

## February '14 Bird Bash Results, Nipissing District

Some wonderful birds were seen this cold, winter week-end, by 28 stalwart, local birders! 40 species in all, same number as in January, just two shy of the record for February, in 2012.

Probably, the most exciting new ones for the year, were the two new owls – Barred Owl observed by Peter Handley near his feeder north of town, and Great Horned Owl heard by Renee Levesque and yours truly down the Johnston Road trail, northwest of Corbeil.

Another exciting new discovery was a Sharp-shinned Hawk, which swooped upon a starling at Luanne Chowns feeder area, in town. A lone Red Crossbill was identified by Lori Anderson and Ken Gowing, south-east of Powassan; and then there was the out of place, no doubt, very lonely, Common Grackle at the feeder area of Therez Violette at Sturgeon Falls, and the Red-winged Blackbird at Gary and Connie Sturges place west of Powassan.

Now, following in roughly taxonomic order, Barbara Stewart, once again found Trumpeter Swans – this time, four of them and a lone Canada Goose in the open water at Magnetewan.. Craig and Eileen Hurst saw some 125 Mallards along the strip of open water of Trout Lake, as well within the city, did two other groups see many, while Luanne saw the only Black Ducks – right at her place. Brent and Laura Turcotte along with Greg and Pat Boxwell, found Common Goldeneyes at the Ottawa River, the latter also seeing Common Merganser, there.

Among predators, Bald Eagles were noticed by Linda Stoner and Rose McLelland at the Powassan dump, and by 3 other groups. The former duo, the Turcottes, and the Levesque pair also found the widely observed, Northern Hawk Owl near Astorville. A difficult to find, Northern Goshawk was viewed by the Sturges, and by the Anderson duo, who also saw a Northern Shrike, all near Powassan. (Are they all here because we are in the “north”?)

Keith Thornborrow had Wild Turkeys near his place at South River. Many saw Ruffed Grouse (but none – Spruce). Mourning Doves were well distributed, and the two favoured woodpeckers

were relatively common, though only a few, including Chris Suhka up at Field found Pileateds this month. No Black Backed, seen this year – yet.

Gray Jays were, perhaps surprisingly, only within the purview of Keith, down at South River. Did anyone including Kaye Edmunds not find Blue Jays? While within the city, American Crows were fairly abundant, many Northern (or properly “Common”) Ravens were nearer the outskirts, seen by most wandering groups.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found by many, including Donna Demarco and Vicki Wunsch, but only Elsa Tafel, and Mary Young with Lucas Beaver, discovered the White-breasted, at their feeders, both near Corbeil. The latter also saw Brown Creeper, as did the Turcottes., the latter near the Hurdman Dam.

No one found Bohemian Waxwings, during the count period, though some were seen on Monday within the city, near the hospital.

American Tree Sparrows were still about in smaller numbers, it seems, found by Pam Handley, and just a few others. A few Dark-eyed Juncos were at Renee’s feeder north of the city, and at Keith’s at South River. He also had Snow Buntings, as did the Anderson pair, and Boxwells.

Purple Finches were widely distributed, but the Anderson couple was apparently the only ones to identify Pine Siskins. American Goldfinches were the bird of choice at most feeders, but Evening Grosbeaks were only viewed by two groups, Yvan Latour at Pine Lake, and the Anderson pair east of Powassan. Once again the Boxwells and the Anderson duo were the only ones to find House Sparrows.

It was a great effort by all. Congratulations!  
You can view the details of this and the past ten years at -

- <http://www.nipissing-naturalist.com/>
- and reserve time for March’s bird bash – which we customarily leave until the end of that month – to help

improve the weather and the numbers, - over the week-end of March 29-30.

-

- Your compiler, Dick Tafel