

Bird Bash Report

June 2024

By Richard Tafel, Compiler

The weather was hardly conducive to great bird-watching, but 21 of us did participate effectively to find some 116 species, slightly better than last year, but just a bit below average over the past 20 consecutive years of monthly Bird Bashes.

There were not many new species for the Bird Bash year, but there were three: a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Swainson's Thrush found by Renee and John Levesque, with the Swainson's also being heard by April McCrum, and a Sedge Wren found by Garry Waldrum.

Now to those birds seen previously upon a 2024 Bird Bash and in the usual order as set out within the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*, we start off with our iconic Common Loon, watched (or heard) by Yours Truly, Lori Anderson along with Ken Gowing, Katharine MacLeod, Faye Oei, Denise Desmarais, Sue Gratton, June and Kevin Telford, the Levesques, April, and Garry.

A Pied-billed Grebe was found by Denise at Verner Lagoon.

Double-crested Cormorants were spotted Lloyd and Janet Sparks, Greg Jaski with his Mom, Garry, the Anderson duo, the Telfords, Denise, and the Levesques.

The normally hard- to-find American Bittern was located by the Anderson pair, Garry, and the Levesques.

Great Blue Herons were spotted by Denise, the Jaskis, Sue, Garry, the Anderson pair, and the Telfords. A Green Heron was discovered only by Garry.

Turkey Vultures remained fairly constant and seen by Garry, the Anderson pair, Sue, the Sparks, the Jaskis, Faye, Denise, the Levesques, and the Telfords.

Canada Geese were not quite as commonplace as earlier on, but were seen by Linda Stoner with Pat Stack, Ed Rowley with Katherine Byers, the Telfords, the Levesques, Katharine, the Jaskis, Garry, and the Anderson duo.

Now as to the “puddle-ducks”, Wood Ducks were noted by the Telfords, April, and Garry, who also spotted the Black Duck. American Wigeon and Gadwall were also seen by the Telfords, while Gadwall and Green-winged Teal were seen by the Levesques. American Wigeon and Blue-winged Teal were seen by Denise. Mallards were spotted by almost everyone!

Getting to the “diving ducks”, we start with the Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser, all spotted by the Telfords; Common Merganser by April; Goldeneye by Garry; Ring-necked and the Hooded Merganser by Faye and Sue; and the Common Merganser

by Greg and the Stoner pair.

Predators discovered were the Osprey, seen by the Stoner duo, Sue, Greg, and the Sparks who also found the Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle and American Kestrel. Osprey were also spotted by Faye and Denise. The Bald Eagle and American Kestrel were seen by the Stoner group. Osprey, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel and Merlin were spotted by the Levesques. Osprey, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle and American Kestrel were seen by Garry. The Northern Harrier was observed by the Anderson pair, with the Bald Eagle and American Kestrel seen by the Telfords.

Ruffed Grouse were noted by Garry, the Levesques, Denise, Faye, Katharine, Sue, and Garry, who also saw Wild Turkey, as did the Anderson pair. Sandhill Cranes were seen by the Anderson pair, Sue, the Rowley pair, and Garry. The Virginia Rail was observed only by Garry.

A few local "shorebirds" were discovered. Killdeer were noted by Garry, who also saw the Spotted Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe, the latter species also found by the Anderson pair, Faye, Sue, and the Sparks. The Telfords also watched the Spotted Sandpiper.

Ring-billed Gulls were noticed by almost everyone, but the Herrings were identified only by the Telfords, Sue, Faye, the Anderson duo, the Levesques, Denise, and the Jaskis. Common Terns were noted by the Anderson pair and the Levesques, who also spotted Caspian Terns, as did Denise and the Sparks.

Rock Pigeons were spotted by just about everyone, with Mourning Doves spotted by Denise, the Levesques, the Anderson duo, the Rowley duo, Katharine, the Stoner pair, Garry, the Telfords, Faye, Sue, and the Sparks.

A Barred Owl was heard by the Levesque pair. This was the fourth month this owl was heard or seen but not at the same locations nor by the same observers.

Chimney Swifts were watched solely by the Telfords.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were popular with Garry, the Jaskis, the Sparks, Denise, Sue, and the Levesques.

Belted Kingfishers were spotted by the Jaskis, Sue, the Anderson duo, April, and Garry.

Now we get to the woodpeckers: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker and Northern Flicker were noted by Garry, Sue, the Telfords, Faye, and the Anderson pair. Downys were on the lists of Sue, the Levesques, Denise, the Anderson pair, and the Rowley duo, while the Pileated, Hairy, and Northern Flicker were seen by the Jaski pair. The Northern Flicker and the Sapsucker were on Denise's list. The Flicker, the Sapsucker and the Pileated were observed by the Sparks. The Pileated was noted by the Anderson pair, while the Flicker was noted by the Rowleys. The Flicker and Sapsucker were noted by Katharine. The Flicker was seen by Yours Truly and April, while the Pileated was spotted by the Telfords. The Hairy and Flicker were on the list of the Levesques, while the Hairy was seen by Yours Truly.

Now for the Passerines or “songbirds”, starting off with flycatchers: The Levesques, Faye, and Sue observed the Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Kingbird, with both also observed by the Telfords, along with the Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher and Great Crested Flycatcher. The Rowleys caught sight of the Eastern Phoebe, as did the Anderson duo, who also noted the Great Crested, Least Flycatcher, and Kingbird. The Sparks and Denise saw the Great Crested and the Eastern Phoebe. Garry had all six of the stated flycatchers upon his list.

