

POINT PELEE

(Ontario, Canada)

Songbird day trips

May 2, 3, 4, 10, 15, 16 - 2017



Cape May Warbler is one of the gems of a Pelee May day

May at Point Pelee

The Pelee peninsula is renowned as one of the best migration hotspots in inland North America. Tom takes great pleasure in bringing you the wonders of a Pelee spring birding adventure. He made his first birding trip to Pelee in 1971 and has walked the trails here for forty four of the last forty five springs. Even as an experienced world birder and guide, birding the trails of Point Pelee in May still gets his blood going!

Tom was also lucky enough to work at the national park for over a decade, and this has added to a wealth of personal experience on many aspects of the parks natural and cultural history. In 1999, Tom authored the definitive "Birders Guide to Point Pelee and surrounding area". This book provides comprehensive information on the birds and birding sites of the region (available for purchase from Tom directly or at local bookstores).



Six vireos (including Yellow-throated) and thirty six warblers (including Hooded) occur every May at Pelee.

Point Pelee's claim to fame is songbirds. The position of the peninsula on Lake Erie make it a natural magnet for both north and south bound migrants in spring and fall.



May is about colour - like Indigo Bunting blue, Baltimore Oriole orange and Rose-breasted Grosbeak red!.

Where do May day trips go?

The focus of these day trips will be Point Pelee National Park. However, depending upon where activity occurs, we may include other sites on the Pelee peninsula (ie. Hillman Marsh Conservation Area, the Onion Fields, Wheatley Harbour and Wheatley Provincial Park). Tom keeps connected to other local birders and guides to make sure the daily itinerary delivers the best experience possible for participants. For participants who book multiple days, we will attempt to vary the daily itinerary to showcase as many local sites as possible.



Scarlet Tanager is a regular show stopper along the park trails.

How big is the group?

To ensure that every participant gets a high quality experience, the group size is limited to SIX participants each day.

Who are the hikes appropriate for?

The hikes are appropriate for birders of all levels from those who have never birded before to those with a casual interest to experienced birders with a target list. Even if you have never raised binoculars, you will love this experience. ***The focus of the hikes to give everyone repeated good views of spring songbirds.*** Even on wooded trails, I nearly always bring a scope to ensure the best viewing possible.

When are the hikes offered?

The hikes are offered on six days in 2017 as follows: May 2, 3, 4, 10, 15, 16. Hikes meet at 6 am sharp outside the park (site to be identified) and return each day by 4:00 pm.



For many Canadians, Pelee offers a chance to see southerners like Carolina Wren

What is the cost?

The cost per person is \$100 per day.

What is included?

The above rate includes: guiding each day by Tom Hince, morning and afternoon coffee breaks and snacks, water, checklist of birds, and a free copy of Tom's birders guide book (on its own a \$25 value).



Tougher to ID birds like this Olive-sided Flycatcher and a variety of thrushes are often seen on Tom's day trips.

How to book?

To reserve hike space (first come, first served and limited to 8 per day), please email Tom birdwithtom@gmail.com or call/leave a message at 586 839-7482.

A few additional details

The nearest airports to Leamington are Windsor (about 45 minutes from town, or an hour from the park and serviced by Air Canada) or London (about an hour and a half drive from Leamington and serviced by both Air Canada and Westjet). They both have car rental agencies. If flying from the US, you will find it is easiest to fly into Detroit (DTW) which is about an hour and forty minutes drive from Leamington.

Additional Questions?

Please don't hesitate to give me a call, or drop me an email (I read my email every few hours during the workday). You can contact me at (586) 839-7482 or birdwithtom@gmail.com

Thanks , Tom!



Cerulean Warbler male