

# *Bird Wing Report*



*Nipissing Naturalists Club*

*September 2019*



## *Bird Wing Report*

# Bird Wing meeting

On the second day of our official autumn, September 24, we met indoors for the first time since outings began back in the spring.

After thanking Lori Laporte for providing us with her nursery while the library continues to undergo renovations, and after welcoming new member, Keith Pearson, and finding out from our treasurer, Gary Sturge, just how much money we have in the bank, we got down to the business of naming two birds we saw during the month of September.

But before I list them, we agreed, based on our growing bank account, to donate \$50.00 to Wild at Heart Wildlife Rescue Centre in Lively. (<http://wahrefugecentre.org/>)

(And don't forget Gary is now in the business of collecting our annual 2020 fee of \$5.00. Paying now prevents you from forgetting come January, and gets it out of the way, so to speak.)

Also before I list the two birds each of us mentioned, there were many, many birds not mentioned – maybe even more than were mentioned. We had a lot to cover – dates of many upcoming events, all of which are listed at the end of this report; a long and passionate discussion on the 3-billion decline in bird numbers, including common birds – some of that discussion is mentioned later in this report, but a more fulsome report will be forthcoming in a future issue; presentation of our annual trophies; briefly going over the Winter Finch Report compiled by Ron Pittaway; and naming some of our favourite spring and summer birds, a collage

of which follows the meeting report. (One photo in the collage is from another new member, Corinne Landini, who was not able to attend the meeting but emailed me her favourite summer sighting, a young Barred Owl.)

Starting with woodpeckers and seen by many of us, including Sarah Wheelan, Matt Proconier and Keith Pearson, were the Pileated, the Hairy and the Northern Flicker. (Lots of Flickers were around in September. One day I saw 12 at Sunset Park.) Not mentioned but surely seen by some of us were Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

Dick Tafel saw a Brown Creeper (at left) at Jocko Point recently, but no one mentioned the Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches. I am sure some of us saw one or the other or both.



Linda Stoner

## *Bird Wing Report*

Some fairly common birds seen by most of us, including Jackie Manella, Curtis Irish, Marc Buchanan and Sarah, were Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, American Crows and European Starlings. There were many murmurations of Starlings about, but some feel not nearly as many as in previous years.

Gulls were mentioned only by Curtis and those were Ring-billed Gulls. No one mentioned Herring Gulls, but comments were made about the lack of Great Blacked-backed Gulls (only one to three have been seen on Lake Nipissing so far), and the lack of Bonaparte's Gulls. Although Dick and I saw a couple of Bonaparte's at Jocko Point and perhaps some others had seen a few, the numbers usually present on Lake Nipissing at Sunset Park had not yet materialized.

Marc mentioned the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (right) and although some of us saw one in the week or two before the meeting, most left the area around September 9 or 10, the usual date of departure in my yard. Always sad to see them go. Seems to signify the end of summer.



**Steve Pitt**

Matt, like many of us, saw a Common Loon, a loon that has started to gather in rafts on Lake Nipissing. Dick saw a raft of 10 recently, and Grant McKercher, a raft of 12.

The other bird massing in fields all over is the Canada Goose, seen by Keith. Whenever I pass a field of them, I look to see if amongst the hundreds there is just one that looks different – a Snow Goose, a Ross's Goose, a Brant and even a Cackling Goose.

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A Bird Wing meeting cannot take place without a mention of the famed Stillaway Line, second home of Gary Sturge. This month yielded a Cooper's Hawk, also seen by Matt. (A juvenile Cooper's in flight is pictured below.) Gary mentioned that one, maybe the one we saw on Hazel Glen Road during our June 25th outing, had been hanging around the area during the spring and summer.



*Stephen O'Donnell*

At his camp on Hemlock Road, Gary – as well as Connie Sturge – also saw a Northern Goshawk. Nice find. It's a hawk we should see at some point because it spends the winter with us.

No other raptors, except the Osprey, were mentioned, although some of us saw Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawks (many were around this September), Broad-winged Hawks, Northern Harriers, Merlins and American Kestrels.

Jim Hasler mentioned Turkey Vultures and once on Beaudry Road in West Nipissing, Dick and I saw about 25 of them sitting in a dead tree. One was leucistic with white wings. I thought with my first quick glance it could be an Anhinga. Now that would have been something!

