

Christmas Bird Count

December 15, 2018

Submitted by: Elizabeth Link, Bird Count Coordinator

The 2018 Christmas Bird Count in Greensboro was held on Saturday, December 15. For those doing the count, it will probably be a memorable one, at least in terms of weather. There was still plenty of snow remaining on the ground from the 12-14 inches we had received six days before. The ground itself was muddy and sprouted streams and small ponds where none had been before, and there were periods of rain until the middle of the day. The temperatures were average, with a low of 39 degrees and a high of 48 degrees, and light wind to 16 mph. .52 inches of rain were recorded.

In terms of birds, the day was not so memorable. It appeared that many birds were either hunkered down due to the weather or had left the area entirely. We had a total of 84 species, well below our record high of 97 species reached in 2017, and three additional count week birds. A total of 9,322 individual birds were counted.

Notable sightings included an Orange-Crowned Warbler found by Andrew Thornton. This was only the fourth time this bird has been recorded on our count in its 73-year history. We also had Pine Siskins, which have previously been recorded in only 24 of our counts. The Baltimore Oriole that has been on the count the last few years was also present.

Some fairly common birds were either absent or only present in very reduced numbers. We had no Cedar Waxwings, a bird we've only missed one other time since 1972. We usually have numbers of Yellow-rumped Warbler in the triple digits – this year we had 24. And whereas the gull count is usually in the thousands at the Lake Townsend roost, they either were absent at dusk or completely hidden by the thick fog, so our count is in the hundreds. The list of birds counted is below.

Many thanks to everyone who braved the rain and mud for the count. Participants were: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Diana Bowman, Jim Buchanan, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynn Gray, Chris Groh, Mary Hankins, Megan Hankins, Amy Hanson, Morgan Horner, Mike Howard, Ed Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Clarence Mattocks, Lyn McCoy, Ron Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Marie Poteat, Ann Presnell, Danny Royster, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Ann Steighner, Jim Strickland, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Emily Talbert, Andrew Thornton, Ann VanSant, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, Melissa Whitmire.

Bird List

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Tundra Swan	CW*	Red-tailed Hawk	11	American Robin	385
Canada Goose	511	Great Horned Owl	1	Brown Thrasher	25
Gadwall	5	Barred Owl	3	Northern Mockingbird	97
Mallard	262	Belted Kingfisher	14	European Starling	1007
Northern Shoveler	19	Red-headed Woodpecker	7	American Pipit	2
Green-winged Teal	13	Red-bellied Woodpecker	108	House Sparrow	29
Ring-necked Duck	249	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	36	House Finch	143
Bufflehead	86	Downy Woodpecker	67	Purple Finch	9
Hooded Merganser	459	Hairy Woodpecker	6	Pine Siskin	1
Ruddy Duck	26	Northern Flicker	35	American Goldfinch	112
Wild Turkey	14	Pileated Woodpecker	4	Pine Warbler	2
Pied-billed Grebe	25	American Kestrel	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	24
Horned Grebe	32	Eastern Phoebe	7	Oange-crowned Warbler	1
Rock Pigeon	421	Blue Jay	325	Eastern Towhee	90
Mourning Dove	313	American Crow	876	Chipping Sparrow	191
American Coot	2	Fish Crow	90	Field Sparrow	33
Killdeer	34	Common Raven	1	Savannah Sparrow	1
Wilson's Snipe	3	Carolina Chickadee	223	Fox Sparrow	7
Bonaparte's Gull	92	Tufted Titmouse	205	Song Sparrow	150
Ring-billed Gull	281	Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	Swamp Sparrow	8
Common Loon	CW	White-breasted Nuthatch	70	White-throated Sparrow	519
Double-crested Cormorant	46	Brown-headed Nuthatch	28	White-crowned Sparrow	9
Great Blue Heron	37	Brown Creeper	11	Dark-eyed Junco	312
Black Vulture	106	Winter Wren	9	Northern Cardinal	348
Turkey Vulture	8	Carolina Wren	160	Red-winged Blackbird	3
Bald Eagle	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	42	Eastern Meadowlark	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	Common Grackle	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	Eastern Bluebird	334	Brown-headed Cowbird	CW
Red-shouldered Hawk	30	Hermit Thrush	22	Baltimore Oriole	1
				TOTAL BIRDS	9,322

*CW – Count Week, not included in Total Birds