

# Cape May in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 16th May 2023

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Blackburnian Warbler



Eastern Bluebird



Semi-palmated Sandpipers



Tree Swallow

Tour report by Mike Crewe, images by Oliver Smart

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Tour participants: Mike Crewe & Oliver Smart (leaders) with 11 Naturetrek participants

## Summary

Few places can compete with Cape May at migration time and, while the autumn might produce larger numbers of birds, spring provides the amazing visual spectacle of dazzling tanagers, buntings and warblers in all of their glory. We enjoyed a great bonanza of birds, from Arctic Skuas harassing terns offshore, through singing Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher and Field Sparrows in the dunes to some great looks at birds in the streets and gardens of the town. In the woods, we turned up stunning Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers, Wood Thrushes, obliging Yellow-billed Cuckoos and sublime Acadian Flycatchers. Add to that, too, a nice array of woodpeckers and some very smart White-breasted Nuthatches. The field margins glowed with the brilliant colours of Indigo Buntings, Eastern Bluebirds and Baltimore Orioles, while the 'full hit' of red from a Ruby-throated Hummingbird left us punch drunk!

Along the beaches and marshes, we found a wonderful array of North American waders, including stately Willets, rusty Short-billed Dowitchers and very confiding Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. Piping Plovers showed up on cue as Least Terns busied overhead and we rounded it all off with some very special encounters with Horseshoe Crabs. As well as the birds, there was an array of turtles, butterflies and dragonflies to be enjoyed and, seemingly whenever we chose to look up, Ospreys flew overhead.

## Day 1

**Monday 8th May**

We departed Heathrow on a far less than full flight, with many of us enjoying a row of three seats to ourselves! Finally arriving in a sunny and warm Philadelphia, we sorted out our vehicles and added the likes of House Sparrow, Starling and Feral Rock Dove to our lists!! Out on the road, we were soon crossing into New Jersey, where Turkey Vultures teetered over the road and even an Eastern Bluebird put in an appearance.

After checking in, we had time for a stroll onto the beach, which brought us some nice views of Laughing and American Gulls, Forster's Terns, Chimney Swifts, singing House Finch, Northern Mockingbird, Carolina Wren and Song Sparrow and a few bonus birds, including a Bonaparte's Gull. On the drive down, a Green Heron on a roadside wire gave us our first insight into the surprises that Cape May can produce!

## Day 2

**Tuesday 9th May**

We settled into what would become the routine most days this morning, with a trip out for coffee from the local Wawa, before heading down to Cape May Point. As this was our first morning, there were a few distractions to be had along the way, the largest of which came at The Beanery, where a roadside pond held a Cattle Egret (quite scarce here), both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and a Solitary Sandpiper. We also found a fly-over Red-headed Woodpecker. Not a bad start! Down at the point itself, birds were trickling along the coastline, most notably parties of Blue Jays, dithering back and forth in their usual indecision about such things. Arctic Skuas harried Forster's Terns for fish out in the bay and Field Sparrows sang nearby. White Ibises passing overhead reminded us that this bird was a rarity in New Jersey less than 10 years ago but has now established an impressive breeding colony in Cape May County. We continued with our planned routine by taking a late breakfast/brunch mid-morning, once the birding had quietened down, then we headed over to Cox Hall Creek, where a trail through some wet woods

provided us with much to enjoy. Birds were plentiful around the car park and included White-breasted Nuthatch, Great Crested Flycatcher and several Myrtle Warblers, among others. In the wet woods, our main quarry was the amazing Prothonotary Warbler, and we soon had a singing male showing beautifully. Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler and several Blackpoll Warblers were here, too and a Hairy Woodpecker showed well as it drummed on a dead stump. A real bonus came in the shape of a party of three Yellow-billed Cuckoos which were clearly passing migrants and they stuck closely together as they moved through the trees.

Grabbing ourselves some lunch supplies, we headed for a spot at the airport where we could easily view the open expanse of grass while we ate. This brought us a fly-by American Kestrel, two resting Bald Eagles and several Horned Larks. Our next stop brought us some funny looks as we birded right near the local Police unit – we certainly drew some looks from unmarked, black cars as they came and went! But it was worth it, as we enjoyed excellent views of singing and bathing Chipping Sparrows. The rest of the afternoon was spent at Cape May Point State Park, where we took a look at some of the ponds and walked the trails. Highlights included a couple of smart, male Cape May Warblers, our first looks at the always-busy Blue-grey Gnatcatchers, a showy, singing Pine Warbler, a Tricoloured Heron and an abundance of Red-winged Blackbirds.

