

# **Bird Bash Report**

## **January 2021**

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Somewhat remarkably, despite the rather intense cold and the Covid-19 pandemic, there were 28 participants in the first Bird Bash for 2021 - and 37 species of birds were identified! That was a bit above average for similar efforts in January over the past 18 years! Last year there were 33 species noted.

As per usual, we will follow the rough taxonomic order set out within our Seasonal Checklist of North Bay and Area. That means we mention first the dozen or so Black Ducks, along with a similar number of Mallards, the latter spotted by April McCrum at the North Bay sewage treatment plant, and both ducks seen by Renee Levesque and yours truly at the edge of the Ottawa River in Mattawa. The latter pair also saw three male Common Goldeneyes further up the river at the base of the fast flowing Otto Holden Hydro Dam.

Now we get to the hawks: Gary and Connie Sturge found a Rough-legged Hawk and Bald Eagle just west of Powassan; and the Levesque pair and April saw well “the” Peregrine Falcon upon the Pro-Cathedral cross in North Bay.

Ruffed Grouse were discovered by Peter and Pam Handley, Bill and Carol Fleming, and Mary Young. Wild Turkeys were on Keith Thornborrow's list.

Rock Pigeons continued to be ubiquitous, while Mourning Doves were seen only by Keith, the Sturges, April, and Mary.

The Snowy Owl was much enjoyed by Therez Violette, April, and the Levesque duo at the far end of Dutrisac Road near Sturgeon Falls.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Vic Rizzo's in North Bay, along with, very surprisingly, a seeming healthy Northern Flicker. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were very widely distributed, while the Pileated was spotted only by Keith, Grant and Shirley McKercher, Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing, Mary, Janet and Lloyd Sparks with their friend Nancy, and Cindy Lafleur.

A Northern Shrike was spotted by the Levesque duo and the Anderson pair, with two discovered by the Sturges.

Keith was the only one to spot a Canada Jay, but Blue Jays were seen by almost

everyone. American Crows were still around North Bay and Powassan in small numbers, noted by the Levesque pair, April, and the Sturges. Common Ravens seemed at times to be the only bird around - within wide areas of the district.

Black-capped Chickadees were at every feeder it seemed, including that of Corinne Urrutia. Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost as widely dispersed, but the White-breasted Nuthatch was disclosed only by Cindy, Mary, Linda Conway, the Anderson pair, the Flemings, Keith, and Elsa Tafel.

European Starlings were not too widely spread around, being noted only by the Levesque pair and the Sturges.

Bohemian Waxwings were spotted only by Fred Pinto – within North Bay.

A White-throated Sparrow showed up at April's home in North Bay, and a continuing Dark-eyed Junco was seen by John Levesque at his home, also in North Bay.

Snow Buntings were watched by Denise Desmerais and the Levesque pair near Verner Lagoon.

The beautiful Northern Cardinal was spotted by Therez in Sturgeon Falls and by April in North Bay.

Pine Grosbeaks were on the lists of the Levesque pair, Keith, the Anderson duo, the Sparks trio, the Handleys, the Flemings, Denise, and Mary.

Common Redpolls have been showing up this winter in larger numbers, noted by Cindy, Mary, Denise, the Flemings, the Sparks trio, Therez, the Handleys (12 of them), the McKerchers, the Levesque pair (22 on Cedar Heights Road ), and the Sturges (just one). The Hoary Redpoll was identified solely by the McKerchers.

Pine Siskins were spotted only by Keith; a few American Goldfinches were discovered only by Sarah Wheelan. And Evening Grosbeaks were on the lists of Renee, the Sturges, and the Anderson pair.

Finally, the latter pair were the only ones to note the sometimes lowly House Sparrows at the Anderson barn.

That completes the January report. Congratulations to all who participated during a very cold winter weekend! Maybe the next Bird Bash, to occur on the **February 20-21** weekend, will show somewhat finer weather – and maybe include an even longer list! Mark down the date!