



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS | MAY 8-10, 2019

Tour leader: Josh Engel

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Southern Illinois can feel like a world away from the northern part of the state. Hilly, forested, and lush, dotted with cypress swamps and cut through with rivers, both the landscape and the birds have a distinctly southern flavor. We found almost all of the southern birds that we hoped to see, including summer residents like **Mississippi Kite, Prairie, Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, Hooded, and Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue Grosbeak, Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, and Chuck-wills-widow**. We found the year-round southern residents as well, like **Black Vulture, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Barred Owl, and Red-shouldered Hawk**. Migrants weren't super common, but we did find some, including **Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, Veery**, and a smattering of **migrant shorebirds and warblers**. It was a wonderful few days with a great group in the beautiful landscapes of the far southern part of our state.

ITINERARY -----

May 8

Ferne Clyffe State Park in the evening

May 9

Cache River State Natural Area in the morning: Porterhouse Road area, Heron Pond, Cache River Wetland Center.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge in the afternoon: Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve.

May 10

Shawnee National Forest (Pomona area): Cave Creek, Natural Bridge.

Shawnee National Forest: Oakwood Bottoms

Flooded fields along Route 3, including Elliot Road Wetlands

Trail of Tears State Forest

BIRD LIST. 119 species (including 6 heard only and 3 leader only). Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2018 update. Former (or alternate) English names are in parentheses. (H) = heard only; (L) = tour leader only. The global IUCN red list status is listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>

Seen only in the town of Anna.

Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>

Seen at Heron Pond and heard elsewhere.

Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
Chuck-will's-widow (NT)	<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>

Heard at very close range in Ferne Clyffe State Park and seen sitting on a picnic shelter.

Eastern Whip-poor-will (H) (NT)	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>
Chimney Swift (VU)	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>

Seen in flooded fields along the Big Muddy River.

Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper (NT)	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>

Seen in flooded fields along the Big Muddy River.

Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>

It was a bit surprising to see a pair hunting in a flooded field along Route 3.

Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>

Three birds together in a flooded field along Route 3.

Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
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Seen best at Oakwood Bottoms.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Seen several times; best was eating roadkill along the Cache River.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Seen many times, including perched at Heron Pond.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*

A highlight of the trip was finding a nest with two chicks and seeing the adults very well nearby, including when one came and fed the youngsters.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Barred Owl *Strix varia*

Tremendous views at night at Ferne Clyffe; also seen during the day at Oakwood Bottoms.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

Red-headed Woodpecker (H) *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*

Heard many times, but it proved difficult to get good views. We did see them fly past us a couple of times.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens*

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens*

Heard frequently, and seen by some at Heron Pond and Cave Creek.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*

Seen very well several times, including at Cave Creek and the Natural Bridge.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*

Seen well twice, first at Porterhouse Road in Cache River SNA.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Seen on our first evening at Ferne Clyffe, then heard a few times later in the trip.

Warbling Vireo (H) *Vireo gilvus*

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus*

Heard and seen at the Cache River Wetlands Center.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Seen at the Elliot Road Wetlands along Route 3, where one skylarked over us as we were watching shorebirds.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

Several Bank Swallows were with a large group of swallows over the Elliot Road Wetlands.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis*

Heard and seen a couple of times; seen best at the Natural Bridge.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*

Heard and seen a couple of times; probably seen best at Heron Pond.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

House Wren (H) *Troglodytes aedon*

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Heard and seen a couple of times; seen best at the Natural Bridge.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

Veery *Catharus fuscescens*

This and the other *Catharus* thrushes were seen well along the trail at Heron Pond.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

First seen right next to our hotel in Anna.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Nice views at the Elliot Road Wetlands.

Song Sparrow (L) *Melospiza melodia*

Eastern Towhee*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Nice views at Porterhouse Road.

Yellow-breasted Chat*Icteria virens*

Nice views at Porterhouse Road. Even seen doing its aerial display a couple of times.

Bobolink*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Two were seen briefly flying overhead singing at Porterhouse Road.

Eastern Meadowlark (NT)*Sturnella magna***Orchard Oriole***Icterus spurius*

Seen just once, an immature male in Oakwood Bottoms.

Red-winged Blackbird*Agelaius phoeniceus***Brown-headed Cowbird***Molothrus ater***Common Grackle (NT)***Quiscalus quiscula***Ovenbird***Seiurus aurocapilla***Worm-eating Warbler***Helmitheros vermivorum*

This bird made us work for it, but most in the group eventually got nice views at Cave Creek.

Louisiana Waterthrush*Parkesia motacilla*

Another one that gave us a run around as it darted around along a stream at the Natural Bridge; also seen at Cave Creek and heard elsewhere.

Prothonotary Warbler*Protonotaria citrea*

Very nice views several times, first at Heron Pond.

Tennessee Warbler*Oreothlypis peregrina*

We had very nice views of this migrant in the Pomona area.

Kentucky Warbler*Geothlypis formosa*

Heard frequently; we had nice views a couple of times, best was at Cave Creek.

Common Yellowthroat*Geothlypis trichas***Hooded Warbler***Setophaga citrina*

A male was singing away at Cave Creek, but we only got brief views.

American Redstart*Setophaga ruticilla*

Common and well seen at Cave Creek.

Cerulean Warbler (V)*Setophaga cerulea*

Several heard and a couple seen well at Cave Creek.

Northern Parula*Setophaga americana*

Seen very well at Cave Creek.

Magnolia Warbler (L)*Setophaga magnolia***Yellow Warbler***Setophaga petechia***Chestnut-sided Warbler***Setophaga pensylvanica*

A migrant that we saw at Heron Pond.

Blackpoll Warbler (H) (NT)*Setophaga striata***Yellow-throated Warbler***Setophaga dominica*

Seen well in the cypress swamp at Heron Pond and again at Cave Creek.

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*

Scope views for the whole group at Porterhouse Road.

Black-throated Green Warbler (L) *Setophaga virens*

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Seen very well several times, including a young male at Porterhouse Road and an adult male at the Cache River Wetland Center.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

Spectacular views of an adult male near the Natural Bridge, where we also saw a couple of females.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (H) *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

Nice views a couple of times, first at the Bellrose Tract of Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Very common in Southern Illinois, we saw them many times.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*

Nice views several of times of singing males.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*



A trip highlight was seeing Red-shouldered Hawks and their nest with two chicks.