## Day 3

## Wednesday 10th May

A repeat of yesterday's start to the day saw us enjoying more migration magic at the point. Terns were busy as ever, especially the very noisy Least Terns that seem to be doing particularly well this year, while two Red-throated Divers passing by in full breeding plumage were a nice bonus. Two Cedar Waxwings and an Eastern Kingbird were new for our list, as was an all-too-brief Merlin that flashed by. After a late breakfast, we headed back down to the point and stopped off at the Cape May Bird Observatory's information centre. Birding was a little quiet here, but we picked up some useful information and a few supplies. The road outside provided us with feeding Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice and Myrtle Warblers, but it was overhead that things really started to happen – noticing a small gathering of Black and Turkey Vultures, we kept an eye on the skies and, before long, we were treated to a group of three Anhingas circling overhead! This is a rare bird this far north, but records are being broken this year and it seems this species may well follow the line already taken by American White Ibises and may breed in the near future.

Moving on a little, we visited the South Cape May Meadows and began well with a singing Yellow-breasted Chat – with a second one a little later that showed spectacularly well and performed a number of bouncing song flights. Purple Martins were busy at their nestbox colonies, Familiar Bluets, Rambur's Forktails and an Eastern Tailed Blue were along the first path, and we also found a couple of obliging Glossy Ibises. Common Whitetail and Eastern Pondhawk continued the good dragonfly day and both Spicebush and Eastern Tiger Swallowtails were on the wing. Time was pressing on and we headed out to get lunch provisions, which we took with us and headed across the great expanse of saltmarsh that separates the 'mainland' from the barrier islands along most of the east coast of North America. Along the way, Great and Snowy Egrets graced the wetlands and Boat-tailed Grackles were strung out along the roadside wires. We checked out the Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary and found a couple of Orchard Orioles and two Yellow Warblers, all of which chased about a bit, but eventually showed well. As we departed, sharp eyes spotted a smart, adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron standing out nicely on one of the gravel paths.

At Stone Harbour Point, we walked out to the beach, stopping to view a muddy lagoon that held a nice range of waders, including Willet, Grey and Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlin, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers. On the beach, we found a nice array of waders, dominated in particular by groups of Sanderlings, some racing in and out with the tide, others taking a well-earned rest from migration and many acquiring their rich, breeding colours, which we don't get to see too often in the UK. On one of the stone jetties, 15 Purple Sandpipers were feeding with a few Ruddy Turnstones and a Caspian Tern fed offshore. Along the beach, we checked every wader until, finally, we were rewarded with a fine pair of Piping Plovers that were certainly holding their own against the intruding Semipalmated Plovers! The bridge across Nummy's Island was closed for repair work, so we headed back the way we had come, though not before turning up a fine, male Eastern Towhee in the dunes.

## Day 4

## Thursday 11th May

We broke with routine today and took an earlier breakfast – which actually meant a later start as we had to wait for the cafes to open! Once fed and satisfied, we drove to Belleplain State Forest, which has a wonderful mix of forest types, on the boundaries of coastal pinelands and Carolinian high forest, by way of White Cedar swamp and early successional habitats. But we began outside the forest at some grassland habitat. Though this plot failed to provide the meadowlarks we were hoping for, we still found some nice birds, including singing Indigo Buntings and scope views of Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Kingbird. Moving into the forest, we were soon stopping for some loudly singing Ovenbirds and we all managed great views of this smart little bird while Wood Thrushes sang in the background. Further along the road, we turned up a nice Red-eyed Vireo in song, then some caught a glimpse of our first Wild Turkeys. Though these melted away into the forest, it was a good start and there would be more later in the week. In the wet woods, we heard a Louisiana Waterthrush calling and it flew right through the bridge beneath our feet! Though it landed further along the stream, the dense Sweet Pepperbush branches meant that only a few could view it before it went on its way. We had better luck with a singing Yellow-throated Warbler that typically sang high up in the pines and – eventually – a very smart Hooded Warbler, complete with black balaclava.

