

Birding Eastern North America 2016

I had birded the USA three times before (Washington State, Florida and Arizona), but this time I decided to take my wife and two sons (13 and 10) with me. We started in New York then travelled through New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York State to Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada and back.



Ring-billed Gull, Niagara Falls



Northern Cardinal, Hamilton, Ontario

New York

After having arrived at Newark yesterday evening on Wednesday **April 27th** (picking up our rental car at the airport) I left our Holiday Inn hotel at 6 am for an early morning walk through suburban Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. A singing *Northern Mockingbird* was the first bird I saw, soon followed by *Mourning Doves*, lots of *American Robins* and a singing *Song Sparrow*. When the neighborhood got greener and the gardens bigger, *White-throated Sparrows* and *Blue Jays* appeared. I did not have too much trouble putting names to the bird sounds around me, finding *Northern Cardinals*, *House Finches* and *Common Grackles*, but chasing the call of what turned out to be a male *Brown-headed Cowbird* took a bit too much birding time.

Four loud *Northern Flickers* and the first of many *Downy Woodpeckers* frequented a big tree that also hosted my first *Myrtle Warbler* of the trip. *Ruby-crowned Kinglets* were surprisingly common, one sycamore lined street produced at least four. A small piece of roadside wasteland had a pair of *Killdeer* with small young running around.

After breakfast a hotel shuttle van took us to the bus stop where local bus 163 was waiting for us. Less than thirty minutes (and five dollars per person) later we reached Port Authority, minutes away from Time Square, in the middle of New York City. Today, **28 April** was not a very sunny day, but it was dry and not too cold. We took the metro to the World Trade Center and walked to the Staten Island Ferry from there. *Double-crested Cormorants*, *Ring-billed*, *Great Black-backed* and *Laughing Gulls* were easy from the ferry. My youngest son Brent was so happy: he finally saw the Statue of Liberty, we all admired the Manhattan skyline. In the afternoon we did the touristy things and in the evening we had dinner at the hotel where I checked the New York ABA birding news on my phone, finding out that a lifer Swainson's Warbler had been present throughout the day at Strawberry Fields in Central Park.

The next morning, April 29th I soon found out the Swainson's Warbler had moved on, however plenty of migrants were still present, with plenty of birders looking for them. We met some really nice birders in The Ramble and I totally enjoyed the atmosphere in the

park. They loved my son Tom, who was busy birding and taking photos, pointing out a nice *Black-and-white Warbler* at the Upper Lobe, before we heard a singing *White-eyed Vireo* and found a lingering *Chestnut-sided Warbler*. *Grey Catbird* and *Hermit Thrush* were common and two *Swamp Sparrows* walked the muddy fringes of Azalea Pond.



Azalea Pond, Central Park, NYC



White-throated Sparrow, The Ramble, Central Park

We however, started our Central Park adventure an hour earlier, walking in from Seventh Avenue onto West Drive finding good birds around Umpire Rock with two *Eastern Towhees* and my first *American Goldfinches*. Walking on towards Strawberry Fields two *Warbling Vireos* showed up and *Grey Catbirds*. After a sunny lunch at the Loeb Boathouse restaurant we visited the Evodia Field feeders where even the non-birding half of the family appreciated the colorful and confiding *Blue Jays*, *Red-winged Blackbirds* and *Northern Cardinals*.



American Robin and Grey Catbird, The Ramble, Central Park, New York City

Warblers were also there here, including a lifer male *Nashville Warbler* flitting through the canopy. We walked back to the bus station through Upper West Side, checking out the American Museum of Natural History, returning to Hasbrouck Heights early in the evening.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area

After a substantial breakfast buffet at the hotel I entered 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey in my GPS and 40 minutes later we were greeted by the first *Tree Swallows* and *American Goldfinches* at **Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge** (Headquarters at GPS 40.709, -74.503). The Great Swamp has 7,425 acres of woods and wetlands, with open fields and secondary growth along Pleasant Plains Road. Here we

made our first stop at the Bluebird Parking Lot, where a male *Indigo Bunting* and a male *Eastern Bluebird* added some color to this bird rich area. Bobolinks had not arrived yet, but a male *Baltimore Oriole* showed nicely and a *Winter Wren* was singing, followed by my bird of the day: a flyby female *Rusty Blackbird*. Half a mile up the road we reached the Lookout and found noisy *Red-headed Woodpeckers*, a very nice *Yellow-throated Vireo* and two *Eastern Phoebes*. On our way to the nearby Helen C. Fenske Visitor Centre *Field Sparrows* were singing and Tom photographed a third year *Bald Eagle* on a roadside tree.



Tree Swallow and American Goldfinch, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey

We had a tasty lunch break in the Meyersville Café in Meyersville, five minutes from Pleasant Plains Road after which we drove to the Long Hill Road part of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, to the Wildlife Observation Centre. We walked the short trail to Friends Blind, finding some nice birds, including *Red-bellied Woodpecker*, *Blue-headed Vireo*, *Purple Martin*, *Swamp Sparrow*, *Scarlet Tanager* and an adult *Bald Eagle* high up in the blue sky.