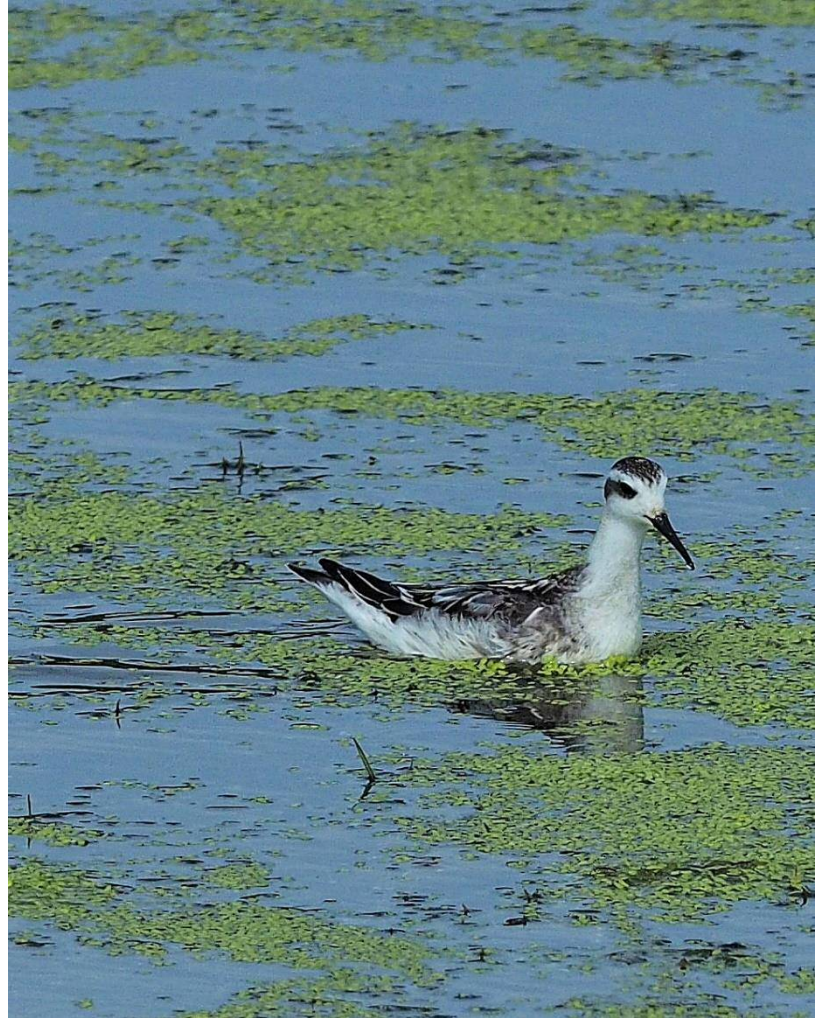
Jim also saw American Black Ducks in Laurier Woods. No other ducks were mentioned even though practically every duck there is in our area was seen at the various lagoons. I particularly enjoyed seeing the Green-winged Teal in flight. With the sun shining on its wings as it flies, its green is a very beautiful green, a sort of sea green. One female Bufflehead was present for the last couple of weeks at Callander Lagoon, often seen with the few Common Goldeneye that were also present.



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Some shorebirds got a mention. Grant saw Greater Yellowlegs at Powassan Lagoon, and in recent days, there was one at Callander Lagoon. Grant also saw a Wilson's Snipe at Powassan Lagoon, and Dick, a Spotted Sandpiper at Sunset Park. I mentioned the Red-necked Phalarope (at right) I saw in its non-breeding plumage at Callander and Warren Lagoons, and one was seen at Powassan Lagoon by David Rooke before he left for his fall and winter home in Waterloo.

Other shorebirds seen but not mentioned were Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Baird's Sandpipers, a Stilt, Semipalmated Plovers and Killdeer. Most were found at the lagoons. The Sanderling and Black-bellied and American Golden Plovers have yet to make an appearance for most of us this fall, although some of us were fortunate to see the Black-bellied and American Golden Plovers, as well as a Red Knot and a Hudsonian Godwit, all in breeding plumage (not often seen here in this plumage) in a field on Veuve River Road this past spring. It was a birding highlight for some of us!



*David Rooke*



*Renee Levesque*

Connie mentioned the Great Blue Heron, seen by most of us, but the Green Heron, seen by some of us at Laurier Woods and Cache Bay, to name a couple of places, was not mentioned.

Connie also saw American Pipits (at left), seen in small numbers here and there including in Connie and Gary's yard along the South River. Dick and I were surprised to see a pair on Bidwell Road off the north highway. It seemed an unlikely place considering they are normally seen along shorelines or at lagoons.

Grant saw one Lapland Longspur at Sunset and subsequently Dick, Kaye Edmonds and I saw one at Powassan Lagoon. More will surely come.



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The only grebe mentioned was the Pied-billed Grebe (at right). David and Kaye saw one at Powassan Lagoon. Buddy Myles saw one at Cache Bay and Dick and I saw four there during September's Bird Bash. Normally we see or hear a lot more than four, especially during our Cache Bay canoe trip earlier in the summer, but that canoe trip through the marsh yielded no grebes at all.

