

# Ohio: The Biggest Week in Birding! | Species List

## May 3 – 10, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With guides Dan Donaldson and Rick Weiman, and 12 wonderful clients: Red and Johnnie, Bob and Cathy, Christine, Kathy, Dee, Judy, Deke, Bob, Marion and John.**

Compiled by Rick Weiman

(HO) = Heard only

(I) = Introduced

**BIRDS (142 species recorded, of which 2 were heard only, and 2 were introduced species)**

### **DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (11)**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Seen numerous times at many locations. Quite a few goslings had already hatched, and we saw several family groups.

**Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator*—Several heard or seen on multiple days at Magee Marsh, Howard Marsh and elsewhere. One pair had rust colored throats and heads from the iron present in the lake.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*— Also seen at multiple locations with several perched high in trees at Magee Marsh.

**Blue Winged Teal** *Spatula discors*—Observed at the Beaver Marsh at Cuyahoga Valley NP and at Howard Marsh.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*—Observed at the Winous Point Duck Club wetlands with Mallards and other ducks.

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*—A pair was spotted at Winous Point.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*—Observed nearly every day.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*—Several seen at Winous Point, obviously a great location for a duck hunting club. Dan had special permission for us to visit this oldest active duck hunting club property in the U.S.

**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*—A lone female found at Wendy Park / Whiskey Island.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*—Observed multiple times in freshwater ponds and lakes.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*—A small group of five birds observed at Winous Point.

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

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—Individuals observed at Howard Marsh and Winous Point.

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

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—Seen frequently in towns and around the lodge.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—Observed almost daily at most locations.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)**

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*—A roosting bird was found and photographed at Ottawa NWR.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will** *Antrostomus vociferus*—Two roosting birds were observed and photographed at Magee Marsh, and on day four we heard several calling on our night drive around the cabins at Maumee Bay.

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

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*—Many were zooming around, chittering and feeding at various locations.

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

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*—Observed a few times zipping around Magee Marsh.

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)**

**Virginia Rail (HO)** *Rallus limicola*—Heard from the Maumee Bay boardwalk trail.

**Sora Porzana carolina**—Most of the group saw this cutie very close to the edge of the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*—At the Metzger Marsh causeway viewing area.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—A few were spotted at Winous Point.

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

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*—Observed a dozen or so over the course of the tour including a young colt with its parents.

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

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*—A pair was observed at the Howard Marsh Metropark including a female on a nest.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)**

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—Two were seen at the Howard Marsh Metropark.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*—Seen and heard multiple times, several on nests.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (7)**

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*—Many seen at Howard Marsh and Winous Point.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—Dan picked out a lone bird at Winous Point, its yellow legs providing a good field mark.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*—Good numbers observed on the mudflats at Winous Point.

**American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor*—An adult on a nest was observed just off the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*—We saw one on a pond edge at the Lake View Cemetery, and another on the Winous Point Duck Club mudflats.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*—A single bird was seen on the drive into the Magee Marsh parking lot, and at least four were feeding at Winous Point.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*—Observed at Howard Marsh and Winous Point. Good comparisons were made with Greater Yellowlegs.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (7)**

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*—20+ seen at the Howard Marsh Metropark.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*—The most common gull, observed multiple times, often 20+ at a time.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*—Observed at Wendy Park and Kelleys Island.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*—One flew over the Erie Street Cemetery.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*—A flock of around 30 were resting at the Howard Marsh Metropark.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*—Not super common for this location, but thanks to a successful nesting program at Ottawa NWR and Howard Marsh, where they convert old pontoon boat platforms into floating nesting sites., we saw perhaps as many as 40 there.

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*—Observed at Howard Marsh and Winous Point.

### **LOONS: Gaviidae (1)**

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer*—One was bobbing and diving at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

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

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Very common with over 100 seen during the week wherever there were fish in the water.

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

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—We had one fly over our heads at Magee Marsh, which was exciting enough until we saw 100+ at the Winous Point Duck Club.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (5)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—Observed multiple times including 30+ on nests at a rookery on Bath Road at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*—Very common throughout the trip, there were 50+ at the Winous Point Duck Club.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—Not nearly as numerous as their larger cousins, but several were seen at Magee Marsh and Winous Point.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*—Observed every day of the tour despite their best efforts to hide from us.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*—A lone bird was spotted at Howard Marsh, and a pair was seen at Winous Point.

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*—The stragglers with the late flights had one fly over Pipe Creek WMA. They apparently are not as common as Turkey Vultures in Ohio (yet).

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—Many seen soaring overhead throughout the tour.

### **OSPREY: Pandionide (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—A few birds were seen in the Magee Marsh area, and on Kelleys Island.

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (5)**

**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius*—A male “grey ghost” was observed gliding over the fields at Howard Marsh.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*—We spotted one on Kelleys Island, our only sharpie of the trip.

