



Field Guides Tour Report

Point Pelee Migration Spectacle 2014

May 10, 2014 to May 17, 2014

Peter Burke

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, [please VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE.](#)

Following on the heels of a good old-fashioned winter in Ontario, this spring shaped up as a more traditional one of the pre-"global warming" years. The temperatures were quite cool just prior to the trip, then warmed up nicely for the week of our tour. The result was wonderful viewing conditions due to less leaf-out and a general dearth of biting insects (but not quite!). The birds did their part, offering us a super diversity at the height of spring migration on the lower Great Lakes.

Birding in a smaller group allows for more intimate experiences with the birds at times. We had plenty of those moments to savor, especially with the warblers -- Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Bay-breasted, Magnolia...and on and on. But special mentions must be made of the Prothonotary at Rondeau our first day, and the male Golden-winged at the Carden Plain our last. These guys really stole the show. Of course other birds made the trip special as well. A great variety of songbirds offered us many repeated chances to get to know them, and provided opportunity to really soak in the field marks. This is what makes the Pelee trip such fun -- getting to know the birds with multiple opportunities to really study them. And let's not forget those waterbirds -- from nesting Red-necked Grebes at point blank, a showy Virginia Rail at 20 feet, wide-eyed Upland Sandpipers in the early-morning Carden light, and a couple of roosting Common Nighthawks. Variety is certainly a big part of what makes this trip so much fun.



This was a great year for Bay-breasted Warbler! The species is one of the three "budworm warblers" that are cyclical in their numbers. (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

I described ourselves as the "Field & Stream" group, and I wanted to let you all know how much fun it was to accompany you through my home province and show you a bit of what goes on here. I had a lot of laughs, learned a lot about how to survive in the woods (if it comes to that), and enjoyed the camaraderie of our group.

I hope we see each other again on the birding trail. All the best to you!

Peter

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) – Widespread and introduced; my first goslings of the year were seen on this trip.

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*) – Introduced to the Great Lakes and doing well; common at Long Point.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*) – Another introduction; we saw a few around the Carden Plain.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) – I really enjoyed when the whole group picked up a pair by call- true sportsmen! We also had nice looks at perched pairs.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*) – Hillman Marsh.

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*) – A pair at Hillman Marsh.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Common.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – A couple of nice pairs at Hillman.
NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*) – A pair at Hillman.
REDHEAD (*Aythya americana*) – A lone male in the Pelee Marsh seen from the tower.
RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*) – A male along the Lake Ontario waterfront.
GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*) – A couple of males with Lessers along the Lake Ontario waterfront.
LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*) – More than normal still lingering; a common April migrant.
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*) – A couple along the Lake Ontario waterfront.
LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*) – A couple hundred changing into summer dress along the Lake Ontario waterfront.
HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) – A single female near Port Rowan flushed off a pond.
COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*) – Pairs were seen in Orillia and along a stream in Carden.
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*) – These handsome ducks were seen in numbers on Lake Erie.
RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) – A very distant pair in the Pelee Marsh.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*) – A hen crossed the road near Hillman.
RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*) – We heard a couple drumming north of Orillia.
WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – Many in Pelee and also on the Carden Plain.

Gaviidae (Loons)

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*) – Late migrants were seen in flight along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – A single on the Carden Plain.
HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*) – Lingering migrants just outside of Rondeau with a flock of mergansers.
RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – Common.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) – We had bird in a wet field offer us prolonged but somewhat distant scope views up in Carden.
GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*) – Widespread.
GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – A southern bird in Canada, we saw them around Pelee.
GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*) – A small group of flybys at the tip of Pelee.
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – The Woodcock trip saw a flyover at dusk.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – Common.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Distant looks at a bird fishing on Lake Couchiching.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) – Good looks at a pair in Carden.
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*) – We spotted a high flying migrant in Blenheim.
COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*) – A bird crossed the highway in pursuit of prey near Wheatley.
BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – A couple along the Lake Erie shore and a nest near the hotel at Pelee.
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus*) – Some pretty good looks at a screaming bird near its nest north of the Carden Plain. This is a scarce breeder in southern Ontario and not easy to find!
BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) – Several pairs soaring over the road along the Black River road north of Orillia.
RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – Widespread along the highways.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*) – Some pretty great views of an agitated bird at Carden.
SORA (*Porzana carolina*) – Although it called repeatedly at close range, we couldn't spot this guy at Carden.
AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*) – Small groups of lingering migrants at Pelee Marsh.

Gruidae (Cranes)

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*) – Calling birds at Pelee and a pair at Carden. These are Greater Sandhills.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Some impressive flocks along the Lake Erie shoreline east of Pelee.
KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) – Common.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*) – A singleton along the Woodland Trail at Pelee.
WILLET (WESTERN) (*Tringa semipalmata inornata*) – Great views of a bird that flew in to join other shorebirds at Hillman. A rare migrant in Ontario.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – A couple in Carden.

