

*Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.*

**POINT PELEE & KIRTLAND'S WARBLER TOUR**  
**May 14 - 22, 2004**

**Leaders: Kim Eckert & Brennan Mulrooney**

**Itinerary:**

May 14: meet in Detroit (well, most of us made it in on the 14th -- Lindsay's flight came in after midnight, only about 7 hours late).

May 15: cool and cloudy morning at Holiday Beach Provincial Park en route to Leamington; afternoon in Point Pelee National Park (especially at Sanctuary picnic area and Tilden's Woods).

May 16: most of day at Point Pelee, birding from The Tip to the Visitor Centre (or Center, if you prefer), at White Pine picnic area, and return to Tilden's; afternoon visit to Hillman Marsh for shorebirds (and Little Gulls!); evening woodcock display next to the Pelee Day's Inn.

May 17: all day trip to Rondeau Provincial Park, including stops on way back at Erieau & vicinity and at the flooded field along Highway 3.

May 18: final day at Point Pelee: The Tip, a singing male Kirtland's (!) near the Visitor Centre, Blue Heron picnic area, and the DeLaurier Trail.

May 19: all-day drive to Grayling via a very productive birding stop at Indian Springs Metro Park (and some very unproductive construction traffic around Flint and Saginaw).

May 20: morning Kirtland's Warbler tour in east-central Crawford County plus birding at Hartwick Pines State Park (along with about 500 school kids) and vicinity; afternoon birding in northwestern Roscommon County.

May 21: return to Detroit via a singing male Golden-winged Warbler, a rainy and unsuccessful Henslow's search in Arenac & Bay counties, and an even rainier Nyanquing Point (at least we missed most of the heavy rains, high winds, and flooded streets back in Detroit).

May 22: departure for home

**Key:**

O = seen/heard in Ontario (especially Holiday Beach, Point Pelee, Hillman Marsh, and Rondeau)

M = Michigan (especially Indian Springs Metro Park, the Kirtland's area, Hartwick Pines State Park, and various back roads in Roscommon, Arenac, and Bay counties)

(species not annotated with O or M were found in both areas)

Species in **boldfaced type** are significant highlights of the tour, either as unexpected rarities or as the specialties of this tour.

**Bird List:**

Canada Goose (a.k.a. Honker!)  
Mute Swan (3 times with babies: aw or ugh?! -- a.k.a. White Starling?)  
Wood Duck O  
Gadwall O  
American Wigeon O  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Green-winged Teal O  
Canvasback M (a quite unexpected male at Indian Springs)  
**White-winged Scoter** O (decent looks at a lone female near The Tip)  
**Black Scoter** O (a flock of 30+ flying by The Tip)  
Bufflehead O  
Red-breasted Merganser O  
Ring-necked Pheasant  
Wild Turkey M  
Common Loon (best near The Tip)  
Pied-billed Grebe O (Holiday Beach)  
Double-crested Cormorant O  
American Bittern M (a fly-by in the rain at Nyanquing)  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron O  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey M (including a nest)  
Bald Eagle M  
Northern Harrier  
Cooper's Hawk O (seen by a few over the Visitor Centre)  
Broad-winged Hawk (best views in Michigan)  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel M (finally on the last day)  
**Peregrine Falcon** O (2 briefly seen by a few of us as they chased up Black-bellied Plovers along Hwy. 3)  
Sora O (heard at Hillman)  
American Coot  
Sandhill Crane (the one flying over Hillman was quite unexpected!)  
Black-bellied Plover O (best looks on Hwy. 3 -- before the Peregrines)  
Semipalmated Plover O  
Killdeer  
(Greater Yellowlegs - leader-only; heard at Rondeau)  
Lesser Yellowlegs O  
Spotted Sandpiper O  
(Ruddy Turnstone - leader-only; with the Hwy. 3 Black-bellieds)  
Sanderling O (seen by a few at The Tip)  
Semipalmated Sandpiper O  
Least Sandpiper O  
White-rumped Sandpiper O (best views on Hwy. 3)  
Dunlin O (this species comprised the vast majority of the shorebirds!)