**Coopers Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*—One seen perched in the wooded area near the parking lot at Rocky River Reservation, and another at the Ottawa NWR.

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—A hard bird to miss on this trip as there are at least two nests at Magee Marsh (with chicks). We saw 10+ around Winous Point alone in addition to flybys on most days.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*—Our first was on a nest at Rocky River Reservation, and there were soaring birds seen nearly every day.

### **OWLS: Strigidae (1)**

**Eastern Screech-Owl** *Megascops asio*—One very photographed bird was seen several times roosting near its nest hole at Magee Marsh, and another was spotted at Ottawa NWR off the boardwalk trail.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*—Seen several times on our Cleveland area stops.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (6)**

**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—A good trip for these special birds as we spotted them on multiple days at Cuyahoga Valley NP, at least six behind the nature center at Maumee Bay and at Pipe Creek on our last day.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*—Seen and heard often on our visits to forested habitats.

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—Many observed throughout the tour.

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—We saw one at the suet feeder at Rocky River Reservation.

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*—A nice spot at Lake View Cemetery.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—Many were around all week, seen and heard on multiple days.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)**

**American Kestrel** *Falca sparverius*—One was spotted perched on a wire at Winous Point.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*—One flew past the van while we were stopped at a red light on day seven.

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (4)**

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus*—Observed several times on the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*—Multiple sightings throughout the week.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*—Heard at Cuyahoga Valley NP and then seen at Magee Marsh and on Kelleys Island.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*—A pair was spotted at Winous Point, then another on Kelleys Island.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (3)**

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*—Spotted a few times on the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*—Seen and heard every day of the trip.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*—Seen at Magee Marsh and at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area.

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

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*—Seen daily, some in migrating flocks.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen or heard at several locations.

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

**Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus*—Seen at Rocky River, Cuyahoga Valley NP, Magee Marsh and Kelleys Island.

**Tufted Titmouse** *Baeolophus bicolor*— Observed or heard singing “*peter, peter, peter*” several days.

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

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Multiple birds observed almost every day.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis*—Flocks were observed near their nest condos at Winous Point, Kelleys Island and Ottawa NWR.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—One of the most abundant birds during the week, we observed them daily.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirunda rustica*—Multiple observations just about every day of the tour.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—They nested under the structure in the front of Maumee Bay Lodge.

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

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—We saw a few flitting about nearly every day.

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

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*—Several were seen on the tour with the first at Rocky River feeders.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—Observed or heard on at least four days.

#### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)**

**Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*—A single bird was spotted at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

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

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*—Common around any wooded areas we visited.

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

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—Common, heard or seen on most days.

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*—The group that stayed late on the last day walked the boardwalk trail at Maumee Bay in the morning and had a fun time watching many singing Marsh Wrens displaying around their nests.

**Carolina Wren (HO)** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Heard on at least five days but, strangely, we never got a good look at one.

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

**European Starling (I)** *Sturnus vulgaris*—Observed around the local parks, cities and cemeteries we visited.

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*—Common, heard and seen often during the week.

**Brown Thrasher** *Taxostoma rufum*—A nice look at one perched in the early morning sunlight at the Erie Street Cemetery, and another at the Cleveland Lakefront Preserve later that day.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—One was seen at the Cleveland Lakefront Preserve.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (5)**

**Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*—A pair was seen at the Rocky River Reservation and another at Cuyahoga Valley NP.

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*—Observed at Magee Marsh and on the Maumee Bay boardwalks.

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*—At least three were found at several stops along the tour.

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*—Heard far more often than see, but we finally had nice looks at Magee Marsh.

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*—Common, seen every day including a leucistic bird on a nest at Kelleys Island that won the prize for the most unique bird of the tour.

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

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*—A nice, close feeding flock gave us great views at the Beaver Marsh at Cuyahoga Valley NP. The stragglers also had a few at Pipe Creek on the last day.

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

**House Sparrow (I)** *Passer domesticus*—The “Burger Kinglet” was seen and heard often at various locations.

### **FINCHES: Fringillidae (3)**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Observed at several stops in the Cleveland area, and on Kelleys Island.

**Purple Finch** *Haemorhous purpureus*—We found a female on the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*—Seen and heard at multiple locations.

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (8)**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—Observed at the Erie Street Cemetery, Winous Point and Kelleys Island.

**Field Sparrow** *Spizella pusilla*—Nice looks at the Erie Street Cemetery and the Cleveland Lakefront Preserve.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—One was seen at the Erie Street Cemetery, and later in the tour a flock was spotted at the Optics tent area in Magee Marsh.

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis*—Common in winter, one was lingering and was seen on multiple days.

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*—Seen and heard often at many locations.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii*—First observed at the Erie Street Cemetery by a few of us, and then a much better look at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana*—Singing birds were heard at Cuyahoga Valley NP and at Winous Point and then team straggler had a good look at one on the Maumee Bay boardwalk trail on the final day.

