

Greensboro Christmas Bird Count

December 17, 2016

By Elizabeth Link, Coordinator and Compiler

The 2016 Christmas Count was held on Saturday, December 17, 2016. We had thirty-four counters in the field and one conducting a feeder watch. Their efforts located 97 species on count day, which is a record for our count, and 13,942 individuals, which is also among the higher totals that we've had in recent years. Unusual birds that showed up included an Iceland Gull, an inland rarity and a first for Guilford County, which had been in residence on Lake Townsend for several weeks before the count and disappeared shortly after it; a Ross's Goose located by Clarence Mattocks's group in a flock of Canada Geese in an industrial park; a Peregrine Falcon located by Jim Eldrett's group on a tall building in the middle of downtown; a lingering Catbird and House Wren; and a Baltimore Oriole that returned to the same feeder that it frequented last winter.

Also found were small numbers each of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin – all species that don't turn up every year, and three times the usual number of American Crows, due to discovery of a couple of roosts.

Many thanks to our great group of volunteers, from those who have been doing the count for many years, to those who did the count for the first time this year. We couldn't do it without you!

Volunteers were: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Dee Bartlett, Diana Bowman, Jim Buchanan, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynn Gray, Amy Hanson, Craig Lawrence, Jane Lawrence, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Lynn Moseley, Scott Mortenson, Jean Murdick, Roberta Newton, Larry Oldham, Dierdre Poe, Anne Presnell, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Ann Steighner, Jim Strickland, Emily Talbert, Andrew Thornton, Emily Tyler, Ann Vansant, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangerin, George Wheaton, and Melissa Whitmire. And thanks to Morgan Horner for reporting the Baltimore Oriole.

Bird List for 2016 Greensboro Christmas Count

<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ross's Goose	1		Bald Eagle	6		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	61
Canada Goose	1,141		Northern Harrier	2		Eastern Bluebird	201
Wood Duck	1		Sharp-shinned Hawk	5		Hermit Thrush	13
Gadwall	184		Cooper's Hawk	6		American Robin	324
American Widgeon	4		Red-shouldered Hawk	16		Gray Catbird	1
American Black Duck	43		Red-tailed Hawk	27		Brown Thrasher	19
Mallard	867		Great Horned Owl	2		Northern Mockingbird	78
Northern Shoveler	57		Barred Owl	2		European Starling	1,107
Green-winged Teal	12		Belted Kingfisher	16		Cedar Waxwing	109
Canvasback	CW		Red-headed Woodpecker	16		House Sparrow	13

<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>
Redhead	17		Red-bellied Woodpecker	95		American Pipit	62
Ring-necked Duck	358		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	37		House Finch	86
Lesser Scaup	13		Downy Woodpecker	68		Purple Finch	2
Bufflehead	118		Hairy Woodpecker	12		Pine Siskin	1
Hooded Merganser	648		Northern Flicker	58		American Goldfinch	107
Red-breasted Merganser	3		Pileated Woodpecker	5		Pine Warbler	1
Ruddy Duck	96		American Kestrel	7		Yellow-rumped Warbler	100
Wild Turkey	CW*		Peregrine Falcone	1		Eastern Towhee	92
Pied-billed Grebe	46		Eastern Phoebe	6		Chipping Sparrow	195
Horned Grebe	7		Blue Jay	208		Field Sparrow	31
Rock Pigeon	347		American Crow	1,914		Savannah Sparrow	3
Mourning Dove	183		Fish Crow	17		Fox Sparrow	13
American Coot	70		Crow sp.	72		Song Sparrow	307
Killdeer	100		Common Raven	2		Swamp Sparrow	29
Wilson's Snipe	3		Carolina Chickadee	163		White-throated Sparrow	648
Bonaparte's Gull	28		Tufted Titmouse	131		White-crowned Sparrow	1
Ring-billed Gull	1,639		Red-breasted Nuthatch	5		Dark-eyed Junco	322
Herring Gull	3		White-breasted Nuthatch	54		Northern Cardinal	300
Iceland Gull	1		Brown-headed Nuthatch	26		Red-winged Blackbird	124
Common Loon	2		Brown Creeper	8		Eastern Meadowlark	26
Double-crested Cormorant	12		House Wren	1		Brown-headed Cowbird	101
Great Blue Heron	42		Winter Wren	18		Baltimore Oriole	1
Black Vulture	89		Carolina Wren	163			
Turkey Vulture	105		Golden-crowned Kinglet	54			

*Count Week

Total individuals: 13,942

Total species: 97 + 2 count week