2026 Spring Bird Count

Submitted by Elizabeth Link

The Spring Bird Count was held in Greensboro on May 2, 2026. The weather felt closer to Christmas Count weather than Spring Count, with a low of 45, a high of 60 – not reached until late in the day. It was cloudy most of the day, with light winds from the north, which added to the chill. But at least any rain was not significant.

50 birders put in 116 party hours, 51 miles on foot and 253 miles by car. One birder did a feeder watch.

Other than the weather, the count overall was about "average". The number of species counted was 124, our 40 year average is 128. The number of individual birds counted was 7390, close to our average for the last 40 years, and up from the last few years.

We had a few lingering winter birds that we don't always get – Brown Creeper, which we've only had 5 times in the last 40 years, and Dark-eyed Junco, which we've had 8 times in 40 years. We had 21 Ring-billed Gulls, the first time in 7 years that they have stayed around for the count. For the 20 years before that, our average count for Ring-billed Gull was 55. There were a couple of Purple Finches for the 3rd year in a row. In the previous 40 years we'd had them only 6 other years.

We had 21 species of Warblers, including Magnolia and Bay-breasted, which we don't get every year. We had 6 species of shorebird, with good numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

We also had a Mississippi Kite, which usually don't show up until after the count. We've only ever had them on 2 other counts, although they've shown up 6 times on count week. Numbers for Red-tailed Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be trending down a bit, after trending upward starting in the 1990's.

Another bird that has been showing up lately has been the Warbling Vireo. Between 1957 and 2021, we only had one on the count day in one year, 1971. One showed up for count week in 2022, and we have had them on the count for the last 4 years.

Many thanks to our intrepid counters: Rick Bardolph, Madison Burkart, Ashleigh Burton, Heather Buttonow, Lorie Combs, Scott Combs, Anna Craft, Angela Craven, Robert Craven, Mary Currie, Pam Deneve, Dan Dery, Patty Dery, Tom Dierolf, Scott Futrell, Tom Gaffney, Jim Gant, Linda Golden, Lynne Gray, Amy Hanson, Susie Hodnett, Douglas Hodgson, Carol Jones, Kat Lamke, Christina Leslie, Ann Lindbergh, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Kim Luper, Clarence Mattocks, Karen Meadors, Lynn Moseley, Phil Moseley, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Anne Presnell, Drew Reynolds, Joy Rochester, Judy Roy, Gayle Sykes, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Melanie Stadler, Ann Steighner, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Emily Talbert, Clayton Taylor, Mali Taylor, Ann VanSant, Anita Vigorito, Joe Vigorito, Jani Wakefield, Dave Walters, Matt Wangerin, Stella Wear, George Wheaton, and Melissa Whitmire.

The count data are below. It will be added to the spreadsheet of Spring Count data starting in 1957, originally compiled by George Wheaton, and will be put up on the Piedmont Bird Club website, for anyone interested in digging into the numbers.

Elizabeth Link

Common name	Number
Canada Goose	405
Wood Duck	1
Mallard	137
Blue-winged Teal	1
Wild Turkey	5
Rock Pigeon	97
Mourning Dove	165
Chimney Swift	170
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15
Killdeer	36
Wilson's Snipe	2
Least Sandpiper	1
Spotted Sandpiper	8
Solitary Sandpiper	17
Greater Yellowlegs	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	8
Ring-billed Gull	21
Double-crested Cormorant	22
Great Blue Heron	58
Great Egret	4
Green Heron	5
Black Vulture	47
Turkey Vulture	91
Osprey	8
Mississippi Kite	1
Bald Eagle	5
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	26
Red-tailed Hawk	12
Great Horned Owl	3
Barred Owl	6
Belted Kingfisher	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	119
Downy Woodpecker	81
Hairy Woodpecker	14
Northern Flicker	16
Common name	Number
Pileated Woodpecker	17
American Kestrel	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12
Acadian Flycatcher	4
Eastern Phoebe	22
Great Crested Flycatcher	57
Eastern Kingbird	33
White-eyed Vireo	31
Yellow-throated Vireo	2
Blue-headed Vireo	3
Warbling Vireo	2
Red-eyed Vireo	104
Blue Jay	132
American Crow	282
Fish Crow	38
Common Raven	5
Carolina Chickadee	209
Tufted Titmouse	177
Bank Swallow	3
Tree Swallow	141
Purple Martin	71
N Rough-winged Swallow	108
Cliff Swallow	55
Barn Swallow	35
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Golden-Crowned Kinglet	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	42
Brown-headed Nuthatch	42
Brown Creeper	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	128
House Wren	13
Carolina Wren	193
European Starling	465
Gray Catbird	66
Brown Thrasher	53

Northern Mockingbird	125
Eastern Bluebird	215
Veery	3
Swainson's Thrush	14
Hermit Thrush	7
Wood Thrush	19
American Robin	236
Cedar Waxwing	530
House Sparrow	22
House Finch	250
Purple Finch	2
American Goldfinch	213
Chipping Sparrow	81
Field Sparrow	12
Dark-eyed Junco	4
White-crowned Sparrow	2
White-throated Sparrow	84
Savannah Sparrow	6
Song Sparrow	76
Swamp Sparrow	3
Eastern Towhee	120
Yellow-breasted Chat	11
Eastern Meadowlark	17
Orchard Oriole	11
Baltimore Oriole	5
Red-winged Blackbird	77
Brown-headed Cowbird	67
Common Grackle	104
Ovenbird	22
Worm-eating Warbler	2

Louisiana Waterthrush	6
Northern Waterthrush	4
Blue-winged Warbler	2
Black-and-white Warbler	30
Prothonotary Warbler	2
Common Yellowthroat	37
Hooded Warbler	3
American Redstart	25
Cape May Warbler	10
Northern Parula	72
Magnolia Warbler	3
Bay-Breasted Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	10
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	25
Pine Warbler	50
Yellow-rumped Warbler	78
Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Prairie Warbler	7
Summer Tanager	18
Scarlet Tanager	31
Northern Cardinal	406
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7
Blue Grosbeak	12
Indigo Bunting	35
Bobolink	5

Total species:	**128**
Total individuals	**7390**