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*) – We did get these birds after a bit of work but what views!! Simply elegant birds.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) – Some handsome birds at Hillman.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) – A couple of birds seen well outside of Leamington and near Long Point.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*) – The most numerous shorebird at Hillman in splendid spring plumage.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*) – We had a lot of these guys at Hillman, including both the hendersoni and griseus/hendersoni intermediate subspecies thanks to Rocky's keen eye!

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*) – We played hide and seek with a few of these at Carden.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*) – A late evening trip at Pelee produced a displaying male that gave us some good close passes in the flashlight beam.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) – A number of young birds at Pelee and a few adults at Hillman.

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*) – common.

HERRING GULL (AMERICAN) (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) – common on the Great Lakes.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – A good number along the Lake Ontario lakeshore.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*) – A few flying around the Point Pelee marsh.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – We saw a few very well along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*) – Great views in evening light at Hillman Marsh.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Widespread.

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) – Common.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*) – Two birds, the first very well seen perched in Tilden's Woods.

Strigidae (Owls)

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops asio*) – A pair of roosting birds offered lovely views at Pelee.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*) – Two separate perched birds, the second at eye level in Carden.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*) – A number of birds seen throughout the trip in small groups.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*) – The only eastern hummer; seen most days.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*) – A few birds at Long Point and along the Black River Rd..

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) – A bird loitering around the tip of Pelee our first morning.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes carolinus*) – A number of birds at Pelee; including a few flying off the tip.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – Nice views at Backus woods and along the Black River Rd..

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*) – A few birds most days.

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*) – One bird in Backus Woods.

NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*) – The yellow-shafted form of the east. Common.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*) – Nice views of a pair along the Black River Rd..

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – A few sightings of this small falcon in agricultural areas.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) – A displaying male along the Black River Rd.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*) – We had a few of these at the Lake Erie sites; they arrive later than many migrants.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*) – A couple offered brief views in the understory at Pelee and Rondeau.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*) – Some singing birds behind the hotel at Pelee when we went out for Woodcocks.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*) – Still moving through, we saw a number of these throughout the trip.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*) – Common up in Carden but we missed them along Lake Erie.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – Some good views of this handsome colorful Myarchis.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – Common and conspicuous by their fluttery flight and buzzy calls.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) – Now down to 10 pairs in the province, we saw two birds belonging to two pairs on Carden.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) – A bird along the Woodland Trail at Pelee was our only sighting; a rare breeder.
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*) – A quick but close view along the east beach at Pelee followed by a pair in Backus woods.
BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*) – A dull female type bird at Long Point.
WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*) – Great studies of this bird, even in comparison to the next species.
PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – We eventually pegged down some good examples of this species and got to know it well.
RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*) – A common breeder, they were arriving in numbers.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*) – Common, yet handsome.
AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) – Common.

Alaudidae (Larks)

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*) – Several in open fields of the southwest.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – Some good views that allowed us to see their translucent wings.
PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*) – Small numbers along the Erie coastline.
TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – Common.
BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*) – Big colonies along Lake Ontario, including one right where we saw the Red-necked Grebe nest.
BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Common.
CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – A couple of flybys that were only brief views.

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*) – Sparse but most days.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*) – A couple of lingering migrants at Pelee.
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*) – Low numbers on a few days.

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*) – A bird came in well to playback along the Black River.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) – Widespread.
WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) – We had to settle for its song in Carden.
SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) – Telescope views in the wetland we visited in Carden. It performed very well for us!
CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) – A few around Old Cut at Long Point.

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – Seen most days along Lake Erie.

Regulidae (Kinglets)

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*) – A couple of lingering migrants at Pelee.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*) – Some handsome males were seen during our time at Carden.
VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*) – The weakest marked *Catharus* thrush; we saw a few very well and heard their song at Carden.
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*) – Superb viewing of a rather difficult bird to see; comparisons with Swainson's on several occasions.
SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*) – Common migrant, seen most days.
WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*) – Seen a few days at Pelee, Rondeau.
AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*) – Widespread.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – Common and singing conspicuously.
BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) – A few birds at Carden, where it prefers old fields and meadows.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Common; young not out of the nest just yet!

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*) – Great views of a singleton at the Pelee parking lot.

Bombycillidae (Waxwings)

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) – Small groups returning as we left Pelee.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) – We happened upon a few of these ground skulkers at Pelee; commonly heard in Carden where there was woodlands.
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia motacilla*) – Score! A singing bird in Backus offered great views and we were able to differentiate it from

Northern Waterthrush by voice and sight.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) – Some good views during the week of foraging birds; great opportunities to compare to Louisiana's field marks.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) – A bird at eye level along the Woodland Trail was our best views- we heard it around Backus Woods as well.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) – Not just one, but three birds gave us super views at Carden. These are truly spectacular warblers with a great song as well!

