

Christmas Bird Count

December 16, 2017

Submitted by Elizabeth Link, Bird Count Coordinator

The 2017 Greensboro Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 16. Forty-three people counted in the field, and two participants conducted feeder watches in their yards.

The weather on count day was cold but sunny, with a low of 26, a high of 48, and a light wind.

The field counters racked up 39.5 miles in 64 hours on foot, 285.5 miles in 16 hours in cars, and 2 miles and 2 hours in a golf cart, for a total of 327 miles covered, and a total of 82 party hours. In addition, one party had .5 hours before dawn listening for owls, and the feeder watchers put in 1.75 hours observing their yards.

The results of this effort were 11,335 birds of 98 species counted, along with 3 additional species found during Count Week but not on the day of the count. This tops our previous record, set last year, of 97 species, but is a bit below average for the number of individuals.

Notables for the count included a Great Cormorant (an inland rarity and the first for our Christmas Count), a Common Goldeneye, 2 Common Mergansers, and a Red-necked Grebe. While there have been several reports of Baltimore Orioles in the area this year, the one that showed up on our Christmas Count is unusual for the count. And we had a Snowy Owl during count week, which was found in an emaciated state at the Greensboro airport and taken to the Carolina Raptor Center for rehabilitation.

In addition to these birds, there was a hummingbird reported at a feeder on count day. The same feeder hosted a Rufous Hummingbird last winter, but we are waiting on Susan Campbell to come catch the bird and band it before we will know definitely what species this one is. (Let's hope it survived the cold!) That would put our total at 99 species. The list of birds counted is below. "CW" indicates a Count Week bird.

Many thanks to all of our participants for their hard work in the cold:

Carolyn Allen, David Bailey, Bruce Billings, Jim Buchanan, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynn Gray, Amy Hanson, Judy Hoag, Morgan Horner, Trish Idler, Todd Kilb, Craig Lawrence, Jane Lawrence, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Julian McCarthy, Linda Melendez, Lynn Moseley, Scott Mortenson, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Dierdre Poe, Anne Presnell, Pam Reavis, Danny Royster, Wallace Sills, Ann Steighner, Tripti Suwal, Emily Talbert, Andrew Thornton, Emily Tyler, Ann VanSant, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, and Melissa Whitmire.

Bird List

Canada Goose	1,502	Great Cormorant	1	Winter Wren	14
Tundra Swan	CW	Great Blue Heron	63	Carolina Wren	154
Wood Duck	4	Great Egret	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	49
Gadwall	260	Black Vulture	131	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	70
American Wigeon	4	Turkey Vulture	138	Eastern Bluebird	291
American Black Duck	3	Bald Eagle	13	Hermit Thrush	9
Mallard	515	Northern Harrier	2	American Robin	522
Northern Shoveler	60	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Gray Catbird	1
Northern Pintail	2	Cooper's Hawk	7	Brown Thrasher	16
Green-winged Teal	7	Accipiter sp.	1	Northern Mockingbird	80
Canvasback	CW	Red-shouldered Hawk	38	European Starling	359
Redhead	3	Red-tailed Hawk	23	American Pipit	1
Ring-necked Duck	125	Great Horned Owl	3	Cedar Waxwing	103
Lesser Scaup	13	Snowy Owl	CW	House Sparrow	4
Bufflehead	162	Barred Owl	1	House Finch	126
Common Goldeneye	1	Belted Kingfisher	18	American Goldfinch	137
Hooded Merganser	546	Red-headed Woodpecker	18	Palm Warbler	3
Common Merganser	2	Northern Flicker	40	Pine Warbler	26
Red-breasted Merganser	2	Pileated Woodpecker	6	Yellow-rumped Warbler	162
Ruddy Duck	81	American Kestrel	5	Eastern Towhee	77
Wild Turkey	15	Eastern Phoebe	24	Chipping Sparrow	53
Pied-billed Grebe	44	Blue Jay	178	Field Sparrow	47
Horned Grebe	13	American Crow	701	Fox Sparrow	4
Red-necked Grebe	1	Fish Crow	40	Song Sparrow	171
Rock Pigeon	117	Crow sp.	10	Swamp Sparrow	17
Mourning Dove	167	Common Raven	3	White-throated Sparrow	468
HUMMINGBIRD?		Carolina Chickadee	210	Dark-eyed Junco	320
American Coot	8	Tufted Titmouse	188	Northern Cardinal	253
Killdeer	64	White-breasted Nuthatch	77	Red-winged Blackbird	67
Wilson's Snipe	8	Brown-headed Nuthatch	43	Eastern Meadowlark	8
Bonaparte's Gull	5	Red-bellied Woodpecker	99	Rusty Blackbird	83
Ring-billed Gull	1,561	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	40	Common Grackle	94
Herring Gull	4	Downy Woodpecker	46	Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Common Loon	5	Hairy Woodpecker	8	Baltimore Oriole	1
Double-crested Cormorant	48	Brown Creeper	11		