

Bird Wing Report



November 2019

Bird Wing Report

Bird Wing Meeting: birds seen in November

The Bird Wing meeting of November 26 was held at space 176 to accommodate Gary Sturge's presentation on his, Connie's and their six-year old grandson's camping trip to Saskatchewan and the birds and other things they met along the way and while there. It made one want to go to Saskatchewan with its special geography, its birds, its animals and its dinosaur museum, the Tyrrell Museum in the Badlands with its collection of more than 130,000 fossils, some of which are quite significant and very remarkable. More on Gary's presentation in January's report. (Two of the birds Gary and Connie saw on their trip were a Mountain Bluebird and some White Pelicans. These two birds are mentioned later in this report, although not in connection with Gary and Connie's trip.)

After Gary told us that we are fine financially and that he sent the \$50.00 donation cheque to Wild at Heart Rescue Centre in Lively as we agreed to at September's meeting, we got down to the business of naming birds seen since our last meeting, primarily those seen in November.

The one that got the most wows was Gary and Luanne Chowns' sighting of a Northern Saw-whet Owl (below) in their backyard on October 30. It was mobbed by Black-capped Chickadees, but the Saw-whet was not in the least concerned and simply stayed put!



Gary Chowns

Bird Wing Report

This is not the first time the Chowns have had a Northern Saw-whet Owl in their yard. They also had one back in January, almost a year ago.

Gary and Luanne were not the only ones to have had an owl in the yard. Keith and Nancy Pearson also had one – a Barred Owl, seen at right. Others also saw a Barred Owl – Lori Anderson on Alderdale Road and Jim Hasler at his place on Chadbourne Drive. (Considering it was Keith’s turn to name two birds before his wife, Nancy, it was very nice of him to let Nancy have the honour of naming the Barred Owl.)

There were a few surprising sightings in November. Maybe the most was my having two Eastern Bluebirds in my yard on November 14, the latest I have seen an Eastern Bluebird here. (For more on the Eastern Bluebird, see “Stories from the Field” further on in this report.)

I also had one Rusty Blackbird, a few days before the bluebirds, and along with Gary and Connie Sturge, Buddy Myles and Therez Violette, I also had some Red-winged Blackbirds visit my feeders. Sarah Wheelan had a Common Grackle in her yard and grackles were also seen by Gary and Connie, Buddy and Therez.

Some of us were still seeing American Robins – my last sighting was on November 14 when it arrived with the Eastern Bluebirds. But more unusual was



Keith Pearson

Bird Wing Report

the sighting of a Hermit Thrush by Janet and Lloyd Sparks during November's Bird Bash. Lloyd was able to get a photo to confirm the sighting.

Luanne saw a Great Blue Heron and although the Great Blues stays around in our area for a while, they are not often seen here in November.

There are two species I and some others have tried to find all year, the Red Crossbill (seen below) and the White-winged Crossbill. Gary and Connie saw the Red Crossbill on Gulf Course Road in Chisholm Township, and although some of us subsequently went looking for them in Chisholm, we did not find them. It has been one of those species that makes itself known only to Gary and Connie, but at least this time not on Stillaway Line!



Stephen O'Donnell

Five White-winged Crossbills were seen by Fred Pinto near Moose Mountain on Forestry Road between South River and Trout Creek.

Keith and Grant saw a Rough-legged Hawk, as did Dick and I (in Mattawa) and Lori and Ken Gowing (in Chisholm Township); Lori also had a Northern Goshawk come to her yard and Jim believes he saw one in Laurier Woods; the Peregrine

Bird Wing Report

Falcon was back in its normal spot on top of the cross at Pro-Cathedral, seen there by Grant McKercher and Brent Turcotte. It was also spotted on top of the Bell Tower by Gary and Connie. Bald Eagles were seen by some of us at the landfill sites and elsewhere. The one Fred saw between Powassan and Trout Creek was feeding on a dead animal. A Red-tailed Hawk (below) was seen by Grant, and during November's Bird Bash, one was seen by Lori and Ken in Chisholm Township.



