

## **Bird Bash Report**

### **February 2023**

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

February is clearly not the most exciting month to be pursuing local bird species. In 2012, there were 42 species found, the greatest of the 20 Februarys that we have watched for them. This year some 23 participants managed to come upon 35! That was close to the average. Despite the lack of numbers in February, it was, as always, interesting to see just what was discovered!

And so we start off close to the order of the *Seasonal Check list of the Birds of North Bay and Area*, with birds not seen previously (in January). Somewhat surprisingly that commences with a lovely male Hooded Merganser seen by Renee Levesque with your compiler at the open waters behind the Green Store on Trout Lake. Then there was a Common Merganser found within the wider, open waters of the Ottawa River near Mattawa by Garry Waldram. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was spotted by Mary Young at her feeders near Corbeil.

Continuing with the normal order, with birds seen previously this year, we start with the American Black Duck and Mallard Ducks watched by Garry W. near Mattawa, with the Mallard also noted by Diane and Alvin Deagle, Greg Jaski, and the Levesque duo; and the Common Goldeneye also seen by Garry W.

Among predators, the Red-tailed Hawk was observed by the Levesque duo near the Powassan dump, while the Bald Eagle was also seen by them and by Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing, Gary and Connie Sturge, Linda Stoner, Lloyd and Janet Sparks, and Faye Oei.

Ruffed Grouse were discovered only by Donna Demarco. Wild Turkeys were watched by Denise Desmarais, Garry W., the Sturges, and the Levesque pair.

Rock Doves were, as usual, the most common of our birds; and as to Mourning Doves, some 16 were watched by the Levesque duo near the Veuve River, with some also spotted by Grant and Shirley McKercher, Faye, the Sturges, and the Anderson duo.

Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were at most feeders and elsewhere, while the Pileated was noted by John Levesque, Elsa Tafel and yours truly, Linda, the McKerchers, Denise, and the Deagles.

A Northern Shrike was located only by Garry W., the first time he has ever seen one!

Blue Jays were not as common as in some years, but were spotted by Jeremie Corbeil, Garry W., Donna, the Levesque duo, the Anderson pair, Denise, John (some 9 in his yard), the Sturges, Faye, Mary, and Linda.

American Crows, fairly common near the city areas, were identified by Linda, the McKerchers, the Sparks, Faye, the Sturges, John, Denise, the Deagles (approx. 30 within Laurier Woods), Greg, the Anderson duo, and the Levesque pair. Common Ravens were all over the place.

Black-capped Chickadees continued as our most pleasant and common “fellow”. The Boreal was still within Faye's vicinity! No Brown Creepers were discovered.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were watched by the Levesques, Elsa, the Sturges, Faye, Garry W., and Donna who also watched the White-breasted, as did the Levesque duo, the Sturges, Mary, Elsa, the Deagles, Greg, and the Sparks.

A Brown Thrasher was still at Mary's residence.

Lots of European Starlings have remained within the area and were spotted by many!

Tree Sparrows continued to be part of the Levesque feeder contingent, as well as that of the Sturges.

Snow Buntings were spotted only by the Levesque duo, the Anderson pair, and Garry W.

Beautiful Northern Cardinals seem to be coming slowly more into their own, spotted by Therez Violette, Faye, and the Deagles.

A Red-winged Blackbird was noted by the Levesque pair at a feeder in Verner.

Pine Grosbeaks were enjoyed by Jeremie, Greg, the Deagles, Denise, John, the Sturges, Mary, Garry W., and Donna.

Common Redpolls, not as prominent this year, were spotted just by the Levesques, Mary, the Sturges, and the Anderson pair.

Pine Siskins were common at the Tafel feeders (some 15 of them), and also spotted by Garry W. and the Levesque duo.

American Goldfinches were at Therez's place, noted in numbers by the Levesque duo, and spotted by Garry W. and by John.

Evening Grosbeaks were found just by Greg, the Sturges, Garry W., and Mary.

As usual, House Sparrows were “enjoyed” solely by the Anderson duo.

And so that ends a fairly successful February Bird Bash. Congrats to all for getting out and finding a goodly number of birds, despite the less than ideal weather.

Get ready for and look forward to a much greater bird involvement in March when the Bird Bash takes place over the last weekend of that month, **namely March 25-26**. Some 50 or more bird species should be around by then!