The Red-eyed Wearios-Baillie Birdathon Report Long Point, ON

Report of the Long Point Team

We arrived in Port Rowan, Long Point south of Woodstock, Ontario several days before the day of our Birdathon.

This gave us several days to get a feel of what resident birds we could expect to see as well as which birds should be migrating through. We were enjoying the migration and putting in twelve hour days birding. Our alarm went off at 6a.m.and we were out the door at 6:30 with a muffin and a box of juice and a promise of a big breakfast to come after our morning birding. Before leaving our campground, we had seen American Robin, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee and Song Sparrow, not a bad start for a drive out of the property.



Orchard Orioles

Photo: Sue Bishop

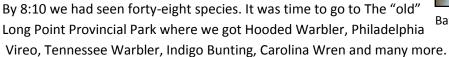
On the trip south to Causeway we picked up Tree Swallows, Killdeer and Purple Martins.

A two-minute stop at the Big Creek National Wildlife Area produced Great Blue Heron, Yellow warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Mute Swan, American Coot and Swamp Sparrow.

We next headed for Long Point Bird Observatory on Old Cut Blvd. where we saw a beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker near the parking area. The trees and shrubs at LPBO were alive with birds and birders as the LPBO Team was also doing their Birdathon the same day.

Here we were lucky to get a Black-billed Cuckoo, and many warbler species such as Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager and many others.

We learned that it is a good idea to buy an Ontario Provincial Parks summer pass as certain campsites within the "new" Long Point Provincial Park are a magnet for tired migrants. The pass allows us to visit these sites as often as we wish so warblers which were there in the morning may be replaced by other species in the late afternoon.





Bay-breasted Warbler

Photo: Sue Bishop

Before heading home for brunch, we decided to look for gulls and terns on Hastings Drive along the shores of Lake Erie. We were fortunate to see Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern and Caspian Tern. It was time for a forty minute brake. The Bald Eagle we had seen here the previous day was not to be counted.

After lunch we headed for Port Royal where we could rely on seeing Cliff Swallows. We headed on to Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area and Concession A where we were hoping to see the Eastern Screech Owl but it didn't look out of its nest box. On the First Concession, we stopped at a grassy field to get the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

We continued toward the Wilson Tract along a dusty road. Three Wild Turkeys ran across the dry field and into the Carolinian forest. The dry fields also revealed a Vesper Sparrow.

Behind Bird studies Canada Headquarters in Port Rowan, we were able to see several species of ducks including Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead and Greater and Lesser Scaup.

A walk along the path behind the St. Williams Forestry Farm Interpretive Centre produced Red-Shouldered Hawk and Chimney Swifts.

By 3:30 p.m. we surprised ourselves by having observed one hundred species.

There was still much habitat to cover.

By 7:30 p.m., we had driven one hundred and twenty km and covered a considerable distance by foot.

Our last stop was to the Crown Marsh Trail for the American Bittern.

The Long Point Team



Sue Bishop

Ahmad Shah

Below is a list of all species observed by Ahmad Shah and Sue Bishop.

1) Common Grackle	17) Tree Swallow	33) Eastern Kingbird
2) Mourning Dove	18) Yellow Warbler	34) Black-billed Cuckoo
3) Baltimore Oriole	19) Common Yellowthroat	35) Wood Thrush
4) American Robin	20) Purple Martin	36) White-throated sparrow
5) Black-capped chickadee	21) Ringed-billed Gull	37) Chipping Sparrow
6) House Sparrow	22) Marsh Wren	38) American Goldfinch
7) Red-bellied Woodpecker	23) Mute swan	39) Turkey Vulture
8) Warbling Vireo	24) Great Blue Heron	40) Scarlet tanager
9) Brown-headed Cowbird	25) Red-eyed Vireo	41) Swainson's Thrush
10) Song Sparrow	26) House Wren	42) Carolina Wren
11) American Crow	27) Northern Cardinal	43) Bay-breasted warbler
12) Killdeer	28) Eastern Wood Peewee	44) Black-throated Blue Warbler
13) Red-winged Blackbird	29) Blue Jay	45) Chestnut-sided warbler
14) Barn Swallow	30) Black-and-white Warbler	46) Rose-breasted Grosbeak
15) Canada Goose	31) Magnolia warbler	47) Red-headed woodpecker
16) European Starling	32) Black-Throated Green Warbler	48) Least Flycatcher

49) Field sparrow	71) Hooded Warbler	92) Northern Flicker
50) Blackburnian Warbler	72) Great Black-backed Gull	93) Pied-billed Grebe
51) Gray Catbird	73) Forster's tern	94) Belted Kingfisher
52) Tennessee warbler	74) Swamp Sparrow	95) Bufflehead
53) Blue-gray gnatcatcher	75) Caspian Tern	96) Greater Scaup
54) Common Loon	76) Bonaparte's Gull	97) Lesser Scaup
55) Herring Gull	77) Common Tern	98) Ruddy Duck
56) Philadelphia Vireo	78) American Coot	99) Eastern Bluebird
57) American Redstart	79) Cliff Swallow	100) Indigo Bunting
58) Yellow-rumped Warbler	80) Rock Pigeon	101) Spotted Sandpiper
59) Blue-headed Vireo	81) Green Heron	102) Red-shouldered Hawk
60) Northern Parula	82) Least Sandpiper	103) Chimney Swift
61) Ruby-crowned Kinglet	83) Semi-palmated Sandpiper	104) Wild Turkey
62) Nashville Warbler	84) Sanderling	105) Cape May warbler
63) White-crowned Sparrow	85) Horned Lark	106) Black Tern
64) Savannah Sparrow	86) Greater yellowlegs	107) Wood Duck
65) Eastern Towhee	87) Great Crested Flycatcher	108) American Bittern
66) Eastern Phoebe	88) Pectoral Sandpiper	109) Sandhill Crane
68) Veery	89) Eastern Meadowlark	110) Mallard
69) Ruby-throated Hummingbird	90) Bobolink	
70) Ovenbird	91) House Finch	



Sandhill Crane

Photo: Ahmad Shah