Renee Levesque

Canada Geese were seen by Matt Procnier and others, with hundreds upon hundreds seen in a long row on Lake Nipissing off Marleau Road in Sturgeon Falls by Dick Tafel and me during November's Bird Bash.



Buddy Myles

The only shorebird seen was an American Golden Plover (at left) at the Government Dock, seen there by Buddy.

At least 15 Tundra Swans were seen on Lake Nipissing off Marleau Road by Dick, me and Therez, and Trumpeters were seen at Cache Bay, also by Dick, me, Therez and Buddy.

Bird Wing Report

Many ducks were seen in November, not just Mallards and American Blacks, but also American Goldeneye, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks, Common and Hooded Mergansers, and Greater Scaup all seen by some of us, primarily during November's Bird Bash. The Greater Scaup were in a couple of large rafts seen well from the bridge in Lavigne. The one duck seen only by Grant in November was a Long-tailed Duck that he saw in Callander Bay.

Grant also saw Common Loons in their winter plumage (right), also in Callander Bay, with many others seeing them during the November Bird Bash.



Donna McQuay

The most prominent sparrow seen at the time of our meeting was the American Tree Sparrow, seen by Ken at his place and by other members. More unusual is the White-crowned Sparrow Grant had at his feeders for a few days and the White-throated Sparrow I had at mine for a couple of days. A White-throated was also seen by Gary and Connie during November's Bird Bash. Many of us, including Mary Marrs, saw Dark-eyed Juncos.

In the world of woodpeckers, it was so nice to hear from a new member, Cindy Lafleur, that she saw a Pileated for the very first time. Like all first-time sightings, Cindy was quite excited about seeing it and I am sure that brought back memories of the first time we all saw our first. Another new member who was at the meeting was Corinne Urrutia, and she too mentioned seeing the Pileated Woodpecker. Many of us saw Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

Bird Wing Report

Cindy also saw a White-breasted Nuthatch, seen also by a few members, but less commonly seen than the Red-breasted many of us saw. Grant and Keith saw a Brown Creeper during November's Bird Bash.

Seen in fairly large numbers by many of us were American Goldfinch and especially Pine Siskins (right). Some also saw Purple Finch, a finch especially prominent in Chisholm Township, feeding on the ground with the goldfinch and siskins. I had a few Evening Grosbeaks visit my yard on one occasion and saw my first Pine Grosbeak this winter on Cook Mills Road, off Hwy. 11 North. (I also had one in my yard in November subsequent to our meeting.)



Renee Levesque



Grant McKercher

Connie saw about 100 Snow Buntings in Chisholm Township, the most she had ever seen at one time. I am assuming Gary saw them too. Others saw Snow Buntings, not just in Chisholm Township, but at Sunset Park and along the Ottawa River in Mattawa. And Horned Larks were seen by Lori and Ken during November's Bird Bash.

Connie also reported at least 15 House Sparrows by her place and Lori always sees them in her barn and is fed-up with them! They may be food for the Northern Shrike (at left), however. Twice a shrike flew into her barn, supposedly after a House Sparrow, and had to be rescued! Gary and Luanne also had a shrike in their yard, going after the

Bird Wing Report

chickadees again as in previous years. Pam Handley had one at her place, as did Grant and Janet and Lloyd.

Like the Black-capped Chickadees which almost all of us saw, Blue Jays continue to abound. Sarah had 5 at her feeder and I had up to 11. Many saw Mourning Doves and most saw European Starlings, many of which winter here. And no doubt everyone saw American Crows and Common Ravens.

A few members saw a Ruffed Grouse and Lori and Ken saw Wild Turkeys during November's Bird Bash.

