

## **Bird Bash Report, January 2020**

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Well, it is a new year, and although the weather was generally terrible, 26 of us did manage to get close to the average number of birds (34) seen during the past 17 years – at 33, and 4 more than last year! Pretty amazing all in all, I'd say!

Proceeding in roughly taxonomic order as usual, we start off with Mallards viewed by Grant and Shirley McKercher, Gary and Luanne Chowns, and Renee Levesque and yours truly, all near North Bay. The latter pair also watched a Common Goldeneye in the Ottawa River near Thorne.

Gary and Connie Sturge spotted a Northern Goshawk near Powassan, while they, Keith Thornborrow, and the Levesque pair saw a number of Bald Eagles.

Ruffed Grouse were noted by Donna Demarco, Bill and Carol Fleming, Steve Pitt, Ernie Frayle, and Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing. The latter pair, along with Keith, also saw a number of Wild Turkeys.

Mourning Doves were noted by John Levesque, the Chowns, the Flemings, Mary Young (23 of them at her feeders), Renee, the Anderson pair, Keith, Ernie, and the Sturges.

The McKerchers had a Barred Owl at their place.

Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were pretty widely seen, the Pileated less so, but found by Kaye Edmunds and the Levesque pair, among others.

Northern Shrike were spotted by the McKerchers, the Anderson duo, and the Sturges.

Canada Jays were seen only by John. Where are they this year? Blue Jays seemed to be almost everywhere, while American Crows and Common Ravens were only slightly less noticed.

The Anderson pair were the only ones to discover Horned Larks, southeast of Powassan.

Of course, Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be everywhere, while the two nuthatch species were also fairly plentiful, with the White-breasted a bit less so and being noted by Elsa Tafel and by Kaye, among others. But Keith was the only one to catch sight of a Brown Creeper, in South River.

European Starlings did not seem as numerous as often has been the case, but certainly were widely noted.

The American Tree Sparrow was the only sparrow observed, and rather widely, by Peter and Pam Handley, the Flemings, Mary, the Chowns, the Sparks, Steve, the Sturges, Ernie, Keith, John, and the Anderson and Levesque duos. Dark-eyed Juncos were less widely seen, but noted by the Handleys, the Sturges, Steve, Ernie, the Anderson pair, the Sparks, Keith, Renee and John. Hope I didn't miss any.

Snow Buntings were found only by the Anderson duo and the Sturges.

A Common Grackle was on Ernie's list.

Purple Finches were noted solely by the Anderson pair, as were White-winged Crossbills, both spotted southeast of Powassan.

Pine Siskins were found only by the Sturges and by Keith.

American Goldfinches seemed to be the finch of note this winter, being at almost all feeders, including those of Buddy Miles and Mary Ann. However, Evening Grosbeaks found their way only to the view of Keith in South River.

And finally, the House Sparrow was observed solely by the Anderson pair at the Anderson farm.

So, that is it! A pretty good crop, especially considering the implausible weather conditions during most of the weekend. Congratulations to all of you!

Make note of the next Bird Bash—**over the weekend of February 15**. Will there be different birds then? **(This is also the weekend of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), so birds seen during the time of February's Bird Bash can also be reported as species seen for the GBBC. Information on the GBBC will be sent to everyone in early February.)**