

Trip report – Ontario and British Columbia, Canada, summer 2019

This report

Most trip reports are from dedicated birding trips, and not from family holidays, which do generally not allow for 24/7 birding schedules. Also, most reports are usually from favourable times of the year. So when going on a summer family holiday and planning some birding on the side, how do you prepare with realistic expectations? I do not know who invented the school holiday timings, but it was definitely not a birder. Summer holidays are – at least at temperate latitudes – in the worst possible season for birds: breeding is finished so no more song and other territorial behaviour; some birds already leave their territories, but migration proper has not yet started (with the possible exception of waders).

Yet, one has to make the best of it and for that, preparation is crucial. Perhaps especially so on a family holiday, because you have to allocate the precious birding time as efficiently as possible. With eBird and the likes available, there is a huge resource of birding info which can be filtered to sites and seasons. I also used the books 'A bird-finding guide to Canada' (J. Cam Finlay, revised 2000) and 'The birder's guide - Vancouver Island (Keith Taylor, 2000) which are very helpful. The latter book was especially useful to understand the different ecoregions on the island, and the habitats and birds associated with them. Another great resource for British Columbia is www.birdatlas.bc.ca. I always enjoy going through all that info before a trip, and you learn a lot in the process. Still, I do like a good old trip report, for more details and to get an better impression of what birds one may realistically see in that particular season and timespan available. However, for the reasons mentioned above, finding trip reports from the summer period can be a challenge. As was the case for Ontario and British Columbia, where we were heading with the family in late July-August 2019. That's why I decided to submit my own report, hoping that it may be useful to other travelers.

Trip

Our first week was in South Ontario, on the Bruce Peninsula northwest of Toronto. We visited relatives there and rented a cottage in Pike Bay. After that, we flew to Vancouver, British Columbia and stayed a few days in Hope, east of Vancouver, and two-and-a-half weeks on Vancouver Island at three different sites: in the south near Victoria, on the east coast near Campbell and in the north near Port McNeill. We decided to leave out Pacific Rim on the west coast, because it is another long drive and reputedly crowded in summer. This however excluded opportunities for Wandering Tattler and true pelagic birds.

July 28th – August 2nd: Huron Pines Cottage, Pike Bay, Bruce Peninsula, ON

August 3rd – 7th: Silver Creek Cottage, Hope, BC

August 8th – 15th: Cabin in the woods, Millstream, Victoria, BC

August 16th – 18th: Honey Grove Cottage, Merville BC

August 19th – 22nd: Cluxewe resort cabins, Port McNeill BC

August 23rd – 24th: English Bay hotel, Vancouver BC

We opted for cottages and a rental car rather than a camper/RV, to have a comfortable base from which to explore the surroundings, and for ease of transport. The latter being especially imported for early morning birding outings while the family is still asleep!

Birds and birding

Bruce Peninsula, Ontario

This was my third visit to southern Ontario and the second with the family. On the first two trips I had seen most of the commoner species of different habitats, so I came to the Bruce Peninsula – where we had already been in 2017 – with a limited list of target species that were either rare or difficult to find (or both). Since we had only a week there, I had planned to focus on two areas: Isaac Lake and adjacent swamp for marshland birds, and a circuit through the grasslands and woodlands of northern Bruce for Golden-winged Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker, amongst a few others. Casual birding was done in the surroundings the cottage. Although birding is big in Canada, I only ran into a birder once, but not the least: Kiah Jasper, a young keen birder who was doing a county big year (see his well-written blogs at <http://brucebirdingchronicles.blogspot.com/>). We birded together for a bit and he provided me with some good local info.

The first morning... one of the best things in life is waking up to unfamiliar bird calls. After some pishing, a smart male American Redstart appeared just outside the bedroom window. Below is a list of species seen around Pike Bay during the week.

