

Wallace Memorial Birdathon 2020

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre - Kurt Appleman - 2020 May 20



I had the pleasure to enjoy another year out at LLOEC on Wednesday, May 20th. The weather was great. It was sunny and warm but the mature trees of the forest kept the temperature at a comfortable level. As the day unfolded and I tallied up my species totals, it was clear that I had picked a good day to complete my count.

I started my day early; I always hope I may be lucky enough to pick up an owl species but they have yet to alert their presence. I enjoy the quiet, calm of the morning and hearing the first bird song of the day, too. On this day, it was technically an American Robin but it was not consistent. The consistency came from the Wood Thrush, which was not a surprise. The beautiful song of a Winter Wren was a pleasant surprise though, and the local Northern Waterthrush soon joined in.

I was able to compile 17 warbler species on my count, most of which preferred to stay high up in the trees but they were calling frequently. However, one male Magnolia was very obliging and sat patiently on its perch in perfect view for myself and my gracious sponsor, who joined me for part of the day.



Although I was happy with my total species count (75) for the day, I did not encounter any birds that were necessarily unexpected. My "bird of the day" did not immediately come to mind. I leaned towards Common Loon, as it is not rare but it is unusual at LLOEC: pure luck as a flyby. Being surrounded by Ontario's flower and seeing Ontario's bird, it seemed like a good fit. However, I ultimately decided on the Winter Wren (right), based on sentiment. When I see, or in this case hear, a Winter Wren, it reminds me of my Poppy. Without his



influence, as well as other important family members and friends, I would not be out receiving my forest therapy at LLOEC, as well as being a small part in a very worthwhile cause.

The full list:

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| 1 Canada Goose | 38 Gray Catbird |
| 2 Wood Duck | 39 Brown Thrasher |
| 3 Mallard | 40 Veery |
| 4 Ruffed Grouse | 41 Gray-cheeked Thrush |
| 5 Mourning Dove | 42 Swainson's Thrush |
| 6 Killdeer | 43 Wood Thrush |
| 7 Ring-billed Gull | 44 American Robin |
| 8 Common Loon | 45 Cedar Waxwing |
| 9 Great Blue Heron | 46 House Finch |
| 10 Turkey Vulture | 47 American Goldfinch |
| 11 Red-tailed Hawk | 48 Chipping Sparrow |
| 12 Belted Kingfisher | 49 Savannah Sparrow |
| 13 Red-bellied Woodpecker | 50 Song Sparrow |
| 14 Downy Woodpecker | 51 Swamp Sparrow |
| 15 Hairy Woodpecker | 52 Baltimore Oriole |
| 16 Pileated Woodpecker | 53 Red-winged Blackbird |
| 17 Northern Flicker | 54 Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 18 American Kestrel | 55 Common Grackle |
| 19 Eastern Wood-Pewee | 56 Ovenbird |
| 20 Least Flycatcher | 57 Northern Waterthrush |
| 21 Eastern Phoebe | 58 Black-and-white Warbler |
| 22 Great Crested Flycatcher | 59 Nashville Warbler |
| 23 Philadelphia Vireo | 60 Mourning Warbler |
| 24 Warbling Vireo | 61 Common Yellowthroat |
| 25 Red-eyed Vireo | 62 American Redstart |
| 26 Blue Jay | 63 Northern Parula |
| 27 American Crow | 64 Magnolia Warbler |
| 28 Black-capped Chickadee | 65 Bay-breasted Warbler |
| 29 Tree Swallow | 66 Blackburnian Warbler |
| 30 Golden-crowned Kinglet | 67 Yellow Warbler |
| 31 Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 68 Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 32 Red-breasted Nuthatch | 69 Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 33 White-breasted Nuthatch | 70 Pine Warbler |
| 35 House Wren | 71 Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| 36 Winter Wren | 72 Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 37 European Starling | 73 Northern Cardinal |

74 Rose-breasted Grosbeak

75 Indigo Bunting