Food – yet again – was beckoning and we took our lunches down to the boat ramp at Jake's Landing, passing two Ospreys on their nest platform on the way. Immediately on arrival we picked out a singing Marsh Wren and he obligingly stuck around until after we'd finished eating to give his best views. All around us, Seaside Sparrows were swishing out their songs as the rising tide pushed them up into the higher marsh and a Clapper Rail stood and preened for a time on the opposite bank of the creek. A party of five Least Sandpipers showed us just how approachable the birds can be on this side of the herring pond... We made a staged return to our hotel, stopping first at Cook's Beach, where a pair of Eastern Bluebirds gave us the run-around at first but eventually showed nicely. Tides were not quite at their highest for the month, but the spectacle that has made the Delaware Bay justly famous, was starting to happen. A great ribbon of Laughing Gulls stretched along the beach to the horizon, with American Herring, Great Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls mixed in, and all attracted to the super abundance of Horseshoe Crab eggs that welled up from the damp sand with each passing wave. The crabs themselves were here, too, in jostling, tumbling parties and all part of the great exuberance of nature when it goes down the path of 'safety in numbers'. At Kimbles Beach, there were a few more waders in the mix, especially flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers, but only one Red Knot - let's hope they arrive soon to fatten up before their final hop to the high Canadian Arctic to breed.

## Day 5

## Friday 12th May

Back to Plan A today, as we headed down to the point to see how migration was going. In the event it was a little quiet, so we headed to Higbee's Beach, where a shortage of parking suggested that things were a-happening! Indeed, we were not out of the overflow car park before we were homing in on a calling Rose-breasted Grosbeak! Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks were present in good numbers and performed well in front of the scopes. Field Sparrows and Northern Parulas were in full song and there was certainly plenty to enjoy. As we began to leave, a pale, somewhat non-descript warbler appeared, moving secretively through the green-brier and vine tangles. Piecing together the various glimpses we got, we pinned it down as a Swainson's Warbler, a southern species that turns up in Cape May from time to time – and one has been holding territory on this very corner for the past three years!

We took our 'brunch' back in town before heading north and a second visit to Cox Hall Creek. Visiting the same section of the site, we soon tracked down a Swainson's Thrush that we found feeding quietly in the shadows along the perimeter fence. Great Crested Flycatchers and Indigo Buntings were noisy and active as we continued to the wet woods section to enjoy the Prothonotary Warblers again, along with a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and several stunning Blackburnian Warblers. Further on, several Scarlet Tanagers were singing, and one eventually showed for us in the towering Red Maples that they favour. Holly Azures were along the path, along with our only Henry's Elfins of the trip. Circling back to the car park we continued north to get lunch and found a shady spot in the woods to eat.

Back on the road again, we ventured out of Cape May County to explore the impoundments at Heislerville on the Maurice River. At high tide, the great majority of waders feeding on the intertidal mud head up here to rest for a few hours, and we were not to be disappointed. At our first stop, great rafts of Semipalmated Sandpipers were resting on the muddy margins or scurrying around for extra food. Short-billed Dowitchers dabbled for food in the shallows and smaller numbers of Grey and Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlin, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willets and Least Sandpipers were all here, too. A busy and noisy Double-crested Cormorant breeding colony caught our attention, and we turned up two Black-crowned Night Herons among them. At our second stop, we found more of the same and, being closer to the birds, careful scanning through the tightly roosting birds turned up a number of White-rumped Sandpipers in their subtly beautiful breeding plumage. A nice bonus here came in the shape of a pair of resting Bald Eagles, while Clapper Rails called from every corner of the marsh.

## Day 6

## Saturday 13th May

Higbee's Beach was our starting point today and the earlier start meant that we could at least get into the car park! A singing Blackpoll Warbler right by the vehicles was our first reward before we wandered the field edges, looking for anything that wasn't an Indigo Bunting! At one point, a single Black Cherry provided us with two orchard Orioles, two Baltimore Orioles and a fine Yellow Warbler. We continued out into the dunes, where a number of Prairie Warblers were singing, and we soon had one nicely framed in the scopes. At our feet, the ground was painted yellow with great flowering clumps of Woolly Hudsonia. Time for breakfast!