Pike Bay July 28th – August 2nd

Caspian Tern	Red-eyed Vireo
American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Canada Goose	American Robin
Great Blue Heron	Turkey Vulture
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Wild Turkey
Ring-billed Gull	Common Grackle
Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	Belted Kingfisher
Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Blackburnian Warbler	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Black-capped Chickadee	Brown Creeper
American Goldfinch	Eastern Phoebe
American Redstart	Cedar Waxwing
Black-and-white Warbler	Black-throated Green Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Myrtle Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Killdeer	

An early start on July 30th to nearby Isaac Lake. A driveable causeway through the swamp makes for good marshland bird viewing, using the car as a hide. Highlights for me were **Virginia Rail** (adult, juvenile and three pulli) and a juvenile **Sora** walking along the track. Both were lifers. An **American Bittern** in flight was also nice, as was a group of **Sandhill Crane** flying over.

Isaac Lake and swamp, July 30th

American Bittern	Great Egret
Green Heron	Hooded Merganser
Blue-winged Teal	Mallard
Caspian Tern	Wood Duck

Virginia Rail
Sora
Belted Kingfisher
Wilson's Snipe
Sandhill Crane
Lesser Yellowlegs
Alder Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
Swamp Sparrow

Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Flicker
Grey Catbird
Eastern Kingbird
Cedar Waxwing
Common Yellowthroat
Barn Swallow
Tree Swallow

Another early start on August 1st, leaving in the dark to proceed north to bird a circuit during the morning (Dyers Bay Road Lindsay 40 Road – East Road – Cape Chin Road). The first stakeout was a site for Golden-winged Warbler. Wonderful habitat, no lack of birds but apparently the Golden-wingeds had already left. I spent a long time waiting, taping and searching. There was a singing male **Eastern Towhee** and a female, a species that had eluded me previously so this lifer provided some consolation. **Black-billed Cuckoos** called but remained unseen. A wonderful male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** gave good views, together with a juvenile. While driving and making birding stops I encountered mixed feeding flocks, a phenomenon familiar from earlier Canada visits and this is much more pronounced here than in Europe in this time of year. This yielded some great warblers like **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. But what I was really after was Red-headed Woodpecker. This amazing woodpecker is declining because of habitat loss caused by intensifying agriculture, and it is now quite local. The Bruce Peninsula has some pockets of good habitat left. I stopped where things looked promising and played the tape. At one spot I heard drumming that sounded right, but may also have been Red-bellied Woodpecker. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was heard drumming and seen in flight. I was approaching Highway 6 and running out of promising spots. Then, an old farm with fields and a beautiful clump of big trees. One last try. I played the tape and... a response came from the trees. No movement. Another call. And then, in a flash of black and white, two birds approached, one landing on the huge maple in front of me. What a bird! I admired my first **Red-headed Woodpecker** through the scope, until it decided I was not an intruder and it retreated to the woodland. I did a jig on the road, nobody was there to see me but I don't think I would have cared!

Below is a full species list of the morning, which of course has much overlap with the lists above, but it gives an idea also of the commoner species in the area.

Northern Bruce, August 1st

Great Blue Heron
Mallard
Turkey Vulture
American Crow
Common Raven
Canada Goose
Sandhill Crane
Eastern Wood-Pee-wee
Eastern Kingbird
Northern Flicker
Yellow-breasted Sapsucker

Pileated Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Common Grackle
American Robin
House Wren
Red-eyed Vireo
Barn Swallow
Red-winged Blackbird
Grey Catbird
Blue Jay
Black-throated Green Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Common Yellowthroat
Winter Wren
Yellow Warbler
Eastern Meadowlark
Cedar Waxwing

Black-billed Cuckoo
Mourning Dove
American Goldfinch
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Black-capped Chickadee
Eastern Towhee
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting

During a family trip to Sauble Falls a **Merlin** flew over. And that was the last Ontario bird. Of course, some target birds were missed. Apart from Golden-winged Warbler, the few Upland Sandpipers that still hang on in the Bruce had already left their territories. There had been one pair of Piping Plover raising young, but these also had vacated their beach – understandable when seeing how crowded this had become. I checked out a field where Kiah told me Brewer's Blackbirds had been seen, but no luck. Although without specifically looking for them, I also missed Barred Owl, American Woodcock, Mourning Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. Always a reason to come back! The total species list of this week in the Bruce was 65 (of which 5 lifers). Now, off to the west!