I am saving gulls until the end because my biggest laugh, and maybe that of some others, came from Marc Buchanan. Marc, who lives near Sunset Park, has been teased by some of us since I can remember, about rarely making his short way to Sunset to see what birds might be there. But at this meeting, in a deadpan voice and perfectly delivered, he announced, "At Sunset Park (heavy emphasis), I saw a Great Black-back Gull." (below) Others had also seen Great Black-backs at Sunset, at the Government Dock and by Dick and me in a pre-outing survey to



Renee Levesque

North Bay's landfill site, mostly adults, but one third winter. Other gulls seen at the landfill site by Dick and me were a couple of first winter Glaucous Gulls, a second-winter Iceland Gull and about 500 Herring Gulls, the most prominent gull in the region at this time. A first winter Iceland Gull was also seen by Dick and me at Verner Lagoon during November's Bird Bash, and a first winter Glaucous Gull was seen by Buddy at Verner Lagoon during that wonderful November thaw.

- *Renee Levesque*

Where the gulls are



Renee Levesque

By Renee Levesque; photos as indicated

Only very hardy birders would get up on a Saturday morning and make their way to the coldest spot in North Bay, the very top of Merrick Landfill Site at the end of Sand Dam Road, to look at gulls!

In terms of cold, it was relatively fine elsewhere on that morning of November 30, but definitely not at the top of the landfill hill!

However, if you want to see Arctic Gulls, you have to go where the gulls are and that means the landfill site at this time of the year no matter how cold.

And who were these hardy birders, some seen above? Dick Tafel, Grant McKercher, Fred Pinto, Gary and Connie Sturge, Marc Buchanan, Keith Pearson, Sarah Wheelan and I.



Renee Levesque

We were rewarded with about 8 Glaucous Gulls (above), maybe more, at least one of them an adult. Unfortunately, the one Iceland Gull Dick Tafel and I had seen during our scouting venture a couple of days before was not seen despite our standing out in the cold for a goodly length of time, binoculars at the ready. The Iceland Gull does make the cover of this month's Bird Wing Report, however.

Also unfortunately the Slaty-backed Gull did not return this year, or at least had not returned at the time of our outing.

We also saw 6 Great Black-back Gulls (at right), all adults with the exception of one third winter. Always nice to see this very handsome, large gull, especially this year when there were not many sightings of it in the spring and only two or three along Lake Nipissing's shoreline this fall.



Renee Levesque

Bird Wing Report

No Ring-billed Gulls were seen, but at least 500 Herring Gulls in their different stages of plumage made themselves very well known! The Herring Gull, like the Great Black-backed and the Glaucous, as well as many other gulls, is a 4-year gull, not reaching maturity until its fourth year

The Common Raven was out in full force too. There were at least 60 of them, perhaps even 80. And there were at least three adult Bald Eagles (right) less than the normal number of eagles usually seen at the landfill site. There have been times in previous years when we have seen at least 11 or 12. And not to be left out was a lone Dark-eyed Junco seen as we were leaving the landfill site, and two American Goldfinch seen on Sand Dam Road just before we got to the site.

It is not often one can describe the landfill site as lovely, but as we made our way down from the actual site to where vehicles are stored in the wooded area, we were once again rewarded, this time with a winter wonderland, the trees laden with snow, the sky blue and the sun shining brilliantly.



Gary Sturges



Sarah Wheelan

Bird Wing Report

Winged words

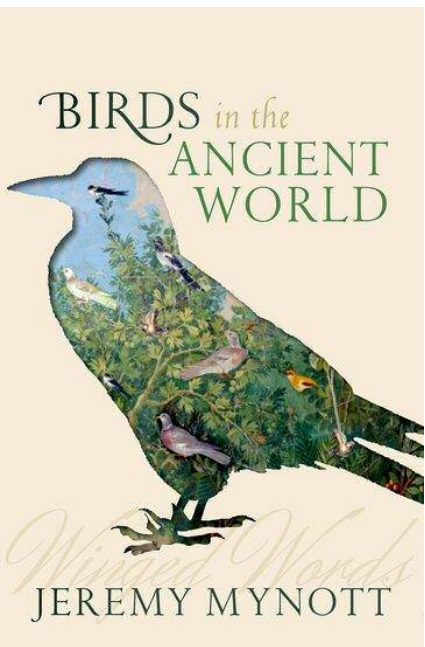
By Grant McKercher, with Renee Levesque

“The Classical world abounded with avians – and so birds took up in the human imagination, nesting in our language and art.”

