

## **Bird Bash Report**

### **February 2025**

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Considering the frigid, snowy weather, some 21 stalwarts had excellent Bird Bash results this past weekend. Thirty-four species were identified! That compares closely with the average for the past 21 years of February counts.

And so to begin with first birds of this year following the historic order of the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area* (a 50 mile or 80.5 km radius of North Bay), we start with a Sharp-shinned Hawk identified by Lloyd and Janet Sparks.

Then we get to the Great Grey Owl watched in Calvin Township by Garry Waldram and by Linda Stoner with Pat Stack. A Belted Kingfisher was also seen in the area by Garry.

Keith Thornborrow came upon a Canada Jay in the South River area after some persistent viewing.

Renee Levesque and your compiler, as well as Denise Desmarais and Garry, saw a large collection of Horned Larks in Verner.

A Brown Creeper circled some trees near the Callander home of Grant and Shirley Mckercher.

About six Lapland Longspurs were spotted by Garry within the large flock of Horned Larks, while a Pine Siskin was discovered by Steve Pitt.

We now get to the February birds seen previously in January, starting with the American Black Duck and Mallard, both seen by the Levesque duo, the McKerchers, and Garry. The latter two groups also viewed Common Goldeneye.

Some 20 Bald Eagles were discovered by the Levesque pair and by Garry at the Sturgeon Falls landfill site, and fewer numbers were watched elsewhere by the McKerchers and the Stoner duo.

Ruffed Grouse were found by Mary Young, Lori Anderson along with Ken Gowing, John Levesque, Renee, and the Stoner pair.

Wild Turkeys were seen by Faye Oei, Sue Gratton, Keith, and the Anderson duo.

As usual, Rock Pigeons were noted by almost everyone. However, Mourning Doves were spotted only by Sue, the McKerchers, Garry, Keith, Mary, and Faye.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker was on Mary's list. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were at most feeders and seen by most observers. The Pileated Woodpecker was spotted only by Butterfly Fields, Renee, Garry, Mary, and the Sparks.

The aggressive Northern Shrike was spotted by Garry and by the Anderson pair.

Blue Jays, American Crows and Common Ravens were about in most areas and seen by most observers, as were the energetic Black-capped Chickadees, probably the most common specie seen here during the winter!

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was on the lists of Garry, Keith, Sue, Steve, Renee, John, the Anderson duo, and Faye, while the White-breasted was viewed by Elsa Tafel, Mary, Faye, the Sparks, Keith, Steve, Garry, Butterfly, Sue, and the Levesque pair.

European Starlings did not seem to be as numerous, but were quite widely noticed.

American Tree Sparrows were watched within the yard of John and Renee and were also spotted by Garry. The White-throated Sparrow was again noted by the McKerchers in their yard.

Snow Buntings were enjoyed by Garry, the Anderson pair, Steve, and the Levesque duo.

American Goldfinches, often in large numbers, were observed by Faye, John, Renee, Elsa, yours truly, the Stoner duo, Keith, the Anderson pair, Sue, the McKerchers, and Steve.

A few lovely Evening Grosbeaks were enjoyed by the McKerchers, Garry, John, Renee, and the Anderson duo.

And finally, we get to the active (within barns and other rural buildings) House Sparrows, discovered by the Levesque pair, the Anderson duo, and Garry.

So that concludes the discoveries by the intrepid watchers within our birding area. Congratulations to all of you for your forbearance and persistence in such nasty weather!

Hopefully there will be a few more exciting birds during the March Bird Bash scheduled for **the weekend of March 29–30**. In the meantime, keep at it!!