After eating at Sunset Beach (which provided us with 15 or so Purple Sandpipers on the concrete ship), we went to the Meadows and walked out on the East track, where the habitat was good for waders. We soon found a nice mix of birds, though many were a little distant for all but scope views. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were

most frequent, and a few second calendar-year Bonaparte's Gulls were present, but careful scanning of the gathered waders eventually turned up single Stilt Sandpiper and a vagrant Curlew Sandpiper – both in fine breeding plumage. We continued into the more recently added extension and soon found the reported Common Gallinule (a moorhen by any other name!) which is a scarce bird here. We also had close encounters with Snowy Egret and Green Heron. Heading out to the beach, we ran into the Nature Conservancy team, who were working on nest protection work for beach nesting birds. Three pairs of American Oystercatchers were nesting inside the fenced compound and efforts were being made to attract Piping Plovers.

As forecast, the weather was starting to close in and we picked up some food and took it down to the state park, where we could eat in the shelters. As we had had a late return yesterday and still had notes to make on our checklists, we decided on an earlier finish, to give time for catching up, a little R&R then dinner.

## Day 7

## Sunday 14th May

This morning, we took our coffees down to the state park and viewed the scene from the hawkwatch platform for a while. It proved rather quiet for birds, though there was a nice run of White Ibises coming through, with 60 or so notched up in total during our time in the park. A walk around the short loop provided us with good views of a Muskrat busy with domestic duties and we took the opportunity to look at the various 'turtles' and frogs in the ponds. Brunch was looming and we had a hiccup finding somewhere to eat, as it was Mothers' Day and everyone and their mum (literally!) was out to eat! But local help was at hand and a quick phone call had us seated back in Cape May at our favourite eatery.

A return to Cox Hall Creek was in order, as there was still a whole section we hadn't yet visited. In the more open, grassy areas, we were greeted by a pair of Eastern Bluebirds, a good number of Chipping Sparrows and a young male Orchard Oriole. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Red-tailed hawks were added to the day list and we finally pinned down a huge, American Bullfrog in the scopes, having heard several calling, previously. Indigo Buntings were still plentiful and, as we entered a more shady area, we came across a Garter Snake that posed nicely for photos. As we got back to the car park, there was an incident of 'the one that got away', as what may well have been a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher disappeared behind a bush and couldn't be refound.

For the afternoon we took a walk at Cape May Point, starting at the bird observatory and circling around Lake Lily and other favoured spots for birds. Common Yellowthroats sang along the reedy margins and, in more open sections, we could view the lily pads and picked out Lilypad, Fragile and Rambur's Forktails. It was nice to have time to get good views of some of the 'common or garden birds' that we hadn't spent much time on yet and, in particular, we enjoyed superb looks at a couple of House Wrens.

## Day 8

## Monday 15th May

After grabbing our early-morning pick-me-up, we drove straight up to Belleplain State Forest for an earlier start than we had had before. This time, we focused more on species we particularly wanted to see better, or had missed previously and we had some great success. At the first car park, we found our first Eastern Phoebe, including two birds sitting on nests on buildings (along with under bridges, this seems to be their favoured nest habitat!) and we also enjoyed a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visiting a feeder. Eastern Bluebirds were nesting in boxes here, too and gave great views before we took a walk along one of the local forest roads. Our search for tanagers

drew a blank, but a very distantly calling Yellow-billed Cuckoo defied our assumptions and worked towards us, eventually showing very well as it searched for insects in tall Red Maples. Heading back and taking a track into a stand of Eastern White Pines, we could hear several Acadian Flycatchers calling, but it was a 'bubbling' Wood Thrush that we focused on and, before long, we had a pair of these wonderful birds in full view. The Acadian Flycatchers followed, and one showed particularly well right by the track.

