

Nipissing Area Bird Bash August 28-29, 2015

Another great effort by Nipissing birders this last week-end of August 2015. Seventeen of you found 106 species of birds! That is not a high count for the area in August, but not the lowest count, either. The rainy weather on Saturday probably contributed to the reduced number.

But, the first one that must be mentioned is a Great Egret discovered by Fred Pinto and Marc Buchanan at the Powassan lagoon area on Sunday. This is a very rare bird for this area.

Other new birds for the year include a bunch of shore-birds, most of them at the Powassan lagoon, northerly cell. White-rumped, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers were there on Saturday, noted by Renee Levesque and your compiler. It seems that the four local lagoons did result in lots of the birds discovered this week-end.

As to other birds in rough taxonomic order, Common Loons, Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons were noted by several, but the Pied-billed Grebe was found only by the Levesque pair – at Cache Bay. Turkey Vultures and Canada Geese were on most lists.

Fourteen species of ducks or duck-like birds were found, though only the Levesque pair noted the few Lesser Scaups showing up - in Cache Bay, and the Pinto pair found a Red-breasted Merganser on Sunday, within the Callander lagoon. A Hooded Merganser was there also, on Saturday, according to the Levesque combo.

Ospreys were on many lists, but the Northern Harrier made it only on that of the Pinto combo. Kaye Edmunds identified a Cooper's Hawk, while Broad-winged Hawks, Merlins and Kestrels were observed by many. A Bald Eagle was seen by the Levesque pair up at Cache Bay.

Ruffed Grouse were found surprisingly only by Gary and Connie Sturge near Powassan. American Coots were on the Levesque, and Pinto lists, noted at the Warren lagoon, the latter duo and Greg and Pat Boxwell observing Sandhill Cranes. Besides

the previously mentioned shore-birds seven other such species were observed, most of them at the Powassan lagoon.

Bonaparte Gulls were widely noted, along Lake Nipissing and at the Callander lagoons. The Pinto pair saw one Black Tern at Cache Bay, while Caspian and Common Terns were noted, one species each found by the stated "lagoon watchers".

Mourning Doves were on a few lists, including that of Pam and Pete Handley. No owls were observed, but Common Nighthawks made up for that loss, seen by the Pinto duo, and by Chris Suhka up at Field and by Gary and Connie Sturge near Powassan. Hummingbirds were on most lists. Belted Kingfisher made it to the Sturges, and to the Levesque duo's attention. Surprisingly, woodpeckers were sort of scarce, with a Hairy being seen solely by Kaye along with the Pileated, the latter seen, it seems, also only by the Sturges. The Downy was noted only by Matt. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was on a few more lists, with the Northern Flicker being the most common.

Now as to flycatchers, Brent Turcotte came upon a singing Wood Pewee, Matt Water, and yours truly saw the only Least's, the latter and the Pinto pair also observing a Great-crested, who also found Eastern Kingbird. Eastern Phoebes were on several lists.

Brent found the only Warbling vireo, but Red-eyes were seen (or heard) by many observers. John Levesque recognized a Blue-headed. Tree Swallows were observed only by the Boxwells and Kaye, while Barn Swallows were seen only by the Levesque combo. Once again White-breasted Nuthatches were missed, but Red-breasted were on several lists. Brent found the only Brown Creeper. No wrens were noted.

No Ruby-crowned Kinglets were discovered, but Brent saw the Golden-crowned. Lots of American Robins were seen, and Veerys were on several lists, with Swainson's noted only by your compiler, and Eastern Bluebirds observed only by Chris.

Gray Catbirds were seen (or heard) by many, but the Brown Thrasher was only upon Kaye's list. Cedar Waxwings were seen by many.

Now as to warblers, eleven species were recognized, the Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Black & White only by Brent, the Black-throated Green, Wilson's and Canada only by Brent. Pine and Yellow were seen both by Mary Ann Kenrick and by the Sturges. Yellow was also noted by Matt. The Ovenbird was at Renee's home area; while the Common Yellow-throat and American Redstarts were seen by many.

A Scarlet Tanager (in winter plumage) was observed by your compiler at Laurier (along with similarly plumaged Rose-breasted Grosbeak). Five, all pretty common, sparrow species were noted by many observers. Dark-eyed Junco was found only by the Pinto pair.

Bobolinks were seen by the Levesque combo and by Kaye, who also found the Brown-headed Cowbird. Red-wings and grackles were all over the place. But Purple Finches were seen only by the Sturges, and Pine Siskins only at the Levesque feeder. Evening Grosbeaks were found by the Boxwells, and House Sparrows by the Pinto pair.

And so it was a good effort! Congrats to all participants!

Note that September's "bird bash" will be over the week-end of Sept. 12 (soon to be upon us).

And you should be able to see the details of this and other bird bashes through the years by checking upon

- www.nipnats.com <<http://www.nipnats.com/>