Mid-afternoon we headed for East Stroudsburg in Pennsylvania, the gateway to the **Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area** with high expectations, for I was told that at this time of year a good warbler list was possible, including my three targets Golden-winged, Hooded and Cerulean Warbler plus many other migrant lifers. DWGNRA is a federally-owned 70,000-acre national recreation area situated along the Delaware River in Pike and Monroe counties between the towns of Milford and Stroudsburg. The diversity of habitats including river floodplain, hemlock ravines, fields, parks, lakes and wetlands is what makes the birding special. The area west of the Delaware River is in Pennsylvania, the other side of the river is part of New Jersey. Birding this huge park can be overwhelming and even spectacular anywhere within the park. The town of Stroudsburg along I-80 has all the food, lodging, and gas you need. We stayed at the Budget Inn Hotel, close to the Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, right next to the highway.

We reached the area around 5.30 am, checked in at the hotel, had dinner and drove road 209 to explore the route for tomorrow morning; a lone *Cedar Waxwing* on a roadside spruce was a welcome sighting. Near dusk we walked the area behind the hotel checking a cemetery and a small woodlot. Two *Ospreys* flew overhead and *White-throated* and *Chipping Sparrows* were common around weedy hedgerows. Two chickadees near the hotel were likely Black-capped Chickadee x Carolina Chickadees hybrids.

Today, **May 1st** was the day: I gathered as much information as possible about the Delaware Water Gap NRA and well prepared I stepped out of the hotel at 5 am, to find out it was cold and raining. A *Long-eared Owl* at the hotel parking lot was the first bird we saw, flying off in the dark, bringing back hope for a successful morning. I decided to

focus on the Pennsylvania side of the DWGNRA first, so we headed for road 209 and parked at the **Park Headquarters** on River Road (GPS 41.0700562,-750173) at 5.25. When we got out of the car we were welcomed by singing *Grey Catbirds*, *White-throated*, *Chipping* and *Swamp Sparrows* and a singing *Northern Parula*. A pair of *Wood Ducks* flew overhead from the wooded swamp behind the Park Headquarters building at first light and *Red-headed Woodpeckers* were active on snags beyond the beaver dam in the middle of the pond. We glimpsed an *American Beaver* swimming to the dam with a *Canada Goose* on the nest on top of it.



After we birded around the Headquarters building we made our way to the **Freeman Tract Road** (five minute further down River Road); a long dirt road (2.75 miles) following the river and ending at the Walpack bend of the Delaware River. Along the way is upland forest to the left and field and scrub habitat on the right. Birds can be found anywhere along this road and the best method for birding is driving slow with the windows down, looking and listening for birds.



Beaver dam with Canada Goose nest, HQ swamp Freeman Tract Road, scrub habitat

Right at the start of the track, just around the bend I heard and then saw my first *Hooded Warbler*, soon followed by a singing azure blue *Cerulean Warbler* high up in the canopy. Driving on we soon realized that the trail was filled with birds, including at least 13 warbler species. *Myrtle Warblers* dominated the flocks with a *Black-and-white Warbler*, a male and female *Blue-winged Warbler*, several *American Redstarts*, three *Northern Parulas*, two *Yellow Warblers*, a male *Black-throated Blue Warbler*, a *Pine Warbler* and a female *Canada Warbler* mixed in. An *Ovenbird* worked the forest floor very close to the road with two males *Baltimore Oriole* nearby. *Wood Thrushes* were heard throughout the surrounding woods and a singing *Veery* was very cooperative and posed for the camera on a roadside tree very close to the car. It drizzled throughout the morning, but birds were everywhere. Two more pairs of *Cerulean Warbler* showed, at least two more *Hooded Warblers* were heard singing. It had been wet and cold all week and migration was halted, but today there had been quite an arrival wave of migrant songbirds. Scrub habitat provided us with a sneaky *Brown Thrasher* and two *Palm Warblers*, and careful searching through the bird flocks produced *Least Flycatcher* and a male *Rose-breasted Grosbeak*. *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* and *Tufted Titmouse* were common on both sides of the road, a *Red-headed Woodpecker* was seen crossing the Delaware River to the New Jersey side of DWGNRA.

Midmorning we returned to the Park Headquarters and again, a pair of *Wood Ducks* flew up from the same beaver pond behind the building, possibly the same birds. Two *Green Herons* were on top of the largest dead tree in the swamp and two *Palm Warblers* scurried through the undergrowth. We wanted to be in Niagara Falls late afternoon, so we had to leave the area, knowing that we would be back on May 4th on our return trip.

It rained heavily when we left East Stroudsburg for Niagara at 11 am. The first dry spell was in the Finger Lakes area, Central New York State, where a rest stop along the Susquehanna River provided us with *Common Mergansers*, a *Belted Kingfisher*, an *Eastern Kingbird* and a huge flock of *Bank*, *Barn*, *Cliff* and most of all *Tree Swallows*. Back in the car we headed north again with a roadside *American Kestrel* followed by a bonus *Red-shouldered Hawk*. Near Buffalo the rains returned and once on the Canadian

side of **Niagara Falls** we settled into our room on the 16th floor with an excellent view on the falls. Unfortunately it was still raining, causing misty conditions outside.

