

Bird Bash Report

April 2024

By Dick Tafel, Compiler

My goodness, what involvements of 34 participants (23 lists) with their terrific lists of birds seen during this April Bird Bash! And that despite hardly perfect weather. Well done all! Exactly 100 species altogether compared to 94 last year, clearly above average for the past 21 years of the local Bird Bash operation!

But let's get going. Starting with new birds for this year within the 50 mile or 80.5 km radius of North Bay trajectory and over individual maximum 24 hour periods, we should commence with the always iconic Common Loon! This was found by Lloyd and Janet Sparks, Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing, Chris Suhka, Steve Pitt, June and Kevin Telford, Keith Thornborrow, Denise Desmarais, Grant and Shirley McKercher, and Garry Waldram. That it was missed by many others is somewhat disconcerting, actually. Where was it on Trout Lake, for example?

However, moving comfortably forward, next on the list was the Pied -billed Grebe discovered by Brent and Laura Turcotte along with Luanne and Gary Chowns and by Chris.

Then we have the very numerous (about 300 in Cache Bay) Double-crested Cormorants watched by Linda Stoner with Pat Stack, Renee Levesque and yours truly, the Telfords, Denise ,the McKerchers, the Anderson duo, Garry, and the Turcotte group.

American Bitterns with their astonishing stomach-driven voices were enjoyed by Fred Pinto, Chris, Steve, Keith, and Denise.

Fred also saw the Great Blue Heron, as did Mary Young with Kim Stahl, Ed Rowley with Katherine Byers, the Sparks, Keith, and Denise.

Then we have some puddle ducks, starting with the American Wigeon and Northern Shoveler, seen by Sue Gratton (both lifers for her), Denise, the Turcotte group, the Levesque pair, the McKerchers, the Telfords, Chris, and the Anderson duo, the latter two groups also saw Gadwall, and Green-winged Teal, as did the Levesque pair. Faye Oei found the Northern Shoveler. Garry saw American Wigeon and the Green-winged and Blue-wing Teals. Chris also saw the Blue-winged Teal plus the Redhead (at the Warren Lagoon). The Anderson pair added

the Blue-winged Teal, along with the Northern Pintail and Redhead. The Levesque duo also had the Blue-wing. The McKerchers also saw the Gadwall and Green-wing. The Turcotte group also saw Blue-wings, Gadwall, and Northern Pintail. Denise found both Gadwall and Northern Pintail.

As to Diving Ducks (though the Redhead is mid-type}, we have the Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead all seen by the Levesque pair, Garry, the Telfords, Faye, the Anderson duo, Sue, Denise, and Chris. The McKerchers found the Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead, as did the Turcotte group. Garry added the Greater Scaup. The Stoner duo found both the Ring-neck and Bufflehead. Keith added the Ring-necks.

The amazing Osprey was enjoyed by young Jeremie Corbeil, Angela Mills, Therez Violette, the Turcotte group, the McKerchers, Chris, the Levesque pair, Sue, the Anderson duo, Faye, Keith, the Sparks, and the Rowley pair. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was spotted by the Sparks. The Broad-winged Hawk was found by the Stoner pair, Sue, the Anderson duo, and Garry. And a Merlin was spotted by the Anderson pair and Sue.

The very elusive Spruce Grouse was viewed (both sexes) by the Anderson duo.

A Common Gallinule was discovered by Denise and by Chris.

Just a few shorebirds had arrived: The Killdeer was spotted by the Telfords, the Levesque duo, and Chris; the Greater Yellowlegs by Denise, Chris, and the Anderson duo; the Wilson's Snipe by Steve, Chris, the Levesque pair, and the Anderson duo; the American Woodcock was heard by Ken Gowing.

The Caspian and Common Terns were spotted in Cache Bay by Chris, with the Caspian Tern solely discovered by the Levesque pair and the Anderson duo.

The Belted Kingfisher was found by the Sparks, Chris, Steve, the Levesque duo, Keith, Sue, and the Turcotte group.

The newly-arrived Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted by John Levesque, the Telfords, Faye, the Levesque pair, Chris, the Young duo, Garry, the Turcotte group, and Denise, while the Northern Flicker was viewed (or its loud call was heard) by Donna Demarco, Brittany Tartaglia, Angela, the Young duo, Keith, the Rowley pair, Garry, John, the Sparks, the Turcotte group, Denise, Chris, the Anderson pair, the Levesque duo, Sue, the McKerchers, the Stoner pair, Faye, Jeremie, and the

Telfords!

The first flycatcher, the Eastern Phoebe, was caught sight of by many - the Levesque pair, the Anderson duo, Chris, Fred, Denise, the Turcotte group, the Sparks, John, Garry, Keith, and the Young duo. The Eastern Kingbird also made its presence known and was spotted by Steve and by Chris.

