

# Bird Bash Report

## August 2022

*By Dick Tafel, Compiler*

Such a weekend! Lovely birding weather! Some great reports among 22 participants who saw a total of 113 species - a bit above average for August over the almost 20 years of monthly Bird Bashing. And one amazing sighting never seen during a Bird Bash and seen only locally 5 years ago! Let's get to it!

What was that one special sighting? Following our usual route via the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of North Bay and Area* does not get to it for it is not within that list. But emplacing it as it would have been upon a longer list, we get to a Great Egret, spotted and photographed by Cindy Lafleur upon a dead tree in Arum Pond at Laurier Woods! To my knowledge, it was last seen in this area in April 2017!

Then there is the Pectoral Sandpiper spotted by Chris Sukha at Warren Lagoon -not easily reached over the weekend because of a road accident.

Grant and Shirley McKercher and Chris spotted a Tennessee Warbler, with Chris also spotting the Bay-breasted Warbler in the Garden Village area, a warbler also spotted by Denise Desmarais at Cache Lake.

Chris noted a White-winged Crossbill also in the Garden Village area! It is a species not usually seen in our district until November.

Now getting to the previously noted birds, following generally the same checklist order, as usual we start with the Common Loon. This iconic specie was noted only by Elsa Tafel (heard at night), Sue Gratton along with Faye Oei, Steve Pitt, and Denise.

Double-crested Cormorants were found in large numbers (about 80) by the duo of Renee Levesque and yours truly off Jocko Point, and seen elsewhere by young Jeremie Corbeil, the McKerchers, Denise, and Chris.

Grant heard an American Bittern in Laurier Woods, as did the Levesque duo.

The Great Blue Heron was discovered only by the Levesque pair and by Steve.

Turkey Vultures were watched by Gary and Connie Sturge, Donna Demarco, Jeremie, Steve, Denise, the Gratton duo, Chris, the Levesque duo, and the McKerchers.

Canada Geese were seen by most participants, while Mallards were by far the most commonly noted duck.

Wood Ducks were noted by the Sturges, the Levesque duo, Chris, the Gratton duo, and the McKerchers who, along with Chris, identified Black Ducks. Chris also found Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shovelers, and Blue-winged Teal, mainly at Warren Lagoon. The latter bird was also spotted by the McKerchers, Denise, and the Levesque duo. Green-winged Teal was spotted by Lloyd and Janet Sparks and by Chris.

Getting to the diving ducks, we start with the Ring-necked discovered only by Chris. He also saw Hooded Mergansers, as did the McKerchers. The McKerchers also found some Lesser Scaup and Common Goldeneye at Callander Lagoon. A group of twelve Common Mergansers was watched by the Levesque duo from Jocko Point.

Now to the predators, we start with the Osprey. This grand bird was seen by Linda Stoner, Chris, the Sparks, the McKerchers, Denise, and the Levesque duo. The latter three groups also watched Northern Harriers and American Kestrels, with kestrels also being seen by the Sturges, the Sparks, Chris, and Steve. A Merlin was noted by the Sturges, Cindy, and the Levesque duo. The latter duo and Chris also spotted a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The Broad-winged Hawk was spotted by the Levesque duo, the Sturges, and by Sue, while Chris came upon a Peregrine Falcon in Verner by the church. He also noted a Bald Eagle, as did the Sturges and the Sparks.

A watchful flock of nine Ruffed Grouse were disrupted a bit by the Levesque pair. Grouse were also found by the Sturges and Denise. The Sturges were the only ones to come upon Wild Turkeys. They also observed Sandhill Cranes, as did the Levesque duo, Donna, and Denise.

Getting to the mostly south-migrating shorebirds, Chris spotted Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Pectoral, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, as well as the Short-billed Dowitcher. The McKerchers and the Levesque pair came upon the Spotted Sandpiper, while the latter duo also saw the Solitary, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. The Semipalmated Plover was seen by the McKerchers and by the Sturges. The latter couple also spotted Killdeer. The Lesser Yellowlegs was found by Denise.

Ring-billed Gulls remained very evident, while Herring Gulls seemed to be most present at spots along the lake away from the City. Common Terns were identified by the McKerchers, Linda and the Levesque duo, who also watched Caspians, as did Chris and Denise.

Rock Doves remained, of course, ubiquitous. Mourning Doves were noted by the Levesque duo, the Sturges, the Sparks, the McKerchers, and Sue.

Sue heard the Barred Owl!

Common Nighthawks were wonderfully spotted by the Sturges during their brief presence in our area while heading south.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were still very active while “juicing” up for their soon-to-happen journey south, and were spotted by almost all participants, mostly at local feeders or garden and wild flowers.

The Belted Kingfisher made a number of appearances in sight of Sue, Chris, Denise, Cindy, the McKerchers, the Levesque duo, and Steve.

As to woodpeckers, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted by John and Renee Levesque, Steve, the McKerchers, the Sturges, and Sue. Hairys were spied by Alex Dumouchelle, Sue, Chris, Denise, the Levesque duo, the McKerchers, John, Jeremie, and Steve, who also viewed the Downy, as did Peter and Pam Handley, John, Chris, and the Sparks. Northern Flickers were seen by Sue, Chris, Denise, the Levesque duo, the Sturges, Cindy, the Sparks, the McKerchers, Linda, and Jeremie, while Pileateds were found by John, the Handleys, the McKerchers, the Sparks, the Sturges, the Levesque pair, and Chris.

