

Bird Bash Report

June 2023

By Dick Tafel, Compiler

The weather was just so nice for the 19 intrepid bird watchers who managed to become involved in the 20th consecutive June Bird Bash for our area. Some 113 bird species were identified, just a bit below average for the month.

And so, let's get going, starting as usual with new species seen for the year within the 50 mile (80.5 km) circle of North Bay and area, and following the order of the local Seasonal Checklist.

That means we commence with the often missed Common Nighthawk heard by John Levesque near his home. Then, for some reason previously overlooked, was the lovely Blackburnian Warbler found by Grant and Shirley McKercher, Denise Desmarais, June and Kevin Telford, and April McCrum. A very unusual first spotting for this season was a Red Crossbill found by Linda Stoner with Rose McClelland!

Now to species previously identified this year, and following the same order, we start with the Common Loon, spotted only by Lloyd and Janet Sparks, yours truly, Steve Pitt, Keith Thornborrow, and April.

A Pied-billed Grebe was found by Renee Levesque within Cache Bay, and by Keith in South River.

Double-crested Cormorants were at a low ebb, it seems, being spotted only by the Sparks, the McKerchers, and Keith.

American Bitterns were observed by Steve and Keith, both of whom also spotted the Great Blue Heron, as did the McKerchers. Keith also noted the Green Heron.

Soaring Turkey Vultures were upon very many lists! Likewise on most lists were the very plentiful Canada Geese.

The usual "puddle" ducks, namely Wood Ducks, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Ducks, Mallards, both Blue and Green-winged Teals, and Northern Shovelers were recognized in the various lagoons by Renee with yours truly, while the Mallards alone were spotted by many participants. Steve also noted Wood Ducks.

Just a few diving ducks were spotted, the Common Goldeneye by yours truly and by the McKerchers, with Hooded Mergansers spotted by Keith.

As to predators, Osprey, most of them at their nests, were watched by the Telfords, the Stoner pair, the Sparks, the Levesque duo, and Keith; Broad-winged Hawks were noted by April, Steve, and John; Bald Eagles were seen by Keith, the Sparks, the Stoner pair, and the Telfords; Merlins were on the McKercher and Denise's lists; American Kestrels were spotted by the Levesque duo, Keith, John, and the Sparks; Northern Harriers were followed by Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing and by the Levesque duo; and finally a Red-tailed Hawk was seen by Keith.

Ruffed Grouse were discovered by Denise, the Anderson pair, and the Stoner duo. The latter pair also found Wild Turkeys, as did the Telfords and Keith.

A Virginia Rail was heard calling by the McKerchers.

Sandhill Cranes were heard by the Stoner pair.

Just a few shorebirds were spotted: Killdeer by Angela Mills and the Levesque pair; Wilson's Snipe by Steve; Spotted Sandpipers by Angela, Keith, and the Levesque duo; and a Lesser Yellowlegs by the Levesque duo at Verner Lagoon.

Ring-billed Gulls were widely dispersed, but the Herring Gull was identified only by Angela.

Caspian Terns were seen by the Levesque pair in Cache Bay.

As usual, Rock Doves were noted by almost everyone, with Mourning Doves spotted only by young Jeremie Corbeil, the Telfords, the McKerchers, Keith, and the Levesque duo.

The Levesque pair were the only ones to spot a Black-billed Cuckoo, seen by them on Hazel Glen Road.

No owls were heard or spotted this month.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was upon almost every list.

Belted Kingfishers were caught sight of by the Levesque pair, Keith, and Steve.

Now as to woodpeckers, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed only by the Levesque duo. They also saw Pileateds and Northern Flickers, as did the McKerchers. Keith saw the Flicker, as did Denise and the Sparks. The Pileated was also noted by the Telfords and by John, the latter two also noting the Hairy Woodpecker, as did Steve, Keith, the Sparks, and Renee. The Downy was spotted by the Telfords, the Stoner duo,

and Steve.

We are now onto flycatchers: the Eastern Wood-Pewee was found by the Telfords; the Eastern Phoebe by Keith, the Sparks, the Levesque duo, and the McKerchers; the Alder by the McKerchers, Renee, and the Telfords; the Great crested, by the Telfords; the Least by Jeremie and the Telfords; and the Eastern Kingbird by Keith and the McKerchers.