I came across an online essay at Aeon (https://aeon.co/essays/the-ancient-world-teemed-with-birds-now-we-think-with-them?utm_source=Aeon+Newsletter) by Jeremy Mynott who wrote *Birds in the Ancient World: Winged Words*. Mynott’s essay gives an introductory overview of the themes expanded upon in his book, and in itself is a very enlightening read.



Courtesy of Wikipedia



In the ancient world, birds “populated people’s minds and imaginations” and reference to them abounded in figures of speech, proverbs, myths and fables. Birds had a great influence on human activities. They were markers of the seasonal changes in the Mediterranean world of 2,500 years ago, where the more agrarian society and small cities kept people in more intimate contact with nature. The migration of cranes was a reminder to farmers that the time had come to plough their fields before winter’s onset. The arrival of swallows indicated it was time to get rid of “winter woollens”.

Birds were also considered to be messengers of the gods, omens that explained the workings of the world. Birds of prey, eagles especially, provided the most significant omens. Interestingly, *ornis* is not only the Greek word for bird, but also the Greek word for omen.

Birds also emerged as metaphorical symbols in literature and art, from Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and from Aesop’s *Fables*, to the frescoes in ancient Pompeii and the decorative art on domestic pottery.

Proverbs with bird references that we use today were proverbs used in the ancient world. “One swallow does not a summer make” and “Birds of a feather flock together” are but two examples. Other proverbs, such as “Eagles don’t catch flies”, are no longer in common use today.

Then as now, we are more connected with birds than with other wild animals because we can observe them up close – walking, socializing, singing, fighting, courting, feeding and parenting.

Bird Wing Report

We are in awe of their ability to fly. As the author states, “the gift of flight is a deep and ancient human aspiration, the promise of liberation.”

Although our present Western society often shields us from the natural world, this essay reminds us of the prominent role that birds have had – and continue to have – in linking us with nature through winged words.

(Note: Photos of ancient Greece depicted from top to bottom:

Swallows in the *Spring Fresco* from Akrotiri, Santorini, now in the National Archeological Museum in Athens; Artemis holding two geese, depicted on the plate found in the Delos Museum, situated on the ancient island of Delos. Artemis, the daughter of

Zeus and Leto and the twin sister of Apollo, is the goddess of hunting, wild animals and the wilderness. The current NASA space program is known as Artemis, following years of being known as Apollo. Its mission is to land the first woman and another man on the moon by 2024; the three Sirens with their female heads and bird bodies luring the sailors on Odysseus’s ship are depicted on the vase, *Odysseus and the Sirens*, now in the British Museum.)



Renee Levesque



Jeremy Mynott is an emeritus fellow at Wolfson College in Cambridge. A former publisher (head of Cambridge University Press) turned author, he has written books in classics, ancient history and natural history. *Birds in the Ancient World: Winged Words*, published in 2018, can be ordered online at various sites, including Amazon.ca.

