

# Buckeye Birding: Ohio's Biggest Week | Species List

## May 7 – 14, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guides **Dan Donaldson and Bryan Shirley** and participants **Barrie, Dana, Edna, Jean, Paul, Sheila, Dondi, Bob, Kay, Amy, Mike and Ray**

Compiled by Dan Donaldson

**Summary:** It was great to be back in Ohio after the two-year break. We had wonderful weather and favorable winds the entire week. This trip started in Cleveland where we hit many of the local birding patches and explored the Cuyahoga Valley National Park where we visited heron rookeries, the Ohio Erie Canal Center, and walked along the tow path of the Ohio Erie Canal. We utilized these locations to find birds we were not likely to see in the marsh areas of western Ohio. Cerulean Warbler was our primary goal here and we were very successful getting great looks of one vocalizing on territory. We explored downtown Cleveland birding spots and the Lake Erie shoreline before dining in one of Cleveland's trendy restaurants.

After one day in the Cleveland region, we moved on to western Ohio, home of the famous Magee Marsh Boardwalk and the Biggest Week in American Birding festival. We arrived just as the first wave of warblers appeared. Surrounded by agricultural fields for miles in either direction the woodlots along the Lake Erie shore are critical habitat for the many thousands of songbirds that pass through here every Spring. We, of course, birded the Magee Marsh boardwalk often, but we also trekked to many other birding locations including, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Kelleys Island – famous for its geology as well as birds, Metzger Marsh State Wildlife Area, Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, Oak Openings Region, Howard Marsh Metropark and other sometimes nameless patches known to locals.

The birding was fantastic all week long and we tallied 160 species for the trip, with very close looks at 29 warbler species (including Cerulean and Kirtlands!).

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)=introduced

**BIRDS (146 species recorded, of which 30 were warblers species)**

### **DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (9)**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Seen everyday on our adventure ranging in habitats from downtown Cleveland to the marshes of Old Woman Creek. Goslings in large family groups were already present in good numbers.

**Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator* (I)—We saw and heard Trumpeter Swans daily while in the western Ohio marshes, and especially in areas around the Magee Marsh Board Walk where their trumpeting call would suddenly break the silence of birders quietly watching warblers.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*—Heard or seen at a variety of locations throughout the week, including a nesting pair within the giant Eastern Cottonwoods of the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*—Always beautiful, we saw several pairs at Howard Marsh and during our drive at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*—Surprisingly absent most of the trip. One individual was found at Howard Creek Metropark in the shallow canals where we saw Black-necked Stilts on several occasions.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*—Several observed associating with other dabblers on the Ottawa National Wildlife Drive .

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*— Observed in the same location as the Gadwalls above, at Ottawa NWR.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*—Of course seen daily in any aquatic habitat.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*—Luckily, we came upon a large feeding flock that briefly stopped in the bay along the Jones Preserve on Kelley's Island.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—Several individuals found in open water habitats at Ottawa NWR, Metzger Marsh, and along the shoreline of Kelleys island.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (2)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (1)—Surprisingly scarce in much of the tour, but present around Cleveland and Toledo, as well as a highway overpasses.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—Present daily at most birding sites, in small numbers, even in the marshlands of western Ohio.

### **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)**

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*—We were lucky enough to observe both species of possible cuckoos on this trip. Our Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a very cooperative bird along the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*- our Black-billed Cuckoo was found in the small woodlot at the end of the Metzger Marsh Road. This location was very active this year and we stopped several times to bird this little woodlot along an otherwise treeless area of Lake Eries's shoreline.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)**

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*—Seen in a few places, most notably at Maumee Bay State Park and Lodge where an individual was seen hunting low over the parking lot and Lodge.

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)**

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*—It's interesting that the only locations we saw Chimney Swifts were in the Cleveland Region on our first two days of the trip.

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (1)**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colibri* —Missed in the Cleveland Region, a couple individuals observed along the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (3)**

**Sora** *Porzana carolina* - one frustratingly-close individual was heard calling extremely close by on the Ottawa Driving Tour and never located.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*—Over a dozen individuals seen, including with chicks, between locations in Ottawa NWR and nearby Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—several coots observed at locations within Magee Marsh and Metzger Wildlife Area.

### **CRANES: Gruidae (1)**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*—Great looks at several rust-stained pairs at Ottawa NWR and the, and heard frequently from Magee Marsh boardwalk.