Also seen at Cache Bay was a Common Gallinule, spotted by Buddy, Dick and me. Interestingly, it was also not seen as usual during the summer canoe trip.

Normally in September, we see American Coots at Warren Lagoon and in Cache Bay, but none this September. In fact, other than Lori Anderson seeing one at Warren Lagoon in the spring and Dick and I seeing one at Warren Lagoon during the August Bird Bash, I cannot recall any other American Coot reports. In other years, we have had reports of up to 12 in Warren Lagoon, with parents swimming about with their young. (Also not seen on our canoe trip in Cache Bay's Important Birding Area were the Least and American Bitterns, although the latter was seen elsewhere by many. I know of only two members who saw the Least Bittern this year, Brent Turcotte and Grant, although there were probably others.)

Gary and Connie saw some Common Nighthawks the week of the Bird Wing meeting. Others saw some earlier in the month at Laurier Woods, Warren Lagoon and on the Sturgeon Falls Museum trail. We are so used to seeing them in the evening that to see one in daytime like the one Gary Chowns alerted us to in Laurier Woods (pictured at right) is quite the treat. (The one seen on the museum trail was also seen during the day, only this one was not



*Buddy Myles*



*Gary Chowns*



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asleep in a tree like the one in Laurier Woods. Instead we inadvertently flushed it up from the ground beside the marsh boardwalk, resulting in our seeing the white on its wings very clearly.)

The only sparrow mentioned was the Chipping Sparrow, seen by Jackie and others, although many of us have not seen a Chipping Sparrow for two weeks or more. The most prominent sparrow probably seen in recent weeks was the Song, not mentioned, and others had no doubt seen the White-throat, the Swamp, and even the Lincoln's. The day before the meeting, I saw my first White-crowned Sparrow, an immature, behind my house and have subsequently seen more, adults and immatures, and no doubt others have also.

Not mentioned were any vireos and flycatchers, although the Eastern Phoebe was still seen here and there. I may be mistaken, but I don't think there were as many Red-eyed Vireos this spring and summer as other years.

The most interesting miss was the mentioning of the warblers, maybe because most have fled south, with the Palm in its fall plumage (pictured at right) replacing many of our spring and summer warblers. Yellow-rumped also continued to be about in some numbers.

So many other birds were seen but not mentioned, like Sandhill Cranes, lingering swallows, Common Grackles, Ruffed Grouse, American Goldfinch, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks to name a few. However, you can read about all these unmentioned birds in Dick's September's Bird Bash Report. If you haven't read it, it is available, as are all Bird Bash, Bird Wing meeting and outing reports and other bird reports, on our Nipissing Naturalists Club's website at: <https://www.nipnats.com/bird-wing/>.



*John Levesque*

## *Bird Wing Report*

Finally, some of us commented on the lack of American Robins this September, Dick in particular. Most of us had seen one or two together, but not many more, although one day in the last couple of weeks, eight were high in the trees at the back of my property, seemingly migrating.

It would be interesting to determine if the numbers of robins actually were down in our area this September.

\* \* \*



*Peter Ferris*

Some favourite summer bird sightings follow on the next page in collage form. They are, from top left clockwise, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Red Knot, female Wood Duck, Common Merganser, Scarlet Tanager and in the centre, a juvenile Barred Owl. Photographs in alphabetical order are by Peter Ferris (Wood Duck); Corinne Landini (Barred Owl); Renee Levesque (Baltimore Oriole and Blackburnian Warbler); Buddy Myles (Orchard Oriole, Common Merganser and Scarlet Tanager); and Stephen O'Donnell (Red Knots). The Cerulean Warbler is courtesy of Mdf – own work, Wikimedia Commons.

**Please see the many important dates to mark on your calendar on the last FOUR pages of this report, including the date and location of our next Bird Wing meeting.**

- *Renee Levesque, Bird Wing Scribe*







## Handing out the hardware

In the last few years, we have awarded two trophies annually, the Nocturnal Owl Survey Trophy and the Great Canadian Birdathon Trophy. I understand for some years prior to my involvement there used to be some sort of bird clock awarded to the Birdathon winners, but that seems to have gone the way of the Dodo.

The Nocturnal Owl Survey award began in 2016. Our very first winners were Lori Anderson and Ken Gowing. Thereafter, the award went to Gary and Connie Sturge and whoever joined them – Rachel Sturge, Matt Procnier and Nada Cortes. This year the winners were Gary and Connie, Rachel and Nada. Gary wrote an entertaining report, as did all who took part, but Gary and his team also saw the most owls – 10 Barred Owls, 8 of which they actually saw! Hard to beat. (Photo below without Rachel and Nada who were not present for the trophy presentation.)

