

## Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

### Bird Week 2016

(Scroll to end for Summary)

**Friday, May 13, 2016**, Head of Tide Preserve, 6:45-7:45 am. Cool, sunny after an all-night rain (Just Cloe prelim to Bird Week)

#### 31 bird species

Song sparrow

Chipping sparrow

White-throated sparrow- abund.

Common yellow-throat- abund.

White-breasted nuthatch

Red-breasted nuthatch

Ovenbird- abund.

Blue-headed vireo

N. cardinal

Blackthroated green warbler- abund.

Black and white warbler- abund.

Chestnut-sided warbler- abund.

N. parula warbler

Amer. Redstart

Prairie warbler

Nashville warbler

Black-capped chickadee

Tufted titmouse

Veery

Hermit thrush

Osprey

Amer. Goldfinch

Great blue heron

Gull spp.

Amer. Crow

Mourning dove

Least fly-catcher

Gray catbird

Tree swallow

Yellow-bellied sapsucker

Pileated woodpecker

Blooming:

Pussy toes

Apple trees

Bluets

Shadbush

Dandelion

**Saturday, May 14, 2016**. Sears Island, 7:00 am

20 Participants

Weather: sunny morning right after an early morning T-storm

30 bird species for the day:

3 white-winged scoters  
Blackburnian warbler  
Nashville warbler  
Wilson's warbler  
Common yellowthroat- abund.  
Black-throated green warbler- abund.  
Black and white warbler- abund.  
N. parula  
Magnolia warbler  
Chestnut-sided warbler  
Yellow warbler  
Amer. redstart  
Ovenbird- abund.  
Blue-headed vireo  
Merlin  
Gray catbird  
Pileated wpr  
Blue jay  
Common loon  
Black-capped chickadee  
Amer. Goldfinch  
Brown thrasher  
Osprey  
White-throated sparrow  
Ruby-throated hummingbird

**Sat., May 14, 2016, 10:00 am, co-leader Aleta McKeage**

11 Participants  
Birds added to today's total:  
Bald eagle  
Amer. Robin  
Hermit thrush  
Double-crested cormorant  
Song sparrow

**Sun., May 15, 2016, Hills to Sea Trail from Belfast Area Children's Center to the Poland Road, 7:00 -9:30 am. Weather chilly and sunny.**

5 Participants  
4 frog species:  
pickerel, peeper, gray treefrog, green

Birds: 23 species

Red-wing blackbird  
Common grackle  
Canada goose  
Amer. Robin  
Ovenbird- abund.

Yellow-rumped warbler  
Black and white warbler- abund.  
Black-throated green warbler- abund.  
N. parula warbler-abund.  
Common yellowthroat- abund.  
Northern waterthrush  
Blue-headed vireo  
Chipping sparrow  
Pileated wpr  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Blue jay  
Mourning dove  
Amer. Crow  
Black-capped chickadee  
Winter wren  
Amer. goldfinch  
Common loon  
Great-crested flycatcher

**Monday, May 16**, no one showed. It was COLD with high winds at the venue, St. Clair Preserve, Knights Pond, Northport. Trail along SW shore of Knights Pond.

**Tuesday, May 17**, 7:00 am McLellan-Poor Preserve, Belfast. 6 people.  
Cold and sunny.

19 bird species

warblers:

Black-throated green  
Black-throated blue  
Black and white  
Magnolia  
Common yellowthroat  
Northern parula  
Ovenbird

Rooster ☺

Winter wren  
Red-eyed vireo  
Blue-headed vireo  
Red-breasted nuthatch  
Blue jay  
Am. Crow  
Am. Goldfinch  
Hermit thrush  
Black-capped chickadee  
Ruby-throated hummingbird  
Purple finch

**Wed., May 18**, 7:00 am, Ducktrap River Trail; weather mild and sunny  
Kristen Lindquist and Cloe's annual bird walk  
10 people

painted trillium in bloom

34 bird species

Phoebe

Winter wren

Wood thrush

Hermit thrush

warblers:

