

# Bird Bash Report

November 2024

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Some 23 participants had two glorious, if cool, days for some fine November birdwatching! They discovered 61 species, a not exceptional number (only 4 other of the 24 consecutive November “bashes” had less species), but certainly well-documented and enjoyed!

As usual, we start with birds not seen previously upon a Bird Bash this year using the order in the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*. That starts with the Horned Grebe spotted by Renee Levesque and yours truly and by Garry Waldram, and a Red-necked Grebe spotted by the Levesque pair at the North Bay Yacht Club in Callander.

Then there were the glorious thirty or more Tundra Swans seen by Grant and Shirley McKercher, Garry, and the Levesque pair on Lake Nipissing off Beaucage Park Road.

The Red-breasted Merganser was seen only by Garry.

Now to the birds seen previously during the preceding 10 monthly Bird Bashes, we start with Common Loons some of which were still about and observed by several - Lloyd and Janet Sparks, Bill and Carol Fleming, Steve Pitt, the Levesque pair, Garry, and the McKerchers.

Then to the Pied-billed Grebe noticed by the Levesque pair and the McKerchers at Cache Bay.

The Double-crested Cormorant was found only by Garry, who also spotted the Great Blue Heron, seen as well by Brent and Laura Turcotte and Steve.

Canada Geese were seen by most participants.

The Trumpeter Swan was identified by Denise Desmarais, the Levesque pair, and the McKerchers.

Getting to the “puddle ducks”, Gadwall, Mallards, Black Ducks, and Green-winged Teal, were seen by several, but the Wood Duck was noted only by the Levesque pair and the Northern Shoveler only by Denise and the McKerchers, who also spotted Blue-winged Teal.

As to the divers, Ring-necked Ducks were on the lists of the Levesque pair and the McKerchers. Lesser Scaup were seen by several, as were Buffleheads, Common Goldeneye, and Common Mergansers. Hooded Mergansers were spotted by Mary Young, the Turcottes, Garry, the McKerchers, the Levesque pair, and Denise.

Now, as to predators, the Red-tailed Hawk (on Hwy. 17 West) and the American Kestrel (Quesnel Road, Sturgeon Falls) were both spotted by the Levesque pair, along with the Bald Eagle, an eagle noted by several other participants.

Ruffed Grouse was spotted by Faye Oei, Donna Demarco, the Flemings, the Sparks, Garry, Denise, and Steve. Wild Turkeys were discovered by Faye, the Sparks, and Garry.

The American Coot was noticed just by the Levesque pair.

Just a few shorebirds were discovered - the Greater Yellowlegs by Denise and the Levesque pair, who also identified a Pectoral Sandpiper. Both shorebirds were seen at Verner Lagoon.

Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were very common, but the Great Black-backed (at Sunset Park) was noted only by the Levesque pair.

Rock Pigeons were very commonplace and noticed by many, while the Mourning Dove was noticed just by the McKerchers, the Flemings, and Mary.

Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were quite common, but the Pileated was spotted only by Garry, the Flemings, and Denise.

Blue Jays and American Crows were also fairly common, as was the Common Raven identified by John Levesque, April McCrum, Denise, the McKerchers, the Sparks, Faye, the Levesque duo, the Turcottes, Steve, the Flemings, Mary, and Garry.

The Horned Lark was discovered only by Faye.

Black-capped Chickadees remained one of the most common (and most popular) of all the local birds spotted. The Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches were also very common.

Just a very few American Robins remained discoverable - by Linda Stoner with Pat Stack, the Levesque pair, the Sparks, Garry, and the Turcottes.

European Starlings were much about, though not in the earlier larger numbers.

Neither waxwings nor warblers were noted!

The American Tree Sparrow was the main sparrow still about, being spotted by Elsa Tafel, Garry and Luanne Chowns, the Levesque duo, the Flemings, Mary, Garry, Denise, and John. Elsa also saw the White-throated Sparrow, as did the McKerchers. Dark-eyed Juncos were very commonly noted.

A Lapland Longspur was watched briefly by the Levesque pair. Snow Buntings were on the lists of Denise, Garry, the Turcottes, and the Levesque duo.

Now here is a big discovery – the Northern Cardinal was spotted by several – the Chowns, Steve, and April.

Very few Red-winged Blackbirds remained, but those still around were discovered by the Chowns, the Flemings, Garry, and Mary.

The Rusty Blackbird was found by Mary and the Levesque duo.

The once-so-common Common Grackle was upon the list only of the Flemings.

No Purple Finches were noted, the only month so far this year in which this has happened.

Pine Siskins were spotted only by Faye.

American Goldfinches were fairly common and noted by the Flemings, Garry, Faye, Elsa, April, the McKerchers, and the Sparks.

The normally boisterous Evening Grosbeaks appeared upon only one list, that of John.

Now finally, we get to the last bird regularly noted – the House Sparrow, spotted by Denise, Faye, and the Levesque pair.

And so that ends an enjoyable, though not entirely munificent Bird Bash for November 2024! Congrats to all participants for your perseverance and compilations!

Look forward to the last Bird Bash of the year, **scheduled for December 7-8.**