Food beckoned – there's a theme developing here! – and we ate heartily in Woodbine, before heading to a more northerly part of Belleplain. At the river, a pair of Wood Ducks shot off all too quickly, but another Eastern Phoebe was more helpful, a female Pine Warbler showed really well and we added the wonderfully-named Seepage Dancer to our damselfly list. An Appalachian Brown danced along the edge of the woodland and a Prothonotary Warbler sang whilst managing to hold a spider in its beak! A little down the road, we took one of the smaller dirt tracks along the edge of the forest – which had held a pair of Wild Turkeys when we first pulled up – and we soon picked out a Least Flycatcher. Birding was generally quiet, though, and with our attention drawing to invertebrates (a velvet ant and a burrowing wolf spider), we drove out to find food and returned to Lake Nummy to eat at the picnic tables. A walk from here provided us with a couple of very confiding Northern Water Snakes, while a Broad-winged Hawk called and displayed right over our heads.

We rounded off the day with a return to the Bayshore beaches to see how things were going there. Horseshoe Crab numbers had certainly increased, and we had some wonderful close encounters with these primitive creatures that have remained unchanged for some 250 million years. A nice bonus for us this time was a Bottlenose Dolphin that was feeding just a few metres out from where we stood.

## Day 9

## Tuesday 16th May

Time for a return to the point to see how spring migration was going. A first-year male Black Scoter with a shiny hooter was nice to see, an Eastern Towhee was singing along with the usual Field Sparrows and a party of Cedar Waxwings passed overhead. Two Caspian Terns were feeding offshore and – as ever – a party of Blue Jays wandered aimlessly overhead. What little time we had left was spent at the Meadows, where some managed a glimpse of a Wilson's Phalarope before it mysteriously disappeared into thin air and we found the Stilt Sandpiper still present. Red-winged Blackbirds delighted us one last time with their amazing epaulettes and we took a last look at the superb Short-billed Dowitchers and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers in their breeding finery.

Back at the hotel, we completed the check-out process and said goodbye to our American friends that had shared holiday time with us and were now making their own way home. The rest of us stopped off at Beaver Swamp and found a nice selection of dragonflies, including a number of Harlequin Darners and a male Common Whitetail. We also added Sachem and Small White to the butterfly list and had some wonderful fly-bys from mahogany-coloured Glossy Ibises. We then began our journey back to Philadelphia, grabbing some food on the way and sharing our lunch space with another pair of Eastern Phoebes that were nesting on an electrical fuse box (like you do!). On the way out, two Spotted Sandpipers graced the edge of Lake Nummy and we were then soon making our way up Route 55 and the airport.



## Day 10

Wednesday 17th May

We had been split over two flights for the overnight return to the UK, so we trust everyone had a safe onward journey and that you're all busily sorting through photographs and memories of a fabulous time in wonderful Cape May! Oh, and I'm going to subtitle this report – And all the while, Ospreys flew overhead!



Clockwise from top left: Prothonotary Warbler, Piping Plover, Horseshoe Crabs, Eastern Towhee



