

What a good turnout of bird-watchers this not so pleasant, weather-wise, first of November week-end – 26 of you! And, somehow 74 species were identified. Great going!

As per usual we will start with the new birds for the year. The first must be the Tundra Swan discovered by Chris Sukha in Cache Bay. None had been noticed during their way north in our cold spring. A pair of Black Scoters off of Sunset Park, and a raft of Greater Scaup at Cache Bay, were identified by Renee Levesque and your compiler. And, a small flock of Lapland Longspurs were discovered by Grant and Shirley McKercher at the Callander Bay park.

With that mentioned, now to get to the other interesting discoveries: Angela and Gary Martin and the Mckerchers, were the only ones, perhaps surprisingly, to find Common Loons; while the latter found the only Horned Grebes. A Red necked Grebe was observed by the Levesque duo, who, as well as Lori Anderson and Ken Gowing, found the only Double-crested Cormorant.

A few Turkey Vultures were still around, noticed by Craig and Elaine Hurst and by the Mckerchers, who also found the only Trumpeter Swans – within Callander Bay. Fourteen duck species, including the two main mergansers, were still about, most observed within the various lagoons.

As to predators, the Martins found a Bald Eagle, with Gary also noticing a lonely Sharp-shinned Hawk, the Anderson duo a Northern Harrier, with several finding Red-tails, and currently the most common predator – the Rough-legged Hawk.

Ruffed Grouse were still fairly common, but Wild Turkeys were found only by Keith Thornborrow, near South River. American Coot were seen only by the Martins and by the Anderson pair, up at the western lagoons.

No herons, or shorebirds at all were found. Great Black-backed Gulls were discovered by Brent Turcotte and by the Anderson duo, who also found Great Horned Owls, the first since April, – two of them, near Powassan. Mourning Doves were fairly wide-spread.

A Black-backed Woodpecker was observed by Chris, near Field, first one since March. The three other main woodpeckers were seen by many, including Hairy by Helen McCombie, and Pileated by Barb Stewart at Magnetewan. A Northern Shrike was discovered by Steve O'Donnell near Sundridge. Gray Jays were seen by just a few, Kaye Edmunds near Mattawa, the Martins and by Keith.

Both nuthatches were seen by lots of you. The only thrush still around were a few American Robins, , seen by several. American Pipits were still going through, in small numbers, noticed by the Levesque duo, and the Martins.

Just a few sparrow species observed, mostly Tree, which were seen by many, with Song Sparrow, and White-throat discovered only by Brent. White-crowns had pretty well disappeared, though the Hursts, and the Anderson duo did find a few. Fox Sparrows were found by Gary and Connie Sturge, and by Mary Young. Dark-eyed Juncos were on a few lists, including that of Pete and Pam Handley. Snow Buntings, the first since April, were showing up to many observers, including Ernie Frayle, in Calvin township. However, no Horned Larks were discovered.

Beautiful Northern Cardinals were at the feeders of Therez Violette in Sturgeon Falls, as well as that of Vic Rizzo, seen by the Levesque duo, in North Bay. Four "blackbirds" were at the home of Mary, including Rusty, and Brewer's, and Common Grackle, also seen by a few others, including Greg and Pat Boxwell in the east end.

Pine Grosbeak have arrived, discovered by The Sturges, and by Steve. Purple Finch were at many feeders now, including Mary Mitchell, in northern North Bay. White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpolls were seen by Chris near his home in Field. Pine Siskin, not seen at a "bash" since March, were at most feeders, while American Goldfinch were slowly disappearing, and noticed at only a few. Evening Grosbeaks showed up at Donna Demarcos , near Bonfield, and at several others.

House Sparrows were discovered only by the Anderson duo
- at the Verner “ag. centre”.

All in all, a very good showing of birds – and participants.
Thanks for your efforts. You should soon be able to find the details
of this count, and of the past several years on the new web page -
www.nipnats.com <<http://www.nipnats.com/>>
and, keep reserved the December bird bash date of
Dec. 6&7.

Your compiler, Dick Tafel.