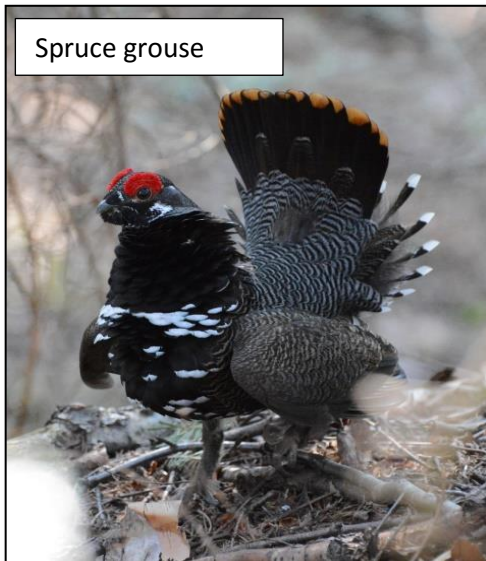


# Birdathon 2016

by Geoff Carpentier

Well my 2016 Birdathon is now in the record books literally. I found 174 species of birds, while my group found 175! This was a personal single day high for me. Peter Hogenbirk and I did the same challenging route as last year, starting in Algonquin Provincial Park about 5 p.m. on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We birded primarily the Spruce Bog Trail, Opeongo Road and Mizzy Lake Trail areas. After having some great success, particularly with Spruce Grouse, we tried for Saw-whet owl. Pete saw one but I missed it - darn! That would be my only miss for the entire trip.

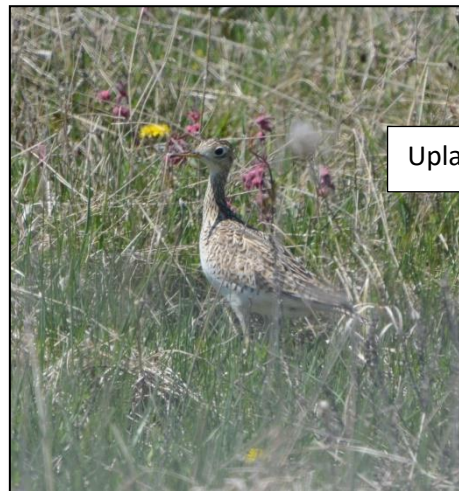


Spruce grouse

One interesting thing that happened was that we had seen Boreal Chickadee and Olive-sided Flycatcher about 2 hours before we officially started and when we went to record them, both were gone and neither was seen elsewhere during the adventure. From here we started a long night of searching the Carden Alvar near Kirkfield and myriad marshes and woodlands further south trying to find night birds. Almost everything we could hope for showed up and we even had four species of owl, missing only Great Horned Owl. Throughout the night we found many sparrows, a Mockingbird (our only one), Least Bittern and much more. As dawn broke on the 24<sup>th</sup>, we were at Darlington Provincial Park, and the Piping Plover was amongst our first finds. Shorebird pickings were slim, but we did add Whimbrel and

several ducks. Second Marsh produced many species of shorebirds and ducks aplenty. A quick diversion to Pete's house added Mourning Warbler and Red-bellied Woodpecker and then we went to Intrepid Park (former site of Camp X) in Oshawa to find the Acadian Flycatcher. Successful, we went next to Thickson's Woods and Point and added still more – mostly woodland birds and some swallows. At Cranberry Marsh a few more ducks rounded out this part of the adventure.

As the day progressed we moved off the Great Lakes shoreline and went inland. Stops at favourite haunts produced Hooded and Blue-winged Warblers and a few other "gap fillers". Nonquon lagoons beckoned next but were somewhat disappointing as only a handful of species were added. So off we went northward again and tackled the Carden Alvar in daylight this time. Lots of great birds here – Loggerhead Shrike, bluebirds, snipe, Upland Sandpiper and more. And it was



Upland Sandpiper

here that we ended our day with 175 species! Thanks to all who supported me and NDN with your generous pledges. I'm raised \$3256!

