

# Bird Wing Outing Report



Nipissing Naturalists Club

# Bird Wing Outing

## May 24, 2022

*By Renee Levesque, Bird Wing Scribe*  
*Cover photo by Stephen O'Donnell*  
*Other photos as indicated*

I am not able yet to physically spend the time keyboarding to write a full report, but I want to give you a summary of our first outing in 2 years.

It was through Laurier Woods on Tuesday, May 24. There were six of us – Dick Tafel, Renee Levesque, Lori Anderson, Oriana Pokorny, Mary Marrs and Linda Stoner. Mary had to leave early because very unfortunately her 17-year-old cat was to be euthanized later that morning. Mary said she came on the outing anyway to keep her mind off the pending vet's appointment.

So not many of us, but sometimes when just a few, so much more can be seen. We took the short route and saw or heard 39 species – mostly saw and heard!

The absolute highlight of the outing was when on our return we sat for 20 minutes in the bench overlooking the first pond. As we sat down, Lori said, “Unless there is something different, like the Green Heron, I won't mark down any more birds on that bit of the trail we have already come along.” She no sooner finished proclaiming that when Oriana shouted, “Two Green Herons overhead!” And sure enough there they were. Later what should fly up from the reedy area behind and to the right of us but another Green Heron!



*Green Heron, Renee Levesque*

“If only we could see the Sora that walked in front of Dick a couple of weeks back, that would make the day”, said I. And behold, the Sora called! (Photo at right.)



*Renee Levesque*

Just when we thought we had been very lucky, what should arise from the reeds in front of us but an American Bittern! Dick later said that it was as though it had been listening to us going on and on about the Sora and the Green Herons that it got fed up hearing about them and decided to fly up and let us see what we had been missing in front of our very eyes. Not sure if Linda, the only one carrying a camera, was able to get any photos of these extraordinary events to prove this story. The birds were there and gone in a flash and most of us only heard the Sora. We didn't see it, although Linda was at the ready with her camera just in case. Sorry, Mary, you missed this excitement.

The first pond has been one great pond for birds this year – and many turtles. A couple of weeks ago, Dick and I heard the Virginia Rail (photo at end of report) and saw and heard the Pied-billed Grebe, as I believe others did. (photo at right.)

Of course, we saw some warblers, but the highlight warbler had to be the Wilson's we saw on our way out. Sorry you missed that one too, Mary.



*Buddy Myles*

Another bird I hadn't expected to see was the Eastern Kingbird. We saw two of them at the far pond. I don't recall seeing kingbirds there in the past, just the Belted Kingfisher – not seen this time.

As we were leaving, happy, hungry and hot, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and an American Robin serenaded us to our vehicles.



*Virginia Rail, Renee Levesque*