

May 12 2018 - Magee Marsh and Environs

Leader: Don Burlett

Every spring, a major migration takes place – no not the birds, birders head to Magee Marsh. It's legendary and now very crowded. For this field trip, five rugged (real) birders braved temperatures in the 40's, winds out fo the north and rain for most of the afternoon. However, it was rewarding because after the warm spell the first week of May, the weather had been keeping the warblers and other bird migrants captive at Magee.

We began by birding the boardwalk at Magee Marsh. It was rewarding in that we got excellent views of 22 species of warblers, along with many other spring birds. Baltimore Orioles, Gray Catbirds, American Woodcock and others were among the usual suspects that make this kind of day special.

We next went to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for the auto-drive tour. This worked out well as the drive means spending most of the time in the car while it was raining. We got to see (and hear) many species including Comon Gallinule, Marsh Wren, Sora and Green Heron along with a nice breeding plumage pair of Horned Grebes.

Next was Metzger Marsh where things thinned out considerably because of the wind direction. Finally, we visited the new Howard Marsh where a Black-bellied Plover was hanging out along with some other shorebirds.

The leader then peeled back to the Boss Unit of Magee Marsh where 6 American Golden-plovers flew over about he same time as 3 American White Pelicans.

All totaled, 84 species were seen on Saturday. (They are listed below.) (Aside, the best bird of the spring at Magee was on Sunday when a Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen. Remarkable. Timing is everything.

Canada Goose

Mute Swan

Trumpeter Swan

Gadwall

Mallard

Blue-winged Teal

Pied-billed Grebe

Horned Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant

American White Pelican

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Common Gallinule
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-plover
Semi-palmated Plover
Killdeer
Black-necked Stilt
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Semi-palmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin
American Woodcock
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Mourning Dove
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-bellied
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch

House Wren
Marsh Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Veery
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
Ovebird
Northern Waterthrush
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch

House Sparrow