Canada

No need to get up early on **May 2nd**, it was still raining. We took a stroll through the remarkable over the top funfair town that Niagara Falls wants to be and took time for a healthy breakfast, a welcome change to the bacon and eggs dominated breakfasts on previous days. At noon the clouds shifted and the sun came out. We headed for Hamilton, 45 minutes from Niagara Falls over the QEW (Queen Elizabeth Way) highway and checked LaSalle Park Marina for a late Canvasback, but settled for a female *Long-tailed Duck* and two *Common Terns*. Next stop was the parking lot at Hamilton Woodland Cemetery where we met a guy with sunflower seeds pointing to the **Hendrie Valley Trail** telling us that we could photograph wildlife up close along that trail. My wife and children were excited, because the first *Plain Eastern Chipmunk* had already begged for their attention. *Eastern Grey Squirrel*, *White-breasted Nuthatch* and *Black-capped Chickadee* soon followed, taking seeds out of an outstretched hand. In the woods sparrows, *Downy* and *Red-bellied Woodpeckers* were common and where the trail transformed into a boardwalk we watched *Barn* and *Tree Swallows* flying low over open water. The reedy canals were home to tagged *Trumpeter Swans* and a *Winter Wren* sang from dense undergrowth in a drier part of the trail. *Blue Jays* and *Brown-headed Cowbirds* joined the nuthatches and chickadees looking for sunflower seeds on the boardwalk with *Turkey Vultures* and *Red-tailed Hawks* a constant feature up in the air. We agreed to end a nice family day in a shopping mall in Hamilton, discussing the fact that even though only common birds and mammals were involved, we all made some really nice pictures.



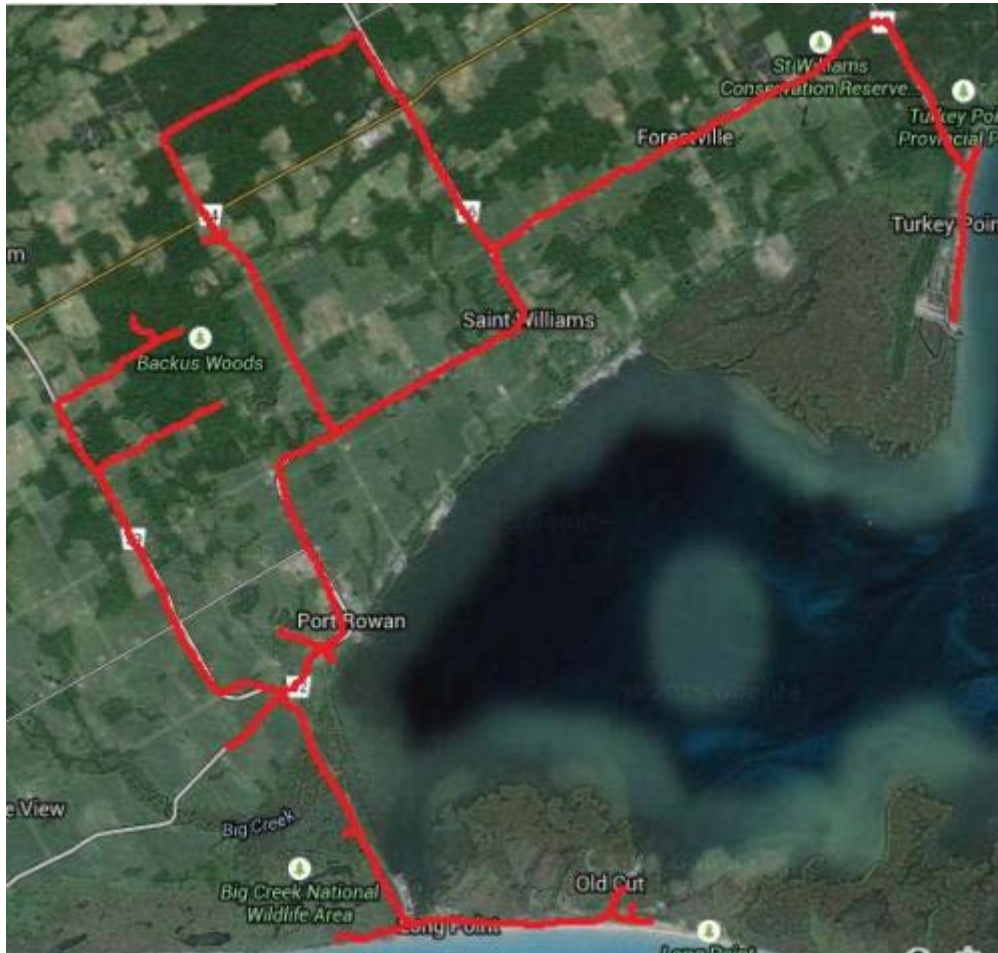
White-breasted Nuthatch and Blue Jay, Hendrie Valley Trail, Hamilton, Ontario

Today's destination was the **Long Point area**, a migration hotspot in Southern Ontario. Brent is a bit of a slow starter, and after breakfast, Walmart groceries, the gas station, asking directions and another gas station for an Ontario road map and some roadside bird stops along route 3 (both yellowlegs, *Eastern Meadowlark*), we only arrived at **Turkey Point** at 2 pm. Here at least 30 *Bonaparte's Gulls* in summer plumage showed and mixed flocks of *Tree*, *Cliff*, *Barn* and foremost *Bank Swallows*. We heard a *Least Bittern* calling from the reeds on private land on the other side of the canal.

A short stop at **Big Creek** did not produce too much, so I was eager to get to nearby Backus Woods, one of the highest quality old growth hardwood forests in all of Ontario and the best remaining example in the Carolinian Life Zone. Driving on Highway 59 we took a left onto 4th Concession Road and entered Backus Woods from there. In **Backus**

Woods trees were still leafless on **May 3rd** and no migrants had arrived yet. Prothonotary and Cerulean Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush will probably arrive within a week from now, today it was quiet. A *Winter Wren* called and the drumming of a *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* resonated through these tranquil woods. We tracked down this beautiful woodpecker, which allowed superb views.

