



NORTHUMBERLAND
LAND TRUST

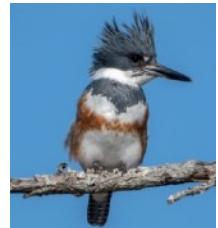
NLT Birding Marathon 2024

de Lint Nature Reserve - Leslie Abram, John Geale, Laura
McKeown (+ Nolan) and Doug McRae - 2024 May 16-17



The inaugural de Lint Birding Marathon began at 11:00 a.m. on May 16. The forest was full of Scarlet Tanagers and Ovenbirds, and the fields had many Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks. Leslie soon added an American Goshawk to our list, but no other unusual or unexpected species were found during the rest of the day.

At 4:00 a.m. the next morning, Leslie was joined by Doug and John, and in the darkness the first singers were Gray Catbirds. No owls, whip-poor-wills or woodcocks were heard, but as daylight slowly crept upon us, the dawn chorus was impressive. As Leslie and John slowly walked through the cattle pasture and along Percy Creek, Pine Warblers, Wild Turkeys, Common Yellowthroats, Baltimore Orioles and Warbling Vireos were among the many songsters. Belted Kingfishers (right) rattled almost constantly as they flew up and down the creek. Meanwhile, Doug had a view of the Trent River and was able to add Common Merganser, Great Blue Heron and Green Heron to the rapidly growing list.



A walk through the woods produced Blackburnian and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Great Crested Flycatcher and a Blue-headed Vireo, while Nashville and Yellow Warblers, American Redstart and several Eastern Kingbirds were



found later along the creek. Laura - along with Nolan, our record-breaking littlest birder! - joined us in mid-morning to have another stroll through the field, and we heard our "bird of the day" - a Yellow-throated Vireo (left) singing near the edge of the forest. We also added a pair of Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Eastern Meadowlark, Cooper's Hawk, Brown Thrasher and many others before taking a break on Robert de Lint's deck.

There we were privileged to see Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Orchard Oriole, White-breasted Nuthatch and Chipping Sparrow all at Robert's feeders less than 2 meters from us!

Before the end of our 24 hours we had time for one more brief walk, and additional species included Eastern Phoebe and Turkey Vulture. We were also excited to see two small fox kits, apparently from a den under one of Robert's outbuildings - very cute!

The varied habitat at this newest NLT nature reserve - the creek, the pasture, and forest - made for a thoroughly enjoyable 24 hours of birding and a total list of 73 species. Thanks to Robert for his hospitality!

The full list

Wood Duck	House Wren
Mallard	Gray Catbird
Common Merganser	Brown Thrasher
Wild Turkey	European Starling
Ruffed Grouse	Eastern Bluebird
Mourning Dove	Veery
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<u>Wood Thrush</u> ^{SC}
Killdeer	American Robin
Ring-billed Gull	American Goldfinch
Great Blue Heron	<u>Grasshopper Sparrow</u> ^{SC}
Green Heron	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Savannah Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Song Sparrow
Northern Goshawk	Swamp Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>Bobolink</u> ^T
Belted Kingfisher	<u>Eastern Meadowlark</u> ^T
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Orchard Oriole
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Baltimore Oriole
Downy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Hairy Woodpecker	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Flicker	Common Grackle
Pileated Woodpecker	Ovenbird
Great Crested Flycatcher	Black-and-white Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Nashville Warbler
<u>Eastern Wood-Pewee</u> ^{SC}	Common Yellowthroat
Eastern Phoebe	American Redstart
Yellow-throated Vireo	Northern Parula
Blue-headed Vireo	Blackburnian Warbler
Warbling Vireo	Yellow Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blue Jay	Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Crow	Pine Warbler

Black-capped Chickadee

Scarlet Tanager

Tree Swallow

Northern Cardinal

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Cedar Waxwing

Indigo Bunting

White-breasted Nuthatch

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