

Bird Bash Report

July 2022

By Dick Tafel, compiler

The weather was pleasant and although the birds quieter than they had been, the number discovered was more numerous than most other Julys during the nineteen-year life of this monthly Bird Bash. Some 117 species were discovered by 27 participants.

As per usual, we start with those species not previously noted during the year's bashes, and follow the same taxonomic order as set out in the "historic" *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*.

This gets us to the Solitary Sandpiper, travelling south already with his compatriot shorebirds. It was spotted by Grant and Shirley McKercher and the combo of Renee Levesque and yours truly who saw theirs in a wet field on Beaucage Park Road. The latter pair also discovered a Wilson's Phalarope at Verner Lagoon. And finally in terms of new birds for the Bird Bash year, the beautiful Northern Cardinal was heard in the home area of Diane and Alvin Deagle.

Now, in similar order, the balance of birds discovered during our Bird Bash year, starting with the Common Loon, which was observed by Denise Desmarais, Elsa Tafel, April McCrum, Sue Gratton with Faye Oei, Bill and Carol Fleming, and the Levesque duo.

The latter pair also spotted two Pied-billed Grebes at Verner Lagoon.

Double-crested Cormorants were seen by Gary and Connie Sturge, June and Kevin Telford, the McKerchers, the Flemings, Denise, and the Leveque duo.

The Great Blue Heron was watched by eleven-year old keener, Jeremie Corbeil, Janet and Lloyd Sparks, the Telfords, the Sturges, the Levesque duo, and the Deagles. The Green Heron was also discovered by the Telfords, while the Flemings came upon the American Bittern.

Turkey Vultures were watched by the Sparks, the Sturges, the Leveque duo, the Telfords, the Gratton duo, the McKerchers, Denise, the Flemings, the Deagles, and Jeremie.

Canada Geese were perhaps not as common as earlier in the spring, but were spotted by Cindy Lafleur, Jeremie, the Flemings, the Gratton pair, the McKerchers, the Sturges, the Levesque pair, and the Telfords.

Wood Ducks were about in fair numbers, usually with young, and were noted by April, the Levesque duo, the Sturges, the McKerchers, and the Deagles. American Wigeon were identified by the Levesque pair and the McKerchers who were the only ones to find Black Ducks, not noted since our March Bird Bash. Mallards remain one of the most common of our ducks, appearing in almost all open waters.

Northern Shovelers were seen by the Levesque pair and the McKerchers, who also identified Blue-winged Teal. Green-winged Teal were noted by the Levesque duo. Ring-necked Ducks were found by the Sturges. Common Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers were unearthed by the McKerchers. Strangely, Common Mergansers were discovered only by the Deagles off Sunset Park.

Now as to predators: Osprey were watched by Linda Stoner, the McKerchers, the Gratton pair, Jeremie, Denise, the Levesque duo, the Sparks, and April. Northern Harriers were noted by the Levesque pair and the McKerchers. Broad-winged Hawks were seen by Renee, Denise, the Gratton duo, Linda, and the Sturges. Bald Eagles were spotted by the Sturges, the Gratton pair, the Sparks, the Telfords, April, and the McKerchers. The latter pair also found American Kestrel, as did the Sparks, the Levesque duo, Denise, Jeremie, and the Sturges. Merlin were on the lists of John Levesque, the McKerchers, and the Levesque duo.

A Spruce Grouse (second time this Bird Bash year) was discovered by the Deagles in the airport area, but Ruffed Grouse did not appear on any lists for the first time during this Bird Bash year.

Wild Turkeys were seen by Peter and Pam Handley, the Sturges, and the McKerchers.

Sandhill Cranes were heard by the Sparks and observed by Donna Demarco, the Flemings, the Levesque pair, and the Sturges.

Getting to shorebirds returning in considerable numbers, the Semipalmated Plover was noted by Jeremie with yours truly and the Sturges at Powassan Lagoon. Killdeer were spotted by the Levesque duo and Jeremie. Greater Yellowlegs were

noted by the McKerchers , with Lesser Yellowlegs noted by Jeremie and the Levesque combo. The latter three, plus the Deagles, also spotted Spotted Sandpipers. Least Sandpipers were watched by April (one at Cache Bay), Jeremy, and the Levesque pair. The latter duo also caught sight of a Wilson's Snipe.

As to gulls, there were clearly very many Ring-bills off Lake Nipissing shores, with some Herrings amidst them. Caspian Terns were enjoyed by the Levesque duo primarily at Cache Bay and a large number of Common Terns on the waters off Jocko Point, with one at Cache Bay, also seen by April.

Rock Doves remain very common all over, while Mourning Doves were noted by the Levesque pair, the Sturges, the Flemings, the Telfords, the Deagles, and the McKerchers.

No owls were seen or heard.

A surprising flock of eight Chimney Swifts was spotted by Jeremie with yours truly along Alsace Road.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were watched by Elsa, Jeremie, the McKerchers, the Deagles, Denise, Linda, John, Cindy, the Handleys, the Sparks, the Telfords, the Gratton duo, the Flemings, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo. In other words, almost everyone.

By contrast, the Belted Kingfisher was caught sight of only by the McKerchers and April.

Getting to woodpeckers, the McKerchers spotted the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, as did the Gratton duo, the Telfords, the Sturges, and Denise. The Downy was spotted by Renee, the Sturges, John, and the Telfords. The Hairy was listed by the latter pair, the Sparks, John, the Deagles, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo. The latter pair also spotted the increasingly common Northern Flicker, as did the Sturges, the Deagles, Denise, John, the Sparks, the Telfords, the Flemings, the Gratton duo, and the McKerchers. Pileated Woodpeckers were found by the Telfords (they found all five woodpecker species), John, Cindy, and Renee.