To read all the entertaining 2019 Nocturnal Owl Survey reports put together in a comprehensive package, see <https://www.nipnats.com/club-activities/bird-wing/reports-and-bird-counts/>. Once you open this link, scroll down to the title, “Owl Survey Reports”. Sarah Wheelan also posted the Nocturnal Owl Survey package on Nipissing Naturalists Club’s Facebook and I note it was “liked” by Bird Studies Canada. Quite the nice organization to “like” it.



*Sarah Wheelan*



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Because Gray and Connie have such a good route and are not willing to swap with anyone, I think that there should also be a second place award, something that will not require a name plate, just something the second place team can keep for the year and then pass onto the second place winners the next year.

The Birdathon trophy went once again to last year's winners, Dick Tafel, Lori Anderson, Jackie Manella and Renee Levesque. They saw 103 species and heard 11 for a total of 114! Also hard to beat. (Photo below without Lori who was not present for the trophy presentation.)

Dick raised some money for his Birdathon efforts and the portion from Bird Studies Canada that he is allowed from all the donations he collected will be put in the Bird Wing coffers, as was the case last year.

To read more about this year's Great Canadian Birdathon see May's Bird Wing Report at <https://www.nipnats.com/bird-wing/bird-wing-meetings-outings/>.

What I feel somewhat bad about is that it seems there was one year in the last 7 or so years that Marc Buchanan and Fred Pinto won the Birdathon. One glance at Marc when the topic of the trophy comes up gets to me every time! Their winning was obviously before our current trophy was awarded, but I think we could back-track a bit to include their names on the trophy if we knew what year they won.

- *Renee Levesque*



*Sarah Wheelan*



## *Bird Wing Report*

# Reports from the past

Back in 1998, members of Bird Wing, then spelled Birdwing, one word, held their meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Cassellholme in the auditorium, starting at 7:00 p.m. But despite these drastic differences, members still listed the birds they saw and at their meeting of September 23, 1998, they mentioned seeing the following birds:

Many sparrows: White-crowned, White-throated and Fox

Hundreds of ducks: mostly Common Mergansers

Red-winged Blackbirds

American Robin, a mother with another brood of young

American Coots

Moorhens (now called Common Gallinules)

Sora at Callander Lagoon. (Note: Almost 20 years later, in 2017, Kaye Edmonds also spotted a Sora at Callandar Lagoon. See Kaye's photo at right.)

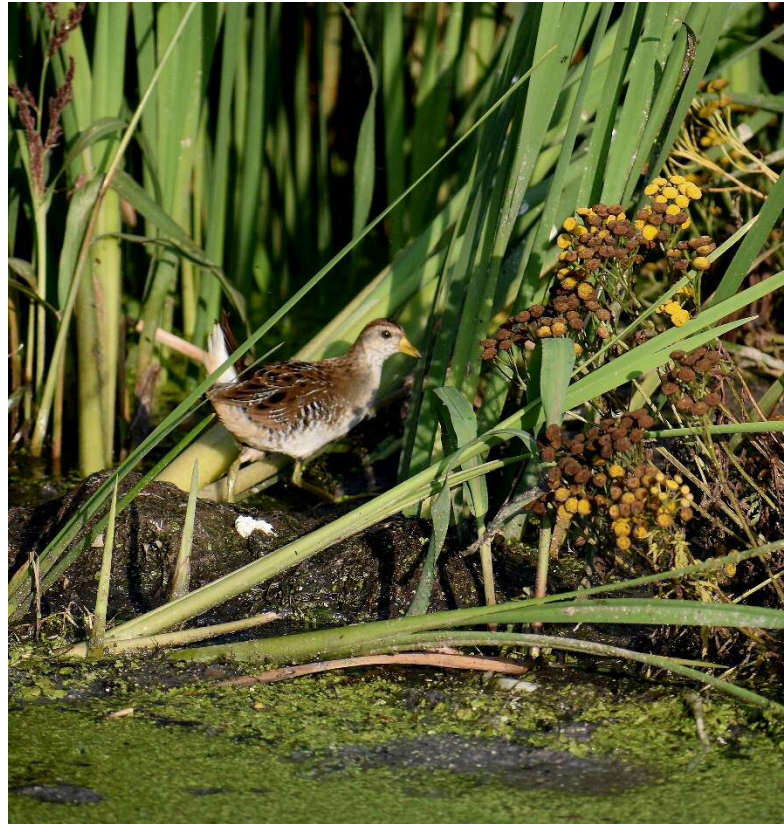
Warblers in Laurier Woods. Specific warblers were not mentioned, except for one that Dick Tafel saw near LaVase River, a Blue-winged Warbler!

Red-necked Grebe at the waterfront

Many large flocks of Canada Geese flying overhead

Six Wild Turkeys seen near Hwy. 630 and "probably imports".