Hope, BC

A first time for us on the Pacific coast so quite a few lifers were waiting for me. It started already while driving from Vancouver to Hope, with roadside birds such as **Northwestern Crow**, **Glaucous-winged Gull** and **White-crowned Sparrow**.

The first bird in the morning was the spotted cousin of the Eastern Towhee I had seen only three days earlier, **Spotted Towhee**. Our cottage was right next to the Silver Creek, where a juvenile **American Dipper** was a nice surprise. Glittering **Steller's Jays** were always around, as were **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco's**. A warbler I really wanted to see, **Black-throated Grey Warbler**, was also in the garden. A **Northern Goshawk** flying over was not a lifer technically, but a good bird to get around here. Below is a list of birds around the cottage during four days. An early morning visit to Hope Airport and two trips to Manning National Park are listed separately.

Silver Creek cottage, Hope BC (August 3rd – 7th)

Steller's Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Spotted Towhee
American Dipper
Black-throated Grey Warbler
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco

Pine Siskin
Turkey Vulture
Northern Goshawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Vaux's Swift

During an afternoon outing to Silver Lake we saw a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** with pulli, **Hammond's Flycatcher** and a fly-by **hummingbird sp.** (Rufous or Anna's), amongst others. On 5th we went to Manning National Park, which is just outside the ecoregion of the coastal mountains and therefore the westernmost distribution of quite a few species of the interior. We walked the short Beaver Pond Trail where a female **Cassin's Finch** came to drink and **Black Swifts** flew overhead. **Common Yellowthroats** were around the lake. Next we drove up to the Cascade Lookout, a parking lot with a fantastic view, lots of chipmunks, ground squirrels and, importantly, **Clarke's Nutcrackers**. All were tame and eating nuts from the hand. **Raven** were in attendance, a

distant **Golden Eagle** flew by and an **Audubon's Warbler** was there. Next, we walked the Dry ridge Trail' and on a sparsely vegetated rocky slope I saw a bird that looked like a cross between a thrush and a large flycatcher. Due to the poor light I couldn't figure it out at first, but when it flew and upon landing flashed pale outer feathers of its long tail it was obvious: **Townsend's Solitaire**! This is a scarce and local breeder here and I did not expect to see it. Along the trail I got a too brief view of a *Catharus* thrush that was either Swainson's (now split as Russet-backed) or Hermit. A **Buff-bellied Pipit** was a nice find and there was a small mixed flock consisting of **Townsend's Warbler** and **Mountain Chickadee**. Higher up on the Alpine Meadows were **Canada Jays** and more **Audubon's Warblers**.

On the early morning of the 6th I went to Hope Airport, the surroundings of which are a local birding hotspot (in migration anyway). The best bird here was a pair of **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, which can be hard to find and these were to be the only ones I would see during this trip. Some other birds seen (and not yet mentioned elsewhere) were **Red-shafted Flicker**, **Sand Martin**, a fly-by **hummingbird sp.**, **American Goldfinch**, **Purple Finch**, **House Finch**, **White-crowned Sparrow** and **Savanna Sparrow**. In the afternoon we walked along Sucker Creek, with **Black-throated Grey Warbler**, **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Common Yellowthroat**.

On 7th we went to Manning Park again and walked a part of the Lighting Lake Trail. Coming from Western Europe, a walk feels quite different when you know there are bears around. We didn't see those, but did get a **Pine Grosbeak**, **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Song Sparrow**. Along the road to Strawberry Flats there was a female **Sooty Grouse**, which we watched extensively at just a few metres. Great! Other birds here were **Canada Jay**, **Tree Swallow** and **Vaux's Swift**. A bit further east, a **sapsucker sp.** flew past and frustratingly disappeared... this might have been Red-naped as this is about as far west as they get. Driving further east from here, towards Princeton, would bring more interior birds within reach, but we did not have the time. During a swim in Kawkawa Lake back in Hope, a **Bald Eagle** circled overhead, and there was a fat female Black Widow under the diving raft.