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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		May 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mute Swan - I	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		2						2	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>					1				
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>		2							
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>		5							1
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>				3	1		1	2	
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1							
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>				1	1	1	2	2	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>		3		H	H		H	1	
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus crepitans</i>				H+1	H			H	H
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>						1			
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	2	1	6	✓		5			1
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1		✓	✓			
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>			40+	3+	✓	✓		✓	✓
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		3	2	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	2+
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>			2						
Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>		4							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			3	8	✓	6+		2	3+
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				1					
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>						1			1
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						1			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓					10+	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			1		✓	✓			1
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>			15			15			
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		3	10+	10+	✓	✓		✓	✓
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>					6+				
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>			✓	50+	✓	✓		✓	✓
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>			6+		✓	✓	✓		✓
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		1			1				2
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>		1						1	
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		1			✓	✓		1	1
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		✓	4	4+					
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		1	1	2	✓	✓			✓
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>		✓			✓	✓			
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	1	1				8			
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		1		10+				1	
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		1	✓	✓				✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
American Herring Gull	<i>Larus smithsonianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		1		1					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			1						2
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	2		6+						1
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		3+	2+						2+
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			2						1
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		2	1				2	1	2+
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	2	15+	✓		✓				✓
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>			3						
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>		✓				6	60+		5
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			2	1		1			15+
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					2				
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>			1						
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	1	3	2		1	3	3+		1
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		1			1		1		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1	1		1	2	2			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1	6+	2+	✓	✓			✓
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>		1							
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>			1				1		
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>				1					
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>		2		2	3				
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>		1					1	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓	✓	2		1		3+	2	2+
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>		1							
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>		H	4		✓	✓	2	✓	✓
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>				1	1	1			
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>		1							1
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		1		2					
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			1						
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>									1
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>								3	2
Eastern Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>		1		H	H		✓	✓	✓
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>								H+2	H
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>								1	
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>			1	2	2	1	3+	2	2+
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓	H	H	✓	✓
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>				1	✓	2	H	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2023								
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Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>		2					1		
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>			2			✓			12
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carolina Chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		3+							
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>			1		1				
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>				2					
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	H						2		
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliopitila caerulea</i>		3+		✓	✓	H	H	✓	✓
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>		1			2				
Grey Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>		1			1		1		1
Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	1		1	2	1		2+	6+	2
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>				H	H			2	
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>					1				
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>			✓	✓			3+		3
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>		✓	H	✓			✓	✓	✓
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>		1				1			
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		1							
Seaside Sparrow	<i>Ammospiza maritima</i>				10+					
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>				3					
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>			1	H		H			H
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>			✓			✓			
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>		3				2			H
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>		4				2	1		
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>		1	1		✓	2	1	H	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2023								
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Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>			10+	✓	✓				
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>				✓	H			✓	H
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>				H+1					
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>				1					
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>		✓		1	2				
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>		H+1		✓				H+2	H
Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>					1				
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	H		✓
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>				2				H	H
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>		H			1				
Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>		2							
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>		✓		H	✓			✓	
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>					2				
American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>			2			1	H		
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>									
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>		1		H	✓	✓			
Pine Warbler	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>		1		H	H			H+1	✓
Myrtle Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	H	✓	✓
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>				H+1	H			H	H
Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>		1	H			H+1	H	H	H
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>					1				
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>					2+				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>					1				
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Other vertebrates

		May 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mammals										
Common Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	D				D			D	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>						✓	✓		✓
Reptiles										
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>						✓	✓		
Common Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>				✓					✓
Diamondback Terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>				✓	✓			✓	
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Red-bellied Turtle	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>							✓	✓	✓
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>							✓		

		May 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>							✓		
Northern Watersnake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>								✓	✓
<b>Amphibians</b>										
Green Frog	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>		H	H				✓	H	
American Bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>			H		✓		✓	H	
Southern Grey Treefrog	<i>Dryophytes chrysoscelis</i>				H					
Northern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris crepitans</i>				H			H		
Fowler's Toad	<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>						✓		✓	

## Butterflies

		May 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>									✓
Spicebush Swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>									✓
Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>							✓		
Henry's Elfin	<i>Callophrys henrici</i>					✓				
Red-banded Hairstreak	<i>Calycopis secrops</i>				✓			✓		
Atlantic (Holly) Azure	<i>Celastrina 'idella'</i>				✓	✓			✓	
Eastern Tailed Blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>			✓	✓			✓		
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>							✓		
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>							✓		
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>			✓			✓		✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓			✓	✓		
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>						✓			
Red-spotted Purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>								✓	
Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>							✓		
Appalachian Brown	<i>Satyrodes appalachia</i>									✓
Horace's Duskywing	<i>Erynnis horatius</i>				✓	✓				
Zabulon Skipper	<i>Poanes zabulon</i>					✓		✓		
Sachem	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>									✓

## Damselfs & Dragonflies

		May 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ebony Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>				✓					
Seepage Dancer	<i>Argia bipunctulata</i>								✓	
Fragile Forktail	<i>Ischnura posita</i>							✓		
Rambur's Forktail	<i>Ischnura ramburii</i>			✓				✓		
Lilypad Forktail	<i>Ischnura kellicotti</i>							✓		
Familiar Bluet	<i>Enallagma civile</i>			✓			✓	✓		
Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>							✓		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023								
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Harlequin Darner	<i>Gomphaeschna furcillata</i>				✓					✓
Lancet Clubtail	<i>Gomphus exilis</i>				✓					
Mantled Baskettail	<i>Epethica semiaquea</i>				✓			✓	✓	
Common Whitetail	<i>Plathemis lydia</i>			✓					✓	✓
Blue Corporal	<i>Ladona deplanata</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓
Eastern Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>			✓						

## Others

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023								
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
American Dog Tick	<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>								✓	
Deer Tick (Black-legged Tick)	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>								✓	