

*Tour Itinerary provided by Jon Ruddy, Owner and Guide at Eastern Ontario Birding*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Wishing you much success this weekend!

### **Weather Overview**

This weekend, it will be unusually warm (similar to avg. mid-July temps) and very humid. The birding will be challenging on Fri and Sat outside of the crack-of-dawn hours. Being outside in the extreme weather will also pose health risks (heat stroke, exhaustion, etc.). Sunday, however, looks much more promising. In Ottawa, the morning temps hover around 20-25 Celsius. A cold front is passing through late morning/early afternoon. Expect some rain around that time, with the possibility of thunderstorms. Once the band moves the muggy weather along, however, it will be cool and lovely, with temps hovering between 15-20 C, with a brisk, cool breeze.

### **Sunday, May 23, 2021**

I recommend starting your day at 5:30 a.m. at the Carp River Conservation Area in Kanata; parking at the north end of Didsbury Road would best access this site. The Google link to the parking spot is included in the Appendix to Sites. Bird this area for the morning, more or less. It should be wonderfully productive with herons, warblers, sparrows and even shorebirds. Your walking route will have the sun to your back, meaning photography will be optimal. After your stop here, I recommend a rest to review photos, have a bite to eat, and relax. After your break, I recommend driving to Britannia Conservation Area and parking near the

Filtration Plant/boat launch. We've been there regularly and I believe you know the site well. I would walk the grassy area toward the ridge at Britannia from there. Walk the ridge and then down to Cassels Street, and bird along there, too. Once finished, try driving to Britannia Street @ Rowatt Street and parking at the east dead end of Rowatt Street; this location is included in the Appendix of Sites. Walk into the sumac field and bird this location for a while; there are many side trails to meander along. Watch for flycatchers at this site, most especially Olive-sided Flycatchers perched at the tip of tree snags.

### **Comments**

This general route for your day should have you enjoying birds in no time. Please let me know if you have any questions!

### **General Birding Considerations**

- South wind = birds will be on the move north
- South wind overnight = birds will be migrating (warblers and others migrate by night!)
- Light rain = birds will be low, seeking insects lower in the foliage, sometimes on the ground
- High wind = birds will be on the lee side of the area in which you are birding (i.e., if the wind is from the west, check the east side of the area; the wind moves insects and therefore concentrates birds wherever their food is).
- Move slowly and stop often, using your naked eye to catch movement before drawing your binoculars and/or camera. The human eye is still

highly trained to catch slight movement, an adaptation from the early hunter/gatherer days of long past; this is true for every living person today!

- Use eBird to your advantage during your downtime and search the latest sightings for the Ottawa area, or at the site(s) you're planning to bird in.
- Keep an eye out for concentrations of birders; this often means there is 1) some good birding at the site or 2) a rarity is present.
- Wear insect spray and sunscreen and monitor your water intake carefully. I recommend a deet-free product: PiActive. You can purchase this product anywhere where outdoors-related products are sold.

### Appendix to Sites

- Didsbury Road, north end:  
<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/45%C2%B018'33.2%22N+75%C2%B055'20.3%22W/@45.3092288,-75.9245057,17z/data=!3m1!4m1!3m1!6!3m5!1s0x4cd2004252ecc5f7:0x403da42a074b619f!2sCarp+River+Conservation+Area!8m2!3d45.311618!4d-75.9341767!3m5!1s0x0:0x0!7e2!8m2!3d45.3092249!4d-75.9223175>
- Rowatt Street, east dead-end:  
<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/45%C2%B022'14.6%22N+75%C2%B047'57.6%22W/@45.3707099,-75.8004153,344m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x0:0x0!7e2!8m2!3d45.370708!4d-75.7993214>



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