On 8th we returned to Vancouver and boarded the ferry to Swartz Bay, Vancouver Island. Pacific Harbour Seals checked out the ferry departure. Out at sea! And there were the first sea birds as well: **Pelagic Cormorant**, **Pigeon Guillemot**, **Glaucous-winged** and **Ring-billed Gulls**, **Black Turnstone**, **Surf Scoter** and **Bald Eagles**, and an **Osprey** on arrival at the island. Late afternoon we arrived at our wonderful cottage in Millstream, only just out of Victoria but entirely surrounded by forest and overlooking a trout pond – in which a **Bald Eagle** (and sometimes two) took an interest every day. It would sit only a few tens of metres or so from our deck. Black-tailed Deer were around in the evenings and quite unafraid – not so much hunting going on here apparently. Songbirds appeared in mixed flocks, usually led by **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** and containing warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Behind the cottage there was a powerline and the scrub underneath proved very productive. Birds only seen here were **MacGillivray's Warbler**, **Bewick's Wren**, **Willow Flycatcher** and **Bushtit**. A weird raspy call in the evenings sounded intriguing and with the help of the Audubons Birding app I found out they were **Common Nighthawk**. A **Northern Pygmy Owl** was heard calling one night, and upon taping it approached and was briefly seen in the flashlight. Below is a list of birds seen around the cottage, but the best bird here was a mammal. While discussing next day's outing over a cup of tea, a **Black Bear** was watching us from the lawn, not 30 metres away... no idea how long it had been there. It carried on into the forest, taking it easy and allowing us to watch it from a safe distance. Our first ever bear... amazing!

Cabin-in-the-woods, Millstream Victoria, August 8th – 15th

Wood Duck
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker

Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco

Common Raven
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Peregrine
Brown Creeper
Cedar Waxwing
Band-tailed Pigeon
Anna's Hummingbird
Hutton's Vireo
Bewick's Wren
Bushtit
Yellow Warbler
Spotted Towhee
Black-throated Grey Warbler

Townsend's Warbler
American Goldfinch
Cassin's Vireo
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Orange-crowned Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Black Swift
Steller's Jay
Audubon's Warbler
California Quail (introduced)
White-crowned Sparrow
Willow Flycatcher

On the 9th we went to Beacon Hill Park (**Anna's Hummingbird**) and Clover Point, a well-known birding spot on the coast. While turning into the parking lot we noticed whalewatching boats heading in one direction and soon we saw why: a huge fin of a male **Orca** appeared! Our first whale, and we hadn't even left the car. Around the point were **Harlequin Ducks**, **Surf Scoter**, good numbers of **Rhinoceros Auklet**, **Common Murre** and a couple of **Pigeon Guillemot**; plenty of gulls with the majority **Glaucous-winged** but also a few **California** and – best of all – **Heerman's Gulls**, and a few **Herring**. A family of River Otter was having fun on the rocks, as were **Black Turnstone** and **Least Sandpiper**. **Violet-tailed Swallow** were flying around the point.

On 10th we had pre-booked a whalewatching trip with Eaglewing Tours (which I can recommend). We headed out into the Juan de Fuca strait, and passed Race Rocks on the way (which is where the best birds were). Whale-wise it was spectacular, with 2 pods of 13 Orca in total (transients; the declining southern residents, only 73 left, are no longer visited because of their poor condition due to dwindling Chinook salmon stocks) and at least three Humpback Whales, some approaching right next to the boat. Very impressive. Birding was good too. I lucked out with a **Brown Pelican** passing by, of which there usually a few around in summer in recent years, but still a rarity. Another lucky one was a **Western Gull**, which is much more numerous in other seasons. Thankfully, an adult bird beyond any doubt of hybridization. I did not actually see any hybrids with certainty and presume these also do not appear in numbers until autumn and winter. Other birds around Race Rocks were comparable to the Clover Point birds, with the addition of **Black Oystercatcher**. Mammals here were Steller and California Sea Lions, a Northern Elephant Seal and Pacific Harbour Seal. A **Purple Martin** was flying over the harbour when we returned, a scarce bird on Vancouver Island.

