

May 20 2018 – Alogonac State Park and Harsen's Island

Leader: Don Burlett

Three intrepid birders took on the challenge of sloggng through inches deep mud and water to bird the trails at Alogonac State Park. On a partly cloudy to overcast day with temperatures in the 50's, birding along these trails was challenging. Slippery mud and deep water were the key features. The water was so deep that we were only able to bird the Oak Savanna trail. The Lake Plain Prairie was inaccessible due to deep water after the canal. The birding was good despite the conditions with three vireos (Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Yellow-throated) along with several warblers. One highlight was Wood Thrushes singing directly overhead on an open branching.

We then drove to Harsen's Island and birded near the St. Clair Flats area. Aside from seeing some Black Terns flying over the marsh, a highlight was a flock of 20 American Pipits that landed in the field and scurried about.

Overall, a fine day of birding and another challenge accepted by our birders. A total of 68 species were observed and the list is provided below.

Canada Goose	58
Mute Swan	5
Wood Duck	5
Mallard	6
Redhead	2
Wild Turkey	2
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1
Great Blue Heron	3
Great Egret	3
Turkey Vulture	2
Northern Harrier	1
Bald Eagle	1
Common Gallinule	2
Sandhill Crane	2
Semipalmated Plover	3
Killdeer	1
Black Tern	4
Common Tern	5
Mourning Dove	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4
Downy Woodpecker	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Northern Flicker	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2

Eastern Phoebe	4
Great Crested Flycatcher	2
Eastern Kingbird	2
Yellow-throated Vireo	2
Philadelphia Vireo	1
Red-eyed Vireo	2
Blue Jay	5
American Crow	2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	15
Tree Swallow	9
Bank Swallow	5
Barn Swallow	17
Cliff Swallow	4
Black-capped Chickadee	7
Tufted Titmouse	7
House Wren	4
Marsh Wren	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3
Swainson's Thrush	1
Wood Thrush	3
American Robin	20
Gray Catbird	6
European Starling	11
American Pipit	20
Black-and-white Warbler	1
Common Yellowthroat	2
American Redstart	1
Blackburnian Warbler	2
Yellow Warbler	5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Chipping Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	6
Eastern Towhee	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
Northern Cardinal	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Indigo Bunting	3
Baltimore Oriole	11
Red-winged Blackbird	59
Brown-headed Cowbird	8
Common Grackle	21
American Goldfinch	2