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*— Once rare in Ohio, several pairs are now regular breeders at created Howard Marsh metropark. Observed feeding, displaying, calling and flying.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*—A flock of around 150 individual was in the last impoundment at Winous Point.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—We found only one individual feeding within the canal that surrounds the Magee Marsh Boardwalk area.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*—Seen daily or heard daily at most all locations.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (6)**

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*—Dunlin we present in good numbers in the western marshes we visited. We had particularly good looks at their breeding plumage and feeding behaviors in the drained areas of Ottawa NWR.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—about 20 individuals were also present feeding with the Dunlin mentioned above. You never appreciate how “least” these birds really are until you observe them feeding along side a larger shore bird.

**American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor*—Wow, we had female incubating eggs 4ft off the Station Road trail at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This nest location proved to be a poor choice and there was no sign of this bird or it’s eggs a few days later. We also had a couple individuals working the canal along the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—Detected along still waters in several sites, including breeding plumaged individuals flushing off of the rocky dikes at Winous Point.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* – We had wonderful Greater / Lesser Yellowlegs comparison sessions while on the Ottawa NWR Driving Tour.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*—Present in better numbers than Greater Yellowlegs, our most notable observations were at Ottawa NWR.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (5)**

**Bonaparte’s Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* - Very common here in winter, 100 or so individuals were observed on Lake Erie at Wendy Park in Cleveland. This would be the only time we saw these tern-like gulls.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*—common in Cleveland our first day, but we did find a few individuals at the marshes in western Ohio.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*— much more common in the fall and winter, we did manage to find 5 individuals at Kelleys Island Long Point Preserve.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* – Common in early Spring migration, these circumtropic terns were only seen in Cleveland in the same location as the Bonaparte’s Gulls mentioned above.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*—Not very common in this region, but there is a successful nesting program at Ottawa NWR where they convert old pontoon boat platforms into floating nesting sites. we found 6 individuals flying at Ottawa NWR and Metzger Marsh WA.

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* – This species has benefited greatly in recent decades from improving water quality Lake Erie. Seen daily largely along Lake Erie but also in other locations such as Howard and Metzger marshes.

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—Observed at several locations. We had spectacular looks at small flocks flying around the Magee Marsh Boardwalk. The call of “Pelicans” would stop all the birding activity on the boardwalk when these birds flew low overhead.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (3)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—Ever-present in all areas of Ohio GBH were seen everyday. Best viewed at the very accessible Heron Rookery site in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**Great Egret** *Egretta alba*—Very common in the western Lake Erie marshes. We observed many individuals every day with most individuals and our best views during our Ottawa NWR Driving Tour.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*—Small pond specialists, these birds prefer to hunt from woody vegetation and pondside shrubbery. We saw several along the canals surrounding the Magee Marsh boardwalk that offers this habitat requirement.

### **IBIS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

**Glossy Ibis** *plegadis falcinellus* – With a range that stretches around the world, these beautiful birds are fairly uncommon in Ohio and always worthy of an immediate stop to view them We observed 3 individuals in a flooded farm field along the drive to Maumee Bay State Park and Lodge. These individuals spent the week at this location.

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—TVs were seen everyday of the trip at many of our locations from Cleveland to the western marshes and on Kelley’s Island.

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— Becoming more common along Lake Erie, many of the more shallow marshes are now have nesting platforms. We enjoyed our observations of a nesting pair at Howard that vocalized often, often while bringing fish to the nest.

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (4)**

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipter striatus* – Prolific in Ohio during Fall migration and in winter, Sharp-shins can be very rare the rest of the year as they typically breed much farther north. We were fortunate to view have one late migrater make a quick appearance on the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—Ohio has gone from 4 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles to over 400 in the in recent decades. We observed eagles everyday, many adults and even more juveniles. The Magee Marsh Boardwalk now has two active nests that can be easily viewed. We observed several food drops that inlcuded many fish and even an American Coot.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*—We were fortunate to have one individual soar through and circle a while we were at the GBH rookery in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*—Observed pretty much daily throughout the week.

### **OWLS: Strigidae (2)**

**Eastern Screech-Owl** *Megascops asio*—Two red morph adults with their five fuzzy babies were the star of the show on the Maumee Bay State Park Board Walk. The nesting cavity they used was fairly close to the boardwalk and the young owls stayed in nearby branches all week. We even observed food deliveries.

