

## **Field Trip Report – Magee Marsh Field Trip**

**(includes Magee Marsh, Ottawa NWR, Metzger Marsh and Howard Marsh)**

**May 6, 2023**

**Leaders: Don Burlett, Jim Koppin**

The annual visit to Magee Marsh and environs was enjoyed by 13 people and the two leaders on a very nice spring day. Mostly sunny with temperatures ranging from the upper 40's to the upper 60's made this enjoyable. Spring migration is always a gamble regarding timing. This year, we were there a week before International Migratory Bird Day and the migration was just in its early stages. However, the damage done last year to Magee Marsh was very evident upon arrival. The "woods" that stood here have pretty much been demolished by storms and the woods and boardwalk all show signs of destruction and rebuilding.



Despite the destruction, we began the day birding the entire boardwalk in search of warblers and other early migrants. Warblers were about the grounds, and we enjoyed seeing a Virginia Rail pair work along a channel near the boardwalk. The area abounded with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, all the breeding birds that nest here (blackbirds, grackles, robins, etc.). We also saw a pair of Whip-poor-wills roosting along the boardwalk, a nice find for the day and a well-hidden American Woodcock.

We then headed to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge to drive the auto drive. Again, there were lots of Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swans, Tree Swallows, Red-winged Blackbirds and other denizens of the impoundments.

Next was Metzger Marsh, where more swans were observed but this spot was not very fruitful and the wind had picked up, coming off the lake, cooling the situation.



(Photo by Malissa Bossardet)



(Photo by Karen Kessler)



(Photo by Malissa Bossardet)



(Photo by Karen Kessler)



(Photo by Nick Rigney)



(Photo by Malissa Bossardet)



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(Photo by Nick Rigney)

The last stop on this tour was Howard Marsh. This is a wonderful spot with water impoundments and many nice birds. The featured birds were the Black-necked Stilts that have been breeding here for several years. We observed at least seven of these birds and one was on a nest. We also added Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, two terns and several gulls here. Of note is the fact that the new impoundment on the west side of Howard Road is well set up for shorebirds. Here we found hundreds of Dunlin, good numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs and groups of ducks of several species.

The group enjoyed a good day. The group observed (with some or all seeing each species) a total of 88 species. This is not a bad total for an early spring day where the number of warblers species available were limited. A complete list of the birds seen is provided below. Obviously, spring is just busting out now!!!



Bird List:

Canada Goose  
Trumpeter Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Lesser Scaup  
Hooded Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American White Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Black-crowned Night-heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Cooper's Hawk  
Virginia Rail  
Sora  
Common Gallinule  
American Coot  
Sandhill Crane  
Black-necked Stilt  
Killdeer  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Dunlin  
American Woodcock  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Common Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Eastern Whip-poor-will  
Chimney Swift  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker  
Least Flycatcher  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Horned Lark  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
House Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
European Starling  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
American Redstart  
Magnolia Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Baltimore Oriole

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow