# Canada

# **Point Pelee and Michigan**

9-24 May 2004

Participants:
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**Black-throated Blue Warbler** 

**Leader: Dave Milsom** 

**<u>Day 1:</u>** Due to an aircraft fault, the flight from Gatwick was delayed.

<u>Day 2:</u> The group arrived 07.00 on Monday so fortunately, very little birding time had been lost. To maximise birding time for the rest of the day, we then drove straight to Rondeau Provincial Park, an hour east of Point Pelee, where we were greeted by beautiful weather and great birding. The Bennett Trail was alive with warblers and other migrants, low down in fairly leafless shrubs, bushes and trees. Superb views were obtained of Northern Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Palm, up to 12 Black-and-white and two Prothonotary Warblers, and both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes. A female Hooded Warbler on the Spicebush Trail, several woodpeckers including a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches and a Rusty Blackbird were other highlights. Later we visited Blenheim Sewage Lagoons to find late-migrating ducks, a Stilt Sandpiper, Pied-billed and two Horned Grebes.

<u>Day 3:</u> We left our Chatham hotel early and headed for Point Pelee. Many birds had arrived overnight so we rushed into Tilden's Woods where we encountered a large number of birds, including a male Cooper's Hawk exchanging duties with a female on the nest, a Merlin, Cape May and Tennessee Warblers and two early Blackpoll Warblers, Next, we visited the famous "Tip" where we discovered some rarities with a Grasshopper Sparrow and a Prairie Warbler both seen well along the west beach, followed by fleeting views of Black-billed Cuckoo and a Henslow's Sparrow which we surrounded, only for it to completely disappear! Soon after, we had good looks at an Orange-crowned warbler. At night we again had dinner at a fine little Irish pub situated right next door to our hotel. The fish and chips were excellent!

<u>Day 4:</u> A full day at Pelee with some interesting reverse migration off the Tip, including a Dickcissel. There was also some fine raptor movement including a Northern Goshawk flying over Post Woods, a Peregrine and an Osprey whilst an Eastern Screech-owl was seen well through telescopes in a heavily foliated apple tree. Several

new species of warbler were seen including our only Cerulean Warbler of the tour on the Woodland Nature Trail, a female Mourning Warbler behind the train station, and a pair of Yellow-breasted Chats at De Laurier. Most of the group also enjoyed superb views of a Henslow's Sparrow on the west beach. The weather again was hot and sunny, so we headed to Wheatley Provincial Park after dinner to search (in vain) for a Harris' Sparrow, and at dusk to enjoy displaying American Woodcock. The latter put on a fabulous show at campsite # 104.

<u>Day 5:</u> Another lovely day at Point Pelee. Birding was good but we worked hard for new species, finding a cooperative Olive-sided Flycatcher on a dead snag over the water on the Woodland Trail, two Canada Warblers on the Redbud trail, a pair of Virginia Rails at the marsh, and a Black-crowned Night-heron near Hillman's Marsh. The shorebird reserve here produced our only Pectoral Sandpiper of the trip. The most exciting birding was reserved for the evening however, when we visited St Clair National Wildlife Refuge. Here new birds were found included an adult and two young Great Horned Owls, two Least Bitterns, a vocal Yellow-headed Blackbird, Sora, many Marsh Wrens and calling American Bitterns.

<u>Day 6:</u> Point Pelee had been very busy with people on the Thursday so today we opted to return to Rondeau which was a very successful decision! We had the South Point Trail virtually to ourselves and quickly found some excellent birds including a Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a Laughing Gull on the beach and a singing Yellow-throated Vireo followed by the best bird of the day, a male Yellow-throated Warbler. On the Spicebush Trail a male Kentucky Warbler gave brief but clear views. Harrison Avenue was also good but the heat finally caused the afternoon birding to be slow so we watched the feeders for a time. Then we went off to Blenheim Lagoons again but this was also quiet.

<u>Day 7:</u> A 05.00 start to Detroit, where we spent almost an hour signing papers before being allowed to head north into Michigan. Reaching Whitefish Point about 15.30, we were enthralled to see so many birds visiting the feeders there on this cool day. Highlights were a male Dickcissel, Clay-coloured and American Tree Sparrows, a Dark-eyed Junco, female Purple Finch and five Evening Grosbeaks. Meanwhile overhead there was quite a raptor passage with an adult Golden Eagle and Broad-winged and Rough-legged Hawks. A Ruffed Grouse by roadside was our only new species of the evening as no owls were found or banded so we "hit the sack" a tired but contented group.

<u>Day 8:</u> An early morning 'seawatch' at the point was windy so few birds were seen except for several Common Loons, White-winged Scoters, Red-necked Grebes, and our first Greater Scaup. We were soon heading for Seney but stopped first for a great cooked breakfast at Timberland Charlie's in Newberry. On the Driggs Road section of the huge Seney National Wildlife Area, we temporarily lost two of our group when the proposed parallel line (to flush grouse) disappeared but 21 Sharp-tailed Grouse were eventually seen as well as Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, Vesper Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds. On the wildlife drive through Seney we enjoyed some good looks at Hooded Mergansers, Trumpeter Swans and other waterfowl.

<u>Day 9:</u> An early start searching for Gray Jay and Black-backed Woodpecker proved fruitless but our luck changed when a young male Spruce Grouse was spotted by the side of Vermilion Road. After photos were taken, we shortly afterwards encountered an American Bittern running along the road next to a marsh! We then continued to the beach where we enjoyed superb views of a pair of Piping Plovers. The rest of the day was fairly uneventful until we hit the beach at Whitefish Point after heavy rains had ceased. Birds were "everywhere": raptors, shorebirds, ducks, passerines. It was a wonderful hour spent here.

<u>Day 10:</u> For the second year in succession, the "can't miss" Gray Jays at Hulbert failed to appear. The only compensation were Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker, with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Evening Grosbeaks at a nearby feeder. Another fine breakfast was followed by great views of Upland Sandpipers and three more Sharp-tailed Grouse at Raco Airfield but alas no Pileated Woodpecker. Pine Siskins were seen in the village before we drove off to Grayling. Soon after reaching the "reserve", we

encountered a singing male Kirtland's Warbler, which eventually gave all the group very good looks. At our hotel in the evening, Wild Turkeys strutted around the feeders and White-tailed Deer ambled in for a feed.

<u>Day 11:</u> Off to Tawas Point in Saginaw Bay where the weather was fine. Our first steps down the trail looked ominous but suddenly there were warblers "dripping" from the bushes. Even though the point had been severed by storms, much good habitat was still available. Best find was a singing Western Meadowlark near the lighthouse. The early start enabled us to leave Michigan prior to some nasty tornadoes, which hit the state in the late afternoon. We even had time to bird in Windsor but our search for Tufted Titmouse proved fruitless. We arrived at Adams Motel in Kingsville for 3 nights and enjoyed dinner at the Aragon Restaurant in town.

<u>Day 12:</u> The tip at Point Pelee was quiet so we headed towards Rondeau, first stopping at Hillman's where we viewed Black Duck and Semipalmated Sandpipers and then at Blenheim Lagoons where we found a pair of gorgeous Wilson's Phalaropes. At Rondeau, we had super photographic opportunities for Prothonotary Warbler as well as our first Acadian Flycatcher along Harrison Road. On our way back to Kingsville, we were surprised to find a Baird's Sandpiper and not one but three Cattle Egrets!

<u>Day 13:</u> As usual, when the weather has been bad, the birding is great! Overnight torrential rains caused the Point Pelee area to be flooded (the golf course looked like a lake) so we headed straight to the tip. Within minutes, two Connecticut, three Mourning and a female Golden-winged Warbler, a Gray-cheeked Thrush and several cuckoos, flycatchers and vireos had been seen. We flagged the train down as we exited Sparrow Field just as another downpour was beginning. At the Visitor Centre we examined a Common Nighthawk on a limb. A great morning to end our stay at Point Pelee!

**Day 14:** We left Adams early for Long Point, where we searched first for Pileated Woodpecker. After a long wait, two of the group saw a large "Black-type" woodpecker fly across the road but that was it. Our intended walk into Backus Woods for Cerulean and Hooded Warblers was aborted when the mosquitoes drove us out! Jungle juice was swirling around our heads but there were just too many of them! Old Cut Banding Station was quiet but Big Creek Marsh gave good views of Black Tern, Pied-billed Grebe and Marsh Wrens. An after-lunch stop in Big Creek woods was worthwhile for an adult Eastern Screech-owl with three young. The Walsingham Woods were full of mosquitoes so we again left after being visited by an adult Red-shouldered Hawk. After dinner, we took the 1/4 Line to a spot where four Whip-poor-wills responded well to the tape!

<u>Day15:</u> Some hotline spots were en-route to Niagara so we first stopped at Jarvis Lagoons, where a co-operative Black-necked Stilt was well seen. At Rock Point, the Tricoloured Heron had left so we headed to Niagra Falls. After photos had been taken, we drove to Toronto for our final stop on our fifth Great Lake: Ontario. Here at Sir Sam Smith Park the weather had turned very cool. Those who braved the hike to the end of the spit were rewarded with a Surf Scoter, four Long-tailed Ducks and two Ruddy Turnstones. Then Bob spotted a gull offshore: a first-summer Glaucous! This proved to be the record-breaking bird of this tour, the 237<sup>th</sup> species. Evening departure back to the UK.

## **Day 16:** Morning arrival back in the UK

Overall, the weather had been very warm until the rains of the final few days; we had seen a total of 36 wood warblers and visited some exceptionally rich migrant traps along the Great Lakes.

#### **BIRDS**

- 1 Great Northern Diver Gavia immer
- 2 Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*
- 3 Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*
- 4 Red-necked Grebe Podiceps grisegena
- 5 Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*
- 6 Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias
- 7 Great White Egret Ardea alba
- 8 Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis
- 9 Green Heron Butorides virescens
- 10 Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax
- 11 Least Bittern Ixobrychus exilis
- 12 American Bittern Botaurus lentiginosus
- 13 Trumpeter Swan Cygnus buccinator
- 14 Mute Swan Cynus olor
- 15 Canada Goose Branta canadensis
- 16 Wood Duck Aix sponsa
- 17 American Wigeon Aix americana
- 18 Gadwall *Anas strepera*
- 19 Green-winged Teal Anas crecca
- 20 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
- 21 Black Duck Anas rubripes
- 22 Blue-winged Teal Anas discors
- 23 Northern Shoveler Anas clypeata
- 24 Canvasback Aythya americana
- 25 Redhead Anas americana
- 26 Ring-necked Duck Anas collaris
- 27 Greater Scaup Aythya marila
- 28 Lesser Scaup Anas affinis
- 29 Black Scoter Melanitta nigra
- 30 Surf Scoter Melanitta perspicillata
- 31 White-winged Scoter Melanitta fusca
- 32 Common Goldeneye Bucephala clangula
- 33 Bufflehead Bucephala Albeola
- 34 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*
- 35 Ruddy Duck Oxyura jamaicensis
- 36 Hooded Merganser Lophodytes cucullatus
- 37 Red-breasted Merganser Mergus serrator
- 38 Common Merganser Mergus merganser
- 39 Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura
- 40 Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos
- 41 Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus
- 42 Northern Harrier Circus cyaneus
- 43 Northern Goshawk Accipiter gentilis
- 44 Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*
- 45 Cooper's Hawk Accipiter cooperii
- 46 Red-shouldered Hawk Buteo lineatus
- 47 Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus
- 48 Rough-legged Hawk Buteo lagopus
- 49 Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis
- 50 Osprey Pandion haliaetus

- 51 American Kestrel Falco sparverius
- 52 Merlin Falco columbarius
- 53 Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus
- 54 Ruffed Grouse Bonasa umbellus
- 55 Spruce Grouse Falcipennis canadensis
- 56 Sharp-tailed Grouse Tympanuchus phasianellus
- 57 Ring-necked Pheasant Phasianus colchicus
- 58 Wild Turkey Meleagris gallopavo
- 59 Virginia Rail Rallus limicola
- 60 Sora Rail Porzana carolina
- 61 Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus
- 62 American Coot Fulica americana
- 63 Sandhill Crane Grus canadensis
- 64 Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola
- 65 Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus
- 66 Killdeer Charadrius vociferus
- 67 Piping Plover Charadrius melodus
- 68 American Woodcock Scolopax minor
- 69 Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica
- 70 Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda
- 71 Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca
- 72 Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes
- 73 Solitary Sandpiper Tringa solitaria
- 74 Spotted Sandpiper Actitis macularia
- 75 Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus
- 76 Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres
- 77 Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus hendersonii
- 78 Sanderling Calidris alba
- 79 Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla
- 80 Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla
- 81 White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis
- 82 Baird's Sandpiper Calidris bairdii
- 83 Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos
- 84 Dunlin Calidris alpina
- 85 Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus
- 86 Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
- 87 Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis
- 88 American Herring Gull Larus smithsonianus
- 89 Glaucous Gull Larus hyperboreus
- 90 Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus
- 91 Bonaparte's Gull Larus philadelphia
- 92 Laughing Gull Larus atricilla
- 93 Caspian Tern Sterna caspia
- 94 Common Tern Sterna hirundo
- 95 Forster's Tern Sterna forsteri
- 96 Black Tern Chlidonias niger
- 97 Feral Pigeon Columba livia
- 98 Mourning Dove Zenaida macroura
- 99 Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus
- 100 Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus
- 101 Eastern Screech-owl Otus asio

- 102 Great Horned Owl Bubo virginianus
- 103 Common Nighthawk Chordeiles minor
- 104 Whip-poor-will Caprimulgus vociferus
- 105 Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica
- 106 Ruby-throated Hummingbird Archilochus colubris
- 107 Belted Kingfisher Ceryle halcyon
- 108 Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus
- 109 Red-bellied Woodpecker Melanerpes carolinus
- 110 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius
- 111 Downy Woodpecker Picoides pubescens
- 112 Hairy Woodpecker Picoides villosus
- 113 Northern Flicker Colaptes auratus
- 114 Pileated Woodpecker Dryocopus pileatus
- 115 Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi
- 116 Eastern Wood-pewee Contopus virens
- 117 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Empidonax flaviventris
- 118 Acadian Flycatcher Empidonax virescens
- 119 Alder Flycatcher Empidonax alnorum
- 120 Willow Flycatcher Empidonax traillii
- 121 Least Flycatcher Empidonax minimus
- 122 Eastern Phoebe Sayornis phoebe
- 123 Great Crested Flycatcher Myiarchus crinitus
- 124 Eastern Kingbird Tyrannus tyrannus
- 125 Horned Lark Eremophila alpestris
- 126 Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica
- 127 Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*
- 128 Purple Martin Progne subis
- 129 Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx serripennis
- 130 Sand Martin Riparia riparia
- 131 Cliff Swallow Petrochelidon pyrrhonata
- 132 Buff-bellied Pipit Anthus rubescens
- 133 Cedar Waxwing Bombycilla cedrorum
- 134 Marsh Wren Cistothorus palustris
- 135 Carolina Wren Thryothorus ludovicianus
- 136 Winter Wren Troglodytes troglodytes
- 137 House Wren Troglodytes aedon
- 138 Gray Catbird Dumetella carolinensis
- 139 Northern Mockingbird Mimus polyglottos
- 140 Brown Thrasher Toxostoma rufum
- 141 Eastern Bluebird Sialia sialis
- 142 Veery Catharus fuscescens
- 143 Gray-cheeked Thrush Catharus minimus
- 144 Swainson's Thrush Catharus ustulatus
- 145 Hermit Thrush Catharus guttatus
- 146 Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina
- 147 American Robin Turdus migratorius
- 148 Ruby-crowned Kinglet Regulus calendula
- 149 Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus* satrapa
- 150 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Polioptila caerulea
- 151 Black-capped Chickadee Parus atricapillus
- 152 Tufted Titmouse Parus bicolor

- 153 Red-breasted Nuthatch Sitta canadensis
- 154 White-breasted Nuthatch Sitta carolinensis
- 155 Blue Jay Cyanocitta cristata
- 156 American Crow Corvus brachyrhynchos
- 157 Common Raven Corvus corax
- 158 Common Starling Sturnus vulgaris
- 159 White-eyed Vireo Vireo griseus
- 160 Blue-headed Vireo Vireo solitarius
- 161 Yellow-throated Vireo Vireo flavifrons
- 162 Philadelphia Vireo Vireo philadelphicus
- 163 Red-eyed Vireo Vireo olivaceus
- 164 Eastern Warbling Vireo Vireo gilvus
- 165 Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora pinus
- 166 Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera
- 167 Tennessee Warbler Vermivora peregrina
- 168 Orange-crowned Warbler Vermivora celata
- 169 Nashville Warbler Vermivora ruficapilla
- 170 Northern Parula Parula americana
- 171 Yellow Warbler Dendroica petechia
- 172 Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica
- 173 Magnolia Warbler Dendroica magnolia
- 174 Cape May Warbler Dendroica tigrina
- 175 Black-throated Warbler Dendroica caerulescens
- 176 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler Dendroica coronata
- 177 Black-throated Green Warbler Dendroica virens
- 178 Blackburnian Warbler Dendroica fusca
- 179 Pine Warbler Dendroica pinus
- 180 Yellow-throated Warbler Dendroica dominica
- 181 Kirtland's Warbler Dendroica kirtlandii
- 182 Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor
- 183 Palm Warbler Dendroica palmarum
- 184 Bay-breasted Warbler Dendroica castanea
- 185 Blackpoll Warbler Dendroica striata
- 186 Cerulean Warbler Dendroica cerulea
- 187 Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia
- 188 American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla
- 189 Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea
- 190 Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus
- 191 Northern Waterthrush Seiurus noveboracensis
- 192 Louisiana Waterthrush Seiurus motacilla
- 193 Kentucky Warbler Oporornis formosus
- 194 Connecticut Warbler Oporornis agilis
- 195 Mourning Warbler Oporornis philadelphia
- 196 Common Yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas
- 197 Hooded Warbler Wilsonia citrina
- 198 Wilson's Warbler Wilsonia pusilla
- 199 Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis
- 200 Yellow-breasted Chat Icteria virens
- 201 Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea
- 202 Song Sparrow Melospiza melodia
- 203 Lincoln's Sparrow Melospiza lincolnii

- 204 Swamp Sparrow Melospiza georgiana
- 205 White-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia leucophrys
- 206 White-throated Sparrow Zonotrichia albicollis
- 207 Dark-eyed Junco Junco hyemalis
- 208 Savannah Sparrow Passerculus sandwichensis
- 209 Henslow's Sparrow Ammodramus henslowii
- 210 Grasshopper sparrow Ammodramus savannarum
- 211 American Tree Sparrow Spizella arborea
- 212 Chipping Sparrow Spizella passerina
- 213 Clay-coloured Sparrow Spizella pallida
- 214 Field Sparrow Spizella pusilla
- 215 Vesper Sparrow Pooecetes gramineus
- 216 Eastern Towhee Pipilo erythrophthalmus
- 217 Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
- 218 Evening Grosbeak Coccothraustes vespertinus
- 219 Northern Cardinal Cardinalis cardinalis
- 220 Indigo Bunting Passerina cyanea
- 221 Baltimore Oriole Icterus galbula
- 222 Orchard Oriole Icterus spurius
- 223 Purple Finch Carpodacus purpureus
- 224 House Finch Carpodacus mexicanus
- 225 Pine Siskin Carduelis pinus
- 226 American Goldfinch Carduelis tristis
- 227 Yellow-headed Blackbird Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
- 228 Red-winged Blackbird Agelaius phoeniceus
- 229 Eastern Meadowlark Sturnella magna
- 230 Western Meadowlark Sturnella neglecta
- 231 Common Grackle Quiscalus quiscula
- 232 Brewer's Blackbird Euphagus cyanocephalus
- 233 Rusty Blackbird Euphagus carolinus
- 234 Brown-headed Cowbird Molothrus ater
- 235 Bobolink Dolichonyx oryzivorus
- 236 Dickcissel Spiza americana
- 237 House Sparrow Passer domesticus

#### **MAMMALS**

Cottontail Rabbit Eastern Chipmunk Moose Gray (Black ) Squirrel Pine Marten Jackrabbit Red Squirrel Raccoon Water Vole Woodland Vole Red Fox Covote

Groundhog Mink 13-lined Ground Squirrel White-tailed Deer

Muskrat

#### **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

Painted Turtle **Bullfrog** Gray Tree-frog **Chorus Frog** Garter Snake **Snapping Turtle** Fox Snake Five-lined Skink American Toad

Northern Leopard Frog Ribbon Snake

#### **DRAGONFLIES**

Common Green Darner Black Saddlebags 12-spot Skimmer Sedge Sprite

### **BUTTERFLIES**

Red Admiral Black Swallowtail Juvenal's Duskywing Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Cabbage White Orange Sulphur Mourning Cloak Pink-edged Sulphur Purplish Copper American Painted Lady **Question Mark** Common Sootywing Spring Azure

#### WILDFLOWERS

Garlic Mustard Herb Robert Lyre-leaved Rock Cress Large Flowered Trillium **Sweet Cicely** Silverweed Columbine Downy Wood Mint Labrador Tea Blue Phlox Solomon's Seal Poison Ivv Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus Fly Honeysuckle False Solomon's Seal Bunchberry Mayapple Starry False Solomon's Seal Virginia Waterleaf **Trailing Arbutus** Bugle Large Flowered Bellwort Skunk Cabbage Wood Violet Marsh Fern Marsh Marigold Jack-in-the-Pulpit Sensitive Fern Wild Geranium Downy Yellow Violet Polypody Fern British Soldiers Lichen Hoary Puccoon Sword Fern Old Man's Beard Wild Gooseberry Maidenhair Fern Caribou Lichen