

Down the Line Birding – April 20, 2019

By Carter Dorscht

The Sault Naturalists headed off the Echo Bay to do some spring birding. It couldn't have been a nicer day for it, as it was likely the nicest day of the year to date. 22 participants met at the Echo Bay viewing platform just after 8am. A scope was needed to get a decent view, but there was a variety of waterfowl to be seen from the platform, including Ring-necked Ducks, Wood Ducks, American Wigeons, Buffleheads, and a few Blue-winged Teals. Tree Swallows had returned to their nests under the platform and gave us some close up views!



Scanning for waterfowl - Val Walker



Tundra Swans - Joy Cohen

Our next stop was the flooded fields at the corner of Bar River Road and Government Road in the Bar River Flats. Many of the participants mentioned at the start of the outing that they wanted to see Tundra Swans and they were not disappointed! There were 84 Tundra Swans here and they were close enough to the road to get some good views. Some Northern Pintails were another highlight here.

We ventured further into the flats to the end of Lake George Road. We got more of them same here, but a Killdeer and a singing Savannah Sparrow were nice treats!

Our final spot of the day was Centennial Park at the west end of Pumpkin Point. Both Greater and Lesser Scaups were present, but the highlight was a Horned Grebe. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers put on a show here as well!



Keen Waterfowlers - Val Walker

In total, 51 species were recorded:

Canada Goose	Horned Grebe	American Kestrel
Tundra Swan	Rock Pigeon	Eastern Phoebe
Wood Duck	Sandhill Crane	Blue Jay
Blue-winged Teal	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow
American Wigeon	Herring Gull	Common Raven
Mallard	Double-crested Cormorant	Tree Swallow
American Black Duck	Great Blue Heron	Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Pintail	Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch
Green-winged Teal	Northern Harrier	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Sharp-shinned Hawk	European Starling
Greater Scaup	Bald Eagle	American Tree Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Red-tailed Hawk	Dark-eyed Junco
Bufflehead	Rough-legged Hawk	Savannah Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Belted Kingfisher	Song Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Merganser	Red-bellied Sapsucker	Common Grackle
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Flicker	House Sparrow

See more photos on the Sault Naturalists Flickr account [here](#) and on Renee Wysynski's Flickr account [here](#).