The Warbling Vireo was observed by the McKerchers, the Telfords, and the Levesque duo; the Red-eyed Vireo had to have been noted by almost everyone, singing as it did almost all day, all over our area!; the Philadelphia Vireo was found by the Telfords; the Blue-headed was spotted by April, Renee, and the McKerchers.

No Canada Jays were reported, but Blue Jays were noted by Steve, Denise, the Sparks, Keith, the Telfords, the Levesque duo, Jeremie, and the McKerchers, a smaller number than might have been expected from this normally common, year-round denizen of our area, but this is nesting time for them. American Crows and Common Ravens were, as usual, very widespread.

There seemed to be a fair number of swallows with Trees being most frequent and noted by Steve, Angela, the Levesque duo, Keith, the Anderson pair, the Sparks, Denise, and the Stoner pair; Barns were spotted by Denise, the Anderson duo, Keith, Steve, and the Levesque pair; and Banks (Powassan Lagoon) and Cliffs (Veuve River) were seen by the Levesque duo, with Cliffs also being noted in South River by Keith.

Of course, as usual, Black-capped Chickadees graced very many areas, and were noted by most participants. Both Red-breasted and the White-breasted Nuthatches were caught sight of by Steve and by the Telfords, with the Red-breasted solely noted by Renee, the McKerchers, and John.

Brown Creepers were not identified.

House Wrens and Winter Wrens were both found by the McKerchers and by Renee, with House Wrens alone located by the Telfords and Keith.

The very active Ruby-crowned Kinglet was distinguished only by Renee.

Thrushes were quite widespread, although Eastern Bluebirds were enjoyed only by the Levesque duo and the Stoner pair; Veerys were discovered by Denise, Jeremie, the Telfords, the Levesque duo, and the McKerchers; both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were uncovered by April, with the Swainson's alone by the McKerchers; American Robins were truly everywhere and enjoyed by all; Wood Thrushes were not yet

unearthed!

The Gray Catbird was located only by the Stoner duo!

Brown Thrashers were spotted by Keith, Jeremie, the Levesque duo, Steve, and the McKerchers.

European Starlings remained one of the most widespread of all our local birds.

Cedar Waxwings were noticed by the McKerchers, the Levesque duo, John, and the Sparks.

Now to the ubiquitous and wonderful North American wood warblers: Sixteen of them were identified for the second month. Your recorder will identify the species and then remark upon the observers. Following the order of the checklist, identified were the Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Pine, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat, and Canada.

Observers and the number of species seen were the McKerchers with 14; the Telfords - 14; Renee - 10; Jeremie - 6; John - 6; your recorder - 6; April - 5; Denise - 4; the Sparks - 2; Angela - 2; Stoner duo - 2; and Keith - 1.

Finally, to the often plain-looking sparrows: Chippings were noticed by the Sparks, Denise, Renee, Jeremie, the Telfords, John, and the McKerchers; Savannahs by the Levesque duo, the Anderson pair, and Denise; Songs by the Anderson pair, the McKerchers, the Stoner pair, John, the Telfords, Angela, the Levesque duo, and Denise; White-throats by Denise, Jeremie, the Levesque duo, John, and the McKerchers, who also observed Swamps, as did the Levesque pair, the Telfords, and Denise; some White-crowns were still around, it seems, and were spotted by the Sparks and by Steve.

Delightful Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were observed by the Sparks, John, and the McKerchers, with the beautiful Indigo Bunting noted by Keith and Renee.

Bobolinks were plentiful in many farm fields, noticed by Steve, Keith, the Anderson duo, the Levesque pair, the Stoner combo, and Denise.

Red-winged Blackbirds were all over the place and seen by most participants.

Eastern Meadowlarks were spotted only by the Levesque pair and the Anderson duo.

Common Grackles were another bird which seemed to be almost everywhere and seen

by most, although the Brown-headed Cowbird was spotted only by Keith.

No Baltimore Orioles were discovered?

Purple Finches were noticed solely by the Levesque pair.

American Goldfinches were watched by Steve, the Levesque pair, Jeremie, Angela, Denise, the Telfords, and the McKerchers.

Finally, we get to the busy, last bird on our list, the House Sparrow, observed by the Anderson duo and the Levesque pair.

And so that concludes a busy June Bird Bash. All must be congratulated for their time and efforts. Keep thinking, however, about the next “bash” to be held over the **weekend of July 29**. Some migrant species should be already heading south by then!