

BIRDATHON 2009 RESULTS – The Dewdrops

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Number of Species: 117

Team members: Joanne Dewey, Sarah Dewey, Nan Fox, Judy Kent, Rosemary Kent and Jeanette Arsenault

We met at the Mary Street parking lot at 6:00 A.M. and finished eleven hours later at Nan's. Needless to say we were very tired.

It was a beautiful day, lots of sunshine, but not too warm. However, a moderate breeze blowing from the south meant that there were few migrating birds hanging around the county that day. As a result we didn't see as many of the warblers and other migrating species as we have done in the past.

Instead we spotted just over 100 species (final count 108) of mostly nesting birds busily building nests, fighting over territory, some already tending their first brood, and others just "doing it". A few highlights: three pairs of nesting Mute Swans spread around the eastern marsh of East Lake - talk about domestic bliss; a female Osprey delicately placing a three-foot twig/branch on her nest atop a 15 - 20 foot high platform all the while in flight - grace in motion; a tiny Yellow Warbler, in whose first nest a Cowbird had laid an egg, destroying that nest and building a second one in a much more camouflaged setting; and finally, the "now famous" pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers "doing it" right in front of their newly chiselled hole in a tree on the main walkway to the Dunes Beach in the Sandbanks Park. (Thankfully the Park staff were aware that these birds had chosen this particular tree and have cordoned off the area.)

We had a wonderful day, and would like to thank Joanne for being such a super guide and teacher.