A shy female *Wood Duck* was heard and then flying up from the large pond, however bird of the day to me was an *American Woodcock*, flying low from cover, dodging trees.



Driving back to Highway 59 on 4th Concession Road we noticed two circling *Broad-winged Hawks* and stepped out of the car. Three *Brown Thrashers* tried to hide in the dense underbrush of a tall hedgerow behind us and an attempt to photograph them revealed several *Song Sparrows*. The open field beyond the hedgerow gave several *Killdeer* and a perched *Eastern Kingbird* a little further down the road. We then then started thinking of going back to Niagara Falls, but not before making one more strategic stop along **Lakeshore Road**, where I finally found six *American Black Ducks* in muddy fields southwest of Port Rowan, two pairs of *Green-winged Teal* and a *Wilson's Snipe* were also there.

We still had not made close up pictures of the famous falls, so we were luckily it was sunny weather this morning. We checked out at the Sheraton around 11 am and stopped for a breakfast picnic along the Robert Moses Parkway fifteen minutes later, where distant rafts of ducks were observed, floating on a calm Niagara River. At least 50 *Red-breasted Mergansers*, smaller numbers of *Canvasback*, a pair of *Buffleheads* and a female

Hooded Merganser could be identified. A *Black-crowned Night Heron* flew overhead and a *Common Tern* was resting on driftwood. We then realized it was time to start the return trip, having booked our last night at Budget Inn in East Stroudsburg again. Some short stops en route gave us *Eastern Phoebe*, *Eastern Kingbird* and a *Sharp-shinned Hawk*. After dinner I checked the weather reports to see if the weather would be good (yes, no rain) when birding at Delaware Water Gap NRA once more on our final birding morning.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area revisited

On May 1st we birded on the Pennsylvanian side of the Delaware River, today, May 5th Tom and I visited the New Jersey part of the area. Within ten minutes from the hotel, we took the last exit off I80 in New Jersey before Pennsylvania and started going north, driving the incredibly birdy **Old Mine Road**.

It was 6.15 am now and our strategy was to drive slowly, keeping the windows open, and stop wherever there was singing by the target species. At first light there was considerable bird song here, containing several pairs of *Warbling Vireo*, *Wood Thrush* and many *Grey Catbirds*. We heard a *Scarlet Tanager* and a gobbling *Wild Turkey* and the moment we stepped out of the car, a pair of *Wood Duck* came flying over. As we made our way up to Worthington I found my first lifer of the day; a singing male *Orchard Oriole*. We had many singing warblers: I heard at least one *Tennessee Warbler*, six *Hooded Warblers*, four *American Redstarts* and three *Northern Parulas* along this stretch of Old Mine Road. *Myrtle Warblers* were again in good numbers and I glimpsed a female *Prairie Warbler* in dense roadside thickets. We had some good looks at a *Chestnut-sided Warbler*, but it was a *Cerulean Warbler* that stole the show, coming down at eye level. An unexpected *Merlin* settled on a dead tree along the road and we scored five flyby *Cedar Waxwings*. After three miles on Old Mine Road we found a singing *Blackburnian Warbler* in the spruce grove near the **Worthington Office and Campground** entrance and parked the car. Tall riverside trees were home to *Warbling* and *Blue-headed Vireo* and *American Goldfinch* and the scrubby second growth around the campground attracted many *Grey Catbirds*, *Blue-grey Gnatcatchers* and *White-throated* and *Chipping Sparrows*.

Back on the road we spent some time investigating a new flock of warblers here, picking out a welcome female *Cape May Warbler* and a *Yellow Warbler*. I was trying to photograph my second pair of *Cerulean Warbler* in one of the big sycamores, when a *Golden-winged Warbler* finally made an appearance. Magic.

Dunfield Creek Natural Area was next, because Louisiana Waterthrush had eluded us so far. We walked the trail only a short distance up the ravine and there along the stream we heard the loud *chink* call of a *Louisiana Waterthrush*. There it was, soon together with a second one. Relieved we drove to nearby **Kittatinny Visitor Center** on the other side of I80. *Rough-winged Swallows* were flying low, higher up a dozen circling *Turkey Vultures* were accompanied by an immature and an adult *Bald Eagle*, when suddenly a *Golden Eagle* appeared, making its way over the mountain. Wow!

We were hoping for an early *Magnolia Warbler* on the grounds around the Visitor Center, but found an *Eastern Phoebe*, a singing *Warbling Vireo* and a pair of *Baltimore Orioles* instead. After some afternoon shopping and sightseeing we drove to Newark airport for our evening flight home to the Netherlands.

INFORMATION ON SITES.

Central Park Birding: http://www.philjeffrey.net/cpb_index.html

http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region_5/NWRS/North_Zone/Great_Swamp_Complex/Great_Swamp/GSBirds.pdf

Delaware Water Gap NRA, Freeman Tract Road:

<http://www.pabirds.org/siteguide/PASubSitePage.php?SubSiteID=268>

<http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionBirdingSites/OldMineRoad.aspx>

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/longpoint/images/LPBTbrochure.pdf>

BIRD LIST. Lifers in red.