**Great-horned Owl** *bubo virginianus* – It's always exciting to see owls and on the Ottawa NWR driving tour we observed two large owlets in the top of an old Cottonwood snag very near the road. They stayed hunkered down but they were too large to be completely hidden. We had great views of their fluffy heads blowing in the afternoon wind. Their piercing yellow eyes occasionally looking our way trying to figure out what we were doing. I often wonder if owls see a giant eyeball when we look at them through the scope.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (5)**

**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—Few birds are more brilliant in the sun than Red-headed Woodpeckers. We saw these beauties nearly everyday. Actually we had more Red-heads than any other woodpecker on this trip.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*—Present daily and a common in most any wooded habitat in Northeast Ohio.

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—Also seen daily including a pair excavating a new nesting cavity right off the Magee Marsh Boardwalk. A real crowd pleaser.

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*—Common in NE Ohio, this bird can be a challenge in the marsh areas of western Ohio. We did find them in appropriate habitat in the forests of Oak Openings Metropark.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—Detected in several locations, with our best looks of them feeding on the ground at Kelleys Island.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—Seen hunting in the fields at the Coliseum Grasslands in Cuyahoga Valley NP.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (5)**

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens*—Seen or heard at many times on this trip, most notably along the Magee Marsh Boardwalk and Kelley's Island State Park.

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus*—This is the earliest of the Empids to pass through Ohio and we observed them on the boardwalk and at Kelleys Island.

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*—Seen and heard most days of our trip.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*—Great-crested were present in good numbers this year. We had great observations Kelleys Island, Oak Openings and of course the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*— A very common bird for us, especially in the marshes of western Ohio, they're a great bird to observe flycatcher behavior.

### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (4)**

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*—Some great views of a couple individuals on the Magee Marsh Boardwalk, often just feet away from us.

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius* – Our most striking vireo and always a treat to see. We were fortunate to observe and hear them several times throughout the trip.

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*—Our most common vireo on this trip. We saw over 30 individuals throughout the trip.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*—Seen a few times along the Magee Marsh boardwalk, and heard in many woodlots throughout the week.

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)**

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*—WOW! Blue jay Migration. Early in our week we had major Blue Jay migrations along the lakeshore. Groups, sometimes of more than 100, would fly silently overhead in the crisp morning sun. Reminiscent of our fall migration, Blue Jays refuse to fly over Lake Erie and will follow the shoreline east or west in search of a route north. It was a great spectacle for our group to see.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Crows are often secluded and quiet while nesting this time of year. We saw only a few individuals throughout the week.

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)**

**Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapilla*—Once a bird we would sometimes miss on this trip, they have expanded their range and can now be found regularly in western Ohio, especially in the superb habitat along the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

**Tufted Titmouse** *Baeolophus bicolor*—Like the chickadees, they can be challenging, but we found them in the woodlands of the Cuyahoga Valley and again in the oak forests of Oak Openings Metropark.

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— Just a few sightings this week, but that included a pair that flew and even perched close by in the ruins of the “crusher” building on Kelleys Island.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis*—Common bird on this trip, especially in the areas around Maumee Bay State Park and Lodge where they have several nesting colonies. There’s also a very active colony at Ottawa NWR.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—Tree Swallows are abundant on this trip. Seen daily at nearly every location.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—Common at all sites with any open fields or water.

**Cliff Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—These swallows once nested regularly over the dropoff site in front of the Maumee Bay lodge. They are now discouraged from doing so and they’ve moved to a small bridge down the road.

### **KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—Migrating RC Kinglets were regulars along the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (2)**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis* – A good sighting for this trip. We had an infusson of RBNH last winter and this possible late migrator was observed along the Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

**White-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—Much more common in Ohio, these cavity nesters are quiet this time of year. We observed a several individuals in appropriate forested habitats.



### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila cerulea*—Being early migrators, we have many observations of this species. Their calls were ever-present along the boardwalk at and other locations.

### **WRENS: Troglodytidae (3)**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—Commonly seen and certainly heard throughout the week in most forested sites including Magee Marsh Boardwalk.

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris* (HO)—Surprising difficult to find this week. We heard many, but saw only on individual during our Ottawa NWR Drive tour.

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Common and vocal all week in appropriate woodland habitats, including Kelleys Island.

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Very common bird in both urban, farmland and even wetland habits. Seen daily.

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*—Very common bird in NE Ohio. Their calls can be heard from most any wooded edge habitat. Observed at many locations, the Magee Marsh Boardwalk produced the most views.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—One was perched at Howard Marsh Metropark, but they are generally absent from much of northwestern Ohio. Their range appears to be expanding northward.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (6)**

**Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*—Great looks in the Cuyahoga Valley NP, but also seen foraging at Magee Marsh, Kelleys Island State Park, and Oak Openings.

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*—Always a treat to see and hear, we found one at Magee and the Maumee Bay boardwalk.

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*—Our most common spring migrant thrush. We observed them daily in forested habitats, especially in the wooded wetlands of Maumee Bay State Park.

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*—only one individual found at Oak Openings Metropark on our walk from the Nature Center.

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*—Seen and heard several times at various locations from the Cuyahoga Valley to Ottawa NWR.

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*—Yep.

### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*—A common flyover at many sites, detected first by call and then seen in small flocks overhead.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (I)—Present at many urban sites, and abundant around Maumee Bay lodge.

### **Pipits and Wagtails (1)**

**American Pipit** *Anthus Rubescens* – Great to see this individual feeding alongside shorebirds on the Ottawa Driving Tour.

**FINCHES: Fringillidae (2)**

**House Finch** *Haemorrhous mexicanus*—A few sightings in urban areas, with good looks at a nesting pair by the bridge at Cuyahoga Valley NP's Station Road trail.

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*—Seen daily with most observations in the Cuyahoga Valley NP.

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (6)**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—Active mowed fields and roadways in Oak Openings and especially Kelleys Island.

**Field Sparrow** *Spizella pusilla*—Common in the Oak Openings, with good looks at one bird and lots of singing males noted as we drove through field habitats.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus*—A special bird for Ohio. They are found only here at Oak Openings Metropark where they utilize the unique vegetated sand dune habitat for nesting sites.

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*—Common throughout the trip, and already on nesting territories.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni*—Observed at Maumee Bay SP and also along the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Eastern Towhee (H)** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*—Heard only at Oak Openings, this bird is usually common for this trip, especially in the Cuyahoga Valley NP.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)**

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*—A very cooperative pair was located at Oak Openings in “tornado alley”. We lucky enough to hear their complete song repertoire and see their loping breeding flights several times.

**NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (7)**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—Once a chase bird for this trip, now they are regular nesters at Howard Marsh and Ottawa NWR. We had VERY cooperative birds in the Howard Marsh parking lot.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—Observed at Oak Openings and the Cuyahoga Valley NP's Coliseum Grasslands.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*— A nesting pair was located along the CVNP Station Road Trail. They were actively protecting their poorly located nesting site along the trail.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*—Over 50 individuals seen throughout the week. Great looks, especially along the Magee Marsh board walk where large Cottonwood trees provide perfect habitat.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Abundant in all wet habitats.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*—Common in all forested and edge habitats.

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*—Also common through the trip in spectacular breeding plumage.

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (29)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* - observed a couple times at close range along the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*—Heard singing daily deep in the wetland scrub at Magee Marsh and only seen by a few participants.

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermifora chrysoptera* – A true quest bird for this trip, we saw one brilliant male on the Magee Marsh boardwalk.



**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora cyanoptera*—More often heard than seen, we worked hard to get looks at Ottawa and Oak Openings.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—Common species for us this week and we saw at least one every day.

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*—Common nesters along the Magee Marsh boardwalk, including a nest INSIDE The railing. Fearless of people, these birds put on a particular show for several of us, staying very close to us and feeding and singing.

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina*—Commonly confused with vireos, this handsome species was a regular at woodlands at Magee, Metzger, and Ottawa.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Oreothlypis celata* – Not a guaranteed bird for this trip, so we were happy to observe a couple individuals at the Magee Marsh boardwalk this week.

**Mourning Warbler** *Geothlypis philadelphia*—We always make an effort to track down this species. We heard several individuals late in the week but they were concealed so deeply in the brush we were not able to put eyes on one.

**Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* Very common vocal this week with several individuals at most every woodlot location. Our group got very good at picking out that bright eye-ring at great distances.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—Common in all wetland and field sites.

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina* – A bit out its normal habitat we had wonderful looks at a brilliant male on the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—Common throughout the week we had great upclose looks at adults and first-year birds. A great study in plumage.

**Kirtland's Warbler** *Setophaga kirtlandii*—The news of a Kirtland's Warbler spreads fast on the boardwalk. Alerted to a cooperative male on the beach caused a quick exodus from the boardwalk. We participated with a large crowd on the beach and we all got wonderful long views of this bird.