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) – Regularly encountered during the week, creeping along branches.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*) – A last minute tip offered us the chance to see a stunning male at Rondeau en route to Pelee our first day. Unfortunately we didn't come across another of these very rare breeders in Canada.

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – Regularly seen and often heard during the last few days at Pelee; this is a later migrant amongst the warblers.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) – Some birds still lingering- most of them come early but there seemed to be a good number of them still around.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Encountered daily in small numbers.

HOODED WARBLER (*Setophaga citrina*) – A real eye-catcher- we saw a pair very well in the drizzle at the old Long Point Provincial Park. Also heard at Backus.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Seen most days; flashy males and cryptic second year males included!

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Setophaga tigrina*) – A hard bird this year- we only saw a male briefly at Long Point and a female at the tip of Pelee.

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Setophaga cerulea*) – We had to settle for a female at the tip of Pelee and some distant singing birds at Backus.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Setophaga americana*) – Surprisingly common once you learn the song; these birds were detected almost daily.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Setophaga magnolia*) – An abundant migrant; we saw handsome males and drab females throughout the trip.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Setophaga castanea*) – This species showed really well this year; many males that came in to point blank views a couple of times. Wonderful warblers!

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*) – Always a show-stopper; we saw males and females quite a number of times at Pelee and Rondeau.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*) – Abundant along the Lake Erie shoreline.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) – Good numbers of this common breeding warbler of the north woods.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Setophaga striata*) – A good look at one males; we heard a number of others from the treetops.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Setophaga caerulescens*) – Some super views of males and females; including a male that was nectar feeding on current flowers right in front of the group.

PALM WARBLER (*Setophaga palmarum*) – A few birds still lingering; these guys come through in early May and peak quickly.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*) – Great views of a male in Backus woods; he was pretty intent on finding that hidden male singing from my speaker!

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata*) – Still pretty common; another early species that was present in numbers. Formerly called Myrtle Warbler.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga virens*) – Seen most days; a few really flashy males at close range!

CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*) – It took a while but we all caught up with this species by the end of our day at Long Point.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*) – More common in the west, and a true boreal breeder in the east. Scarce but seen a few times.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*) – A bird hanging around the Dunes area eventually poked its head out of the ground foliage for most to see. A very rare breeder in Canada now.

Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)

EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) – We heard this species a number of times but also saw them well. Formerly called Rufous-sided Towhee.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*) – Common.

FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*) – A pair in Backus woods came in nicely for some close views of this slender, petite sparrow.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – A common bird of agricultural meadows.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – Exceptional viewing of a male that practically walked near our feet on the Carden Plain our last day.

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*) – Absent from Pelee (!) but common elsewhere.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*) – With some persistence we eventually got some pretty good looks at this boreal sparrow.

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*) – Nice views, especially in Carden at the Sedge Wren Marsh.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) – A few lingering migrants at Pelee.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – Very low numbers this year; they must have pushed through earlier. We did identify a bird of the subspecies gambelli at Rondeau our first day.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*) – A late bird at Rondeau our first day.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*) – Not known to breed in Canada but an annual overshoot at Pelee and southern Ontario. We saw a splotchy young male at Pelee, and a full adult female at Backus woods near Long Point.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*) – This is one of those emblems of spring migration. We saw them well and often at Pelee and Rondeau.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – A common breeder.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) – Daily views of wonderful males and subtle females.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*) – Not quite as nice a Lazuli Bunting (IMHO) but pretty close! We saw a number of males and some females.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – These bold grassland birds were back in numbers at Carden; some males hadn't worn off the pale edges of their fresh plumages yet!

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Abundant.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*) – Another grassland bird, absent from the south of Ontario due to lack of habitat. Common on the Carden Plain.

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*) – Abundant.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*) – Common.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) – Misleading impression about how common they are in Canada while at Pelee; it is one of the most common birds. However it is quite hard to find outside of Pelee!

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – Omnipresent but always flashy- common birds, we even saw some nest building going on.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

PURPLE FINCH (*Haemorhous purpureus*) – We had to settle for a heard bird at Carden.

HOUSE FINCH (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – An introduction from the West; now widespread in the East.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*) – Abundant breeder.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – Common in towns and cities.

MAMMALS

EASTERN COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) – A few of these at Pelee.

PLAIN EASTERN CHIPMUNK (*Tamias striatus*) – Rondeau, Backus and the Carden Plain.

WOODCHUCK (*Marmota monax*) – A couple along the roadsides.

EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*) – Common in both black and gray morphs.

RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) – A conifer loving squirrel.

BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*) – Some super views from the observation tower at Pelee marsh.

MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethica*) – Common in cattail marshes.

NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatum*) – We had a bold individual wander across the road in front of us at Carden.

NORTHERN RACCOON (*Procyon lotor*) – Many more along the highways than alive!

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Common in wooded areas.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 181 bird taxa and 10 mammal taxa