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The sacred birds of ancient Egypt

Text and photos by Renee Levesque

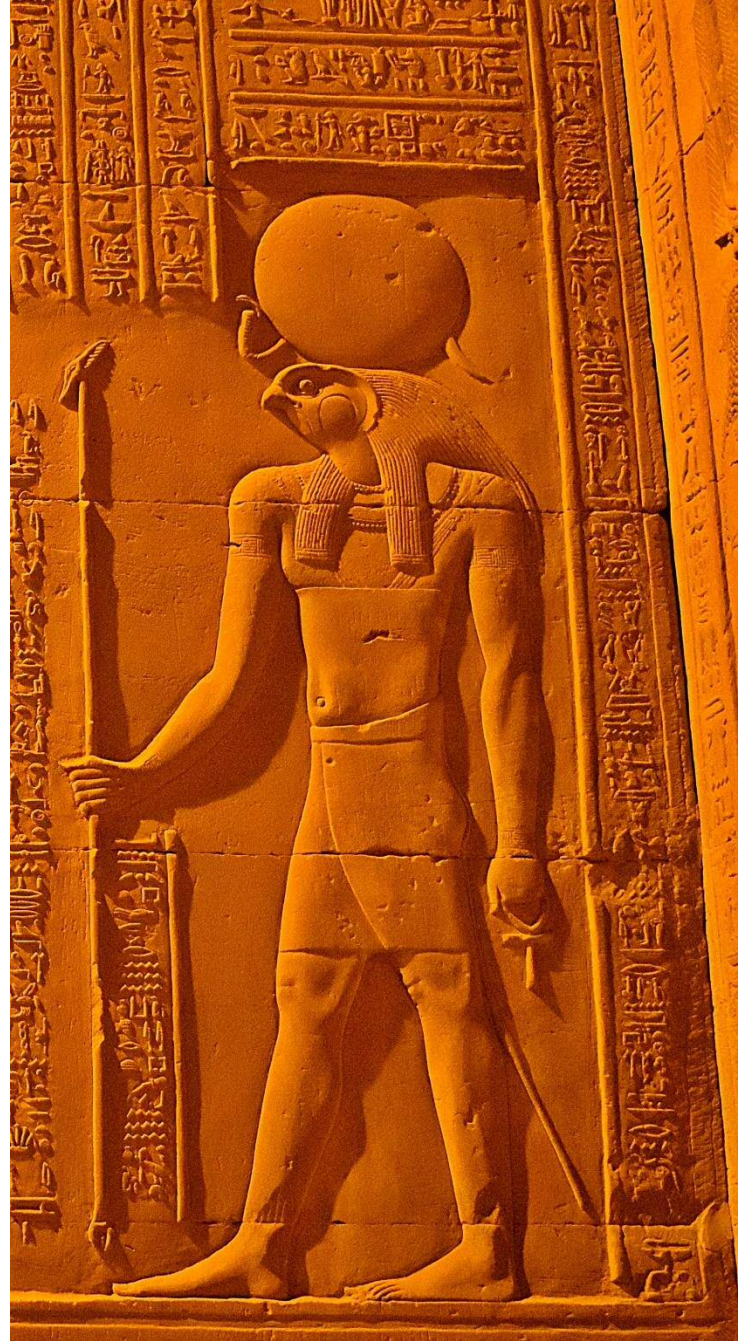
It wasn't only in the Greek and Roman ancient worlds that birds played prominent roles. Pre-dating both these worlds by thousands of years was the ancient world of Egypt where birds played not only important roles, but powerful ones as well.

Many gods were depicted with the heads of birds. Thoth, god of wisdom and knowledge, had the head of an Ibis. Horus, who became King of Egypt, was

portrayed as a hawk or falcon, probably a Peregrine Falcon. (at right)

Horus was originally worshipped as the sun god and creator of the sky, his right eye representing the sun and his left eye, the moon.

Some birds were elevated to temple animals and some birds were mummified and presented to the gods as gifts.



Loved by Jackie, petted by Brigitte



Text and photos by Renee Levesque

It is not only the ancient worlds that have their bird mythologies. Today in the Greek island of Mykonos, in the Aegean Sea, lives Petros the Pelican, the mascot of the island.

Pelicans are not native to the Aegean, but one arrived in Mykonos in 1958 after it was found injured off the coast of the island by a fisherman. Once it was nursed back to health, it decided to stay with the Mykonians. They adopted it and named it Petros.

