

# 2022 Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Elizabeth Link, Bird Count Coordinator

The first official Christmas Count in Greensboro was held in December of 1941. That makes the 2022 count the 81st anniversary of the Count here. That first count had 2 participants and counted 45 species. In 2022 we had 55 people counting and totaled 97 species. How far we've come!

Below is my usual summary of the count, followed by a table with the count data. I am grateful to everyone who participated, and would especially like to recognize one participant, Carolyn Allen. Carolyn has been an active member of the bird club, and has been participating in our bird counts, for over 50 years. She turned 90 this year, and went out and did the Christmas Count as usual. Thank you, Carolyn, for all your years of participation in the count!

## Summary of Greensboro Christmas Count 2022

The 2022 Christmas Bird Count in Greensboro took place on Saturday, December 17. The weather was seasonable in temperature, with a low of 27 and a high of 49. Skies were partly cloudy, there was no precipitation and winds were light with occasional gusts.

Fifty-five birders took part in the count, putting in a total of 116 party hours, 65 miles on foot, 299 miles by car, and 4.25 miles by golf cart. (That last one is what it takes to cover Lake Townsend from Bryan Park.)

Overall, a total of 14,855 birds were counted, comprising a total of 97 species. That's one of the highest species count we've had in the last 25 years - we matched that number of species in 2016, and only exceeded it in 2017 and 2021, when we had 98 species. That's also one of the highest counts of individual birds, exceeded only by the 2020 count of 20,632 birds. There were an additional 2 species seen during count week that weren't found on the count day.

Notables on the count included a group of 11 Sandhill Cranes seen by Matt Wangarin's group, flying over their territory. This is the first time this bird has ever appeared on the count day. A group was sighted during count week one time, in 2007. The birds this year didn't land and were not located later, despite efforts to find them.

Another notable was Rufous Hummingbird, picked up at a feeder by Roberta Newton and Ann VanSant. The first time this species ever appeared on our Christmas Count was in 2003, and this is the 5<sup>th</sup> time we've had one since then.

We had a Catbird, which we've had 8 times in the last 30 years, and a Baltimore Oriole, which we've had 7 times in the 8 years since 2014, after a drought from 1989 to 2013 in which we had none.

Several birds had high numbers this year. The Double-crested Cormorant count was an all-time high. Thirty years ago Cormorants were counted in single digits, but about 10 years ago the numbers started going up. Our previous high count was 729 in 2020, compared to 1,737 this year.

American Crows also had one of our higher counts. We have previously only exceeded this year's number of 1,302 in 2016, 2021, and in 2020 when we had our all-time high of 8,920.

Northern Harrier was a high number with 3 sighted. We regularly get 1 on the count, occasionally we have 2, but have only had 3 Harriers one other time in the last 30 years.

And the Black Vultures continue their ascendancy in the vulture world, outnumbering Turkey Vultures again. The 196 Black Vultures counted this year has been exceeded only in 2019 and in 2020, which holds our all-time high of 378.

Many thanks to all of the folks who helped out with the count, whether hiking the parks and trails, watching feeders, counting your neighborhood, or driving the roads. Your effort is greatly appreciated in this long-running citizen-science project. Thank you to:

Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Lynn Allison, Alicia Bachman, Chris Bame, Rick Bardolph, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Heather Buttonow, Jim Buttonow, Frank Cashwell, Joshua Cashwell, Robert Craven, Dan Dery, Patty Dery, Scott Futrell, Jim Gant, Lynne Gray, Chris Groh, Amy Hanson, Susie Hodnett, Morgan Horner, Asha Khopkar, Todd Kilb, Megan Kyle, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Jerry McClung, Kim McKaskill, Linda Melendez-Kilb, Lynn Moseley, Phil Moseley, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Anne Presnell, David Pretzsch, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Ann Steighner, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Gayle Sykes, Emily Talbot, Ann Van Sant, Anita Vigorito, Joe Vigorito, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, Melissa Whitmire, Caroline Wolfe-Merritt.

Count results:

Count results: Canada Goose	910
Wood Duck	26
Gadwall	28
American Wigeon	2
American Black Duck	3
Mallard	251
Northern Shoveler	64
Northern Pintail	11
Green-winged Teal	34
Redhead	cw
Ring-necked Duck	313
Lesser Scaup	15
Bufflehead	108
Hooded Merganser	280
Ruddy Duck	44
Pied-billed Grebe	25
Horned Grebe	26
Rock Pigeon	119
Mourning Dove	156
American Coot	2
Killdeer	42
Wilson's Snipe	4

American Woodcock	1
Bonaparte's Gull	80
Ring-billed Gull	2483
Herring Gull	12
Common Loon	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1737
Great Egret	2
Great Blue Heron	83
Sandhill Crane	11
Black Vulture	196
Turkey Vulture	117
Bald Eagle	8
Northern Harrier	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	46
Red-tailed Hawk	21
Eastern Screech-Owl	2
Great Horned Owl	1
Barred Owl	5
Belted Kingfisher	21
Red-headed Woodpecker	22

Red-bellied Woodpecker	148
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	51
Downy Woodpecker	91
Hairy Woodpecker	15
Northern Flicker	52
Pileated Woodpecker	9
Eastern Phoebe	13
American Kestrel	3
Blue Jay	307
American Crow	1302
Fish Crow	56
Common Raven	4
Rufous Hummingbird	1
Carolina Chickadee	368
Tufted Titmouse	268
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	120
Brown-headed Nuthatch	66
Brown Creeper	17
Gray Catbird	1
House Wren	cw
Winter Wren	10
Carolina Wren	252
Golden-crowned Kinglet	38
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	63
Eastern Bluebird	309
Hermit Thrush	34
American Robin	333
Brown Thrasher	23
Northern Mockingbird	108
European Starling	541
House Sparrow	39
American Pipit	115
Cedar Waxwing	71
House Finch	114
Purple Finch	7
American Goldfinch	140
Pine Warbler	15
Yellow-rumped Warbler	78
Eastern Towhee	148
Chipping Sparrow	58
Field Sparrow	53
Savannah Sparrow	25

Fox Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	211
Swamp Sparrow	11
White-throated Sparrow	703
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	588
Northern Cardinal	336
Red-winged Blackbird	117
Eastern Meadowlark	71
Baltimore Oriole	1
Common Grackle	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	14
Total	14,855