**Eastern Towhee (HO)** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*—Despite our best efforts, we only heard one at Cuyahoga Valley Beaver Marsh.

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (5)**

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*—We found one that provided good looks for all at Cuyahoga Valley NP, and then another at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*—Several seen and heard almost every day of the tour. Someone had placed oranges in a bramble at the Magee Marsh parking lot, and we had amazing looks at a stunning male.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Another common bird nesting or visibly displaying almost everywhere we visited. We saw hundreds of them.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*—Seen or heard every day.

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*— Seen or heard every day.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (22)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* – Only seen once by Rick and Dan as it skulked along the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*—Heard singing at close range, but only fleeting views on our first day on the Magee Marsh boardwalk and on several other days there.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—Several sightings during the week of this nuthatch-like warbler.

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*—Common and singing along the Magee Marsh boardwalk, and spotted at Cuyahoga Valley NP and at Pipe Creek.

**Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*—Good looks at one on our first day on the Magee Marsh boardwalk. **Common**

**Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—Quite common in wetlands and meadows.

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*—We had wonderful looks and photographs of a brilliant male at the start of the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—Maybe a bit early for them, we saw a few at Magee Marsh.

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*—Stunning and abundant, we had excellent views of several males at Magee Marsh.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*—Loud and active, we observed many throughout the week.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*—We saw our first at Winous Point, then two more at Ottawa NWR on the boardwalk trail.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Setophaga castanea*—One of Rick's favorite warblers that he missed. However, many others in our group had nice looks at a male with photographs to prove it!

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca*—Several gorgeous males observed on the Magee Marsh boardwalk and one on Kelleys Island.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—The most common warbler of the tour, often associated with shrub habitat near water.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica*—Observed at Magee Marsh on several days.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*—These cooperative birds were seen and photographed on at least four different days. We had wonderful looks at several handsome males and at least one female, with its distinctive white check mark on the primaries.

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*—An early migrant, often the first warbler to arrive in Ohio, was plentiful and seen on most days. We observed its bobbing tail behavior and listened to its churring call.

**Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus*—A somewhat drab female was seen at Magee Marsh that took a while for us to identify, but then a male was found the next day there.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*—Another early migrant, “butter-butts” were seen and heard every day in many locations.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*—A nice find at the Cuyahoga Valley NP Station Road where they have nested.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*—Some very cooperative birds, both males and females, were observed on the Magee Marsh boardwalk and at Kelleys Island.

**Canada Warbler** *Cardellina canadensis*—Another great find by team straggler, with a pair observed on the last day on the boardwalk trail at Maumee Bay lodge.

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

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*—Scarlet Tanager is a highlight of any birding day, and we found several, including a female, on the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Common and seen daily, with males actively establishing their territories.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—Males and females were observed on several days at Cuyahoga Valley NP and at Magee Marsh.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*—A nicely perched male was observed at the Ottawa NWR.

#### **MAMMALS (11)**

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus*—Spotted several times around Maumee Bay.

**Eastern Chipmunk** *Tamias striatus*—Observed at parks in the Cleveland area.

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*—Smaller than the Eastern Gray Squirrels, we saw one on our second day in the Cleveland area.

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*—Observed both gray and black varieties at Rocky River.

**Woodchuck** *Marmota monax*—We saw a few along the sides of road munching on grass, and one on the dike at Winous Point.

**Muskrat** *Ondatra zibethicus*—Many seen in the ponds and lakes we visited.

**Mink** *Mustela vison*—Some in our group got a quick look at one on day six, but it quickly disappeared.

**Common Raccoon** *Procyon lotor*—Christine spotted one on a roof on one of her night walks.

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*—A young “kit” was spotted at Magee Marsh sitting on a stump and seemingly oblivious to the many photographers.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*—Many.

**Meadow Vole** *Microtus pennsylvanicus*—A few were feasting on reeds near the Maumee Bay boardwalk trail, and Christine got some good photos.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7)**

**Painted Turtle** *Chrysemys picta*—Seen sunning themselves on ponds in the Cleveland areas we visited.

**Common Snapping Turtle** *Chelydra serpentina* —We located one coming up for air at Ottawa NWR.

**Common Garter Snake** *Thamnophis sirtalis*—A few were seen at Magee Marsh and Maumee Bay.

**Northern Water Snake** *Nerodia sipedon*—Fairly common near still water, we had multiple sightings at Pipe Creek and Maumee Bay.

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta elegans*—Seen alongside the Painted Turtles.

**Blanding’s Turtle** *Emydoidea blandingii*—A cooperative one was photographed at Magee Marsh. This species is native to central and eastern parts of Canada and the United States, and is endangered throughout much of its range, including Ohio. Blanding’s Turtle is studied by longevity researchers, as it shows few signs of aging and remains physically active and capable of reproduction into its 80s or 90s.

**Eastern American Toad (HO)** *Bufo americanus*—We heard them several times calling from ponds with their long, trill-like calls.