

2024 Spring Bird Count Report

submitted by Elizabeth Link

The 2024 Spring Migration Count in Greensboro was held on Saturday, April 27. The weather was quite favorable, with a low of 56, a high of 75, and southwest winds ranging from calm to 16 mph. It was partly cloudy, and no rain was recorded.

44 counters were out in the field, putting in a total of 95 party hours during the day. We logged 123 species of birds and 6,622 individual birds. Both numbers are a bit below our average of 7,126 individuals and 130 species for the last 50 years. We also had one additional count week species.

While nothing extremely rare was counted, we did pick up a few birds that are not always on the count. We had a Forster's Tern for the 9th time in 50 years, and a Pectoral Sandpiper for the 7th time in 50 years. We had 2 Warbling Vireos, a bird which has only ever shown up on our count two other times, in 2023 and in 1971.

High counts included 6 Bald Eagles. Our first Bald Eagle on the count was in 1994, and they have appeared on our count most years since then, but 6 is the highest number we've had, although we did also tally that many in 2010 and 2020.

We had our highest count of Eastern Phoebe since the first year of the count in 1957, when we had 62. We had the highest count of House Finches since they first showed up on our count in 1978. And while we once got Purple Finches regularly on the spring count, the 2 found this year were only the 4th time we've had them in the last 30 years.

Low counts included our lowest-ever count of Field Sparrows, at 9, and the 15 Wood Thrushes were at a low as well – we had 13 in 2013, which is the only time we've had fewer. Our highest count of Wood Thrushes was 282 in 1969, and for Field Sparrows the high was 115 in 1967.

Many thanks to the birders who did the work of the count: Carolyn Allen, Alicia Bachman, Chris Bame, Rick Bardolph, Heather Buttonow, Frank Cashwell, Lori Combs, Scott Combs, Anna Craft, Jessica Craver, Doug DeNeve, Pam DeNeve, Dan Dery, Patty Dery, Jim Eldrett, Amy Hanson, Douglas Hodgson, Carol Jones, Todd Kilb, Nancy Kondracki, Megan Kyle, Lynne Gray, Christina Leslie, Elizabeth Link, Clarence Mattocks, Linda Melendez-Kilb, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Anne Presnell, David Pretzsch, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Gale Sykes, Emily Talbert, Ann Van Sant, Matt Wangerin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, Melissa Whitmire, and Peggy Young.

Count results are below. George Wheaton's compilation of spring count results has been updated to include this year's results and will be posted on the PBC website.

Species Count

| Common name | Number |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Canada Goose | 247 |
| Wood Duck | 14 |
| Mallard | 109 |
| Wild Turkey | 8 |
| Rock Pigeon | 24 |
| Mourning Dove | 159 |
| Chimney Swift | 75 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 5 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 4 |
| Killdeer | 10 |
| Least Sandpiper | CW |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 3 |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 14 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 2 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 1 |
| Forster's Tern | 1 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 28 |
| Great Blue Heron | 46 |
| Green Heron | 11 |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | 1 |
| Black Vulture | 49 |
| Turkey Vulture | 88 |
| Osprey | 11 |
| Bald Eagle | 6 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 5 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 39 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 17 |
| Eastern Screech Owl | 1 |
| Barred Owl | 3 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 8 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 2 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 121 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 59 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 14 |
| Northern Flicker | 12 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 12 |

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| Great Crested Flycatcher | 47 |
| Eastern Kingbird | 15 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 2 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 3 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 64 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 33 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 3 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 4 |
| Warbling Vireo | 2 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 97 |
| Blue Jay | 121 |
| American Crow | 311 |
| Fish Crow | 53 |
| Common Raven | 2 |
| Tree Swallow | 69 |
| Northern Rgh-winged Swallow | 49 |
| Cliff Swallow | 30 |
| Purple Martin | 49 |
| Barn Swallow | 8 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 200 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 233 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 24 |
| Golden Crowned Kinglet | 1 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 80 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 38 |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | 35 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 110 |
| Carolina Wren | 283 |
| House Wren | 36 |
| Gray Catbird | 102 |
| Brown Thrasher | 54 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 139 |
| European Starling | 262 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 146 |
| Veery | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 2 |
| Hermit Thrush | 5 |
| Wood Thrush | 15 |
| American Robin | 237 |

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|------------------------|-----|
| American Pipit | CW |
| House Sparrow | 11 |
| House Finch | 191 |
| Purple Finch | 2 |
| American Goldfinch | 277 |
| Chipping sparrow | 80 |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 3 |
| Field Sparrow | 9 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 4 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 282 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 8 |
| Song Sparrow | 83 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 8 |
| Eastern Towhee | 125 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 17 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 24 |
| Orchard Oriole | 8 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 4 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 52 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 62 |
| Common Grackle | 120 |
| Ovenbird | 36 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 6 |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | 4 |

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| Northern Waterthrush | 3 |
| Black-and-white Warbler | 39 |
| Prothonotary Warbler | 7 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 50 |
| Hooded Warbler | 4 |
| American Redstart | 17 |
| Cape May Warbler | 9 |
| Northern Parula | 80 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | 2 |
| Yellow Warbler | 5 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 25 |
| Palm Warbler | 4 |
| Pine Warbler | 61 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 117 |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 3 |
| Prairie Warbler | 16 |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 3 |
| Summer Tanager | 26 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 13 |
| Northern Cardinal | 470 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 3 |
| Blue Grosbeak | 9 |
| Indigo Bunting | 64 |

Total Individual Birds: 6,622

Total Species: 123