- 1 **Canada Goose**, *branta canadensis*; we saw this one every day, everywhere.
- 2 **Mute Swan**, *cygnus olor*; widespread.
- 3 **Trumpeter Swan**, *cygnus buccinator*; two tagged birds along the Hendrie Valley Trail in Hamilton.
- 4 **Wood Duck**, *aix sponsa*; these shy birds were seen almost exclusively in flight: a male and female flew up from the wooded swamp behind the Park Headquarters building along River Road at Delaware Water Gap NRA twice the same morning (May 1st): once at first light and a second time around 10 am. Two birds flew overhead at Old Mine Road, Delaware Water Gap NRA on May 5th; a female was seen flying up from the large pond at Backus Woods, its squealing flight call was heard several times before and after that sighting.
- 5 **Mallard**, *anas platyrhynchos*; widespread and common.
- 6 **American Black Duck**, *anas rubripes*; a flock of six in muddy fields along Lakeshore Road, Long Point, Ontario.
- 7 **Green-winged Teal**, *anas carolinensis*; two pairs in flooded fields along Lakeshore Road, near Long Point, Ontario.
- 8 **Canvasback**, *aythya valisineria*; a female was seen from our Sheraton hotel window on the 16th floor, flying over the Niagara Falls. A total of about ten birds was among the many ducks along the Robert Moses Parkway on the Niagara River.
- 9 **Long-tailed Duck**, *clangula hyemalis*; a female at LaSalle Marina, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 10 **Bufflehead**, *bucephala albeola*; male and female along the Robert Moses Parkway on the Niagara River.
- 11 **Hooded Merganser**, *lophodytes cucullatus*; a lone female was floating on a calm Niagara River on May 4th, observed from the Robert Moses Parkway.

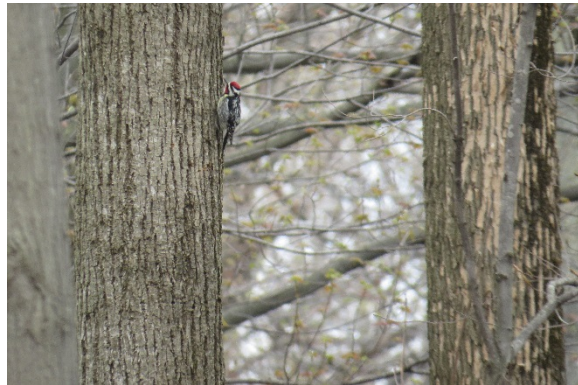
- 12 **Common Merganser**, *mergus merganser*; common on the Delaware River at Delaware Water Gap NRA and common on the Susquehanna River in the Finger Lakes area.
- 13 **Red-breasted Merganser**, *mergus serrator*; at least 50 on the Niagara River, along the Robert Moses Parkway.
- 14 **Wild Turkey**, *meleagris gallopavo*; heard along Old Mine Road at DWGNRA.
- 15 **Common Loon**, *gavia immer*; one seen from the Staten Island ferry, New York.
- 16 **Double-crested Cormorant**, *phalacrocorax auritus*; good numbers, pretty much daily.
- 17 **Least Bittern**, *ixobrychus exilis*; one calling from extensive reed beds in inaccessible private land at Turkey Point, Ontario.
- 18 **Great Blue Heron**, *ardea herodias*; several flybys while driving from Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey into New York City and en route from Great Swamp NWR to Newark.
- 19 **American (Great) Egret**, *ardea (alba) egretta*; one flyby at Niagara Falls and several birds seen while driving along the Hackensack River in the Meadowlands area from New Jersey to New York City.
- 20 **Snowy Egret**, *egretta thula*; at least one along the Hackensack River in the Meadowlands on our way from Hasbrouck Height to New York City.
- 21 **Green Heron**, *butorides virescens*; two birds in one of the dead trees behind the Park Headquarters along River Road at Delaware Water Gap NRA.
- 22 **Black-crowned Night Heron**, *nycticorax nycticorax*; two in Ontario, Canada: one flying over the QEW highway between Grimsby, Hamilton and Niagara and one southbound over the Niagara River on 4 May, seen from the Robert Moses Parkway.
- 23 **Turkey Vulture**, *cathartes aura*; seen daily in good numbers.
- 24 **Western Osprey**, *pandion haliaetus*; two over East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.
- 25 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, *accipiter striatus*; one near Great Swamp NWR, New Jersey.
- 26 **Red-shouldered Hawk**, *buteo lineatus*; one at a stop along the Susquehanna River in the Finger Lakes area.
- 27 **Broad-winged Hawk**, *buteo platypterus*; two at Backus Woods, Ontario.
- 28 **Red-tailed Hawk**, *buteo jamaicensis*; widespread, most birds seen in Ontario, Canada, where common.
- 29 **Golden Eagle**, *aquila chrysaetos*; one flying over Kittatinny Point Visitor Center at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