Flycatchers were still around, with the Eastern Wood-Pewee being spotted solely by the Levesque duo and by Sue. The Least was on Chris's list. Eastern Kingbirds were checked by the McKerchers and the Levesque duo, who also saw Great Crested Flycatchers, as did Linda. Eastern Phoebes were noted by Denise, the Levesque duo, and the Sturges.

Philadelphia Vireos were identified by John, Renee, and Linda, who also observed the Warbling. Red-eyed Vireos were not singing nearly as much but were still about and discovered by Jeremie, the Levesque duo, Chris, the Sturges, the McKerchers, and John.

Blue Jays seemed even more numerous than in the two previous months, presumably chasing about with young now. No Canada Jays – again!

American Crows seemed to be multiplying and were almost everywhere. The Common Raven, however, was noted only by John, Linda, the McKerchers, the Sturges, Cindy, the Levesque duo, Denise, Chris, Sue, Steve, and Jeremie.

Not many swallows seemed to be around, although the McKerchers managed to come upon at least a hundred Barn Swallows in the west end. Some were also seen by Sue, Cindy, Chris, and the Sturges. Tree Swallows were noted by the McKerchers and the

Levesque duo.

Black-capped Chickadees were enjoyed in bountiful numbers.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found by Alex, Donna, Steve, Sue, Chris, Denise, the Sturges, the Handleys, and Renee. White-breasted were noted only by Cindy, Chris, Sue, and Steve.

The Brown Creeper was discovered only by Sue.

House Wrens were on the lists of the Sturges and Linda.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet was recognized by the McKerchers, Sue, and the Sturges, who also viewed the Ruby-crowned.

Thrushes were not plentiful, but Eastern Bluebirds were found by the Sturges, Chris, and the Levesque duo, and the Veery was found by John, Renee, Chris, Cindy, and the Sturges. American Robins seemed to have become temporarily (one hopes) very rare, but were enjoyed in small numbers by the Sturges, Jeremie, John, Linda, the Sparks, Chris, Cindy, and the Levesque duo. Cindy also observed the Hermit Thrush, as did the Sparks, while the Sturges found the Swainson's.

Gray Catbirds were spotted by the Sturges, Denise, the McKerchers, Linda, and Cindy. Brown Thrashers were noted only by the Handleys, the Sturges, and Denise.

European Starlings seemed still to be almost everywhere!

Cedar Waxwings were discovered (often acting much like flycatchers) by the Sparks, Chris, the Sturges, and the Levesque duo.

Now we have reached the wood warblers. Not as many were still around, many having started south already. But a couple of observers seemed to have found a wave or two. Chris identified thirteen of them mostly within the Garden Village area - Nashville, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black and White, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat.

The only one noted by the Levesque duo was the Common Yellowthroat, which was also spotted by Steve. That bird was also included in the Sturges' list, along with the Black and White and American Redstart, the latter two species also being found by Denise who also saw the Chestnut-sided. Cindy was the only one to have the normally more common Yellow Warbler on her list, as well as the Redstart. Sue found five species – Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue (not yet found anywhere in the

district this year by yours truly) and Blackburnian. The McKerchers spotted the Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Black and White, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat. The Sparks had Yellow-rumped, and on Linda's list were the Blackburnian, Black and White, Yellow-rumped, and American Redstart. John had Yellowthroat and Chestnut-sided, while Renee observed the Redstart.

The lovely Scarlet Tanager, in less dramatic colours, was observed by John and Renee.

Getting to the sparrows: Chipping Sparrows were still about and seen by Cindy, the Sturges, Chris, and the Sparks. White-throats were noted only by John, Renee, Linda, the McKerchers, Chris, and Denise. Savannahs were on the lists of Denise, the Sturges, the McKerchers, and the Levesque duo. Swamps were identified by the Levesque duo, Sue, Chris, and the Sturges. The Song seemed to be the most common sparrow still about, being noted by Alex, Jeremie, the Handleys, the McKerchers, the Levesque duo, the Sparks, Cindy, Chris, and Denise.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noticed by Steve, Chris, Elsa, Cindy, Linda, Renee, John, the Sparks, and the Sturges,

A "cluster" of Bobolinks was noted by yours truly, Denise, Chris, and the McKerchers.

Red-winged Blackbirds were not as common as expected, but were noted by Cindy, the Levesque duo, Jeremie, the Sturges, and Steve.

Common Grackles were seen by most participants.

Purple Finch were noted this month only by Chris, while American Goldfinch may have been one of the most common "songbirds" during this time of year, noted by almost everyone.

The Evening Grosbeak seemed to like the Levesque backyard for they were noted nowhere else and one was seen there by Renee.

Ending, as usual with House Sparrows, they were spotted by Chris, the McKerchers, and the Sturges.

And so once again a rather grand Bird Bash. Congrats to all.

Look forward to the first "Fall" Bird Bash - **the weekend of September 10-11!**