

Bird Wing Outing Report



Nipissing Naturalists Club

Bird Wing Outing Report

June 28, 2022

By Renee Levesque
Photos as indicated

Outing:

I was not able to go on the Bird Wing outing on June 28 because I was in Bobcaygeon, made famous by Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip with his song by the same name:

*When I left your house this mornin'
It was a little after nine
It was in Bobcaygeon, I saw the constellations
Reveal themselves one star at a time.*

I heard from some of the participants that it was a good outing despite not seeing a Virginia Rail or a Sora in the marshes along Hills Siding Road.

The highlight of Hills Siding Road was an Eastern Kingbird in her nest. **Linda Stoner was able to capture a great photo of it as seen on the cover.** Other birds seen there were a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Northern Flicker, a lone Canada Goose, and, of course, many Red-winged Blackbirds. A Swamp Sparrow, a Veery, and an Ovenbird were heard.

Before Hills Siding Road, there was a sojourn at Powassan Lagoon. Not everyone gets to the lagoons, so this part of the outing was especially interesting for those who don't normally go. It was made even more enjoyable because there were four Killdeer, one pictured at right, and a Spotted Sandpiper, both seen quite close.





Steve Pitt

Also seen were many Wood Ducks, Lori Anderson's favourite duck, some just fledged, some juveniles, and some immatures, as seen above. There were a few Green-winged Teal, some American Black Ducks, and many skittish Mallards that took off as the group approached. They left one crying youngster behind, although I am sure its mother was somewhere around.

As always at most lagoons, there were Song and Savannah Sparrows (at right) and an American Kestrel.

A trip to the parking lot of Laurier Woods to possibly hear American Woodcocks capped the evening, but they decided *peenting* time was over for the season.

There may have been more species seen on this outing, but the above birds were what I pieced together from reports given to me by those who attended. One thing they all said was that they had a great time. It just didn't matter to them that there weren't more species or less common species – or even



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that I wasn't there! Those who were there, in addition to Dick Tafel who led the group, were Lori Anderson, Linda Conway, Diane and Alvin Deagle, Cindy Lafleur, and Linda Stoner.

Nesting:

There is just something so delightful about seeing a bird on its nest or seeing young birds like the aforementioned Wood Ducks, a sign of life continuing despite so many odds for our bird friends. Besides Linda's Eastern Kingbird, other nesting birds captured so far this spring/summer are that of a Herring Gull, a Common Loon, a Red-winged Blackbird and a Northern Saw-whet Owl.

The Herring Gull (right) nested on the closest rock to the shore at Sunset Park, a strange place for her to nest with lots of Sunset goers nearby. This photo of her on her nest with her mate beside her was taken in late May. Unfortunately a subsequent storm washed out the nest and it was abandoned sometime in June.



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Another nesting bird I got a photo of – in late June – was a Common Loon (left) on her platform nest on Trout Lake. She just happened to turn her two eggs while I was there. This particular loon has been nesting for years on this platform, built by Yvonne Montgomery. She is the pair's steward,

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making sure all is optimum for successful hatching and fledging. She will be talking to us about her stewardship and the loons at one of our meetings, and because Yvonne is also a photographer, she will have some great photos.

During our June Bird Bash, Sue Gratton came unexpectedly upon a nest of what appear to be three Red-winged Blackbird eggs, seen at right.



Sue Gratton

And finally, there is Lloyd Sparks' photo of the three nestling Northern Saw-whet Owls (below) on Lloyd and Janet's property near Wolfe Lake, nestlings who were fledged a day or two after this photo was taken. (And by the way, although when I sent members this photo previously and I said it was taken with a trail camera, it wasn't. It was taken by Lloyd.) The nest box is actually a Barred Owl nest box that Lloyd built and attached high up in a

tree in January 2021, hoping that eventually the Barred Owl often seen on the Lloyds' property would nest in it. But instead, the small Northern Saw-whet decided she would have three nestlings and, therefore, needed a nest box made for

the bigger Barred Owl! I believe Bird Wing member, Greg Jaski, has been out to the Sparks' in hopes of building a similar nest box to attract owls to his property. Good luck, Greg.



Lloyd Sparks

The photographs of the nests followed the protocol as set out by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. See link on next page.

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/how-to-nestwatch/faqs/can-i-take-photos-of-a-nest-is-this-data/>

Bird Bash:

By now you will have read Dick Tafel's June Bird Bash Report itemizing the 122 species seen by 29 participants. **Next Bird Bash is scant weeks away, July 30-31.**

Bird Outing:

The next Bird Wing outing will be on **Tuesday, July 26, starting at 6:30 p.m.** Details will follow closer to the date.

