

# Bird Bash Report

## May 2024

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

The weather was hardly perfect but at least it was nice for half of the Bird Bash weekend. Over the 24-hour study period, some 28 participants managed to discover 136 species over the 50 mile or 80.5 km diameter circle of our Bird Bash territory. This is about average for the past 21 years. The earlier warmth in May perhaps affected the number of birds seen during this May's Bird Bash.

We always start with new birds for the year, following the order of our *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*. And so that begins with the Green Heron, found in Laurier Woods by Sue Gratton and young Jeremie Corbeil and by Chris Sukha in Cache Bay.

Then there is the Gadwall Duck, not seemingly noticed previously, but seen this month by Renee Levesque and yours truly and by Chris at Verner Lagoon.

The Virginia Rail was spotted by the Levesque pair and by Brent Turcotte.

Some more shorebirds had arrived, including the Semipalmated Plover spotted by June and Kevin Telford, Sue and Chris, all of whom also discovered the Spotted Sandpiper, as did the Levesque combo. The latter pair also spotted the Semipalmated Sandpiper, the Least Sandpiper, the White-rumped, and the Pectoral, all at Powassan Lagoon. Sue also saw the Semipalmated and the Pectoral Sandpipers. Chris spotted the Semipalmated Plover, as well as the Spotted Sandpiper and the Short-billed Dowitcher. April McCrum and Garry Waldram also noted the Spotted Sandpiper.

A new tern, the Black Tern, was spotted by Chris.

The Black-billed Cuckoo was heard by John and Renee Levesque - your compiler just could not hear it. It was also heard by April and the Telfords.

The usual, huge flocks of over 100 Chimney Swifts were watched with much excitement by the Levesque duo. The birds spent some 15 minutes circling the chimney of St, Vincent de Paul Church in North Bay before finally deciding to go to bed in it. April and Chris also spotted Chimney Swifts, but elsewhere.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds certainly had arrived and were noted by Mary Young, Grant and Shirley McKercher, Steve Pitt, Faye Oei, Therez Violette, Lloyd and Janet Sparks, Donna Demarco, Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing, the Telfords, Garry, Sue, and John and Renee.

Most flycatchers had arrived. The Eastern Wood Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher and Great Crested Flycatcher were all found by Mary Young with Kim Stahl, the Levesque duo, and Brent. Ed Rowley with Katherine Byers spotted the Alder. The Anderson duo and Chris discovered the Alder, Least and Great Crested. April found the Wood Pewee, Alder and Least. Jeremie found the Least.

Many vireos had also arrived, including Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed, all identified by the Levesque duo; the Warbling and Red-eyed heard almost incessantly by the Rowley duo, Garry, Sue, the

Telfords, Brent, Jeremie, Chris, the Anderson pair, the Young duo, and the McKerchers. Angela Mills, Linda Stoner with Pat Stack, John, Faye, and Donna also heard the Red-eyed.

More thrushes had arrived, both the Eastern Bluebird and Veery, being noted by Sue, Chris, and Garry, with Faye enjoying just the Eastern Bluebird, as did John, Steve, and the Stoner duo. The Veery was noted by the McKerchers, Brent, April, the Telfords, the Young duo, Jeremie, and the Anderson pair. The Levesque pair observed the Veery as well as the Wood Thrush.

The Gray Catbird was found by Garry, the Telfords, the Levesque pair, Chris, April, and the Stoner duo.

American Pipits were seen at Powassan Lagoon only by the Levesque pair.

Cedar Waxwings were found by Garry, Sue, Renee, the Telfords, the Anderson duo, Steve, Chris, the McKerchers, and Faye.

Now for the lovely wood warblers not including the three previously found. There were 17 new ones! The much less complicated manner of describing these new discoveries is to list the watchers and their findings in order of numbers found. That starts with Garry at 13 - the Golden-winged, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, and Common Yellow-throat; the Telfords at 12 - Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black and White, Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Nashville, and Common Yellowthroat; April also at 12 - the Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Mourning, and Common Yellowthroat; Chris also at 12 - Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black and White, Redstart, Mourning, Ovenbird and Yellow-throat; the Levesque duo at 10 - Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat, and Canada; the Anderson duo at 11, similar to the Levesque duo's list, except they also had Magnolia and Blackburnian, but did not have Black-throated Green.

Sue had 9 new ones - Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellow-throat; Mary's duo had 8 - Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Black and White, Redstart, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, and Wilson's, with the Canada seen solely by Mary; Brent had 8 - Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's; the Rowley pair had 5 - Yellow, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat; and Jeremie had 4 - Ovenbird, Black and White Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler.

Faye observed 3 - Yellow, Magnolia and Common Yellowthroat; Angela also observed 3 - the Yellow, Cape May and American Redstart; the Stoner duo also found three - Yellow, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat; the McKerchers also found 3 - Yellow, Redstart and Ovenbird; the Sparks had two - the Chestnut-sided and American Redstart; John also had 2 - Chestnut-sided and Ovenbird; and finally Donna had one - the Common Yellowthroat.