Sandhill Cranes near Rutherglen and Cache Bay



*Kaye Edmonds*

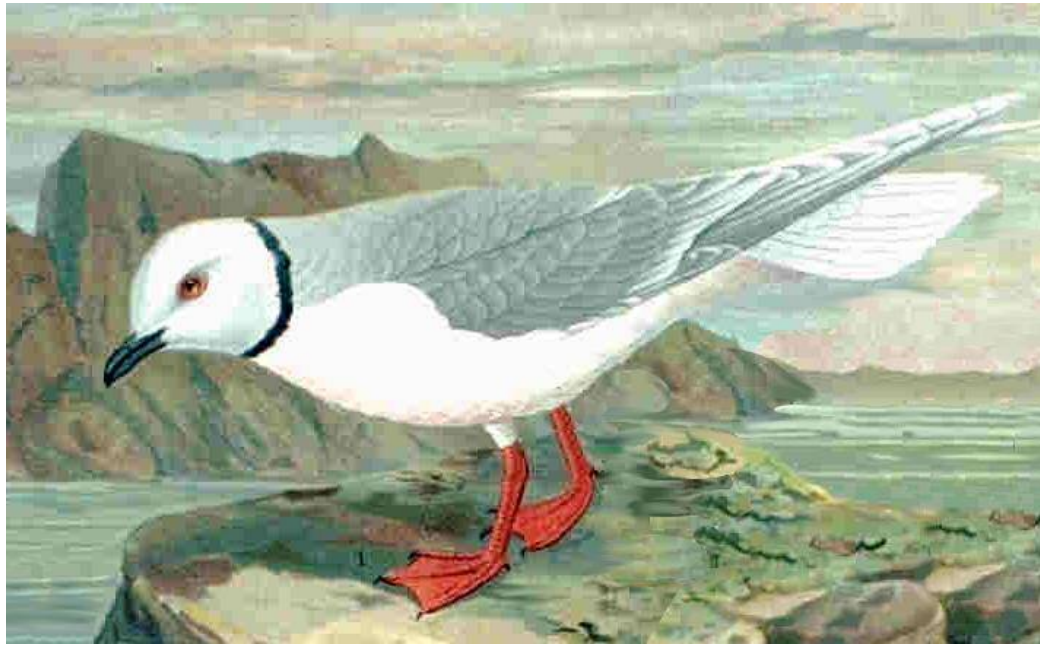
The Birdwing report, written by Diane Mitchell, who just happened to also be my daughter's piano teacher in the 1970s, appeared in *The Woodland Observer*, October 1998 issue. (It would appear at that time that Birdwing reports were incorporated into *The Woodland Observer*.)



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Other items mentioned in Diane's report that were discussed at the September 23 meeting of Birdwing were:

Ken Smith "presented an interesting slide show and talk on his and Judy's trip to Churchill, Manitoba." In two days, they saw 78 species, including a Ross's Gull (at right), which "made the 13-hour train ride from Thompson worthwhile."



*Ross's Gull, painting by Johann Friedrich Naumann*

Dick had the official National Audubon Society report of the 1997 Christmas Bird Count, "and once again, North Bay was second only to Edmonton in the number of participants." Dick "exhorted" members to get even more participants for the 1998 CBC because the City of Victoria was "creeping up on us." And while on the topic of the CBC, Tom Baines reminded everyone that Christmas was only three months away and members should already be "marshalling the troops for the bird count."

Dick suggested that "our membership should plan to attend the regional conference of the American Birding Association in St. Catharines" to be held in May 1999. And if members trekking off to St. Catharines wasn't in the cards, then maybe Norm Leppan, as the Birdwing representative, could attend the regional conference in Fort Myers in January 1999.

Seems back then there was a Bird of the Month award and in September 1998 that award went to Cal Osborne, Tom Baines, Stew (Greig?) and Dick for spotting a Three-toed Woodpecker (at left) on Riding Stable Road. Not sure, but the award may just have been a special mention, but what I do know is that there was not always room in the newsletter to make mention of it: "We finally have some room for the Bird of the Month."