- 30 **Bald Eagle**, *haliaeetus leucocephalus*; Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge: a third calendar year bird in a roadside tree along Pleasant Plains Road and an adult circling over Friend's Blind at the Wildlife Observation Center. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area: two (adult and immature) circling over Kittatinny Point Visitor Center and one flying up from a tree along the nearby Delaware River along Old Mine Road.
- 31 **Killdeer**, *charadrius vociferous*; a pair with three small young near our Holiday Inn hotel at Hasbrouck Heights; several birds at Hendrie Valley in Hamilton and a pair along 4th Concession Road, Long Point, Ontario.
- 32 **Greater Yellowlegs**, *tringa melanoleuca*; two with a Lesser Yellowlegs and a Spotted Sandpiper on a roadside puddle field along route 3 near Dunville, Ontario.
- 33 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, *tringa flavipes*; see nr. 32.
- 34 **Spotted Sandpiper**, *actitis macularius*; see nr. 32.
- 35 **Wilson's Snipe**, *gallinago delicata*; one flushed along Lakeshore Road, near Long Point, Ontario.
- 36 **American Woodcock**, *scolopax minor*; at Backus Woods, flying through the forest as only woodcocks do.
- 37 **Bonaparte's Gull**, *chroicocephalus philadelphia*; at least 30 in breeding plumage flying past over Turkey Point, Ontario, with a few more swimming in the distance.
- 38 **Laughing Gull**, *leucophaeus atricilla*; half a dozen summer plumaged birds seen from the Staten Island ferry, New York City.
- 39 **Ring-billed Gull**, *larus delawarensis*; common and widespread. At Niagara Falls this species had a thriving breeding colony, visible from our hotel room.
- 40 **Smithsonian Gull**, *larus smithsonianus*; fairly common in the Niagara area, with a few birds seen at Big Creek, Long Point, Ontario.
- 41 **Great Black-backed Gull**, *larus marinus*; two birds seen from the Staten Island ferry, NYC.
- 42 **Common Tern**, *sterna hirundo*; two at LaSalle Marina, Hamilton, Ontario and one on driftwood on the Niagara River, May 4th.
- 43 **Forster's Tern**, *sterna forsteri*; two adult summer plumage birds at Turkey Point, Ontario.
- 44 **Rock Pigeon**, *columba livia*; as usual, only in towns and cities.
- 45 **Mourning Dove**, *zenaida macroura*; common.
- 46 **Long-eared Owl**, *asio otus wilsonianus*; one at Budget Inn Hotel, East Stroudsburg, flying off over a conifer lined parking lot at 5 am.
- 47 **Belted Kingfisher**, *megaceryle alcyon*; one along the Susquehanna River, in the Finger Lakes area, Central New York State.

- 48 **Red-headed Woodpecker**, *melanerpes erythrocephalus*; calling between the Bluebird Parking Lot and the Lookout point at Great Swamp NWR. The dead trees behind the Park Headquarters at Delaware Water Gap hosted a pair and one was seen at Freeman Tract Road.
- 49 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, *melanerpes carolinus*; common.
- 50 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, *sphyrapicus varius*; two at Backus Woods, Long Point, Ontario.



Downy Woodpecker, Hamilton, Ontario



Yellow-breasted Sapsucker, Backus Woods, Ontario

- 51 **Downy Woodpecker**, *picoides pubescens*; the commonest woodpecker by far.
- 52 **Northern Flicker**, *colaptes auratus*; four at Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey; two at the Ramble, Central Park, NYC.
- 53 **American Kestrel**, *falco sparverius*; one en route in the Finger Lakes area, Central New York (State).
- 54 **(Taiga) Merlin**, *falco columbarius*; one perched along Old Mine Road, DWGNRA.
- 55 **Least Flycatcher**, *empidonax minimus*; the only Empid we recorded, along Freeman Tract Road in Delaware Water Gap.
- 56 **Eastern Phoebe**, *sayornis phoebe*; three at Great Swamp NWR (one collecting nesting material); one along route 81 in Pennsylvania; one at Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, Delaware Water Gap NRA.
- 57 **Eastern Kingbird**, *tyrannus tyrannus*; one along the Susquehanna River, in the Finger Lakes area, New York State; one along one of the 4th Concession Road, near Long Point, Ontario and one during a rest stop along route 81, having just entered Pennsylvania.
- 58 **White-eyed Vireo**, *vireo griseus*; one singing in the Ramble, Upper Lobe, Central Park, NYC.
- 59 **Blue-headed Vireo**, *vireo solitarius*; one on our walk to Friends Blind, Great Swamp NWR; two in the Worthington State Forest picnic area, DWGNRA.
- 60 **Yellow-throated Vireo**, *vireo flavifrons*; one at Great Swamp NWR, at the Lookout along Pleasant Plains Road.

