



## Audubon Christmas Bird Count, December 18, 2021

*submitted by Elizabeth Link, Count Coordinator*

The 2021 Greensboro Christmas Count was held on Saturday, December 18. It was one of the warmest counts we've had, with a high of 64 and a low of 53. It was also one of our wetter counts, with off-and-on showers totaling .32" of rain during the day. Winds were from the southwest around 8 mph, with gusts up to 20 mph.

The weather didn't seem to adversely affect our numbers, however. We had 95 species, and 13,485 total birds, which is toward the high end of the range for our count. This may be due to this year's total of 63 participants who traveled the count circle and did feeder watches—possibly the most we've ever had.

I looked at the 40 years between 1980 and 2020 to determine how this year's count compares to previous counts. Here are a few highlights.

We had 14 species of waterfowl, which is about average for us. Finds included:

12 Northern Pintails. We've had them 13 times since 1980, and only 2 other times have we had 12, the rest were single digits.

30 Lesser Scaup, a bird we've had 12 times since 1980, but only 1 other time have we had this many.

15 Pied-billed Grebes, which we have every year, but usually in much higher numbers. Last year we had 137.

Waterfowl misses included Redhead and Canvasback, which we have had on more than half the counts since 1980. We also missed American Coot, which we have only missed on three other counts since 1980.

The Black Vulture population continues to grow. We had a few on the Christmas Count five times between 1980 and 1998. Since 1999 they've showed up every year, although this year's 156 was down from last year's 378, perhaps because of the weather. This year the Black Vultures outnumbered the Turkey Vultures 5 to 1.

There were 32 Red-shouldered Hawks. Their numbers have steadily grown from single digits in the 1980's up to 30+ for the last 5 years.

This year's crow count (2761 total) was the most we've had since 1980, with the exception of last year's 8920. Counters were able to differentiate 129 Fish Crows, and that is the largest number we've yet had of that species.

There were 1153 Robins, the most we've ever had. Generally, the numbers run between 200-500.

We had 1 each of Catbird and House Wren. Both species have turned up on 14 counts in the last 40 years.

Oddities this year were a Great Cormorant, which we've had on 3 other counts since 1980; and a Great Egret, which we've had 10 other times. Baltimore Orioles seem to be becoming regulars in the winter. They have been on the count every year for the last 6 years, but only once before that. We had 3 this year, our highest number.

Here's thanks to the participants who braved the rain to make this year's count happen:

Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Lynn Allison, Chris Bame, Rick Bardolph, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Dan Dery, Patty Dery, Jim Eldrett, Susan Evans, Will Freund, Alicia Bachman, Scott Futrell, Jim Gant, Lynne Gray, Chris Groh, Amy Hanson, Pam Hitchcock, Susie Hodnett, Jack Horner, Morgan Horner, Angela Hunnewell, Robert Hunnewell, Asha Khopkar, Todd Kilb, Suzanne Kolb, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Linda Melendez-Kilb, Judi Matthews, Clarence Mattocks, Lynn Moseley, Phil Moseley, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Anne Presnell, David Pretzsch, Emily Reeve, Judy Roy, Alma Scott, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Brian Stadler, Melanie Stadler, Ann Steighner, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Emily Talbert, Andrew Thornton, Ann VanSant, Anita Vigorito, Joe Vigorito, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, and Melissa Whitmire

The full results are below.

Common name	Number
Canada Goose	782
Wood Duck	5
Gadwall	18
American Wigeon	8
American Black Duck	5
Mallard	346
Northern Shoveler	33
Northern Pintail	12
Green-winged Teal	9
Ring-necked Duck	202
Lesser Scaup	30
Bufflehead	77
Hooded Merganser	219
Ruddy Duck	26
Wild Turkey	14
Pied-billed Grebe	15
Horned Grebe	1
Rock Pigeon	78
Mourning Dove	313
Killdeer	108
Wilson's Snipe	7
Bonaparte's Gull	59
Ring-billed Gull	945
Herring Gull	1
Common Loon	2
Great Cormorant	1
Double-crested Cormorant	320
Great Blue Heron	47
Great Egret	1
Black Vulture	156
Turkey Vulture	32
Bald Eagle	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1

Cooper's Hawk	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	32
Red-tailed Hawk	12
Barred Owl	3
Belted Kingfisher	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	44
Red-bellied Woodpecker	139
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	52
Downy Woodpecker	84
Hairy Woodpecker	6
Northern Flicker	80
Pileated Woodpecker	9
Eastern Phoebe	11
American Kestrel	1
Blue Jay	298
American Crow	2632
Fish Crow	129
Common Raven	1
Carolina Chickadee	301
Tufted Titmouse	181
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	91
Brown-headed Nuthatch	42
Brown Creeper	18
Gray Catbird	1
House Wren	1
Winter Wren	23
Carolina Wren	250
Golden-crowned Kinglet	62
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	45
Eastern Bluebird	281
Hermit Thrush	28
American Robin	1153
Brown Thrasher	33
Northern Mockingbird	103

European Starling	632
House Sparrow	28
American Pipit	12
Cedar Waxwing	440
House Finch	129
Purple Finch	3
Pine Siskin	1
American Goldfinch	96
Palm Warbler	1
Pine Warbler	22
Yellow-rumped Warbler	103
Eastern Towhee	134
Chipping Sparrow	53
Field Sparrow	40
Savannah Sparrow	17
Fox Sparrow	7
Song Sparrow	237
Swamp Sparrow	9
White-throated Sparrow	595
Dark-eyed Junco	419
Northern Cardinal	370
Red-winged Blackbird	4
Eastern Meadowlark	22
Baltimore Oriole	3
Rusty Blackbird	2
Common Grackle	37
Brown-headed Cowbird	25

