

# Bird Bash Report

November 2022

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Our birds are still around! At least that seems to be the case given the result of our November Bird Bash. Some 24 participants managed to discover 72 species within our region over the Bird Bash weekend. That is above average over the past 20 years despite very low years in 2019 (52), and last year when only 55 species were spotted. We have had a very lovely, warm Fall, though the weekend weather was no heck; yet the bird life seemed to be thriving!

So, let's get to it! Following the order in the *Seasonal Check List of the Birds of North Bay and Area*, we begin with birds not seen previously during our 2022 Bird Bashes. This month, we start with the Black Scoter, noted by the duos of Renee Levesque and yours truly and Grant and Shirley McKercher; an Iceland Gull found by Al and Diane Deagle near the North Bay government dock; and finally and wondrously, a Red-bellied Woodpecker watched by Mary Young at her home feeder!

Now to birds seen previously on a Bird Bash during this year and following the same order, we start with Common Loons. These icons were spotted this month only by Chris Sukha and the duo of Lori Anderson and Ken Gowing. Most have left our lakes now, but a few nicely stayed for this Bird Bash!

A few Double-crested Cormorants were still around, found by the previous two groups and by the Levesque duo.

A Great Blue Heron was discovered only by Lloyd and Janet Sparks and by Mary. Steve Pitt spotted a Turkey Vulture, most of them having migrated south.

Canada Geese continued to be one of the most common of all our birds at this time of year and were seen by most observers.

A large contingent of 18 Trumpeter Swans was discovered by Denise Desmarais and the Levesque duo in Cache Bay.

As to dabbling ducks, some have left us, but many remain, such as Gadwall, American Wigeon, and American Black Duck, identified by Chris, the Anderson pair, and the Levesque duo mostly within one or more of the four lagoons within our region. The Levesque duo also saw Green-winged Teal, and most participants saw Mallards at many locations.

Diving ducks seemed to be rather more common. The Redhead was spotted by the Anderson pair who also saw Ring-necked Ducks, as did Sue Gratton, Faye Oei, Gary and Connie Sturge, and the Levesque duo. Greater Scaup were identified by the Sturges and the Levesque duo who also saw Lesser Scaup. Bufflehead were very plentiful and were watched by Chris, the Anderson and Levesque pairs, the Sturges, Denise, and the McKerchers. Both Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers were spotted by Chris, the McKerchers, and the Sturges. Common Mergansers on their own were noted by Denise and the Deagles, while both the Common and Hooded Mergansers were spotted by the Anderson duo and by Steve. The Hooded was found also by Mary, Faye, and the Levesque pair, who also saw Common Goldeneye.

Now to predators. Many have migrated south, but the Northern Harrier was spotted by Chris, the Sturges, the Sparks, and Denise; the Bald Eagle, by the Levesque duo, the Sparks, the Sturges, Chris, the McKerchers, the Anderson duo, and Steve; a Broad-winged Hawk, still about, was noted by the Sparks, while Red-tails were found by Chris and the Levesque duo; and finally, a Merlin was discovered by the Sturges.

Ruffed Grouse was on the lists of Donna Demarco, Keith Thornborrow, the Sturges, the Anderson pair, the Sparks, and Steve. Wild Turkeys were watched by the Sturges and the McKerchers.

A Common Gallinule was located by the Levesque duo, as well as several American Coots. The latter bird was also found by the Anderson pair.

Shorebirds were at a minimum, with only the Greater Yellowlegs being found in Verner Lagoon by the Levesque pair, Denise, and Chris.

Chris identified Bonaparte Gulls. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were very common and one or the other, if not both, were spotted by most participants.

Rock Doves were, as usual, noted by most, while Mourning Doves were just upon the lists of John Levesque, Steve, Keith, Mary, the Sturges, and the McKerchers.

No owls and no kingfishers were seen.

Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were upon the lists of most participants, at least those with feeders. However, the Pileated was discovered only by Elsa Tafel, Keith, Chris, and yours truly.

A very late appearance of an Eastern Phoebe was the first passerine to be noted, spotted by Chris in GardenVillage.

And then a Northern Shrike, on its slow way south, was spotted by Steve near Astorville.

Finally, the Canada Jay, the first since April, was brought forth by Keith. Blue Jays have remained in large numbers and were noted by most.

Some American Crows were still around and were noted by Steve, Denise, the McKerchers, the Sturges, the Levesque duo, the Anderson pair, the Sparks, John, and the Deagles. Common Ravens were on most lists.

The wonderfully friendly Black-capped Chickadees were also upon most lists. Red-breasted Nuthatches were spotted by the Anderson pair, Dick, Elsa, Denise, Steve, Sue, Donna, Faye, and Keith, who also saw the White-breasted, as did the Deagles, Faye, Mary, John, Renee, Sue, Steve, the Sturges, Dick, Elsa, and the Anderson duo.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet was noted solely by Sue.

A few American Robins were still about and were seen by Therez Violette, Linda Stoner, the Levesque duo (5 on Laplage Road), the Sturges, Chris, and Mary, who also viewed a Brown Thrasher still about at her place.

European Starlings were spotted by many.

Bohemian Waxwings were sighted by Chris.

No warblers were upon any lists this month.

Sparrows were fewer in number, of course, but the American Tree was found by the Anderson pair, Keith, Faye, Mary, John, the Sparks, Chris, Denise, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo. White-crowned, fewer in number than recently, were spotted by John, Renee, and the Sturges. The latter pair also found a Song Sparrow and a White-throat, which was also viewed by Mary. She also saw the Fox Sparrow, while Keith spotted Chipping Sparrows. Dark-eyed Juncos were noted by Mary, Sue, the Levesque duo, Keith, the Deagles, Faye, John, Chris, and the McKerchers.

Snow Buntings managed to get into the view of Chris, while the Northern Cardinal came also wondrously to the presences of the Sturges, the Deagles, Therez, and Keith.

A few Red-winged Blackbirds were still around and were seen by Mary, Steve, the Anderson pair, and Therez. Rusty Blackbirds were spotted by Faye and Sue, a "lifer" for her.

Common Grackles were discovered by Therez, the Anderson pair, Steve, Donna, John, and Renee.

The Pine Grosbeak was noted solely by Sue.

Purple Finches were found only by the McKerchers.

Pine Siskins were about, after an absence since June, and observed by Chris.

American Goldfinches were about, and spotted by Mary, the Levesque duo, Keith, Elsa, the McKerchers, Sue, the Anderson pair, the Sturges, Mary, and Chris.

Evening Grosbeaks were enjoyed by the Levesque pair, Chris, the Sturges, John, Donna, and Keith.

That gets us to always the last on the list – the House Sparrow, being seen only in a few places, by Chris, the Anderson pair, and the Sturges.

Such a good November list of birds during a seemingly above average period of warm weather this Fall. Congrats all!

Look forward to another better than average list during the **weekend of December 3-4.**