- *Renee Levesque*



*Pbonenfant, Flickr, Wikipedia*



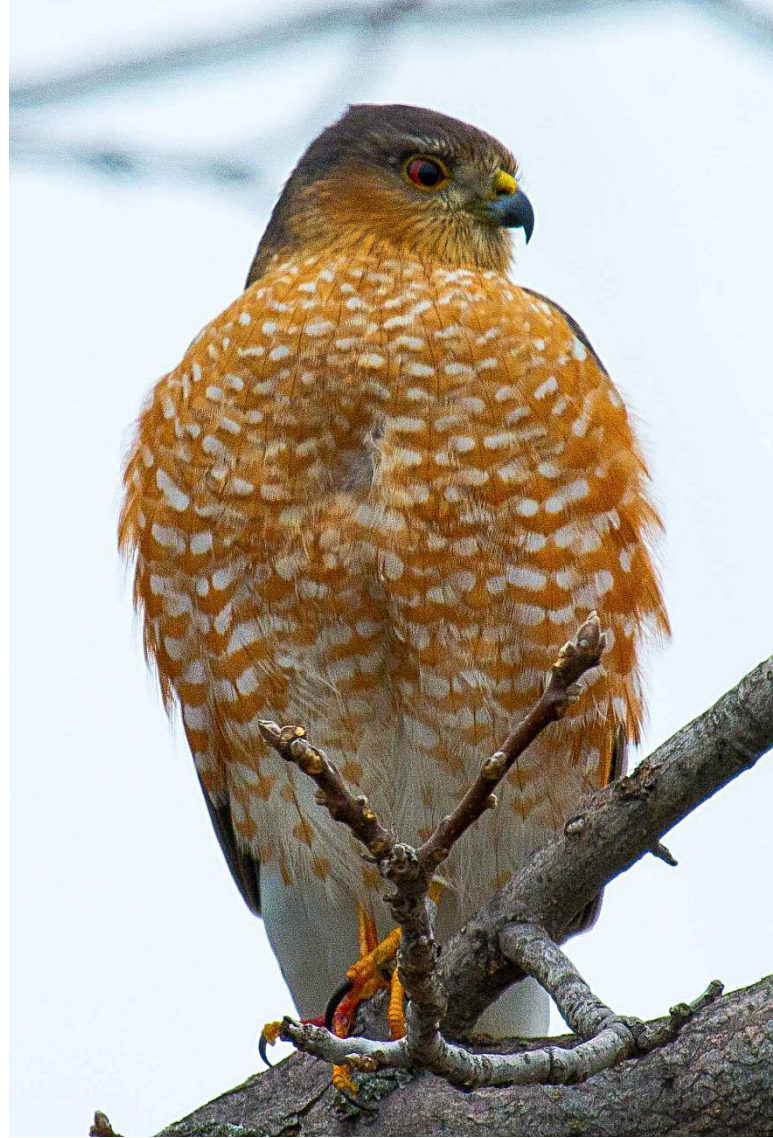
## Stories from the field

**Buddy Myles** was fishing recently from his canoe on the Veuve River when he finally saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk (right), a bird that had not made his Nipissing list up until then.

Buddy reports, “It was flying along the river, when suddenly it flew right at me in the middle of the river as if it were about to attack me! I have no idea what it was thinking. As it is not nesting season, I guess it decided it just didn't like my mug.” (*Or it was hoping to grab a fish from Buddy's canoe.*)

**Steve Pitt:** “Recently, I was sitting at the huge construction snafu east of North Bay where they are trying to upgrade the intersection of Highway 17 and 94. I find that if I am in one of the stopped lanes, it makes sense to just shut off the engine, roll down the windows and enjoy a little quiet time because you can be there for 10 to 20 minutes.

I was doing just that when I heard the distant calls of Sandhill Cranes (below) approaching from the south. They were hidden by trees but coming my way. As they got closer, I happened to look at the couple in the car in front of me. They too had seemingly heard the crane calls judging by their rather panicky expressions. It was obvious they had no clue what was calling. I'll admit that the still invisible cranes, at least a dozen of them



*Buddy Myles*



*Peter Ferris*



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I had estimated, were really quite loud, loud enough to make anyone who wasn't familiar with this bird wonder what was coming at them. So no wonder the couple rolled up their windows.

Just as they did so, the cranes burst into view. Not 12. Not 10. Not even 6. Just 2! But the two made enough racket to rival a three-headed Don Cherry. I looked at the couple in the car ahead of me and with their mouths wide open, they watched the cranes pass us.

The birds disappeared to the north, their calls slowly fading, only to be replaced with horn honking. The flag had changed and it was our turn to go but we were too busy gawking at the cranes to notice. Darn bird watchers!"

Also from **Steve Pitt**: "The other morning, a small flock of American Goldfinches were giving me some verbal abuse for letting their feeder run dry. By the time I got outside, all the finches were gone except one, and this one was singing VERY LOUDLY from high up in a White Pine. I topped up the feeder and the singing got louder. I looked up and the source of the singing was not a goldfinch but a Blue Jay, singing a very credible

finch-like song. Suddenly it switched to Blue Jay raspberries which were quickly answered by the rest of its clan who came flying in to see what was for breakfast."

*(Editor's note:* From Celebrate Urban Birds <https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/learn/birds/focal-species/blue-jay/>: Blue Jays are very intelligent birds that have a variety of vocalizations and an immense vocabulary. They are also excellent mimics, often mimicking Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, but

sometimes other species. Starting in late August, mine come almost daily to where their winter feeder is hung every year, just waiting for me to hang and fill it. They still have a long wait. I don't put out any bird seed until November - after mice have found their winter home elsewhere and not in my house!)