One day, however, Petros decided to try his wings and flew to the nearby island of Tinos. The people of Tinos were delighted and adopted him as their own, basically stealing him from the Mykonians. Naturally, the Mykonians were upset by this “avian equivalent of the abduction of Helen of Troy” and got ready to go to battle to get Petros back. They launched a lawsuit and the judge decided in their favour. To celebrate their victory, the Mykonians threw a large party with music, food and drink.

And so for years, long before Mykonos became known as a party island, Petros strolled around town and swam in the local harbour, charming one and all. He rose to mythical status and people from all over the world came to see him. He was even petted by Brigitte Bardot.

Then tragedy struck. After 27 years of roaming around as the island’s mascot, Petros was killed by a car on December 2, 1985. He was mourned by all.

However, one day, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, who was a regular island visitor and who had fallen under the spell of Petros, donated a pelican named Irini to the Mykonians.

Bird Wing Report

And a zoo in Hamburg also donated a pelican, one the zoo had named Petros. Interestingly, the new Petros refused to mate with Irini. But then even more surprisingly, another wounded pelican found itself on Mykonos. It too was cared for by the locals who named it Nikolas.

Today, at least three pelicans roam freely around the capital of Mykonos and it seems to me they are all known as Petros. It wasn't until my last day on the island that I finally saw Petros in an area known as Little

Venice. The cruise ships had left the night before and Mykonos had quieted down considerably, to the point where we were able to get an outside harbour-view lunch table at a taverna where we could watch Petros in all his glory, wandering around the tables and swimming in the harbour.

There are many You Tube videos of Petros. Here is one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqUrR5hecHo>



From the past:

On top of the world, CBC 1998



Lots of participants, lots of species, lots of prizes!

Stephen O'Donnell

By Renee Levesque; photos as indicated

In the January 1999 issue of *The Woodland Observer*, I read in an article by Pat Boxwell that there used to be a pre-Christmas meeting “devoted to sharpening the identification skills” of newly-recruited Christmas Bird Count feeder watchers.

It would seem this was not the first year this occurred, because Pat states “as in the past”, the Bird Wing meeting of December 8, 1998, was devoted to honing these identification skills. So devoted to it, in fact, that the “usual business portion of the meeting was eliminated”, although Vicki Bernstein “was allowed to pitch her F.O.N. products, Christmas cards and t-shirts, in hopes of making some extra sales to newcomers.” I don’t know what F.O.N. stands for.

The meeting started off with Dick Tafel giving a brief account of the history of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Based on the 1997 CBC, North Bay was in second place to Edmonton in terms of the number of participants.



The team leaders for the field surveyors were introduced – Stewart Greig, Cal Osborne, Glenn Ouellette, Diane Mitchell, Ken Smith, Grant McKercher and Stan Vasiliauskas/Vicki Bernstein. Also introduced was Mark Head, coordinator of the feeder watchers. (Where were you, Dick??)

After Dick showed slides of birds normally seen during the winter in our area, there was a contest to see who had been paying attention. Prizes were awarded to the winners, prizes that included bird seed and a suet feeder from Burrow’s!

And so with their identification skills honed, participants were all set for the Big Count of December 20, 1998.

Bird Wing Report

So how did the field surveyors and feeder watchers do? Later in the same newsletter, Pat reports that “our club is now on top of the world!” Some 809 participants (42 field surveyors and 767 feeder watchers), counted over 11,000 birds and 50 species, a local record in terms of species!! (Pat indicated 50 species in her article, but the Audubon archival site for North Bay’s CBC of 1998 indicates 52. I am unaware if this record high in terms of species seen still stands.)

Edmonton dropped to second place with 612 observers, while Victoria was third with 592.

The count party afterwards, arranged by Tom Baines with Vicki coordinating the refreshments, was held at Chippewa Barracks. Prizes were again awarded!