So what did we see? Well here's the list in random order):

- Swallow, Tree
- Jay, Blue
- Jay, Gray
- Crow, American
- Raven, Common
- Chickadee, Black-capped
- Creepers, Brown
- Nuthatch, Red-breasted
- Nuthatch, White-breasted
- Wren, House
- Wren, Marsh
- Wren, Sedge
- Wren, Winter
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
- Kinglet, Golden-crowned
- Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
- Bluebird, Eastern
- Robin, American
- Thrush, Hermit
- Thrush, Swainson's
- Thrush, Wood
- Vireo
- Catbird, Gray
- Mockingbird, Northern
- Thrasher, Brown
- Waxwing, Cedar
- Ovenbird
- Parula, Northern
- Redstart, American
- Warbler, Bay-breasted
- Warbler, Black-and-White
- Warbler, Blackburnian
- Warbler, Blackpoll
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue
- Warbler, Black-throated Green
- Warbler, Blue-winged
- Warbler, Cape May
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided
- Warbler, Golden-winged
- Warbler, Hooded

- Warbler, Magnolia
- Warbler, Mourning
- Warbler, Nashville
- Warbler, Pine
- Warbler, Tennessee
- Warbler, Wilson's
- Warbler, Yellow
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped
- Waterthrush, Northern
- Yellowthroat, Common
- Tanager, Scarlet
- Cardinal, Northern
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
- Bunting, Indigo
- Towhee, Eastern
- Sparrow, Chipping
- Sparrow, Clay-coloured
- Sparrow, Field
- Sparrow, Grasshopper
- Sparrow, Savannah
- Sparrow, Song
- Sparrow, Swamp
- Sparrow, Vesper
- Sparrow, White-crowned
- Sparrow, White-throated
- Blackbird, Red-winged
- Bobolink
- Cowbird, Brown-headed
- Grackle, Common
- Meadowlark, Eastern
- Oriole, Baltimore
- Oriole, Orchard
- Finch, House
- Finch, Purple
- Goldfinch, American
- Siskin, Pine
- Sparrow, House

- Species
- Loon, Common
- Loon, Red-throated
- Grebe, Pied-billed
- Cormorant, Double-crested
- Bittern, American
- Bittern, Least
- Heron, Great Blue
- Swan, Mute
- Swan, Trumpeter
- Goose, Canada
- Duck, American Black
- Duck, Wood
- Gadwall
- Mallard
- Pintail, Northern
- Shoveler, Northern
- Teal, Blue-winged
- Teal, Green-winged
- Wigeon, American
- Bufflehead
- Duck, Ring-necked
- Long-tailed Duck
- Merganser, Common
- Merganser, Hooded
- Merganser, Red-breasted
- Redhead
- Scaup, Lesser
- Vulture, Turkey
- Osprey
- Falcon, Peregrine
- Harrier, Northern
- Hawk, Broad-winged
- Hawk, Red-tailed
- Kestrel, American
- Grouse, Ruffed
- Grouse, Spruce
- Turkey, Wild
- Moorhen, Common
- Rail, Virginia
- Dowitcher, Short-billed
- Dunlin
- Killdeer
- Plover, Black-bellied
- Plover, Piping
- Plover, Semipalmated
- Sandpiper, Least
- Sandpiper, Semipalmated
- Spotted Sandpiper

- Sandpiper, Upland
- Snipe, Wilson's
- Turnstone, Ruddy
- Whimbrel
- Woodcock, American
- Yellowlegs, Lesser
- Gull, Bonaparte's
- Gull, Herring
- Gull, Little
- Gull, Ring-billed
- Tern, Black
- Tern, Caspian
- Tern, Common
- Dove, Mourning
- Pigeon, Rock
- Cuckoo, Black-billed
- Owl, Barred
- Owl, Eastern Screech
- Owl, Long-eared
- Owl, Northern Saw-whet
- Nighthawk, Common
- Whip-poor-will
- Swift, Chimney
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
- Kingfisher, Belted
- Flicker, Northern
- Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
- Woodpecker, Downy
- Woodpecker, Hairy
- Woodpecker, Pileated
- Woodpecker, Red-bellied
- Flycatcher, Acadian
- Flycatcher, Alder
- Flycatcher, Great-crested
- Flycatcher, Least
- Flycatcher, Willow
- Kingbird, Eastern
- Phoebe, Eastern
- Wood-Pewee, Eastern
- Shrike, Loggerhead
- Starling
- Vireo, Blue-headed
- Vireo, Red-eyed
- Vireo, Warbling
- Lark, Horned
- Martin, Purple
- Swallow, Bank
- Swallow, Barn
- Swallow, Cliff
- Swallow, Northern Rough-winged



Northern Parula

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