

Isles of Shoals Birding and Exploring with NH Audubon and the Shoals Marine Lab

Appledore Island
Sept. 3-5, 2018



Trip leaders were Rebecca Suomala and Doug Bechtel and the wonderful crew at the Shoals Marine Lab. Here's a reminder of just a few of the highlights.

The weather was beautiful with clear days, although amazingly hot especially for September. South winds were not great for migration but there were still birds coming into the nets at the banding station giving people a chance to see them up close and release them. Yellow-breasted Chat and Wilson's Warbler were a couple of highlights in the hand.

Our rarities were a Western Kingbird that interrupted Alexa's Fire & Water introduction upon our arrival, and a Dickcissel the next day. When he reviewed his photos after the trip, Victor discovered he had photographed a Lark Sparrow at the leach field. There was a nice variety of shorebirds in the swale. Dawn birding from the deck yielded many views of Cape May Warblers in both bright and dull plumage and a Merlin that gave close views as it flew over.

The boat trip around the islands (Lunging Is., Square Rock, White & Seavey Islands, the gut between Appledore and Smuttynose Is., and Duck Is.) was terrific with not only birds but Gray and Harbor Seals on Duck (who knew seals moaned) and the much hoped for American Oystercatchers.

Shoals Marine Lab staff presented island history, geology, island energy and water systems, and a saltwater swim in search of tide pool creatures to cool us down. We were treated to wonderful views of tunicates, tiny periwinkles (remember the miniature *littorina obtusatas* that bored holes in the seaweed bladders?) and other creatures through a microscope projected onto the wall, as well as views of our lobsters before we ate them!

And then the evening programs on terns and gulls – remember what the long call of the gull means? There were views in the scope of Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn with its rings for those who could keep their eyes open long enough.



I'm sure we won't forget the beautiful sunsets and the special send off from bander David Holmes who brought an adult Cedar Waxwing to the dock for all to see as we were loaded on the boat for departure. It was a perfect way to end the trip.

Thanks for being part of this great trip!
Doug, Becky and Diane DeLuca (in absentia)



Bird List

Sept. 3-5, 2018

Canada Goose

Mallard

Common Eider –large flock of 400+ birds at Duck Is.

White-winged Scoter – 2 flybys off White/Seavey Is.

Black Scoter – 1 in the swimming pool area all three days

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Rock Pigeon – at the dock

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER – 3 on Duck Is., 4 flew by Appledore

Black-bellied Plover – 1 heard by Becky, 1 on Duck Is.

Semipalmated Plover

Ruddy Turnstone – 2 seen by a few of us at the north end of the island; 1 on Lunging Is.; 1 on Duck Is.

Sanderling – 1 flyby on the boat trip near Lunging Is.

Least Sandpiper

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Spotted Sandpiper

Solitary Sandpiper

Greater Yellowlegs

Willet – 1 on Duck Is.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Black Guillemot – 3 at Duck Is.

Bonaparte's Gull – 6 in the river on the boat trip to the islands

Laughing Gull – 1 seen briefly off Duck Is.

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

Common Tern – 1 sitting on the top of the antenna on Seavey Is.; identified from Victor's photos

Northern Gannet – 4 adults sitting on Square Rock

Great Cormorant – 1 on Lunging and 1 on Seavey Is.

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron 1 standing on a small rock at dawn

Great Egret – 1 flying upriver on the boat out

Belted Kingfisher – 1 at Crystal Lake

Northern Flicker

Merlin – some close flybys from Kiggins Commons deck

Empidonax sp. – one of the small flycatchers that are usually identified by song

Eastern Phoebe

WESTERN KINGBIRD – 1 on 9/3 flew by the deck as Alexa presented Fire & Water introduction; landed on the lilac bush at the north end of the island and seen in the scope.

Eastern Kingbird

Warbling Vireo – 1 by Bartels

Red-eyed Vireo

Common Raven – 1 flew over the river on the boat out

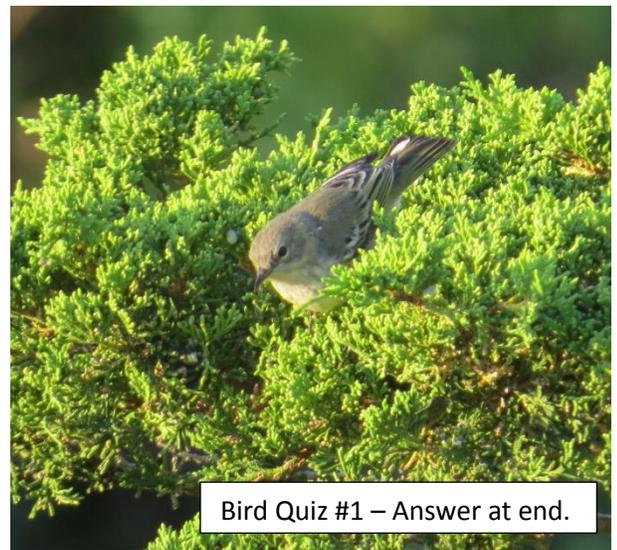
Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow

Red-breasted Nuthatch – several climbing on the buildings

Carolina Wren

American Robin



Bird Quiz #1 – Answer at end.

Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher – 2, calling back to Becky’s imitation, seen by a few at Crystal Lake
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing – flocks flying everywhere
 Purple Finch
 American Goldfinch
 LARK SPARROW – discovered by Victor when he was reviewing his photos after the trip
 Dark-eyed Junco – 1 amazingly early migrant
 Song Sparrow – 1 carrying food, very late to be feeding young
 Yellow-breasted Chat – a nice treat at the banding station (at least 2)
 Bobolink – heard and one finally seen on the north end of the island
 Baltimore Oriole
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Northern Waterthrush
 Black-and-white Warbler – at the banding station
 Common Yellowthroat
 Cape May Warbler – great views from the deck of Kiggins Commons
 Magnolia Warbler – 1 glimpsed by a few
 Yellow Warbler – 1 seen by a few of us at the north end of the island.
 Blackpoll Warbler – 1 at the banding station, their first for the fall
 Bay-breasted Warbler – brought up to dinner by David Holmes from the banding station.
 Wilson’s Warbler – 1 male at the banding station
 Northern Cardinal
 DICKCISSEL – 1 at the north end of the island
 House Sparrow – at the dock

Total = 72 species (plus *Empidonax* sp.)



Photo thanks to Alexa!



Bird Quiz #2 – Answer below.

Bird Quiz #1 – Cape May Warbler
 Bird Quiz #2 - Bobolink