Merilyn Parker won for most effective feeder watch “phoner”; Diane Mitchell won the all-round award (whatever that meant); Ken Smith won as top rookie; and Cal Osborne won as top leader, winning the grand prize – a dinner for two at Tennant’s Restaurant!! (I am assuming Pat is referring to Jack Tennant’s Steakhouse, located then at 786 Lakeshore Drive.)

What were some of the species seen 21 years ago on a clear day with a high of minus 6.6 Celsius and with no snow? Quite a few ducks, including 1 Redhead, 2 Gadwall, 6 Hooded and 78

Common Mergansers; the usual gulls plus 1 Glaucous and 1 Great Black-backed; two owls, a Barred and a Great Gray (seen on previous page); the usual woodpeckers, plus 2 Black-backed Woodpeckers (seen above right); many Blue Jays plus 51 Canada Jays; 1 Carolina Wren; 29 American Robins; 1757 Bohemian Waxwings!!!; 611 American Tree Sparrows, with 1 White-throat and 1 Song; 3 Northern Cardinals (left); 35 Common Grackles; 93 Pine Grosbeaks; 28 House Finch; 159 Purple Finch; 99 Common Redpolls; 124 Pine Siskins; 1139 American Goldfinch; 475 Evening Grosbeaks; and 6 House Sparrows.

It is not too late to contact Lori Anderson at lori.anderson58@hotmail.com or 705-724-5780 if you want to get involved in this year’s CBC on Saturday, **December 14**. Feeder watchers must live within a 24-km or 15-mile radius of North Bay, specifically of Dugas Bay.



Fred Pinto



Kaye Edmonds

Bird Wing Report

Stories and links from the field

Lori Anderson: “I got around to all the nest boxes this fall. Two were used by Eastern Bluebirds (right) with no dead birds left behind; nine were used by Tree Swallows, with no dead birds left behind; one was used by a squirrel and will be moved; and three were not used. No House Sparrows! Yeah!!

“Often there are one or more dead Tree Swallows left in the nest boxes. The nestlings are prone to starvation when they get nearer to fledging if the weather turns cold and wet and the adults simply cannot get enough insects for them, so this was a great year for them.

“I will check all the boxes in the spring to make sure no rodents have moved in, and will also check on the condition of the boxes. Some are getting old.”



Renee Levesque

Lori had emailed me to inform me about her cleaning the nest boxes based on my posting on eBird that I had two Eastern Bluebirds in my yard on November 14, the latest I have ever seen them in my yard, let alone in Nipissing. Lori said they paid me a visit to thank me for the nest box, a nest box Lori first put up on her property two years ago. I got the nest box as a Christmas gift in 2017 and was disappointed to find that in 2018, when Lori set it up by Graham Lake, those pesky House Sparrows decided it would be theirs, especially as the nest box was supposed to be made so House Sparrows could not enter it! But this year, Lori moved it to her property on Wasing Road and I was delighted when it became a successful nesting box for an Eastern Bluebird family.

Sarah Wheelan also emailed me to tell me she saw on eBird that I had reported two Eastern Bluebirds in my yard. I emailed Sarah back to tell her about the Mountain Bluebird (a western bird) seen in November in Tarbutt Township,

Bird Wing Report

Desbarats, near her hometown of Sault Ste. Marie. Sarah subsequently sent me a link to the November 19th issue of the *Sault Star* in which this rare Algoma sighting got a nice write-up.

At right is the photo of the Mountain Bluebird, an immature male, that appeared in the paper. It was taken by Carter Dorscht of The Kensington Conservancy. Carter gave me permission to use this photo that he took on November 14, 2019. The bird was first found by Jane Smith on November 7, and the last confirmed sighting of it in the area was on November 18.



Carter Dorscht, Kensington Conservancy

Carter reports there was a subsequent sighting of an adult male Mountain Bluebird in Munising, Michigan, about 200 km due west of where it was seen in Tarbutt Township.