Short-billed Dowitcher O (on Hwy. 3)  
**American Woodcock** O (another great display by the Pelee Days Inn)  
**Little Gull** O (despite the poor light, good looks by all at 2 adults)  
 Bonaparte's Gull O  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Herring Gull O  
 Great Black-backed Gull O  
 Caspian Tern O (Erieau)  
 Common Tern O  
 Forster's Tern O  
 Black Tern O (Pelee fly-bys)  
 Rock Pigeon  
 Mourning Dove  
 Black-billed Cuckoo O (lots of both cuckoo species, especially at Pelee!)  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo O  
 Eastern Screech-Owl O (a Pelee stake-out seen by some; heard by all at Rondeau)  
 Common Nighthawk O (asleep on a tree limb at Pelee)  
 Chimney Swift  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Belted Kingfisher M  
 Red-headed Woodpecker O (excellent views at Rondeau)  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Pileated Woodpecker M (I-75 fly-by seen by some)  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher O (a surprise at Blue Heron picnic grounds)  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher O (silent, but a nice scope study, also at Blue Heron!)  
 Acadian Flycatcher M (very close looks at Indian Springs)  
 Alder Flycatcher (heard at Pelee; seen & heard well in Roscommon Co.)  
 Willow Flycatcher (heard by the Days Inn & near The Tip, and a shy bird seen in Bay Co.)  
 Least Flycatcher  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Great Crested Flycatcher  
 Eastern Kingbird  
 White-eyed Vireo O (good looks at an oft-elusive species)  
 Blue-headed Vireo M  
 Yellow-throated Vireo M (Indian Springs)  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Philadelphia Vireo O (3 or 4 seen well at Pelee)  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Blue Jay (including several "suicidal" birds over The Tip)  
 American Crow  
 Common Raven M  
 Horned Lark  
 Purple Martin  
 Tree Swallow  
 N. Rough-winged Swallow

Bank Swallow  
 Barn Swallow  
 Cliff Swallow O  
 Black-capped Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse M (Indian Springs; also unusually far north in Roscommon Co.)  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch M (Hartwick Pines)  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Brown Creeper M (Indian Springs)  
 Carolina Wren  
 House Wren O  
**Sedge Wren** M (an entertaining, very close -- but clumsy! -- singing male falling from his perch)  
 Marsh Wren O (hidden near The Tip)  
 (Ruby-crowned Kinglet - leader-only at The Tip)  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher O  
 Eastern Bluebird  
 Veery  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush O (only at Holiday Beach)  
 Swainson's Thrush O  
 Hermit Thrush M (singing males in the Kirtland's area)  
 Wood Thrush  
 American Robin  
 Gray Catbird (my favorite bird?!)  
**Northern Mockingbird** O (3 at Erieau; a relatively rare species this far north)  
 Brown Thrasher  
 European Starling  
 Cedar Waxwing (indecisive flocks circling over The Tip!)  
 Blue-winged Warbler O (one singing an odd song near The Tip)  
 Golden-winged Warbler M (a great look at a handsome singing male the last day!)  
 Tennessee Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Northern Parula  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler O  
 Magnolia Warbler  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler O (only one, at Rondeau)  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Black-throated Green Warbler  
 Blackburnian Warbler  
 Pine Warbler (a late and hard-to-ID bird near The Tip; singing males in Mich.)  
**Kirtland's Warbler** (a very close singing male at Pelee seen by 100s!; also, of course, in Mich.)  
 Palm Warbler O  
 Bay-breasted Warbler O  
 Blackpoll Warbler O  
 Cerulean Warbler O (a good study of a female near the Tip)  
 Black-and-white Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Prothonotary Warbler O (finally, great looks at Rondeau!)  
 Ovenbird  
 Northern Waterthrush (great looks at Indian Springs)

Louisiana Waterthrush M (ditto!)  
**Connecticut Warbler** O (a highly secretive bird briefly seen by a few at Pelee)  
 Mourning Warbler O (better looks at this one at Pelee; also heard singing)  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Wilson's Warbler O  
 Canada Warbler  
 Yellow-breasted Chat O (seen by a few; = a total of 30 warbler species!)  
**Summer Tanager** O (an unusually colored female at Pelee; relatively rare here)  
 Scarlet Tanager  
 Eastern Towhee O  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Field Sparrow  
 (Vesper Sparrow - leader-only in the Kirtland's area)  
 Savannah Sparrow M  
 Song Sparrow  
 Lincoln's Sparrow  
 Swamp Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow (mostly heard)  
 White-crowned Sparrow O  
 Dark-eyed Junco M  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
**Blue Grosbeak** O (a male briefly seen by a few; a rarity at Pelee)  
 Indigo Bunting  
 Bobolink M  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Eastern Meadowlark M  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird M (good looks at Nyanquing despite the rain)  
 Common Grackle  
 Brown-headed Cowbird (including some in a cage!)  
 Orchard Oriole  
 Baltimore Oriole  
 Purple Finch M  
 House Finch  
 American Goldfinch  
 Evening Grosbeak M (great looks at Hartwick Pines!)  
 House Sparrow

**Also Seen:**

Eastern Cottontail	Spring Peeper (heard)
Muskrat	American Toad (heard)
Gray Squirrel (mostly black morphs)	
Red Squirrel (Hartwick Pines)	
Eastern Chipmunk	
Five-lined Skink (Rondeau; the only lizard this far north)	
Painted Turtle	
Blanding's Turtle (nice look near Erieau!)	
Green Frog (heard at Hillman)	