Ovenbird

Northern parula

Chestnut-sided

Black-throated green

Black-throated blue

Common yellowthroat

Black and white

Blackburnian

Magnolia

Am. Redstart

Yellow-rumped

Blue-headed vireo

Cardinal

Am. Goldfinch

Tufted titmouse

White-throated sparrow

Blue jay

Osprey

Raven

Black-capped chickadee

Gray catbird

Yellow-bellied sapsucker

Purple finch

Golden-crowned kinglet

Am. Crow

Red-breasted nuthatch

Robin

Veery

Hairy woodpecker

Red-eyed vireo

**Thur., May 19, Head of Tide Preserve, 7:00am**

10 people. Weather perfect temp and sunny.

34 bird species

Am. crow

No. cardinal

Turkey

Red-eyed vireo

Blue-headed vireo

Warblers:

Chestnut-sided  
No. parula  
Black-throated blue  
Black-throated green  
Ovenbird  
Am. Redstart  
Prairie  
Common yellowthroat  
Black and white  
Yellow-rumped  
magnolia

Chipping sparrow  
White-throated sparrow  
Great crested flycatcher  
Flicker  
Gray catbird  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Blue jay  
White-breasted nuthatch  
Black-capped chickadee  
Osprey  
Downy woodpecker  
Mourning dove  
Veery  
Hermit thrush  
Least flycatcher  
Am. Goldfinch  
Am. Robin  
Song sparrow

**Thur., May 19, Hills to Sea Trail, 10:30 am-1:00 pm**  
32 people. Weather still perfect.

from the Belfast Children's Center to Oak Hill Road  
mourning cloak butterflies, sweet violets in bloom  
gray treefrogs

32 bird species

warblers:  
Northern waterthrush  
Common yellowthroat  
Black-throated green  
Chestnut-sided  
Ovenbird  
Pine  
No. parula  
Black-throated blue  
Blackburnian  
Magnolia

Yellow-rumped  
Prairie  
Black and white  
Nashville  
Canada  
Yellow

Tree swallow  
Kingfisher  
Hooded merganser  
Red-eyed vireo  
Blue-headed vireo  
Hairy woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Purple finch  
Pileated woodpecker  
Broad-winged hawk  
Veery  
Rose-breasted grosbeak  
Gray catbird  
Red-winged blackbird  
Winter wren  
Kestrel

**Friday, May 20, 2016, 7:00 am, Hawk-Fry Preserve, Swanville**

7 people

This morning was so mild and perfect, and nobody was in a rush. We lolled at Meadow Brook, and did not finish our walk until 11:30.

lady-slipper in bud, painted trillium, rhodora in bloom.

Green frogs

35 bird species

Wood thrush!

Warblers:

Chestnut-sided

Black and white

Common yellowthroat

Ovenbirds galore

Black-throated blue

Black-throated green

Nashville

Northern parula

Magnolia

Canada

Ruffed grouse

Hermit thrush

Yellow-bellied sapsucker

Blue jay

Mourning dove

Rose-breasted grosbeak  
Am. Goldfinch  
Black-capped chickadee  
White-throated sparrow  
Flicker  
Veery  
Scarlet tanager  
Loon  
Hairy woodpecker  
Double-crested cormorant  
Great-crested flycatcher  
Tree swallow  
Red-winged blackbird  
American bittern  
Blue-headed vireo  
Great blue heron  
Wood duck  
Eastern kingbird  
Winter wren

**Saturday, May 20, Goose River** paddle/birding, 9:00-2:00.

13 people, 9 boats, 8 beaver dams to paddle over, and 2 capsizes.