*Peter Ferris*



## *Bird Wing Report*

**Grant McKercher:** Grant happened to be driving by the Osprey nest at Pinewood Park and Lakeshore on September 8 looking to see if the Osprey had gone when he spied something quite interesting hanging from the Osprey nest. See Grant's photo below and zoom in to see the netting.

It may be the Osprey caught and brought the fish that was tangled in the netting to its nest and left it there, but what caused the fish to then hang out of the nest is anyone's guess. It is a good thing the Osprey did not get tangled in the netting because that would surely have resulted in its death.



*Grant McKercher*

**Jackie Manella:** And speaking of fish, on September 19, a Walleye that was dropped on a hydro transformer in North Bay caused a power outage for an hour in the area in which Jackie lives.

Jackie sent me this from Global News: “A northern Ontario utility company says it didn't have to fish long for answers when fixing a power outage Thursday morning. North Bay Hydro says the electricity cut was caused by a walleye that landed on a pole-mounted transformer. Hydro officials say the fish was likely dropped by a bird.”



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### **Ron Pittaway's winter finch forecast for 2019-20**

The Winter Finch Forecast for 2019-2020 as predicted by Ron Pittaway bodes well for us in the Northeast. Most winter finches will stay north, welcome news to us birders who missed many of our winter finches last winter. Conifers (with the exception of pine), birches and other seed crops are good to excellent and that means most winter finches will stay north.

The Mountain-Ash berry crop is excellent in the north and this means **Pine Grosbeaks** (below) will stay put. Also keeping them here will be the abundant cone crop and the Black Ash seed crop.



*Grant McKercher*

**Evening Grosbeaks** should also stay put because conifer and deciduous seed crops are generally excellent to bumper. At feeders, these grosbeaks like black oil sunflower seeds.

Where there are large cone crops, there will be **Red and White Crossbills**. White Crossbills particularly enjoy spruce cones and there is an excellent to bumper crop of those this year.



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Because seed crops on birches, alders and spruce are excellent this year, **redpolls, Common and Hoary**, will remain north. A few Common Redpolls (below) may get south to Algonquin Park, but not much farther south than that.



*Stephen O'Donnell*

**Pine Siskins** should winter in central and northern Ontario where White Spruce cones crops are excellent to bumper. At feeders, siskins like nyjer seeds in silo feeders.

**Purple Finches** will remain in Ontario, enjoying the abundance of seed tree crops, with many also enjoying black oil sunflower seeds from our backyard feeders.

As for the three irruptive non-finch passerines - **Blue Jay, Bohemian Waxwing (right) and Red-breasted Nuthatch** - all will be seen in the north this winter.

For more information on the winter finch forecast, see:

<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2019/wff19.htm>.



*Renee Levesque*



## Birds with aberrant plumage

In the January 2019 *Bird Wing Report*, I wrote about leucism and *Ontario Birds* interest in photos and notes on birds with aberrant plumage. I am repeating that request to remind those who have seen and/or taken photos of birds with aberrant plumage that in *Ontario Birds*, December 2018, following Jean Iron's article on a Double-crested Cormorant with an aberrant pale plumage, there is a "Wanted" notice posted by the editors of the magazine.



*Leucistic starling, Renee Levesque*

The editors are looking for photos and notes on birds with aberrant plumage for an article they hope to publish in the December 2019 issue. They are requesting photos of any aberrant birds you may have seen, along with a short narrative, up to 10 sentences, describing details – date, location, behaviours, etc. If you don't have photos, the editors are still interested in your observations. Send your photos and/or narratives to [editors@ofo.ca](mailto:editors@ofo.ca).

There are some in our group who have seen leucistic birds: Fred Pinto, a Black-capped Chickadee; Lori Anderson, an Evening Grosbeak; Dick Tafel, a Turkey Vulture; and I have seen a leucistic Canada Goose, a European Starling, a Pine Siskin, a couple of American Robins and an American Crow. This past summer, my sister and nephew saw an albino American Robin, all white with pink eyes. My nephew got a photo of it with his cell phone, as seen at left.



*Albino robin, Jim Burwell*

Albino birds have no pigment in their plumage and have pink or reddish eyes and a pale bill. If the bird has some pigment or normal colour in its plumage, then it is not an albino bird, but a leucistic bird.

Then again, the light-coloured cormorant Jean Irons and others saw in Barrie in the fall of 2018 is not even technically leucistic. Its colouring is likely the result of a genetic mutation, "whereby the normal black feather colour is replaced by brown due to incomplete melanin synthesis." These brown feathers eventually get bleached by the sun, resulting in the feathers becoming even lighter.

- *Renee Levesque*



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# Dates and events to mark on your calendar

Events listed below are in date order.

