



NLT Birding Marathon 2024

Chub Point Nature Reserve - Owen Jamieson - 2024 May 19



I started my day at Chub Point Nature Reserve at 4:30 in the morning on May 19th. I opened my car door to a chorus of frogs, with no accompanying bird song. About five minutes later, a Swamp Sparrow broke the avian silence and many species shortly joined in. I recorded my tenth species, a Wood Thrush, at 5:00 a.m. I was in the low 20s of my species count when my wholly auditory bird identification was interrupted by the first of many trains. I walked Station and Orchard Grove Roads for about three hours, notably spotting a graceful Northern Harrier fly from one area of trees to another, as well as a massive Great Blue Heron flying directly overhead.

Around 8:30 or so, I became very occupied trying to catch a glimpse of four different warbler species flitting around in the trees in front of me. I was able to see my first Canada Warbler ever, and despite not being able to get a picture, I was very pleased. I took a visit to a WBFN lakeshore property for a change in scenery and went home around 9:45.

I returned to Chub Point around 7:00 p.m. and had a very wet trek through the wooded wetland. It was nice to see that the DSV is still restricted to the roadways and has not entered the wetland or forest itself. Throughout this walk, I had two Northern Waterthrush friends who were following me around, along with some other warbler species I had already recorded for the day.

I got into my car around 9:00 p.m. as the light was gone and I my only new species since I had returned to Chub Point was a Ruffed grouse. I waited for another hour and a half, hoping to hear a whip-poor-will, but I had no luck. I got to watch some fireworks displays from the water as I waited; however, I'd rather hear the namesake call of the whip-poor-will over fireworks any night.

As I am writing this account, I am trying to determine my "bird of the day". I am tempted to say the Canada Warbler, as I was most excited to see it. However, I believe I have a more honest answer.

Around 5:30 in the morning, I heard a Gray Catbird (right). I always like hearing these birds, as well as mockingbirds and Brown Thrashers because you never know what they're going to sing next. Little did I know this would not be the last I heard from him.



He scooted down the wire along Station Rd. and followed me ALL DAY LONG. He was with me for the entirety of my birding marathon, and he was even waiting where I parked my car when I returned in the evening. He made identifying birds by sound a little tough as he was always yelling nearby, but I enjoyed his company, whether he was providing it intentionally or not.

The full list:

Canada Goose

Mallard

Long-tailed Duck

Ruffed Grouse

Mourning Dove

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Northern Harrier

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Wood-Pewee^{sc}

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Black-capped Chickadee

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Cedar Waxwing

House Wren

Winter Wren

Gray Catbird

Brown Thrasher

European Starling

Veery

Swainson's Thrush

Hermit Thrush

Wood Thrush^{sc}

American Robin

American Goldfinch

White-throated Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow

Eastern Meadowlark^{sc}

Red-winged Blackbird

Brown-headed Cowbird

Common Grackle

Ovenbird

Northern Waterthrush

Black-and-white Warbler

Nashville Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

American Redstart

Yellow Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Canada Warbler^{sc}

Scarlet Tanager

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

*[Editor's note: Species At Risk are in **bold** and underlined. Superscripts denote the risk category: E = Endangered; T = Threatened; SC = Special Concern]*