36 bird species

Sora  
Red-winged blackbird  
Canada goose  
Turkey vulture

Warblers:

Yellow  
No. parula  
Common yellowthroat  
Chestnut-sided  
Black-throated green  
Black-throated blue  
Pine  
Ovenbird  
Magnolia  
Black and white

Black-capped chickadee  
Great blue heron  
Hairy woodpecker  
Am. Goldfinch  
Rose-breasted grosbeak  
Hermit thrush  
Veery  
Red-breasted nuthatch  
Blue jay

Mourning dove  
Eastern kingbird  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Brown-headed cowbird  
Swamp sparrow  
Osprey  
Bald eagle  
Tree swallow  
Flicker  
No. cardinal  
White-throated sparrow  
Gray catbird  
Common grackle

**Sat. evening, May 20, 2016, 7:30-9:00 pm.** Woodcock Celebration and Walk

Cloe's farm, Oak Hill Road, Swanville/Waldo

18 people

Mike Shannon gave an engaging educational program on the deck as we waited for dusk. Then we walked out into the hayfield and watched/listened to 3 woodcock in their amazing courtship Sky Dance. They started dancing on March 12, and have continued twice daily at dawn and dusk ever since!

**Sunday, May 22, 2016, 8:30 am,** Cloe's farm and Oak Hill Road

8 people of the "Wildwood Path"

gray tree frogs, spring peepers

Canada mayflower, Clintonia lily, enchanter's nightshade, starflower, jack-in-pulpit, several violet species, buttercup, dandelion, baneberry (both white and red), bluets blooming

47 bird species

Bobolink  
Barred owl  
Eastern phoebe  
Red-winged blackbird  
Savannah sparrow  
Song sparrow  
Chipping sparrow  
White-throated sparrow  
Am. bittern  
Am. crow  
Brown-headed cowbird  
Common raven  
Tree swallow  
Barn swallow  
Hairy woodpecker  
Pileated woodpecker  
No. cardinal  
Ruby-throated hummingbird  
Great-crested flycatcher  
American robin

Warblers:



Black and white  
Chestnut-sided  
No. parula  
Black-throated green  
Redstart  
Common yellowthroat  
Ovenbird

Red-eyed vireo  
Blue-headed vireo  
Alder flycatcher  
Black-capped chickadee  
Pine siskin  
Tufted titmouse  
White-breasted nuthatch  
Scarlet tanager  
Common grackle  
Flicker  
Winter wren  
Hermit thrush  
Veery  
Am. goldfinch  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Purple finch  
Mourning dove  
Blue jay  
Turkey  
Woodcock

### **Summary:**

In this 10-day stretch of "Bird Week," we found a total of 82 species of birds. We did not visit any saltwater habitats, so one can only imagine how many more species could be added around Belfast Bay and Northern Penobscot Bay.

Biggest surprise was listening to a Wood Thrush's haunting, fluting song. They are in serious decline, due to loss of habitat in the eastern US and Central America, their migratory homes, and also to cowbird nest parasitism at the edges of fragmenting habitat, and to acid rain's depletion of their invertebrate prey. They have almost disappeared from our area in the last decade. It was exciting and hopeful to hear them singing at the Hauk-Fry Tract of Meadow Brook Preserve on Oak Hill Road in Swanville, and at the Ducktrap River Preserve in Lincolnville, both of which are Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserves.

Another surprise was at the put-in to the Goose River paddle trip at Swan Lake dam behind Swan Lake Grocery in Swanville. As we were noisily getting underway, we heard a Sora, its descending chatter and loud "koo-EE!" from where it hid in tall shoreline grasses. The Sora is an uncommon summer migrant in wet marshes, about the size of a quail.

Woodcock have been doing their courtship Sky Dance at Cloe and David's farm since March 12, at dawn and at dusk every day. They were still dancing on May 21 for the Woodcock Walk. Even though young woodcock have been seen in the woods, some adults are still courting this late.

Birders were in general agreement that Ovenbirds, a warbler that looks like a miniature thrush, are alive and well, courting and nesting along trails and the river. They seem to be everywhere. Good news.

Besides missing seabirds, whose habitats were not included in our walks (except a look from the Sears Island causeway), we also missed seeing Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Towhees, and indigo Buntings, iconic species of spring and summer in this area. Neither a Red-tailed Hawk, nor a Red-shouldered, nor Cooper's nor Sharp-shinned: they are here but we didn't see them. Nor did we see Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a newcomer to Maine rapidly gaining in numbers. But 82 species is not a bad total.

Lists for each location are posted on the Belfast bay Watershed Coalition website  
[www.belfastbaywatershed.org](http://www.belfastbaywatershed.org)