Moving to the “song-birds”, we start with flycatchers. First up is the Eastern Wood Pewee. This hard to discover species was located by the Levesque duo at the entrance to Jocko Point, by the Sturges on Alsace Road, and by Sue Gratton

near her place in South River. The Alder was heard by the Telfords, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo. Eastern Phoebes were noted by the latter two pairs, as well as the Deagles and the Sparks. The noisy Great Crested Flycatcher was observed by the McKerchers, Denise, the Sturges, and the Telfords. Eastern Kingbirds seemed especially bountiful and were spotted, often on wires, by the Gratton duo, Jeremie, the McKerchers, Cindy, the Sparks, Denise, the Levesque duo, and the Sturges.

As to vireos, the Red-eyed Vireo had quieted down somewhat and was observed by the Flemings, John, the Sparks, the Sturges, the Levesque pair, the Deagles, Denise, Cindy, Jeremie, the Gratton duo, and the Telfords. The Blue-headed Vireo was marked down by the Gratton duo and the Sturges. The latter pair also discovered the Warbling Vireo, with the Levesque duo seeing the Philadelphia Vireo at Jocko Point.

Blue Jays were still widely distributed and if not seen were often heard, with young now becoming prominent. American Crows were even more plentiful! Common Ravens were still not terribly common, but were noted by the Sturges, the Deagles, Cindy, the McKerchers, the Sparks, Jeremie, the Gratton pair, Donna, Linda, the Telfords, the Flemings, and Renee.

Swallows seemed down in numbers, but the Tree was spotted by the Levesque pair, the McKerchers, the Deagles (in their yard), and the Sturges. The latter pair saw a few Bank Swallows, as did the Levesque duo. Barns were seen by the Sturges, the Levesque duo, the McKerchers, Jeremie, the Deagles, and the Gratton duo. No other swallow species were noted.

The energetic Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be as widespread as ever.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were discovered by Denise, the Telfords, Donna, the Gratton pair, the Sturges, and the Deagles. The White-breasted was noted by John, the Gratton duo, the Telfords, Jeremie, the Levesque pair, and the Sturges.

A Brown Creeper was found by Renee, the Gratton duo, and the Sturges.

The House Wren was on the lists of Linda and the Sturges. Winter Wrens were heard by the Telfords, Denise, and Renee, who also unearthed a Sedge Wren on Hazel Glen Road.

Renee saw the Golden-crowned Kinglet; the Gratton duo heard it.

Moving along to the thrushes, the beautiful Eastern Bluebird was caught sight of by yours truly with Jeremie, and by the Sturges. The Veery was noted by the latter pair, the Levesque duo, and the Telfords. Hermit Thrush was found by the Sturges and by Sue, and heard by Denise. The Wood Thrush was noted by the Levesque duo and the Sturges. Very active American Robins were discovered by almost everyone.

Gray Catbirds were observed by the Sturges, the Gratton duo, Denise, Linda, and the Deagles.

The Brown Thrasher was on the lists of the Flemings, the Deagles, Linda, the Telfords, Jeremie and yours truly.

The European Starling, a bird spread throughout our area, was seen by most and usually seen by most every Bird Bash month of the year.

Cedar Waxwings were seen by the McKerchers, the Levesque duo, the Gratton pair, the Sturges, the Telfords, Linda, the Sparks, and Cindy.

We now are at our wonderful wood warblers. Sixteen species were observed, three less than in June and May. Interestingly, only seven were seen last July. I will list them in the order set out in the checklist and then note the number of species discovered by the various participants: Golden-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat, and Canada.

Cindy observed two; the Deagles two; Linda four; John three; the Telfords twelve; the Sturges six; Denise five; the Gratton pair three; the Levesque duo nine (all seen); Renee by herself one; and the McKerchers one.

As to sparrows, the Chipping was spotted by the McKerchers, the Levesque duo, the Gratton pair, Donna, the Sturges, the Deagles, and the Telfords. Songs seemed to be everywhere, though often mainly recognized by their song. Savannah Sparrows were identified by the Levesque duo, Denise, the Sturges, and Jeremie. Swamp Sparrows were noted by the Telfords, Cindy, Jeremie, the Sturges, and Renee. White-throats were revealed to Donna, the Levesque pair, Denise, the Sturges, Jeremie, the Flemings, the Handleys, and the Telfords.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, were seen or heard by the Telfords, the Deagles, Linda, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo.

The stunning Indigo Bunting was spotted by the Levesque pair and by the Sturges.

Bobolinks were not so visible as before hay-cutting, but were observed by the Levesque pair, the Sturges, and the Flemings. Red-winged Blackbirds were even more widespread than last month, as were Common Grackles. But, Eastern Meadowlarks were spotted only by the Sturges and by Jeremie along with yours truly. The lovely Baltimore Oriole came into the view only of the Telfords.

Purple Finches were noticed by the Gratton pair, the Telfords, the Sturges, Jeremie, Donna, the Levesque duo, the Flemings, and the Sparks.

American Goldfinches were spotted by Denise, Cindy, Linda, John, the Deagles, the McKerchers, the Gratton duo, the Flemings, the Levesque duo, Donna, Jeremie, the Sturges, and April.

House Sparrows were spotted by the McKerchers and by Jeremie with yours truly.

And so once again we have reached the end of our monthly Bird Bash report. The numbers were very much higher than the past 9 years, in which two of those years were as low as 90. And so congrats to all!

Look forward to what may befall us at the next Bird Bash to take place during the **weekend of August 27, the last weekend of that month.**