- 61 **Warbling Vireo**, *vireo gilvus*; two near Strawberry Fields, Central Park, NYC; two singing at the Worthington State Forest picnic area along Old Mine Road; one singing at Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, DWGNRA.
- 62 **Blue Jay**, *cyanocitta cristata*; common.
- 63 **American Crow**, *corvus brachyrhynchos*; widespread.
- 64 **Purple Martin**, *progne subis*; five (all males) were seen at Friends Blind at Great Swamp NWR; a female was at Lasalle Marina, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 65 **Tree Swallow**, *tachycineta bicolor*; seen every day, sometimes in large numbers.
- 66 **Bank Swallow**, *riparia riparia*; a large mixed flock of swallows was at the Susquehanna River in the Finger Lakes area with plenty of Bank, Barn and some Cliff Swallows, Tree Swallows again most numerous. At Turkey Point, Ontario these four species also formed large mixed flocks, here Bank Swallow was the commonest Hirundinidae of them all.
- 67 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, *stelgidopteryx serripennis*; one over Niagara Falls; they were nesting in road culverts at Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, DWGNRA.
- 68 **Cliff Swallow**, *petrochelidon pyrrhonota*; see nr.66.
- 69 **Barn Swallow**, *hirundo rustica*; common.
- 70 **Black-capped Chickadee**, *poecile atricapillus*; common in Hamilton, Ontario. Two birds seen in East Stroudsburg may have been **Carolina Chickadees**, *poecile carolinensis* or more likely, hybrids.
- 71 **Tufted Titmouse**, *baeolophus bicolor*; two at Great Swamp NWR and common at Delaware Water Gap NRA, for instance seven along Freeman's Tract on May 1st.
- 72 **White-breasted Nuthatch**, *sitta carolinensis*; common.
- 73 **House Wren**, *troglodytes aedon*; heard in The Ramble, Central Park, New York and along Old Mine Road, Delaware Water Gap.
- 74 **Winter Wren**, *troglodytes hiemalis*; singing at Great Swamp and also present in Ontario, Canada: at Hendrie Valley, Hamilton and at Backus Woods, Long Point.
- 75 **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, *polioptila caerulea*; many seen in wooded areas, easily detected by their nasal calls.
- 76 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, *regulus calendula*; common, especially the first days when many of these kinglets were migrating through.
- 77 **Eastern Bluebird**, *sialia sialis*; two at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge: a female at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center and a male where it should be: at the Bluebird Parking Lot along Pleasant Plains Road.
- 78 **Wood Thrush**, *hylocichla mustelina*; common in the Delaware Water Gap area, many singing.

- 79 **Veery**, *catharus fuscescens*; along Freeman Tract Road one starting singing a few metres from our car at eye level, in a roadside tree, allowing great views. A few more were heard singing at Delaware Water Gap NRA.



Veery, Freeman Tract Road, DWAGNRA



Hermit Thrush, The Ramble, Central Park, NYC

- 80 **Hermit Thrush**, *catharus guttatus*; four in and around the Upper Lobe, the Ramble, Central Park, NYC.
- 80 **American Robin**, *turdus migratorius*; very common.
- 82 **Northern Mockingbird**, *mimus polyglottos*; common at Hasbrouck Heights and other parts of (suburban) New Jersey. Not seen further east on subsequent days.
- 83 **Gray Catbird**, *dumetella carolinensis*; surprisingly common, especially in Central Park and at Delaware Water Gap.
- 84 **Brown Thrasher**, *toxostoma rufum*; one along Freeman Tract Road, Delaware Water Gap and three at 4th Concession Road near Backus Woods, Long Point, Ontario.
- 85 **European Starling**, *sturnus vulgaris*; very common.
- 86 **Cedar Waxwing**, *bombycilla cedrorum*; there weren't many about, but I saw one on top of a roadside spruce tree along River Road near the Park Headquarters and a small flock of five birds over Old Mine Road, Delaware Water Gap NRA.
- 87 **Ovenbird**, *seiurus aurocapilla*; one at Old Mine Road, Delaware Water Gap NRA, showing really well.
- 88 **Louisiana Waterthrush**, *parkesia motacilla*; a pair at a forest stream in Dunnfield Creek Natural Area close to Route 80 at Delaware Water Gap NRA.
- 89 **Black-and-white Warbler**, *mniotilta varia*; two at the Ramble, Upper Lobe, Central Park, NYC; one along Freeman Tract Road, Delaware Water Gap.
- 90 **Golden-winged Warbler**, *vermivora chrysoptera*; one at Old Mine Road, DWG. Sadly the bulk was only to arrive in days to come.
- 91 **Blue-winged Warbler**, *vermivora cyanoptera*; two at Freeman Tract, DWG; a male on 30 April and a female a day later.

- 92 **Tennessee Warbler**, *oreothlypis peregrine*; hard to miss, when singing along Old Mine Road.
- 93 **Nashville Warbler**, *oreothlypis ruficapilla*; one flitting through the canopy at Evodia Field in the Ramble, Central Park, NYC.
- 94 **Common Yellowthroat**, *geothlypis trichas*; one singing at Great Swamp, New Jersey.
- 95 **Hooded Warbler**, *setophaga citrina*; easy to find at DWG, where at least 10 males singing, 4 along Freeman Tract Road in Pennsylvania and six on the New Jersey side of the river along Old Mine Road.
- 96 **American Redstart**, *setophaga ruticilla*; numerous at DWG, many singing.
- 97 **Cape May Warbler**, *setophaga tigrina*; adult female at Old Mine Road.
- 98 **Cerulean Warbler**, *setophaga cerulean*; one of the main targets at Delaware Water Gap NRA, and easily found with at least five males singing; three paired birds (with females observed nearby) along Freeman Tract Road and two males along Old Mine Road. Most birds were where they should be: high in the canopy, but one splendid male came really low, just above eye level.
- 99 **Northern Parula**, *setophaga americana*; one singing in the rain at the Park Headquarters parking lot at River Road; three along both Freeman Tract Road and Old Mine Road, DWGNRA.



Yellow Warbler, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania



American Redstart, Freeman Tract Road, DWGNRA

- 100 **Yellow Warbler**, *setophaga petechia*; common.
- 101 **Blackburnian Warbler**, *setophaga fusca*; one singing in a spruce grove close the Worthington Office and Campground entrance along Old Mine Road.
- 102 **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, *setophaga pennsylvanica*; one in the Ramble, Central Park, New York and one at Old Mine Road, DWGNRA.
- 103 **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, *setophaga caerulescens*; we saw a gorgeous male, along Freeman's Tract Road.
- 104 **Pine Warbler**, *setophaga pinus*; at least one at Freeman Tract Road at Delaware Water Gap in a large mixed flock of warblers.

