

# Eisner's Cove Wetland Bird Study

*Prepared by Richard Hatch with assistance from Fulton Lavender.*

In the Spring of 2022, I was contacted by Tara Lapointe of Eisner's Cove concerned citizens group. I was asked to do an investigation of Bird Species found on lands to be developed, surrounding and including the wetland itself. After several site visits and walking through the entire area in question we, did not observe any Species that might be considered special status. Although, several Species observed are in serious decline and any habitat destruction can be detrimental to the overall populations of birds. I.e., Blackburnian and Bay Breasted Warblers.

This property was thoroughly searched but it doesn't mean all bird species were located. If anyone has applicable information, please contact Tara Lapointe and we will investigate further.

The searches were conducted on May 6<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and August 5<sup>th</sup> approximate hours spent searching being 21 in total, and findings were as follows:

Total Species Observed (46)	
Blue Headed Vireo ( <i>Vireo solitarius</i> )	White Throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )
Blackburnian Warbler ( <i>Setophaga fusca</i> )	American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )
Red Winged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )	Gray Catbird ( <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> )
Common Grackle ( <i>Quiscalus quiscla</i> )	Bay Breasted Warbler ( <i>Setophaga castanea</i> )
Tree Swallows ( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )	Red Breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> )
Yellow Warbler ( <i>Setophaga petechia</i> )	Downey Woodpecker ( <i>Dryobates pubescens</i> )
Black-and-White Warbler ( <i>Mniotilta varia</i> )	Hairy Woodpecker ( <i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i> )
Northern Parula Warbler ( <i>Setophaga americana</i> )	Dark Eyed Junco ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )
Philadelphia Vireo ( <i>Vireo philadelphicus</i> )	Alder Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax alnorum</i> )
Common Yellow Throat Warbler ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )	Northern Cardinal ( <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> )
Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza medodia</i> )
Red Eyed Vireo ( <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> )	European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )
Rose Breasted Grosbeak ( <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i> )	Blue Jay ( <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> )
Magnolia Warbler ( <i>Setophaga magnolia</i> )	Rock Pigeon ( <i>Columbia livia</i> )
Purple Finch ( <i>Haemorhous purpureus</i> )	American Crow ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )
Nashville Warbler ( <i>Leiostyris alpestris</i> )	American Goldfinch ( <i>Spinus tristis</i> )
Yellow-Rumped Warbler ( <i>Setophaga coronata</i> )	Black-Capped Chickadee ( <i>Parus atricapillus</i> )
Black Throated Green Warbler ( <i>Setophaga virens</i> )	Herring Gull ( <i>Larus smithsonianus</i> )
Tennessee Warbler ( <i>Leiostyris peregrina</i> )	Ring Neck Pheasant ( <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> )
Swamp Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> )	Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaidura macroura</i> )
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	Red Crossbill ( <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> )
Chipping Sparrow ( <i>Spizella passerina</i> )	Common Raven ( <i>Corvus corax</i> )
Ruby Throated Hummingbird ( <i>Archilochus colubris</i> )	Golden Crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus satrapa</i> )

## ***Summary***

If any incursion into this wetland is allowed to proceed, a minimum 30-meter buffer area around this wetland (not including the trail). This area will basically be destroyed as a wetland and it will become a drainage ditch for run off from development around it. Most of the trees around this wetland are just becoming mature enough to provide a sustainable habitat for many species of birds **(it is the last natural area of its kind in Dartmouth- City of Lakes)**, even though most of its lakes and wetlands are filled in right to their edges with virtually no realistic buffer zones.

With what is known about the value of wetlands these days, it is hard to believe our politicians don't have the backbone to prevent these destructive types of development. Which are subject to virtually no form of proper environmental assessment. Maybe they could preserve at least one natural area in this city for our children's future.

## ***Background Information***

**Richard Hatch** – Has spent over 50 years exploring Nova Scotia's ecosystems with a special interest in birds and has worked as a volunteer and contractor on numerous bird studies across Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

**Fulton Lavender** – Has spent over 50 years studying bird behavior and conducting bird studies as a volunteer and contractor throughout Eastern Canada.