On 11th we went to the Esquimalt Lagoon. Not too many birds there, but apart from the commoner species there were **Brewer's Blackbirds** in the parking lot (the only other place I saw this species was a supermarket parking lot in Millstream) mixed with juvenile **Brown Cowbirds**. On the lagoon were **Mew Gull**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Western** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

Another whalewatching trip on 13th! No Orca this time but plenty of Humpbacks, some breaching, and Harbour Porpoise. New birds for the list were **Surfbird** (on Race Rocks), a **Marbled Murrelet**, **Brandt's Cormorant**, **American Wigeon** and four migrating juvenile **Red-necked Phalaropes**.

On 14th we went to China Beach. What makes the south of the island interesting is the proximity of different ecozones. Victoria has many species of the mild south and east, but when you drive west past Sooke, you soon enter into the wet, imposing forests of the west and with that come different birds. The same happens when driving north, and some of the western species (like Sooty Fox Sparrow) I could still see in Port McNeill. The beach was beautiful and quite empty (of both birds and

people), apart from a **Marbled Murrelet** and a **Common Loon** at sea. On the walk through the forest I saw **Russet-backed Thrush**, heard **Golden-crowned Kinglet** but there was little else (no hoped for Varied Thrush). A stop at Whiffen Spit on the way back yielded the waders usually encountered on the rocky coasts: **Black Turnstone**, **Western** and **Least Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Plover**.

In Goldstream National Park on 15th, the only bird of note was an adult **American Dipper** foraging in the stream. I was hoping for Varied Thrush here also, but these seemed next to impossible in this season. A local birder I met confirmed this and recommended the campsite, but we missed the turnoff and carried on. The Butchart Gardens, which we visited in the afternoon, were beautiful but crowded and not very interesting birdwise. The excellent Royal BC Museum in Victoria is a must-see, especially the impressive First Nations heritage.

Next day we drove to Merville, north of Courtenay. This is the east coast ecozone and I still had a couple of targets here (Western Tanager, Red-breasted Sapsucker). We went for a walk on William's Beach, where I got **White-winged Scoter**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Killdeer** amongst others. An early morning visit to Seal Bay Reserve (good forest) provided two lifers: **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and **Pacific Wren**. With the family we walked along the Oyster River trail to William's Beach and noteworthy birds there were **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Marbled Murrelet**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Common Merganser** and **Hutton's Vireo**. The river mouth was a good site with plenty of birds. The wooded environs of our cottage were also lively (list below) and I was particularly happy with **Western Tanager**, a grey-headed form of **Orange-crowned Warbler** mixed in with the normal ones, and migrating **Common Nighthawks**.

Honey Grove cottage, Merville, August 16th – 18th

Northern Flicker	Western Tanager
Common Raven	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Hutton's Vireo	Willow Flycatcher
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Anna's Hummingbird	MacGillivray's Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler	Brown Creeper
Common Nighthawk	American Robin

On 18th we visited Paradise Meadows, near Mount Washington. Vancouver Island has a central ridge of high mountains, but there are few places where these are accessible. The ski area on Mount Washington is one of them, although a full day's hard walk is needed to reach the truly alpine birds like White-tailed Ptarmigan and Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch – hardly a family outing. But the Paradise Meadows, a wonderful landscape of forest, meadows and lakes with good paths and boardwalks is within easy reach. Along with a number of more widespread forest birds we saw **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Audubon's Warbler**, **Townsend's Warbler**, **Canada** and **Steller's Jay** and **Barrow's Goldeneye**. Varied Thrush is a distinct possibility here, but no luck sadly.

