

Bird Bash Report

July 2023

By Dick Tafel, Compiler

Over a rather lovely weekend, 104 bird species were discovered by 21 participants. Other July outings have been similar during the past 20 years of pursuing such, and although last year was a record at 117, other Bird Bash years saw as low as 90! The many birds noted certainly must have added to the excitement of those out looking!

And so, let's start at the only one species not previously noted this year within our 50 mile or 80.5 km North Bay radius, and that is the very interesting Short-billed Dowitcher spotted at Warren Lagoon by the foursome of Renee Levesque and yours truly, along with his two Australian grandchildren, Keoni and Talia Brunner.

From that unique discovery, we must now get to the rest of the birds spotted so far during our Bird Bash year using the order of *The Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*. This starts with the iconic Common Loon, noted this month by Keith Thornborrow, Faye Oei, Sue Gratton, Grant and Shirley McKercher, Garry Waldram, and Denise Desmarais.

The Pied-billed Grebe was also watched by Keith.

Just a few Double-crested Cormorants were noted - by Greg Jaski, the Levesque foursome, the McKerchers, Sue, and Faye.

Great Blue Herons were enjoyed by Jeremie Corbeil, Lloyd and Janet Sparks, Angela Mills, Faye, Sue, the Levesque foursome, Greg, Garry, and Denise. The Green Heron was spotted at Cache Bay by the Levesque four and Denise.

Turkey Vultures were prominent, being spotted in many places by Linda Stoner with Rose McClland, Faye, Sue, Greg, Denise, Jeremie, the Sparks, the Levesque four, Garry, and Keith.

Canada Geese were in large numbers in many places!

Two Trumpeter Swans were spotted by the Levesque four in Cache Bay.

A few American Wigeon and Wood Ducks were on the Levesque list, with Wood Ducks also on Garry's, Sue's and Faye's lists, while Mallards were on almost everybody's lists! A few Common Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers were located by the Levesque bunch, with the Hooded also seen by Keith. Common Mergansers were spotted by the McKerchers and Greg, who also spotted Common Goldeneye, as did Garry. Garry was the only one to see American Black Ducks.

Now as to predators, Ospreys were watched by the Levesque bunch - mostly at the Cache Bay ball field - by Keith, Jeremie, Garry, Denise, Greg, Sue, and Faye. The Broad-winged Hawk was sighted by John Levesque, by Sue, who saw four of them, by the Levesque group, by Garry, and by Faye. Northern Harriers were watched by Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing, Sue, Faye, Linda's duo, and the Levesque four. American Kestrel were spotted by the Levesque four, the Sparks, Denise, the Stoner duo, Garry, and the Anderson pair, who also saw the Merlin, as did Denise and the Levesque foursome. The foursome also watched a Bald Eagle, as did the Sparks, the McKerchers, Garry, and Angela.

Ruffed Grouse were found by the Sparks, Denise, Garry, and Keith. Wild Turkeys were located only by the Stoner pair, who also spotted Sandhill Cranes, as did the Levesque four, Garry, and the Anderson duo.

The Levesque group watched a Solitary Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, and Least Sandpipers. Greg also observed the Spotted Sandpiper, as did Keith, Garry, and the McKerchers. Garry was the only one to see a Killdeer

Ring-billed Gulls mixed with some Herrings were fairly widely disseminated.

Caspian Terns were noted by the Levesque group in Cache Bay.

Rock Pigeons were widespread as usual. Mourning Doves were spotted by the Levesque foursome, Keith, Garry, Sue, and Faye.

No owls were noted!

The Common Nighthawk was spotted only by John.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at everyone's feeders!

The Belted Kingfisher was found by Faye, Sue, Greg, Keith, the McKerchers, and Denise.

Chimney Swifts were observed only by Greg.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were spotted by the Levesque foursome, Sue, Denise, the McKerchers, and Faye. The Downy Woodpecker was found only by Garry and by John who also spotted the Hairy Woodpecker, a woodpecker also located by the Levesque group, Angela, Garry, and Greg. Northern Flickers were on most lists, while the Pileated was seen only by John, Denise, and Renee.

Alder Flycatchers were spotted by Garry, Denise and Angela, who also noted the Least as did the Levesque group who also saw Eastern Phoebes. Phoebes were also spotted by Angela, Garry, Denise, and Keith. Eastern Kingbirds seemed to be all over the place on hydro wires, etc. and were noted by the Levesque foursome, Angela, Denise, Keith, Garry, Sue, Greg, and the Stoner pair. The Great Crested Flycatcher was spotted only by Angela.