To read more about some of the projects The Kensington Conservancy has undertaken in the Desbarats area see:

<http://www.kensingtonconservancy.org/projects.html>. You will note one of the projects is an Eastern Bluebird Trail!

Grant McKercher: I emailed Grant to ask him how many Common Loons he saw in Callander Bay in front of his house this past October. His rather hilarious response: “I was going back over my eBird lists to confirm the number for you and

Bird Wing Report

noticed a typo I had made on eBird. I had written *a raft of winter plumage lions on the bay*. In this case, maybe an alternate collective noun for a group of loons would have been a pride.”

Dick Tafel: Further to the article “Reports from the past’ that appeared in September’s Bird Wing Report, I asked Dick about his sighting of a Blue-winged Warbler (below) in September 1998 as reported at that time in *The Woodland Observer*. He checked his journal for September 1998 and provided me with the following paragraph from Saturday, September 12:



Tony Castro, Wikipedia

“Up to 70 degrees F. by 10:00 a.m. Cal Osborne and I wandered through Laurier Woods, finding a Lincoln’s Sparrow among many others. (Not sure if Dick means among many other sparrows or many other birds.) We then made our way to Sunset Park where we saw a Black-bellied Plover but little else. From there, we went to Champlain Park and walked along the Lavase

trail. Towards the end of it, a very large number of warblers appeared, mostly Yellow-rumps, but also several kinglets, two Black and Whites, and then one yellow-headed bird with white undertail coverts and strong wingbars, which we identified as a female Blue-winged Warbler. But the dominant scene was the magic of one after another Yellow-rumps. We were there for at least 2 hours!”

Dick reports he first saw a Blue-winged Warbler in 1995 at the east end of Riding Stable Road, opposite Jocko Point Road.

Steve Pitt: Steve sent me a link to a great You Tube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXIZegEKYKs>, *Dance of the Nuthatch*, showing a White-breasted Nuthatch scaring off its competitors, in this case two

Bird Wing Report

squirrels and a chipmunk, in almost balletic movements, by spreading its wings and swaying its body. Steve reports, "I've got photos of a Pileated using a similar tactic, but I've never seen a dancing nuthatch." Neither have I. Steve's Pileated and squirrel which he called *Close Encounters of the Bird Kind* is at right.



Steve Pitt

Marc Buchanan: Marc sent me a watercolour painting he did of a Fish Crow (at left), copied from the front cover of the August 2019 issue of *Ontario Birds*.



Marc Buchanan

The original was painted by nature artist, Barry Kent McKay, whose paintings often grace the covers of *Ontario Birds*. Barry is the son of Phyllis McKay who was instrumental in getting the Toronto Ornithological Club open to women, although not without some difficulty. Unbelievably, until 1980 it was open only to men. See *The Woodland Observer*, March 2019:

<https://www.nipnats.com/newsletters/>.

We don't get Fish Crows here yet, but some are making their way into Southern Ontario. They are generally found in eastern and southeastern United States.

- Renee Levesque

Bird Wing Report

Upcoming events and meetings

Bird Bash: December's Bird Bash takes place over a 24-hour consecutive period over the **weekend of December 7 and 8**. Should be a great opportunity to find out what species might be available for the Christmas Bird Count.

Christmas Bird Count: By now everyone knows the **Christmas Bird Count** is to be held on **Saturday, December 14**, with a count gathering for the field surveyors afterwards at Grant and Shirley McKercher's.



Lori Anderson

Thanks once again to Lori Anderson for organizing this very important birding event that has been ongoing since 1900.

Bird Wing Meeting: There is no Bird Wing meeting in December and, therefore, no Bird Wing report. Our first meeting of the New Year will take place on **Tuesday, January 28, starting at 6:30 p.m.** It is expected that the library will once again be available. A reminder email will be sent to members and the location confirmed at that time.