

POINT TRAVERSE BIRDING FESTIVAL HIKES - 2009

Saturday, May 09

Weather: 12 degrees, wind nil, scattered clouds

Comments: The weather was kind to us as the predicted heavy rain and thunderstorms didn't arrive until 11:00 a.m. About 16 species of warblers were present for this 8:00 a.m. hike, with yellow-rumped warblers, predictably, being the most common. Others seen and heard included northern parula, Cape May, both black-throated green and black-throated blue, redstarts, chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, ovenbird, black-and-white, along with one very energetic Tennessee warbler, almost a week early, and an equally early and first of the season blackpoll warbler. As always, the blue phlox, field chickweed, early buttercups, fragrant sumac and invasive swallowwort was pointed out, and a general overview and history of the area was given. Due to the number of migrants, a full 2 hours was spent on the hike.

Sunday, May 10

Weather: 7 degrees, windy, heavy cloud cover

Comments: Doubtless, the weather was a factor in the low attendance. However, it didn't affect the warblers at all as 16 species were present again, only involving a few new ones including American redstart, cerulean warbler, orange-crowned warbler and exceptionally good numbers of black-throated blue warblers, palm warblers and northern parulas. It was so cold that even the flowers had refused to open up fully. The water was very rough, but long-tailed ducks and common mergansers were pointed out.

Monday, May 11

Weather: 7 degrees, winds nil, sunny

Comments: An excellent, quiet morning; however, this persistent weather only means fewer migrants, as the earlier ones are gradually departing, with no new arrivals behind them. We need a weather front or southwest wind to bring in a new crop of migrants. That may happen after Thursday's rain. Still, we had good numbers of black-throated blue warblers and northern parulas, along with chestnut-sided, Cape May and black-and-white warblers.

Tuesday, May 12

Weather: 10 degrees, winds nil, sunny

Comments: Another sunny and quiet morning with even fewer birds about, but still enough to keep those in attendance happy. There was a party from Toronto who arrived on the scene first, along with the usual number of local residents. One Point Petre resident was back for the second time. A red-bellied woodpecker called a few times, but it failed to show itself.

Wednesday, May 13

Weather: 7 degrees, light wind, sunny

Comments: It is unfortunate that more didn't show up for this hike as a few new birds moved in overnight. Black-throated blue warblers, so prevalent yesterday, were replaced by black-throated green in great abundance, along with an increase in Blackburnian warblers, magnolia, Cape May, bay-breasted and numerous scarlet tanagers. One Tennessee warbler kept everyone entertained with its singing, and a blue-winged warbler showed up briefly.

Thursday, May 14

Weather: 11 degrees, 40 km wind, horizontal rain,

Attendance: hike cancelled

Friday, May 15

Weather: 9 degrees, wind nil, sunny

Comments: Yesterday's wind and rain failed to bring in an appreciable increase in birds, although there were higher numbers of black-throated blue warblers, American redstarts and northern parulas. Still lots of scarlet tanagers. Wood thrush and Swainson's thrush were seen. I have never experienced the atmosphere so clear and crisp. Timber Island was exceptionally detailed and Main Duck Island could be seen clearly as could be the Oswego nuclear plant – even the chimney. The crisp air resulted in a pleasant experience along the cliff edge as the talkative laughter from the long-tailed ducks was always with us wherever we went.

Saturday, May 16

Weather: degrees, wind , sunny

Attendance:

Comments: cancelled due to thunderstorm

Sunday, May 17

Weather: 7 degrees, windy , mainly sunny

Comments: wind and cool temperatures kept everything at bay; however, singles and doubles of American redstarts, Tennessee warbler, black-throated green warbler, northern parulas, ovenbird, common yellowthroat and black-and-white warblers were seen, but not a single yellow-rumped warbler, usually the most abundant in any conditions. Scarlet Tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, eastern towhee were also heard. A single red-headed woodpecker was the highlight of the day.

TERRY SPRAGUE