The Red-eyed Vireo had quieted down considerably and was noted this month by Greg, the Levesque four, Garry, Sue, Angela, Denise, the Sparks, John, the McKerchers, and Faye. The Blue-headed was found by John, Renee, and Sue, and the Warbling only by Garry.

Blue Jays were not so common, but were spotted by Greg, Garry, John, Renee, Keith, Sue, Angela, Denise, the Sparks, the Stoner pair, the McKerchers, Garry, and Faye.

American Crows were everywhere, while the Common Raven was noted only by Faye, the Sparks, Denise, Sue, Keith, the McKerchers, the Levesque combo, and Greg.

Four swallows were identified by Keith – Bank, Cliff, Barn and Tree; the Levesque quartet, Garry, Sue and Faye identified only the Barn and Tree; and the Stoner pair only the Tree.

Black-capped Chickadees remained pretty well everywhere. The Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared on the lists of Denise, Garry, Faye, and Sue, who also had the White-breasted.

The Brown Creeper was spotted only by Faye and Garry.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet was watched only by Renee and Garry.

As to thrushes, the lovely Eastern Bluebird was spotted only by the Stoner pair and Keith; the Hermit Thrush by Faye, Sue, and the Sparks; the Veery only by Denise and Garry; and the American Robin by almost everyone, it being just about everywhere!

Gray Catbirds were identified by Angela, Denise, Garry, and the Stoner duo. The Brown Thrasher was spotted only by Keith, Garry, and Renee.

European Starlings were everywhere!

Cedar Waxwings were on the lists of the Stoner duo, Greg, Garry, the Sparks, Angela, the Levesque group, the McKerchers, and Sue.

Now as to warblers - they are even tougher to clarify during this season, with young ones making identifying difficult and of course the leafy trees not helping their friskiness. Warblers observed, of some 28 conceivable were: Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Pine, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Mourning, Northern Waterthrush, and Common Yellowthroat.

The Levesque foursome somehow managed to identify 9 of these species, all but Pine, Northern Waterthrush, and Ovenbird. Seen by Garry were the Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black and White, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, and Common Yellow-throat; spotted by Denise were the Yellow, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat; found by John were the Chestnut-sided, Common Yellow-throat, Yellow-rumped, and Black and White; observed by the McKerchers were the Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Black and White; seen by Angela were the American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat; spotted by

Sue were the Yellow-rumped and Common Yellowthroat; noted by Faye were the Pine and Yellow-rumped; and finally seen by the Sparks was the American Redstart, a warbler that made its nest in the Sparks' yard and successfully fledged its young.

Five tough-to-identify sparrow species were located. All five of these species were spotted by the Levesque foursome; the Chipping was noted by Greg, Denise, Sue, Faye, and the Sparks; the White-throat by Sue, Faye, Garry, Angela, Denise, and John; the Savannah by the Stoner duo; the Song by John, the Stoner duo, the Sparks, Garry, Angela, the McKerchers, Greg, Faye, and Sue; and the Swamp by Sue, Garry, and Denise.

A lovely Northern Cardinal was watched by Angela.

The stunning Rose-breasted Grosbeak was watched by the McKerchers.

And a glorious Indigo Bunting was found by Denise.

Bobolinks were discovered by the Anderson pair, the Stoner duo - some 20 – 30 of them - Garry, Sue, and Faye.

Red-winged Blackbirds were very prominent.

Eastern Meadowlarks were discovered by the Anderson pair and the Levesque foursome.

Common Grackles were all over the place.

The Brown-headed Cowbird was found only by Keith.

The striking Baltimore Oriole was enjoyed only by the Stoner pair.

Purple Finches were observed by the Levesque four, Keith, John, Garry, Faye, Sue, and Greg.

American Goldfinches were noticed by the Levesque foursome, Greg, Garry, Keith, John, Angela, and Denise.

Garry was the only one to see Red Crossbills.

Some Evening Grosbeaks were around and found by Faye, Keith, and the Levesque foursome.

And finally we get to the enigmatic House Sparrow seen by the Anderson pair, the Levesque foursome and Denise, the latter two groups finding them at the Verner Co-op store.

So that ends the July Bird Bash. Congrats to all who participated! The next one will take place over **the weekend of August 26**. Lots of south-seeking migrants will be around, including many new shorebirds. Prepare for it!