

## Bird Bash Report January 2022

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Well, it certainly was a cold winter weekend, but 24 stalwarts managed to get out and find a good mix of birds – 30 altogether! That was the second lowest number of species seen upon any Bird Bash since we began the local compilation in 2003! Indeed it was lower by about three than the average for January throughout that period. However, in 2019 we saw only 29, so we did one better than that year. Was it the cold that kept the birds away or what? Regardless, we did see lots of interesting birds.

We will follow, as usual, the order of the Seasonal Checklist of Birds of North Bay and Area to list the discoveries.

This starts with Mallards spotted by Grant and Shirley McKercher, June and Kevin Telford, and John Levesque, likely either at the open water by the Green Store on Trout Lake, or at the water treatment plant adjacent to Lake Nipissing.

Then we get to a Sharp-shinned Hawk found by Lloyd and Janet Sparks. They also spotted Bald Eagles, as did the McKerchers, Linda Stoner with Rose McClelland, and Gary and Connie Sturge.

Ruffed Grouse were watched by Renee Levesque and yours truly, Donna Demarco, the Sturges, Bill and Carol Fleming, Denise Desmarais, Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing, and John. Wild Turkeys were enjoyed by the Sparks (twelve of them), Keith Thornborrow, the Anderson duo (some 20 of them at the end of Fossmill Road), and the Flemings.

Rock Pigeons seemed to be the widest spread birds in our area and were noted by almost everyone. Mourning Doves were observed by the Levesque pair, the Sturges, the Anderson duo, Keith, and the Stoner couple.

A Barred Owl was enjoyed by the Telfords.

Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were spotted by most participants, generally at their bird feeders. The Pileated was seen by Elsa Tafel and yours truly, Denise, the Anderson duo, and the Sparks.

A Northern Shrike was noticed only by Keith – eating at his suet feeders, no less!

Keith was also the only one to spy a Canada Jay. Blue Jays remained very common, while a few American Crows were spotted by John, the Sturges, the Stoner duo and the Levesque pair. They also saw American Ravens, as did the Telfords, the Flemings, the McKerchers, Denise, the Anderson pair, Donna, and Keith.

Black-capped Chickadees continued to be surely our most popular regular bird, seen by most! But Red-breasted Nuthatches were spotted only by Faye Oei, Denise, and Keith, who also saw the White-breasted, as did the Flemings, and the McKerchers.

European Starlings were spotted by most of the participants.

A flock of about 15 Bohemian Waxwings in the Pinewood area was much enjoyed by the Levesque duo.

American Tree Sparrows were noted by Keith, the Sparks, John, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo. The Sturges managed also to find a White-throated Sparrow, as well as the Dark-eyed Junco, the latter also spotted by John and Renee.

Snow Buntings were found only by the Anderson duo, but only two of them, both coming to Lori's feeder at her farm in Chisholm Township.

Now for finches: Pine Grosbeaks were noted by Donna, the Levesque pair, the Sturges, the Sparks, John, the Handleys, and Denise. Common Redpolls were spotted by the Flemings, the Handleys, John, the Sparks, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo. The Handleys saw American Goldfinch, as did John and Renee, and the McKerchers. Evening Grosbeaks were observed by Donna, John, Denise, the Handleys, the Sparks, and the Levesque pair.

Now finally to the too often maligned House Sparrow, found by the Levesque pair in large numbers on a Stewart Road horse farm near Sturgeon Falls, by the Sturges, near their home, and by the Anderson duo at Lori's farm.

And so that ends the story of the first 2022 North Bay and Area Bird Bash. Congrats to all who braved the tough weather. Keep active and healthy and keep ready for the **next Bird Bash over the weekend of February 19.**