR

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (4)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—Most impressive sighting was the GBH rookery with over 20 adults feeding chicks at Rocky River Reservation

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—Seen almost daily at all wet locations, especially the ditches along the roadside

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—Only a few seen at Ottawa NWR wading along the ponds

Green Heron *Butoroides virescens*—Seen in the wetland area along the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen soaring daily at all locations

Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—Pair seen on an Osprey tower at Cuyahoga Valley NP

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites and Eagles (6)

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*—Small accipiter with squared tail soaring at Rocky River Reservation

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—Perched in a tree at Erie Street Cemetery & soaring at other locations

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—Wow, we lost count of the number of nests & perched individuals in residence at Ottawa NWR

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*—Only seen once, perched for scope looks, at Cuyahoga Valley NP

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*—Quick spotting of a soaring individual at Cuyahoga Valley NP

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Seen often from the vans perched & soaring

Strigidae: Owls (1)

Eastern Screech-Owl *Megascops asio*—To our delight, gray phase individual seen daily at the Magee Marsh boardwalk & a red-phase seen roosting along the Maumee Bay boardwalk

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Heard often, best seen at Ottawa NWR

Picidae: Woodpeckers (7)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*—Only seen at one location, 3 were seen at the Erie Street Cemetery

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—A crowd favorite, nesting pair at Cuyahoga Valley NP

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*—Seen or heard daily at most locations

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*—Most common woodpecker species on the trip, seen daily

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—Great looks at one at the feeder at Rocky River Reservation with other woodpecker species for nice size comparisons

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*—Great scope looks at a male & female on walk at Oak Openings

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—Seen often at all wooded locations, best at Erie Street Cemetery

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (1)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Spotted during travels perched on wires along the highways

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (3)

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*—Seen well at Erie St Cemetery & other locations with water

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*—Finally seen well on the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*—Seen often, largest number in fields at Howard Marsh

Vireonidae: Vireos (4)

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—Close looks at one from the parking lot at Black Swamp Visitor's Center
Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*—Seen in a mixed flock at Rocky River Reservation
Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—Heard & seen almost daily at many locations
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*—Good looks at many individuals on the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (2)

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*—Hundreds seen daily in flocks migrating around Lake Erie
American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen & heard almost daily at all locations

Alaudidae: Larks (1)

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*—One cooperative young male posed & sang for us on top of a rock at Howard Marsh

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (6)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Seen well over the river at Rocky River Reservation
Purple Martin *Progne subis*—Using the Martin houses at Maumee Bay Visitor's Center
Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—Perched on trees close to boardwalk at Cuyahoga Valley NP for great looks
Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—Few mixed in with Tree Swallows at Cuyahoga Valley NP
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Most common swallow seen at many locations especially Magee Marsh
Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Nesting again at the entrance to the Maumee Bay Resort

Paridae: Tits and Chickadees (2)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—Seen & heard daily especially at feeders
Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*—Seen & heard daily, large number at Pearson Metropark feeders

Sittidae: Nuthatches (2)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*—What a surprise to see this species daily & at a variety of locations; good numbers on the Magee Marsh boardwalk
White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—Common species at all feeders, especially Pearson Metropark

Troglodytidae: Wrens (5)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—Heard often; watched a nesting pair along the Magee Marsh boardwalk
Winter Wren *Troglodytes hiemalis*—Seen by a few on the ground along the Magee Marsh boardwalk
Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*—Close looks in the open from the Magee Marsh boardwalk
Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*—Seen well from the vans perched & singing at Ottawa NWR
Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Only seen at the Cleveland locations that were visited

Poliophtilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea*—Frequently seen & heard at all locations

Regulidae: Kinglets (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—Seen often with mixed warbler flocks

Turdidae: Thrushes (6)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*—First seen at Erie Street Cemetery; others seen at Maumee Bay
Veery *Catharus fuscescens*—Individuals seen on the forest floor at Rocky River Reservation Nature Trails
Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*—Close looks for comparison on trail at Oak Openings
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*—Most common migrating thrush seen at many locations