1. *Global Bird Rescue, September 30 to October 6:*



FLAP Canada is coordinating the 2nd annual annual [Global Bird Rescue](#) from **September 30 to October 6**. (See Global Bird Rescue poster above.)

Global Bird Rescue (GBR) is a lot like the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), but instead of counting healthy birds, participants report birds that have collided with windows, birds that either died from the collision or managed to revive. Just like the GBBC, reports from around the world are tallied and mapped. Participants can also share information about bird-glass collisions and what people can do to address the problem.

Given the scale of the impact of these collisions on bird populations, Bird Studies Canada has agreed to help FLAP Canada spread the word about this event.

If you wish to report collisions during this period, click on the link provided in the first paragraph, then click on *Take Action* and in the drop-down menu, click on *Report a Collision*. To map the collision, you will first need to register or sign in.

To help prevent collisions and birds from dying, there are many other ways you can make a difference, all of which you will see when you click on *Take Action*. With almost 3 billion birds lost since 1970, every little bit we can do will help.



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(See among many other reports online

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/09/19/north-america-has-lost-billion-birds-years/>. I picked this link because it comes with a video.)

We spoke passionately about this issue at September's Bird Wing meeting and I received an email from James Abbot, new Bird Wing member, who informed me: "When I'm in Toronto, I drive injured birds for FLAP to the Wildlife Centre, or if they are just stunned, for release."

For more information on FLAP Canada and recommendations for protecting birds at home see <https://flap.org/>.

The decline of 3 billion birds in North America will be featured in another issue of the Bird Wing Report.

## **2. *Bird Bash, October 5 and 6:***

October's Bird Bash will take place over a 24-hour consecutive period during the weekend of **October 5 and 6**. A reminder notice will be sent prior to the date.

## **3. *Search for the Kirtland's Warbler, October 8 or 9:***



*Joel Trick, Wikimedia Commons*

A search for the rare-for-our-area Kirtland's Warbler (left) on its migration through our area will take place northeast of North Bay on **Tuesday, October 8, or Wednesday, October 9, depending on the weather**. The date will be determined once we know the weather conditions for those dates, so stay tuned to your email for details.

The Kirtland's fall migration route starts around September 23 when these warblers leave Michigan, cross Lake

Huron then head east over Ontario, with a concentration northeast of North Bay, before they head south to the Bahamas.



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## **4. Global Big Day, October 19:**

For those who enter their sightings on eBird, **Saturday, October 19** marks another Global Big Day, the previous one being in May. For those who use eBird, be sure to enter your sightings as usual on that day. However, if you are not an eBirder, you can access eBird for free on October 19. For further details and to sign up for free for that day, click on **October Big Day**, and once there click on “Learn More”.

## **5. Bird Wing Meeting, October 29:**

October’s Bird Wing meeting will take place on the **5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of October, on October 29, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** This is just a temporary one-time change from our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**The location for this meeting will be at coworker 176.space, 176 Lakeshore Drive, in the same building Nipissing Naturalists Club holds its meetings.**

The reason for the switch in venue is because we are showing a Nova documentary entitled *World’s Fastest Animal* - the Peregrine Falcon, below. The documentary promises to be a fascinating look at this magnificent creature. For more information and a short clip, see <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9319250/>.

**Everyone is welcome. You don’t have to be a Bird Wing member.**



**Bruce Tuck**

# *Bird Wing Report*

## **6. Project FeederWatch, November 10 to April 5:**

This wintertime Citizen Science project is one so many of us enjoy doing because it allows us to become acquainted with mostly common birds that come to our yard and feeders. Keeping track of common birds is more important than ever, what with the decline in birds in North America, including common birds. It is also an activity that helps us get through some dreary winter birding days.

It starts on **November 10** and goes through the winter to **April 5**.

You need to join Bird Studies Canada to take part in this very worthwhile Citizen Science Project. For more details on how to participate see <https://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/>, and to take part click on “Join or Renew” at top right of the page.

And speaking of feeders, you might want to try Kevan Cowcill’s idea of using a Slinky to keep squirrels from raiding the seeds from your feeder. If you want to try it, you need to put the Slinky around the pole before the frost sets in or it becomes more difficult to remove the pole from the ground. See Kevan’s demonstration photo at right.



*Kevan Cowcill*

## **7. Christmas Bird Count, December 14:**

The North Bay Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on **Saturday, December 14**. More details about this very important count will be forthcoming once we hear from Lori Anderson who seems to have “disappeared” since last seen by me in May!

## **8. Netflix Documentary, *Birders*:**

Further to my email of September 25 and Matt Procnier’s informing Bird Wingers of the documentary entitled *Birders*, if you haven’t seen it already, be sure to watch it at your leisure if you are a Netflix subscriber. To view the Netflix trailer see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT9hPCuncug>.

- *Renee Levesque*