

## **Bird Bash Report**

January 2025

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Man it is hard to be enthusiastic to want to bird - even when it is our monthly Bird Bash - during such frigid conditions as we experienced this past weekend! However, some 21 participants managed to find 29 species during their 24-hour searching limit. That ties the least number of species in January (in 2019) during our past 22 years of Bird Bashing within the North Bay area.

Of course, all were first of the year discoveries, and so, your compiler does not need to go through the usual two groupings - new ones for the year and then all the rest. And so using the order in our *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area*, let's go!

The first species upon the list must be the rather amazing Mallard which somehow manages to find sufficient open water and food to likely stay here all winter. It was noticed by Grant and Shirley McKercher; Greg Jaski, with his Mom, Rachel; Linda Stoner with Pat Stack; Renee Levesque with your compiler; and Garry Waldram, who also saw the American Black Duck, as did Lori Anderson with Ken Gowing. The only diver was the Common Goldeneye, spotted by Garry.

The magnificent Bald Eagle was seen by Lloyd and Janet Sparks, the Jaskis, the Anderson pair, the Levesque duo, and the Stoner pair. A Cooper's Hawk was seen by the McKerchers chasing birds at their feeder. And a Red-tailed Hawk was seen by the Anderson pair.

Ruffed Grouse were on the lists of Mary Young, John Levesque, the Anderson duo, and Renee, while Wild Turkeys (now seemingly much more common than just a few years ago) were noted by Donna Demarco, the Sparks, Garry, and the Anderson duo.

Rock Pigeons continue to be one of the most common birds of our district, while the comforting Mourning Doves were observed only by the McKerchers and Mary Young - some 17 of them at her feeders.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker was spotted by Mary at her feeder, while Downys and Hairys were seemingly seen at most feeders. The Pileated was enjoyed by Elsa Tafel, Mary, Garry, the Anderson duo, and the Jaski pair.

The "tough" Northern Shrike was watched by Mary, Garry, and the Levesque duo.

Pretty Blue Jays and the loveable Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be upon almost all lists.

American Crows were in large numbers in a few areas, and found by Steve Pitt, the Levesque pair (some 100 or so at Verner Lagoon), the Sparks, the Jaskis, the McKerchers, and the Stoner duo. Common Ravens were much about and noted by the Anderson pair, Garry, the Sparks, John, Steve, Mary, the Stoner duo, the Levesque duo, the McKerchers, and the Jaskis.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was caught sight of by Renee, John, Garry, and Steve. Steve also spotted the White-breasted Nuthatch, as did Therez Violette, the Sparks, Garry, Elsa, the McKerchers, and the Stoner duo.

European Starlings were not especially bountiful (as they often are), but were found by Garry, Donna, the Levesque pair, the Anderson duo, and the Jaskis.

The American Tree Sparrow has remained fairly common and was noted by Therez, the Anderson duo, John, Renee, and Garry. The White-throated Sparrow was discovered solely by the McKerchers.

Snow Buntings were on the lists only of the Anderson duo and the Stoner pair.

The Pine Grosbeak was only upon Garry's list, while the Redpoll was discovered only by the Levesque pair near the North Bay landfill site.

American Goldfinches were relatively common, being checked off by John, Mary, Elsa, your complier, Steve, the McKerchers, and Therez.

Evening Grosbeaks were spotted by John, Renee, and Garry.

The inimitable House Sparrow was on the list only of the Anderson duo.

And that is it! Great efforts by our indomitable participants!

Look forward to some more fine weather for birding during the February Bird Bash set for the **weekend of February 15-16.**