



Christmas Bird Count, December 14, 2019

submitted by Elizabeth Link

The 2019 Greensboro Christmas Count was held on Saturday December 14. A record 55 counters participated, and the count circle was covered well. While the number of species found (90) was about average for us for the last 10 years, the number of individuals counted (13,464) was well above average and the second highest we've had during that period.

The weather was mostly cooperative. Rain overnight and into the early morning hours might have put a damper on owling, but it tapered off about the time that most teams were getting started. The skies went from complete cloud cover to partly cloudy over the course of the day. The low temperature was 38° and the high was 55°, a little warm for this time of year, but I heard no one complaining about it!

Our counters divided into 17 parties that logged 107.5 party hours, with 56 miles walked, 440 miles by car, and 4 miles by golf cart.

Birds of special interest that were found on the count day were an Orange-crowned Warbler found near the airport by Andrew Thornton, a Green Heron spotted by Wallace Sills and Lane Oldham at a retention pond near the airport, and a first-year Black-and-white Warbler seen by Diana Bowman and myself on the Reedy Fork Trail. Matt Wangerin had a Northern Harrier flyover on Lake Townsend at Yanceyville Street, and Lynn Moseley's group had a lingering Gray Catbird. A Black Scoter and a Common Goldeneye showed up in the count week but not on count day. Two Baltimore Orioles showed up at Morgan Horner's feeder, as they have for the last several years.

Interesting trends in the bird numbers include the growing numbers of Black Vultures. Our first Black Vultures appeared on the count in the late 1990's. This year we had our highest number ever, 256, compared to 149 Turkey Vultures. We also had a good Bald Eagle count, with 6 birds seen. Interestingly, our count of 10 Cooper's Hawks was our highest ever, but our 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk was our lowest count. We also broke our previous high records for Downy Woodpeckers and Eastern Towhee.

Missing were some of the waterfowl species that tend to show up, such as Widgeon, Pintail, and the Scaup species, and any northern outbreak birds such as Red-breasted Nuthatch or Pine Siskin that we might have in years of colder weather.

Many thanks to those folks who participated in the count: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Lynn Allison, Susan Andreatta, Diana Bowman, Jim Buchanan, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Roy Carlson, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Tom Gaffney, Henry Gates, Robin Gitlin, Lynne Gray, Amy Hanson, Judy Hoag, Morgan Horner, Todd Kilb, Celia Kiser, Marlene Lang, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Shelly McDiarmid, Linda Melendez-Kilb, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Marie Poteat, Anne Presnell, Jennifer Rauchutte, Emily Reeve, Judy Roy, Wallace Sills, Ann Stieghner, Jim Strickland, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Emily Talbert, Christian Thoma, Andrew Thornton, Ann Van Sant, Anita Vigotrito, Joe Vigorito, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangerin, Nate Watkins, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, Melissa Whitmire.

Canada Goose	982
Wood Duck	4
Gadwall	8
American Black Duck	2
Mallard	243
Northern Shoveler	32
Green-winged Teal	15
Ring-necked Duck	146
Black Scoter	count week
Common goldeneye	count week
Bufflehead	63
Hooded Merganser	446
Red-breasted Merganser	3
Ruddy Duck	97
Wild Turkey	5
Pied-billed Grebe	42
Horned Grebe	18
Rock Pigeon	139
Mourning Dove	222
Killdeer	60
Wilson's Snipe	1
Bonaparte's Gull	84
Ring-billed Gull	2211
Herring Gull	1
Common Loon	count week
Double-crested Cormorant	10
Green Heron	1
Great Blue Heron	57
Black Vulture	256
Turkey Vulture	149
Northern Harrier	1
Bald Eagle	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	30
Red-tailed Hawk	27
Great Horned Owl	3
Barred Owl	2
Belted Kingfisher	15
Red-headed Woodpecker	19
Red-bellied Woodpecker	141
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	49
Downy Woodpecker	88
Hairy Woodpecker	12
Northern Flicker	88
Pileated Woodpecker	17
American Kestrel	4
Eastern Phoebe	14

Blue Jay	214
American Crow	1697
Fish Crow	58
Common Raven	4
Carolina Chickadee	280
Tufted Titmouse	193
White-breasted Nuthatch	71
Brown-headed Nuthatch	38
Brown Creeper	8
Winter Wren	17
Carolina Wren	215
Golden-crowned Kinglet	36
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	63
Eastern Bluebird	332
Hermit Thrush	22
American Robin	361
Brown Thrasher	15
Catbird	1
Northern Mockingbird	104
European Starling	619
American Pipit	7
Cedar Waxwing	482
House Sparrow	37
House Finch	148
American Goldfinch	93
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Black & White Warbler	1
Pine Warbler	10
Yellow-rumped Warbler	77
Eastern Towhee	118
Chipping Sparrow	156
Field Sparrow	88
Savannah Sparrow	8
Fox Sparrow	6
Song Sparrow	165
Swamp Sparrow	10
White-throated Sparrow	608
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	408
Northern Cardinal	328
Red-winged Blackbird	112
Eastern Meadowlark	122
Common Grackle	4
Baltimore Oriole	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	300
Total individuals	13464
Total count day species	90
Total count week species	3