On 19th we drove further north to Port McNeill, our last site on Vancouver Island. En route we saw **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Osprey** and a group of grazing Elk. The roads quickly became very quiet and the north has a much more remote feel. That doesn't mean 'untouched' though, because all along the highway I never saw forest that hadn't been logged at one time or another. The scale of forestry here is mindblowing. Thankfully, the loggers were on strike and there were no logging trucks on the road. Cluxewe Resort is a laid back, beautifully located campsite overlooking the Charlotte Strait. A line of cabins is along the beach and all have sea view. And this view was simply FULL of birds! Everywhere you looked: rafts and lines of **Rhinoceros Auklet** and **Common Murre**; scattered pairs of **Pigeon Guillemot** and two single **Marbled Murrelets**; **Harlequin Duck**, **Surf** and **White-winged Scoter**; huge numbers of gulls (**Mew**, **Glaucous-winged** and **California**), a few flocks of **Pacific Loon**

(in non-breeding plumage already) and **Common Loon**, and about 12 **Bald Eagles**. This would differ markedly from day to day, probably depending on where the fish was. A good bird the next day here was a **Cassin's Auklet**. Waders were on the move as well: **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, **Whimbrel**. The beach had good numbers of **Black Turnstone** and **Belted Kingfishers** were always around.

We booked a whalewatching trip here on 20th, with MacKay's (there not so much choice here as in Victoria, but MacKays is excellent). The trip went south to the Johnstone Strait, an area with many islands. It was cloudy and there was a stiff breeze. There was an amazing southbound migration of **Red-necked Phalaropes** (all juveniles seemingly), with flocks of up to 50 passing by or resting on the waves. I estimated about 500 during the morning. Two adult **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were nice, and there were large numbers of **Rhinoceros Auklet** and **Common Murre**. The whales were fantastic, with about 18 Humpbacks including spectacular jumps, and two 'clans' of northern resident Orca (also jumps and spyhopping). At one point we had Orca and a Black Bear on the shore in one view!

On 21st I did some early morning birding around the campsite. There was some activity of mixed flocks, with **Wilson's**, **Audubon's**, **Townsend's** and **Orange-crowned Warbler**. The marsh had **Common Yellowthroat**. **Red Crossbills** and **Black Swifts** flew over and – initially elusive but coming out after some limited taping – **Sooty Fox Sparrows** were in the bushes at the forest edge. In a final and rather desperate attempt for Varied Thrush I played the eerie song along a logging track but to no avail. I was also still looking for Rufous Hummingbird, which – based on the information – I thought was a lot easier than Anna's, but the reverse was the case. I saw one hummingbird sp. zooming past here, which may well have been one. Rufous migrates early, and although there were still scattered sightings on eBird, I didn't see any. The feeders I found were usually not filled. Later that morning the MacKay vessel passed before our cabin, trailing a large Orca fin in front of it. A male and two females. Orca on the house list! We also regularly saw Harbour Porpoise from the cabin.

On 22nd we visited the island of Alert Bay, which is a First Nation community. Very worthwhile, there was an informative cultural centre, beautiful art and impressive history, but the best was to see that First Nation culture is still very much alive. There was a **Peregrine** in the harbour and from the ferry I got a **Marbled Murrelet** and a juvenile **Heerman's Gull** (I first thought it was a dark morph skua) which is quite scarce this far north. Back at the cabin at Cluxewe, two breeding plumage **Red-throated Divers** were around. While having lunch, there was a blow and a fin – first we thought Humpback, but it was small, the blow was low and didn't linger, the fin was dolphin-shaped and pointed, and it swam quite fast: a Minke Whale! Wow, what a place.

The next day it was time to drive south and leave Vancouver Island. We took the ferry from Nanaimo and when Vancouver came into view, a Humpback was jumping and waved at us with its massive pectoral fin. We couldn't have wished for a more fitting goodbye.

We booked into Englishman Bay hotel, close to Stanley Park – which was not entirely accidental. In the morning, we had time for a walk through the park before catching our flight. Some places were quite birdy, with e.g. **Downy Woodpecker**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Black-throated Grey Warbler** and displaying **Anna's Hummingbird**.

Total species list

In Ontario I saw 70 species, in British Columbia 123 and the the total species list was 168 (of which 70 lifers for me). The species lists excludes introduced species (California Quail, Eurasian Starling, Eurasian Collared Dove; as a European I did not look for Eurasian Skylark near Victoria, the only place in Canada where this species can be found).