

Nipissing Area Bird Bash Report for Feb. 2015

Well, some of you got out, or peered out, – despite the miserably, frigid conditions, 17 of you altogether. And for that we found 27 species of birds in our area. This just happens to be the lowest number (28, in February, 2010), in any month in the 12 years that we have done this bird exercise. Could it be something to do with the weather?

Anyhow, there were three new birds for the year; an almost mischievous Barred Owl in the backyard of the two Doug Patersons near Mattawa; - beautiful, Bohemian Waxwings, some ten of them gracing a small berry tree within the Pinewood area, discovered by Renee Levesque, along with your compiler; and the hard to identify Hoary Redpoll found by Lori Anderson at her Powassan area feeder.

After that, I will just follow the birds roughly in their taxonomic order. A Black Duck and small group of Mallards were resting at the artificially kept-open, water on the north-west end of Trout Lake, spotted by Renee; and, as for the Mallard, noticed flying about, by a couple of others within North Bay. The only other water bird was the Common Goldeneye found by Lori Anderson and Ken Gowding within the relatively small area of unfrozen, Ottawa River down near Mattawa.

Bald Eagles were spotted by a surprisingly large number of you, including the Doug Paterson's near Mattawa, Raymond Walter who saw one flying over North Bay, and Barb Stewart near Magnetewan. Barb just missed the local, Trumpeter Swans by one day, by the way.

A flying, Ruffed Grouse was spotted by the Levesque duo, off hwy 63. Mourning Doves were still around the home of Gary and Connie Sturge. And, a lovely Snowy Owl was beside the barn of Lori, near Powassan.

Just three woodpeckers were spotted, the rarer Downy at the feeder of Donna Demarco, among others, and the Pileated at the home area of Elsa Tafel. Blue Jays were still fairly common, along with American crows and , the most common of all three –

Common Ravens. Black-capped Chickadees still gave a sense of real pleasure, even on the coldest days, to many of you.

Both nuthatches were about, at many feeders. European Starlings are still fairly plentiful, especially in the Pinewood area and West Ferris. A White-throated Sparrow is still thriving at the feeders of Kaye Edmunds, while a few Dark-eyed Juncos are surviving at the home area of Matt Walters, in North Bay, and that of Keith Thornborrow, near South River.

Snow Buntings were in goodly numbers at Greg Boxwells, near Bonfield, and at Lori's near Powassan. Pine Grosbeaks were noted at several locations, including the Doug Patersons, near Mattawa, and Chris Suhka at Field, while they and Evening Grosbeaks were discovered by the Renee Levesque duo, within Pinewood.

Common Redpolls were at virtually every feeder.

And so, congratulations to all of you for your perseverance. There likely will be at least 20 more species gracing our area at the next bird bash – which will be over the week-end of Mar. 28-29. And, it will certainly be much warmer then! Look forward to it!

You can look up the details of this and other “bird bashes” by clicking on the following web page – www.nipnats.com
<<http://www.nipnats.com/>>

Respectfully yours, compiler Dick Tafel