

Wallace Memorial Birdathon 2020

Leckey Nature Reserve - Roger Frost - 2020 May 23



I did my birdathon on Saturday, May 23. The day was bright and sunny, with light winds, ideal for hearing bird song. By late morning, the temperature was already in the mid-twenties. Unfortunately, these were not great conditions to ground migrants, so I had to depend on finding the local breeding species.

Due to the cool weather through May, the vegetation and bird migration was somewhat late. Later arriving species such as Red-eyed Vireo and Eastern Wood-Pewee were hard to find.

As usual, I made two trips to the Leckey Property. In the morning, I birded from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., covering all the different habitats on the site. In the evening, I birded from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to try and fill in species missed on the morning visit and look for nocturnal species.

Overall, I recorded 79 species which was down from the record high of 87 species last year. The woodlands seemed rather quiet, probably because some of the birds had not arrived back yet.

Some species, however, seemed much more common this year. Ruffed grouse, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and Purple Finch seemed to be everywhere. Other highlights included Broad-winged Hawk (right), Blue-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Pileated Woodpecker. There were several species that I missed that I usually find. These were Alder Flycatcher, House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Hooded Merganser and Green Heron. Amazingly, I also managed to miss Brown-headed Cowbird!



The evening visit was not as productive as it sometimes is, but added Whip-poor-will, American Woodcock, Eastern Meadowlark, and best of all, a Chimney Swift. The swift was the only new species added to the all-time birdathon list for the property.

Thank you for supporting me on this year's Birdathon!

The full list:

Canada Goose	Red-eyed Vireo	Ovenbird
Wood Duck	Blue Jay	Northern Waterthrush
Mallard	American Crow	Mourning Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Tree Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Wild Turkey	Barn Swallow	Canada Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Black-capped Chickadee	Scarlet Tanager
Broad-winged Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Killdeer	Winter Wren	Field Sparrow
American Woodcock	Eastern Bluebird	Vesper Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Veery	Savannah Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Wood Thrush	Grasshopper Sparrow
Whip-poor-will	American Robin	Song Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Gray Catbird	Swamp Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	White-throated Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	Northern Cardinal
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Blue-winged Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Downy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	Bobolink
Northern Flicker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Pileated Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Common Grackle
Least Flycatcher	Pine Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Eastern Phoebe	Black-throated Green Warbler	Purple Finch
Great Crested Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler	American Goldfinch
Eastern Kingbird	Black and White Warbler	
Warbling Vireo	American Redstart	