Thankfully, these birds tend to stay in place for the day once they drop in from their migration flights.

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*—We had a nice wave of Cape Mays come into the region. We observed the males arriving early in the week, followed by the arrival of females a couple days later. Great looks of each in many locations, especially on the MM boardwalk.

**Cerulean Warbler** *Setophaga cerulea*—Our best chance at this bird is in Cuyahoga Valley NP. We had great looks at a singing male on territory at Station Road Towpath Trail.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*—Loud and active, we observed many males throughout the week. We always make it a point to try and see the metallic green triangle on their backs.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*- common and present at a variety sites in low numbers.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Setophaga castanea*—Bay-breasteds showed up in mass the second half of the week. At one point they were much more common than Yellow-rumped warblers. Our best looks was when we returned to the boardwalk in the evening and observed them fueling up on midges in preparation for their evening flight into Canada.

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca*—It was a great week for Blackburnians and we saw males and females daily at all of our woodland locations.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—Very common in these parts-Yellow warblers can be found at most any spot associated that has shrubery and water. We even located a couple nests.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica*—Chestnut-sided Warblers made a good showing this year. Arriving early, they were a constant presence in woodlots for the entire week. Typical for warblers, the females showed up several days after the males arrived. Very vocal and active, we spent a good bit of time studying their song so we could practice distinguishing them from the Yellow Warblers alternate song which can sound similar.

**Blackpoll Warbler** *Setophaga striata*— Blackpolls showed up the last half of the week, their high pitched calls wringing out from the trees as we walked up to the entrance of the Magee Marsh boardwalk. We observed seemingly every molt except fledgling throughout the week as females, and half molted males made for quite a few mystery warblers until we concentrated on them.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*—Black-throated Blue's must have used an alternate migration corridor this year. Numbers were low compared to a typical year, but we had wonderful looks and handsome males and had plenty of observation time along the Magee boardwalk to learn the female plumage with its distinctive white check mark on the primary wing feathers when folded against the body.

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*—A very early migrant, often the first warbler to make it to Ohio, we quickly learned it's bobbing tail behavior and churring call. They can show up most anywhere but we had our best observations on the Magee boardwalk.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*—A first wave warbler, YRWA were seen and heard everyday in many locations. Their numbers decreased significantly as the week went on even though we do have some breeders here in Ohio.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*—Their 4 note calls are loud and unmistakable once learned. Seen daily in wooded locations the week. They are pretty fearless of people during migration and don't mind posing for photographs or flying inbetween people to catch a midge.

**Canada Warbler** *Cardellina canadensis*—We had some great looks at Canada Warbler. Our most cooperative bird may have been on Kelleys Island along the crusher trail at KI State Park.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*—A quest bird every year, we managed to find several males late in the week on the Magee Marsh boardwalk and on Kelleys Island.

#### **CARDINAL, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (4)**

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*— We ran low on time in Oak Openings to get a good look at this bird, but we had a Scarlet Tanager after returning to the lodge. Our late afternoon walk on the Maumee Bay board in search of Screech Owls produced 2 pair that gave us great looks.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Common throughout the trip.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—Observed daily in pairs at many locations throughout the week.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*—Present all week and we see most of them at Oak Openings and Kelleys island. Favoring mid-sized trees, the stunted forests of Kelley's Island and the recently burned forest habitats at Oak Openings provide this habitat.

#### **Mammals (8 species)**

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus*—Seen in a few urban and rural settings.

**Groundhog** *Marmota monax*—Several memorable encounters, including with immatures at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, and one in a small tree at Winous Point.

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* - We hit the squirrel trifecta observing the three expected diurnal squirrel species in Ohio. The small Am Red Squirrel being the most difficult to find in Western Ohio, we picked up ours at Oak Openings.

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*—Common in forested habitats.

**Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger*—More common in open habitats, we found these in front yards in Cleveland. Their large size surprising the west-coasters in our group.

**Eastern Chipmunk** *Tamias striatus*—Common in many locations, their chirping calls sometimes mistake for bird calls, they were easily found near any feeding station.

**Raccoon** *Procyon lotor*—Unfortunately, we our only racoon observations were in the garbage bins at the Maumee Bay Lodge. We observed them streaming out of a large dumpster as we walked by during our American Woodcock Walks in the evening.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*—Commonly seen along roadsides and especially along the Maumee Bay boardwalk in the evening.