Now (at last?) we get to the truly exotic. The Scarlet Tanager was observed only by Garry! He also saw the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, also watched by the Telfords, Sue, the Sparks, Steve, and the Anderson duo. And the wonderful Indigo Bunting was discovered by Garry, Chris, April, and the Levesque pair.

Onto the more open areas we get to the Bobolink, spotted by Garry, April, the Anderson duo, the Levesque pair, the Telfords, the Stoner duo, and Chris.

The Baltimore Oriole is another “exotic” not often seen here, but quite regular and spotted this year solely by the Levesque pair, Chris, and Steve.

And so that ends the sightings of new birds for this year's Bird Bash period. We now will get to birds seen previously, using again the order from the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*. That starts with the Common Loon, seemingly and worriedly, less common this year, but spotted by the Levesque pair (within Cache Bay), Garry, Brent, the Anderson duo, Donna, Steve, and Chris.

Then there is the Pied-billed Grebe discovered by Chris.

Double-crested Cormorants are still about in very large numbers, at least in the Cache Bay area, and were noted by Chris, the Telfords, Mary, the Sparks, and the Levesque duo.

American Bittern were unearthed by the Rowley pair, the McKerchers, Steve, the Telfords, and Chris.

The Great Blue Heron was discovered by Sue, Chris, Mary, the Sparks, the Rowley duo, the Anderson pair, and the Levesque duo.

Turkey Vultures were noted by the Levesque pair, Garry, April, Jeremie, the Anderson duo, the Rowley pair, Faye, the Sparks, the McKerchers, the Stoner duo, Chris, Mary, Steve, the Telfords, and Sue.

Canada Geese were very plentiful and seen by almost all participants.

As to puddle ducks, many were about, especially within local lagoons. Those seen were Wood Ducks, American Wigeons, Mallards, Blue and Green-winged Teals and Northern Shovelers. Most of those were spotted by Sue, Chris, the Telfords, and the Levesque duo. The Wood Duck, solely, was noted by the Young duo; a Northern Pintail was seen by the Levesque pair; the Wood Duck, Mallard and Black Duck were upon the list of Garry; the Wood Duck and Mallard were upon the lists of the Anderson duo and Steve; the Mallard was on the list of the Rowley duo, as well as the lists of Mary, Jeremie, the Spark's and the McKercher's lists; Chris was the only one to see the American Black Duck.

Diving ducks were mostly northward, but Chris spotted Lesser Scaup and Common Goldeneye; the Telfords, the Goldeneye; the McKerchers and the Levesque pair, the Goldeneye and the Common Merganser; the Levesque pair also added the Ring-necked Duck; Garry, the Ring-necked Duck and Common Merganser; and Angela and Mary, the Common Merganser.

Ospreys were watched, some on their nests, by Chris, Sue, the Levesque pair, and Faye.

Northern Harriers were noticed by the Levesque pair, Steve, and the Stoner duo. Cooper's Hawk was viewed by the Anderson pair, who also saw the American Kestrel, the latter predator also noted by the Stoner pair who also spotted Bald Eagle, as did the McKerchers, Garry, Mary, the Sparks, and the Telfords. The Levesque pair also viewed the American Kestrel and Broad-winged Hawk. Chris also spotted the American Kestrel.

Ruffed Grouse were spotted by Chris, the Telfords, the Anderson duo, the Sparks, the Young pair, April, Garry, and Brent. Wild Turkeys came into the views of the Anderson duo, Faye, the Rowley duo, and

Garry.

The few Sandhill Cranes now around were located by Therez, the Anderson pair, the Rowley duo, April, and Chris.

Killdeer were on the lists of Chris, Garry, Sue, and the Levesque pair.

Wilson's Snipe was noted only by Garry.

The American Woodcock found itself on the lists of April and Chris.

As to gulls, the Herring and Ring-billed were noticed by most participants. The Caspian and Common Terns were followed by Chris and the Levesque pair; the Caspian alone by Garry, Sue, and Faye; the Common alone by the Anderson duo.

Rock Doves were, as always, upon virtually every list. Mourning Doves were noticed by the Anderson pair, Chris, the Levesque duo, the Telfords, the Stoner duo, the McKerchers, Sue, Mary, Therez, Faye, Jeremie, and Garry.

Garry also came upon the Barred Owl, as did the Anderson pair, an owl observed upon three monthly Bird Bashes this year.

