

Pennsylvania Club Birding Report- May 2019

As in previous years, my brother Len Bryant and I divided our time in camp between fishing and birding. This year we were joined by Len's son, Jeff, who is considerably more skilled at birding. During Week 2, Jeff identified 91 species of birds on or around Pennsylvania Island, about as many as Len and I have identified over our 15 years of birding there. (See previous bird reports at https://pennsylvaniaclub.com/club_travel_info/index.shtml.)

New species Jeff found this year include Ring-necked Duck, Sandhill Crane, Solitary Sandpiper, Long-eared Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Lincoln's Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Tennessee Warbler, and Cape May Warbler.

Jeff is also an excellent photographer and captured many pictures of birds. An American Woodcock was photographed while trying to attract a mate with its "air-dance" routine on a breeding lek just 100 feet northwest of the clubhouse. He tends to show up there around 8:50 PM in mid-May. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed near trail marker #1. A Swamp Sparrow was photographed near the boardwalks on the hiking trail. A Prairie Warbler was photographed on the Club's porch. Many birds will come within view if you "call them in" with their own bird sounds. Recordings for many birds are available from apps that can be loaded on your smartphone.

The water level at the Club is very high this year. About six feet on either end of the two boardwalks on the hiking trail is flooded. Waterproof, calf-high boots were needed to keep feet dry crossing them.

The eBird website maintains an up-to-date list of birds seen in Massasauga Provincial Park at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1807392>. The list does not currently include sightings made around the Pennsylvania Club, but we are looking into making this possible. We are also contacting experienced birders to determine whether purple martins are found in the park and, if so, whether they can be attracted to the Club's martin house.

Bob Bryant