The Blue-headed Vireo had also arrived and was seen by Faye, Garry, and the Young pair.

Swallows: Very large flocks had just arrived over Cache Bay and Callander Lagoon, with Trees and Barns being noted by Faye, Garry, the Turcotte group, the Anderson pair, and Chris; the Tree solely by Steve, Keith, the Sparks, the Rowley pair, Denise, the McKerchers, the Stoner pair, and the Telfords; the Tree, Barn and Cliff identified by Chris; while the Levesque pair saw all those mentioned, plus the smaller Bank.

Brown Creepers showed themselves to the Telfords, the McKerchers, Denise, Garry, and the Rowley pair.

Two wrens had appeared, the House, spotted by the Turcotte group and the Stoner pair, while the Winter Wren was located by Garry, Faye, the Telfords, and Denise. Both wrens were found by Chris.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were spotted by Denise, the Telfords, Garry, the Young pair, the Turcotte group, the Levesque pair, the Stoner duo, the McKerchers, Sue, the Anderson duo, and Brittany.

Other than American Robins, just one more thrush species, the Hermit Thrush, seemed to have arrived. It was seen by the Anderson pair, the Young duo, Denise, and Brittany who saw many (a fallout) in Laurier Woods

Brown Thrashers were now around and were noted by Chris, Steve, the Young duo, Fred, the Telfords, Garry, the Turcotte group, the Levesque pair, and the Anderson pair.

Three warbler species were observed: The Yellow-rumped and the Palm Warbler were seen by the Anderson pair; the Yellow-rumped only by Sue, Chris, Garry, Denise, the McKerchers, Faye, and the Levesque pair; the Yellow-rumped and Pine Warbler by the Turcotte group, the Young pair, Fred, and the Telfords.

As to sparrows, several new ones had recently arrived. Chipping, Song, Swamp, and White-throat were all spotted by Garry, Chris, the Telfords, Denise, Jeremie, the Levesque duo, and the Anderson pair. Chris also viewed the Vesper (at Warren Lagoon), Fox, and Savannah Sparrows. Angela spotted the Chipping. Fred saw the Swamp, Song, and White-throat, as did the Young duo. The Rowley pair noted the Song. Faye found the Chipping and White-crowned. Therez spotted the White-throat. John observed the Chipping, White-throat, and Fox. Steve had the Song and White-throat. The Turcotte group and the McKerchers saw the Song and White-throat. The Levesque pair also saw the Fox. The Stoner pair came upon the Chipping, Song, White-throat and White-crown. Sue's list included Chipping, Song, and White-throat, while Brittany's showed Swamp, along with very many White-throats within Laurier Woods. The Anderson pair also indicated Savannah Sparrows upon their list. Angela listed the Chipping and Steve listed the White-throat.

Now to the Eastern Meadowlark. It was noticed by the Anderson pair, Sue (a lifer for her), Linda's duo, the Levesque pair, Faye, the Telfords, and Garry.

Rusty Blackbirds were discovered by the Rowley pair, the Levesque duo, Chris, and the Anderson pair.

And finally the last new bird of the year – the Brown-headed Cowbird was spotted only by Denise, the Stoner pair, Keith, and the Levesque duo.

That concludes the reporting of the 55 new birds discovered this year by the Bird Bash group. We can now get onto birds previously seen within the three preceding Bird Bashes for 2024.

And that starts with the Turkey Vulture. It was spotted by Donna, Jeremie, Chris, Fred, the Telfords, Faye, Therez, the Rowley pair, Steve, the Turcotte group, the Levesque pair, the Stoner duo, Sue, Brittany, Garry, Denise, the Young pair, the Sparks, and the Anderson duo - almost all of the birders who participated in the Bird Bash.

Then there were the hundreds of Canada Geese spread about among almost all the birders!

The Trumpeter Swan was discovered only by Steve.

The beautiful Wood Ducks were enjoyed by Steve, Chris, the Young duo, Sue, the Levesque pair, Keith, Faye, the Telfords, and the Anderson duo. Mallards were noticed again by almost everyone! The Common Goldeneye was still about (it has been noted since January) and observed by the Telfords, Faye, the Turcotte group, and the Levesque pair. The Common Merganser was watched by the Telfords, Faye, the Levesque pair, the Stoner duo, the Sparks, Chris, and Steve, while the Hooded Merganser was seen only by Garry, Denise, and Sue.

As to the predator hawks, the Northern Harrier was watched by Sue, Steve, the Sparks, the Stoner duo, the Levesque pair, the Telfords, Brittany, the Turcotte group, and the Anderson pair. Bald Eagles were in the sight of Garry, Steve, Sue, Denise, Chris, the Sparks, the McKerchers, the Stoner duo, the Levesque pair, Faye, the Telfords, and the Turcotte group. American Kestrel were fairly evident and noted by Garry, Sue, Chris, the Sparks, Denise, the Stoner pair, the Levesque duo, the Telfords, Faye, the Turcotte group, and the Anderson duo.