As to the ubiquitous Red-eyed Vireo, this was listened to (or sometimes seen) by the Jaskis, Denise, Yours Truly, the Rowleys, April, and the Telfords, while it and the Warbling Vireo were found by the Levesques, Garry, and Katharine. The Red-eyed and the Blue-headed Vireo were noted by Faye and Sue, while all three vireos were noted by the Anderson duo.

The often missed Canada Jays, three of them, were spotted only by the Levesques on Riding Stable Road. Blue Jays were watched by the Anderson duo, the Jaskis, Sue, Faye, Garry, the Levesques, the Telfords, April, and Denise.

American Crows were spotted by almost everyone, but the Common Ravens were identified solely by April, the Anderson pair, Garry, Katharine, the Levesques, Faye, the Jaskis, and the Anderson pair.

Tree, Cliff and Barn Swallows were watched by the Anderson duo, the Levesques, and the Telfords; Barn and Tree Swallows watched by Sue, Faye, Garry, and Denise; and Barns watched by the Jaskis.

The energetic Black-capped Chickadees were spotted by just about everyone. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed by Denise, Garry, Faye, Sue, April, the Levesques, and Katharine, while the White-breasted was caught sight of only by Sue, April, the Anderson duo, and the Telfords. Brown Creepers were discovered only by the Levesques, Faye, and Sue.

Both House and Winter Wrens were found by Garry and the Telfords, while the Winter Wren was found solely by the Jaskis and Faye.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet was spotted only by Faye and the Levesques. (No Ruby-crowns were noted.)

Into the now widely distributed thrush family, we start with the Eastern Bluebird, watched solely by the Anderson duo and Garry; then the Veery found by April, the Levesques, the Telfords, Katharine, Faye, the Anderson pair, Sue, Denise, and Garry; the peripatetic American Robin enjoyed by just about everyone; the Hermit Thrush observed by the Anderson duo, April, Katharine, Yours Truly, and the Rowleys, while the Wood Thrush discovered only by Garry.

The Gray Catbird was observed by the Anderson duo, Faye, the Telfords, the Levesques, April, Sue, and Denise. Brown Thrashers were noted by the Anderson pair, the Levesque duo, the Sparks, and Garry.

European Starlings were seen by most participants.

Cedar Waxwings were on the lists of the Telfords, the Anderson pair, April, Sue, Denise, Garry, the Levesques, Faye, Yours Truly, and the Jaskis.

As to the wonderful wood warblers, I will list the observers with their numbers and will comment upon the relative abundance of the various warblers discovered. Sixteen warblers were observed altogether. They consisted of the Nashville by 2 observers; Northern Parula by 4 observers; Yellow by 9; Chestnut-sided by 8; Magnolia by 4; Yellow-rumped by 7; Black-throated Green by 3; Mourning by 3; Common Yellowthroat by 8; Blackburnian by 3; Pine by 4; and Black-throated Blue by 1

Garry noted 12; the Levesques 11; the Telfords 10; April 8; Sue 8; the Anderson duo 8; Katharine 7; Faye 7; Denise 5; Sue 5; the Rowleys 5; the Jaskis 1, the Sparks 1; the Stoner duo 1; and Yours Truly 1;

Sparrows can be a bit complicated because they are so similar in appearance. But starting with the small Chipping Sparrow, it, along with Savannah, Song, Swamp and White-throated, were all spotted by Faye, the Levesques, the Telfords, Garry, the Anderson pair, and Sue. April listed the Song and White-throat. Denise had on her list the Savannah, Song, and White-throat. On the Jaski list were the Chipping, Song and White-throat. On Katharine's list were the Chipping, Song, Swamp and White-throat. Upon the list of Yours Truly were Chipping, Song and White-throat. Linda listed the Song. The Rowleys showed the Song and Swamp. The Sparks observed the Chipping and White-throat.

The beautiful Northern Cardinal was observed only by the Telfords.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Indigo Bunting were enjoyed by Garry and the Levesques. The Rose-breasted was also enjoyed by the Sparks, while the Indigo was enjoyed by the Anderson pair.

Bobolinks were noticed by the Levesques, Sue, Garry, the Telfords, Denise, the Anderson duo, and Faye.

Red-winged Blackbirds seemed to be almost everywhere.

Eastern Meadowlarks were watched by the Anderson pair, the Telfords, and Garry.

Common Grackles were upon the lists of the Levesques, Sue, Garry, the Telfords, Denise, the Anderson pair, the Jaskis, Katharine, Yours Truly, Linda, the Rowleys, and Faye.

A trio of Baltimore Orioles were enjoyed by the Levesques at Cache Bay.

Purple Finch were noticed by Katharine, the Jaskis, the Anderson duo, Sue, and the Levesques.

A few Pine Siskin were still around and noticed by Faye.

American Goldfinch were about in fair numbers and discovered by the Sparks, the Rowleys, Katharine, the Jaskis, the Anderson duo, Denise, the Telfords, Garry, April, and the Levesques.

A few Evening Grosbeaks were around and spotted by the Anderson duo and Garry.

The House Sparrow was upon the lists of the Anderson duo, Denise, and Garry.

And all that concludes the June Bird Bash for 2024 within North Bay and vicinity! Congrats to all participants!

Let us hope that the July Bird Bash which should be over the **weekend of July 27-28** will have somewhat better weather behind it, along with as many birds, some maybe already moving south.