

Bird Bash Report

July 2024

By Dick Tafel, Compiler

We had rather lovely weather for the July Bird Bash! No new birds for the Bird Bash year, as is often the case in July, but lots of interesting ones, for a total of 104. This is a bit below average for the past 21 years for July Bird Bashes, but certainly very acceptable!

Since your compiler must fly off to Europe for a family reunion this week, he will use a different, shorter method than usual to illustrate the efforts and birds seen by the 20 participants.

Common Loons, always first, were observed by 6 groups.

The Pied-billed Grebe was found only by Keith Thornborrow.

Double-crested Cormorants were spotted by only four participants – Sue Gratton with Stephen O'Donnell, and Linda Stoner with Pat Stack.

The American Bittern was found by Keith, while Great Blue Herons were found by four groups.

As expected, Turkey Vultures and Canada Geese were found by many.

Wood ducks, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal were identified by any who visited Verner and/or Warren Lagoons.

Divers like the Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common Mergansers were noted by a few, some in Lake Nipissing, some at the lagoons.

Ospreys, some with their young in the nest, were much enjoyed by Ed Rowley with Kathy Byers, Jeremie Corbeil and several others.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen only by Keith, but Broad-winged Hawks were spotted by several, as were American Kestrels and Bald Eagles.

Ruffed Grouse were located only by the Gratton group and Wild Turkeys only by Keith.

Sandhill Cranes were a delight (with as many as 6 young in some packs) to many

observers.

Many shorebirds were spotted, especially at Warren Lagoon – Killdeer and Lesser Yellowlegs, as well as Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, all but the Solitary being identified by Yours Truly with Renee Levesque. The Solitary, Killdeer and Spotted were noted by the Gratton group.

Ring-billed Gulls were seen by many, with Herring Gulls seen by some. Caspian and Common Terns were spotted by those who visited Cache Bay.

Of course Rock Pigeons were seen by most participants, with Mourning Doves being found in lesser numbers.

No owls were heard nor seen.

The amazing Ruby-throated Hummingbird was noticed by most, including Therez Violette and Fred Pinto.

The Belted Kingfisher was discovered only by Lloyd and Janet Sparks and Keith.

As to woodpeckers, many saw the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the Northern Flicker, and the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, but only John Levesque with Renee caught sight of the Pileated.

Now to the Passerines, starting with the flycatchers: Alder, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested and Eastern Kingbird were all spotted by Denise Desmarais, with many of them seen by the rest of the participants.

Warbling Vireos were noted by the Gratton duo, while the Red-eyed was heard or occasionally seen by most groups. The Blue-headed was identified by Faye Oei and the Gratton pair.

No Canada Jays were seen this month, but most spotted Blue Jays and American Crows. Common Ravens were noticed by a few.

Tree, Barn and Cliff Swallows were all watched by the Levesque duo, while Bank, Cliff and Barn were watched by the Gratton pair, with others seeing Tree and/or Barn.

Black-capped Chickadees were spotted by most participants. The Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches were also seen by many, although no one indicated seeing both.

Brown Creepers were identified only by Faye and the Levesque pair.

House Wrens were noted by Renee with John.

Now as to kinglets, the Ruby-crowned was upon John and Renee's list, while the Golden-crowned was upon Faye's.

As to thrushes, the pretty Eastern Bluebird was watched only by Lori Anderson. The Veery was noted by Denise and the Gratton duo, while the Swainson's Thrush was only upon the list of John and Renee. The American Robin was just about everywhere.

Gray Catbirds were spotted by Faye, Denise and the Gratton duo, with the Brown Thrasher spotted only by Keith.

As usual, European Starlings were at most places.

Cedar Waxwings seemed to be all over, including at the lagoons where they were pretending to be swallows.

Twelve warblers were discovered – the Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat. Most observers had some, with John and Renee as many as eight.

The exciting Scarlet Tanager was spotted only by the Stoner pair.

Local sparrows - Chipping, Savannah, Song, Swamp and White-throat - were well spread about and seen by many, but only Keith saw a Tree Sparrow.

Now as to some especially pretty birds, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were spotted by John and Renee, while the Indigo Bunting was spotted by Denise.

Bobolinks were noted solely by the Gratton pair.

Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were widespread.

Eastern Meadowlarks were caught sight of this month only by the Levesque pair.

Purple Finches were found by Jeremie, Keith and Therez.

American Goldfinches were quite widely distributed, but Evening Grosbeaks were only on Keith's list.

House Sparrows were unearthed by Lori, Denise and the Levesque duo.

And so that concludes July's Bird Bash. Congrats to all who participated!

Anticipate a perhaps more interesting **Bird Bash during the weekend of August 24-25.**