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*—Heard vocalizing & good looks at Rocky River Reservation on the Nature Trails

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Seen daily at all locations

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (2)

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*—Seen often; large numbers on the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*—Pair seen around the Maumee Bay Visitor's Center

Sturnidae: Starlings and Mynas (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*—Seen frequently at many locations

Motacillidae: Wagtails and Pipits (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*—A nice surprise, a few were spotted in a field when we stopped to view shorebirds

Fringillidae: Finches (3)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Always a few on the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus*—A bonus, seen at the Pearson Metropark's Window on Wildlife feeders

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*—Colorful males with females seen daily at all locations

Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (10)

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*—Heard, then finally spotted & seen in the scope, at a known location near Oak Openings

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—Common sparrow, first seen at Erie Street Cemetery

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*—Best look at this species in the open at Lark Sparrow site at Oak Openings

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—Spotted for good looks at known protected breeding location at Oak Openings

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Seen on the ground at Ottawa NWR Visitor's Center

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*—Best looks at a number of individuals at Erie Street Cemetery

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—Heard & seen almost daily at many locations

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*—Good looks feeding on the ground at Magee Marsh boardwalk

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*—(HO) Heard vocalizing at Cuyahoga Valley NP boardwalk

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*—Finally, good looks at a male on the Maumee Bay boardwalk

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (8)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—Seen & heard at Maumee Bay near the cabins

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—A great spotting, 2 beautiful males seen at close range at Howard Marsh

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—Seen best in the field at Howard Marsh

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—Males & females seen on walk at Cuyahoga Valley NP

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*—Always fun to see this beautiful bird at many locations

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Seen & heard almost daily at all locations

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—Frequently seen at many locations

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*—Common species seen daily at all locations

Parulidae: New World Warblers (27)

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*—First looks at Erie St Cemetery; often seen on Magee March boardwalk

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—Often heard, finally seen at Maumee Bay boardwalk

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—Frequently seen at many locations

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*—Nesting again along the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*—Good looks on the last visit to the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*—Seen on all visits to the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*—We were in the right place at the right time when this rarer warbler was found in the woods at Metzger Marsh for great looks!

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—Seen & heard frequently at many locations

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*—Seen by many at the stake-out on the Magee Marsh boardwalk

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*—Beautiful, and plentiful numbers on the boardwalks

Kirtland’s Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii*—Again, we were lucky to be at Magee when this endangered warbler was found along the beach for great close looks & photo opportunities

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina*—Another crowd favorite, this beauty was seen often at the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*—Seen on the first day at Rocky River Reservation & on the boardwalks

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*—Another beauty, seen often on both boardwalks

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea*—A female at Oak Openings; beautiful males at Magee

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*—A male, one of the first warblers we saw on the Magee Marsh boardwalk. Wow!

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—Couldn’t count how many were on both boardwalks & nest building

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*—“Pleased to meet you”, too! Seen on the boardwalks

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*—Distinctive vocalization led to the location of this warbler with orange legs

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*—Males & females plentiful on both boardwalks

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum*—Surprisingly large numbers seen at many locations the entire week

Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus*—Close looks on walk from the Rocky River Reservation Nature Trail boardwalk

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—Frequently seen but a beautiful & often hard to identify warbler

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*—Heard & seen a few, this warbler at the entrance to Maumee Bay boardwalk

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*—Many seen by all on the boardwalks; very cooperative warbler!

Canada Warbler *Cardellina Canadensis*—Only one seen but by all at the stake-out on the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—A few seen on the first & last visit to the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Grosbeaks (4)

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*—Male & female caused quite a commotion in the Magee Marsh parking lot

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Seen daily in good numbers in all locations

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—First seen at the heron rookery; seen often on the boardwalks

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—First sighting at the entrance to the Magee Marsh boardwalk

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—Seen often around the Maumee Bay Resort