Belted Kingfishers were discovered only by April, Steve, and Chris.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed by the Telfords, Sue, Mary, Jeremie, Garry, and the Anderson pair. The Downy Woodpecker was upon the lists solely of John, Steve, the Stoner pair, and Chris. The Hairy Woodpecker was noted by Chris, the Levesque pair, Steve, the Anderson duo, Garry, Mary, Sue, and the Telfords. Northern Flickers were noted by many, namely Chris, the Anderson pair, Garry, April, the Rowley duo, Therez, Sue, John, the Young duo, the Sparks, McKerchers, Steve, Brent, the Telfords, and the Levesque pair. The Pileated Woodpecker was only upon the lists of Chris and the Levesque pair.

The Eastern Phoebe came upon the lists of Chris, Mary, the Levesque pair, the Telfords, the Sparks, Sue, Garry, the Anderson pair, Faye, April, and the Stoner duo. Eastern Kingbirds were spotted by the Telfords, Sue, Garry, the Anderson duo, Jeremie, the Levesque duo, the Stoner pair, and the Young pair.

Blue-headed Vireos were noted for a second month, this time by Garry, the Anderson duo, and the Levesque pair.

It is hardly necessary to delineate just who observed Blue Jays and American Crows this month, but Common Ravens were less common and were noted by Chris, the Levesque pair, the McKerchers, Therez, Faye, Donna, Steve, the Telfords, Sue, Garry, the Stoner pair, the Anderson duo, Jeremie, and the Young duo.

Tree Swallows were certainly quite common and were watched by Mary, the Anderson duo, the Stoner pair, Garry, Sue, Steve, the Telfords, the Levesque pair, Faye, the Rowley duo, the Sparks, and Chris. Bank Swallows were observed only by Sue. Cliffs were identified by Chris and the Levesque pair, along with the Barn Swallow that was also enjoyed by Faye, Garry, Sue and the Anderson pair. The Black-capped Chickadee was flitting about here and there and was enjoyed by most participants.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was discovered by Renee, Garry, Steve, the Anderson pair, Chris, Brent, the Telfords, and the Young duo. The White-breasted Nuthatch came under the vision only of Steve and the Telfords. The Brown Creeper was noted solely by Garry and the Telfords.

House Wrens were located by the Telfords, the Stoner pair, Angela, Chris, Sue, and Faye, while Winter Wrens were found by Chris, the Levesque pair, and the Telfords.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed by the Levesque pair, Chris, and the Telfords.

The Hermit Thrush was noted solely by Chris, while American Robins were enjoyed by virtually everyone.

Brown Thrashers were seen or heard by Chris, Garry, April, Therez, Sue, Mary, the Anderson duo, Faye, and the Levesque pair.

The European Starlings seemed to be almost everywhere!

Now to the two warblers previously noted at a Bird Bash. The Yellow-rumped was found by the Levesque pair, Faye, the Anderson duo, Sue, the Rowley duo, April, and Garry. The Pine was located by the Levesque pair, Sue, the Young duo, and the Telfords.

Now for sparrows: The Chipping was observed by the Telfords, the Sparks, Sue, Steve, the Levesque pair, Garry, Chris, Faye, the Anderson duo, and John. The Savannah came up again for the Anderson pair, the Telfords, the Levesque duo, Garry, Chris, and the Stoner pair. Songs were seen (or heard) by most participants. The Swamp Sparrow was noted by April, the Rowley duo, the Anderson pair, the Young duo, the Telfords, Sue, the Levesque duo, Garry, Chris, and Brent. White-throats were seen (and/or heard) by April, John, Steve, Jeremie, the Anderson pair, Faye, the Young duo, the Telfords, Sue, the Levesque pair, Garry, Chris, Brent, and April. White-crowns were spotted only by Steve. Dark-eyed Juncos were seen by John and Renee.

The magnificent Northern Cardinal was found by Renee and the Telfords.

Red-winged Blackbirds seemed to be everywhere!

Eastern Meadowlarks were noted by April, the Stoner duo, the Levesque pair, Garry, Chris, and the Telfords.

The Brown-headed Cowbird was sighted only by Chris, while Common Grackles were very widespread.

Purple Finches were spotted by the Levesque pair, Therez, Sue, Jeremie, Chris, and the Young duo. Red and White-winged Crossbills were discovered by Garry. Some Pine Siskin were about and spotted by John and Renee, Faye, April, the Anderson duo, and Chris. American Goldfinch were found by Chris, the Telfords, Therez, the Rowley pair, Sue, the Sparks, the Young pair, the Anderson duo, the Levesque pair, Jeremie, Garry, and Brent. Evening Grosbeaks were found by Faye, Garry, and Steve found Evening Grosbeaks.

Finally we get to the House Sparrow, spotted by Chris, the Levesque pair, the Anderson duo, and Garry.

And so that ends a lengthy May 2024 Bird Bash Report. Congrats to all participants. It was a very mighty effort by all!

Look forward to another “mighty” and enjoyable involvement for the North Bay and Area June Bird Bash which will take place over the **weekend of June 29-30.**