- 105 **Prairie Warbler**, *setophaga discolor*; an adult female along Old Mine Road.
- 106 **Palm Warbler**, *setophaga palmarum*; one along Freemans Tract Road and two at the Park Headquarters parking lot along River Road, DWGNRA.
- 107 **Myrtle Warbler**, *setophaga coronata*; the commonest warbler, seen about everywhere. 15+ flocks were seen along Freeman Tract on May 1st.
- 108 **Canada Warbler**, *cardellina canadensis*; a female showed along Freeman Tract Road at Delaware Water Gap NRA.
- 109 **Eastern Towhee**, *pipilo erythrophthalmus*; two at Umpire Rock, Central Park, NYC; one at Old Mine Road, DWGNRA.
- 110 **Field Sparrow**, *spizella pusilla*; one photographed at the at Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center and a few more heard singing along Pleasant Plains Road and White Bridge Road at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



Field Sparrow, Great Swamp NWR



Chipping Sparrow, Old Mine Road, DWGNRA

- 111 **Chipping Sparrow**, *spizella passerine*; common.
- 112 **Song Sparrow**, *melospiza melodia*; common.
- 113 **Swamp Sparrow**, *melospiza georgiana*; two in the Ramble, Central Park, NYC and one at Great Swamp NWR.
- 114 **Dark-eyed Junco**, *junco hyemalis*; at least two in summer plumage at Hendry Valley, Hamilton.
- 115 **White-throated Sparrow**, *zonotrichia albicollis*; common. Many birds seen in Central Park and in and around the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.
- 116 **Scarlet Tanager**, *piranga olivacea*; one on the walk to Friends Blind at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge on 30 April and one singing along Old Mine Road, DWGNRA on May 5th.
- 117 **Northern Cardinal**, *cardinalis cardinalis*; common.
- 118 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, *pheucticus ludovicianus*; a male along Freeman Tract Road, Delaware Water Gap.
- 119 **Indigo Bunting**, *passerina cyanea*; a male opposite the Bluebird Parking Lot along Pleasant Plains Road, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey.

120 **Rusty Blackbird**, *euphagus carolinus*; a female came flying by at the Bluebird Parking Lot along Pleasant Plains Road, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey.

121 **Common Grackle**, *quiscalus quiscula*; very common.



Common Grackle, Central Park, NYC



Red-winged Blackbird, Hamilton, Ontario

122 **Red-winged Blackbird**, *agelaius phoeniceus*; loads of them everyday and everywhere.

123 **Brown-headed Cowbird**, *molothrus ater*; common.

124 **Eastern Meadowlark**, *sturnella magna*; a roadside bird along route 3 near Jarvis, Ontario.

125 **Orchard Oriole**, *icterus spurius*; a singing male was seen at the Worthington State Forest picnic area along Old Mine Road.

126 **Baltimore Oriole**, *icterus galbula*; a male at Great Swamp NWR; two males along Freeman Tract Road, DWGNRA; a pair at Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, DWGNRA.

127 **House Finch**, *haemorhous mexicanus*; common in (sub)urban areas.

128 **American Goldfinch**, *spinus tristis*; widespread, seen on five out of eight days, with beautiful males at Great Swamp NWR.

129 **House Sparrow**, *passer domesticus*; abundant in urban areas.

MAMMALS

Plain Eastern Chipmunk, *tamias striatus*; common, especially at Great Swamp NWR and along the Hendrie Valley Trail in Hamilton.

Eastern Grey Squirrel, *sciurus carolinensis*; numerous throughout, with lots of black morph ones along with the "normal" gray type.

Red Squirrel, *tamiasciurus hudsonicus*; at Backus Woods.

Muskrat, *ondatra zibethica*; two crossing the highway (!) in the Five Finger Lake area; two at Park Headquarters DWGNRA, two at Hendrie Valley, Hamilton.

American Beaver, *castor canadensis*; one swimming to the beaver dam at first light on May 1st. This beaver dam, in the wooded swamp behind the Park Headquarters building

along River Road at Delaware Water Gap NRA, is one of the most famous and most accessible ones of the region.

American Red Fox, *vulpes vulpes fulvus*; a kit fox was seen near the Long Hill Road parking lot at the Wildlife Observation Centre in Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Northern Raccoon, *procyon lotor*; one along the Hendrie Valley Trail in Hamilton.

White-tailed Deer, *odocoileus virginianus*; two at Old Mine Road, Delaware Water Gap NRA.



Eastern Grey Squirrel, Hamilton, Ontario



Eastern Garter Snake, Great Swamp NWR

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Eastern Garter Snake, *thamnophis sirtalis*; one at the trail to Friends Blind, Wildlife Observation Centre in Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Common Snapping Turtle, *chelydra serpentina*; one at Great Swamp NWR.

Painted Turtle, *chrysemys picta*; common at Great Swamp NWR.

Eastern Newt, *notophthalmus viridescens*; we saw several of these striking bright orange animals in their juvenile stage, known as a Red Eft on the wet Freeman Tract Road at Delaware water Gap NRA.

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