Ruffed Grouse were on the lists of the Anderson pair, the Turcotte group, the Levesque duo, the Stoner pair, the Sparks, Chris, Garry, the McKerchers, Donna, Keith, the Rowley pair, Brittany, the Young duo, the Telfords, Steve and Denise.

Wild Turkeys were spotted by the Anderson pair, Faye, the Levesque duo, the Stoner pair, the Sparks, Garry, Keith, the Rowley duo, and Jeremie.

Sandhill Cranes, generally in small numbers, were spotted by the Levesque pair, Garry, Sue, the Anderson pair, the Young duo, the Telfords, Chris, and Faye.

Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were prominent and spotted by the Levesque duo, Garry, the Anderson pair, Faye, Denise, the Telfords, the McKerchers, Chris, and the Turcotte group. Ring-bills solely were identified by Keith, the Stoner pair, Angela, Fred, the Young duo, Jeremie, and John. The Sparks had just the Herring Gull.

Rock Pigeons were, as always, upon virtually all lists. Mourning Doves were seen by the Sparks, the Young pair, Steve, Keith, Chris, the McKerchers, Brittany, the Telfords, Faye, the Anderson duo, Sue, and the Levesque pair.

A Great Horned Owl was identified by Denise, the fourth time it has been upon our lists this year.

The Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were noted by most participants, but the

Pileated just by the Rowley pair, the Anderson duo, the Telfords, the McKerchers, Chris, Steve, the Young duo, Keith, and the Sparks.

The Canada Jay was once again noted solely by Keith, but the Blue Jay as well as the American Crow and Common Raven were noted by so many, it should not be necessary (your compiler hopes) to delineate them. The same goes for the happy-go-lucky Black-capped Chickadee.

The Red-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches were not very commonly dispersed, with the Red-breast being noted just by the Sparks, Faye, Jeremie, Chris, Sue, the Rowley pair, and Denise. Both nuthatches were seen by Garry, John, the Anderson duo, and Steve, while the White-breasted alone was spotted by the Young pair, the McKerchers, the Telfords, and by Renee.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet was identified by Sue, the Levesque pair, the Anderson duo, and Garry.

The American Robin was now seemingly everywhere, but it is just so wonderful an early Spring visitor that we should note the observers, starting with the Sparks, then Keith, Jeremie, John, Fred, Angela, the Stoner pair, the Turcotte group, Chris, Faye, Therez, Brittany, the Rowley pair, Donna, Denise, Garry, the Anderson duo, Steve, the Young pair, the Telfords, the McKerchers, the Levesque duo, and Sue.

The European Starling was everywhere in large numbers.

The American Tree Sparrow was still about and spotted by Sue, the Levesque pair, the Young duo, the Anderson pair, the Turcotte group, the Stoner duo, Therez, John, and Keith.

Dark-eyed Juncos were quite common, being noticed by the Young duo, the McKerchers, Steve, the Anderson duo, Garry, Denise, the Rowley pair, the Turcotte group, Faye, Therez, Chris, the Stoner duo, John, Jeremie, Keith, the Sparks, the Levesque pair, Sue, and the Telfords.

The Northern Cardinal was discovered solely by the Stoner pair.

Red-winged Blackbirds were virtually everywhere, as were Common Grackles.

The Purple Finch was caught sight of by Steve, the McKerchers, the Young pair, the Telfords, the Stoner duo, Chris, Therez, the Turcotte group, Garry, the

Anderson pair, the Levesque duo, Keith, Jeremie, and John.

Garry was the only one to find the Red Crossbill.

Some Pine Siskins were reported - by Steve, Jeremie, Keith, the Levesque pair, Sue, the Anderson duo, the Turcotte group, Faye, Therez, Chris, the McKerchers, the Telfords, Garry, and Donna.

American Goldfinches were fairly common, being noted by the Young duo, the Telfords, the McKerchers, Chris, Brittany, Therez, the Turcotte group, the Anderson duo, the Levesque pair, the Sparks, Jeremie, Fred, and Steve.

Evening Grosbeaks were still around and were spotted by John, Sue, the Anderson duo, Faye, Chris, and Garry.

Finally, we reach the little, and sometime oppressed, House Sparrow, seen by Chris, Denise, the Anderson pair, and the Levesque duo.

One hundred species! Such a good result, despite some crummy weather and surely somewhat less than comfortable conditions for the birds. Congratulations all!

No doubt we will have an even busier time at the May Bird Bash to take place during the **weekend of May 25-26**. Look forward to it!