



121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count Greensboro Count Circle December 19, 2020

submitted by Elizabeth Link, Count Coordinator

The annual Christmas Bird Count in Greensboro was held on December 19, 2020. Forty-seven participants logged 139.75 party hours in the field and at feeder watches. The weather was great for a winter day with a low of 25 degrees and a high of 45, lots of sun, and just a light breeze from the southwest.

We logged a total of 96 species, about average for our count. The total number of individual birds was 20,632. This number was almost twice our average, thanks in part to two large crow roosts, which together produced almost 9,000 American Crows. Our usual number of crows runs from several hundred to our previous high number of 1,914. Many thanks to Nancy Adamson and Jim Eldrett, who counted the giant roost near Costco, and Amy Hanson, who counted the big roost downtown, for hanging out at dusk to count the crows coming in.

While our numbers for waterfowl in general were low compared to our average, we did have record high numbers for cormorants and Pied-billed Grebes. Black Vultures continued their trend of outnumbering Turkey Vultures, and we logged our highest ever numbers of both of those birds as well.

Other species with our highest ever numbers included Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, and Pine Warbler.

Our sparrow numbers for all species were well below our average, as were numbers for Dark-eyed Junco. While we've been having a big outbreak year for Pine Siskin and Purple Finch, our numbers for the count were in double digits, well below the 338 Siskins and 476 Finches that were our previous high numbers. Those high numbers occurred in the mid-1970s. Purple Finch has showed up on our count 43 times since 1972, while Pine Siskin has showed up 26 times in that time.



Red-breasted Nuthatch by Matt Wangerin



Red-shouldered Hawk by Matt Wangerin



Rufous Hummingbird by Matt Wangerin

Unusual sightings for the count were a Rufous Hummingbird, which we've had only on 4 other counts; an Orange-crowned Warbler, which we've had on 5 other occasions; and Baltimore Oriole, which, while they have been pretty consistent the last few years, have only appeared on 12 other counts.

The detailed results are in the table below. CW (Count Week) means a bird species that was seen in the three days before or after the count, but not on count day.

Thanks to Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Lynn Allison, Chris Bame, Diana Bowman, Frank Cashwell, Megan Damico, Scott DePue, Dan Dery, Patty Dery, Jim Eldrett, Tom Gaff, Lynne Gray, Chris Groh, Amy Hanson, Susie Hodnett, Mike Howard, Asha Khopkar, Todd Kilb, Linda Kilb, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Julien McCarthy, Lynn Moseley, Nora Mullings, Roberta Newton, Ann Presnell, Judy Roy, Danny Royster, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Melanie Stadler, Ann Steighner, Linda Sumner, Paul Sumner, Emily Talbert, Andrew Thornton, Ann Van Sant, Anita Vigorito, Joe Vigorito, Amanda Waller, Matt Wangerin, Stella Wear, Tom Wear, George Wheaton, and Melissa Whitmire, for your time and effort to make the count a success.

| Species | # or cw |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Canada Goose | 833 |
| Wood Duck | 5 |
| Gadwall | 30 |
| American Wigeon | 6 |
| American Black Duck | 6 |
| Mallard | 296 |
| Mallard (Domestic type) | 8 |
| Northern Shoveler | 44 |
| Northern Pintail | 1 |
| Green-winged Teal | 42 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 175 |
| Lesser Scaup | CW |
| Bufflehead | 53 |
| Hooded Merganser | 195 |
| Ruddy Duck | 39 |
| Wild Turkey | 1 |
| Common Loon | CW |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 137 |
| Horned Grebe | 11 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 749 |
| Great Blue Heron (Blue form) | 72 |
| Black Vulture | 378 |
| Turkey Vulture | 219 |
| Northern Harrier | 2 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 5 |
| Bald Eagle | 6 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 54 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 29 |
| American Coot | 4 |
| Killdeer | 78 |
| Wilson's Snipe | 1 |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 45 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 2080 |

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|----------------------------|------|
| Herring Gull | 2 |
| Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) | 290 |
| Mourning Dove | 165 |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 |
| Barred Owl | 3 |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 1 |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | 1 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 25 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 10 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 129 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 52 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 86 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 12 |
| Northern Flicker | 73 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 12 |
| American Kestrel | 4 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 16 |
| Blue Jay | 227 |
| American Crow | 8883 |
| Fish Crow | 50 |
| crow sp. | 37 |
| Common Raven | 5 |
| Horned Lark | 2 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 359 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 226 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 27 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 136 |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | 73 |
| Brown Creeper | 17 |
| Winter Wren | 20 |
| Carolina Wren | 231 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 68 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 84 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 262 |
| Hermit Thrush | 31 |

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| American Robin | 398 |
| Gray Catbird | 1 |
| Brown Thrasher | 26 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 78 |
| European Starling | 251 |
| American Pipit | 1 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 19 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 1 |
| Pine Warbler | 28 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) | 84 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 43 |
| Field Sparrow | 91 |
| Fox Sparrow | 2 |
| Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) | 437 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 693 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 17 |
| Song Sparrow | 223 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 14 |
| Eastern Towhee | 108 |
| Northern Cardinal | 364 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 9 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 22 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 1 |
| House Finch | 130 |
| Purple Finch | 27 |
| Pine Siskin | 172 |
| American Goldfinch | 140 |
| House Sparrow | 27 |
| TOTAL | 20632 |



Double-crested Cormorant by Matt Wangerin



Pine Siskin by Lou Skrabec



Hermit Thrush by Matt Wangerin



Northern Shoveler by Lou Skrabec



Orange-crowned Warbler by Matt Wangerin



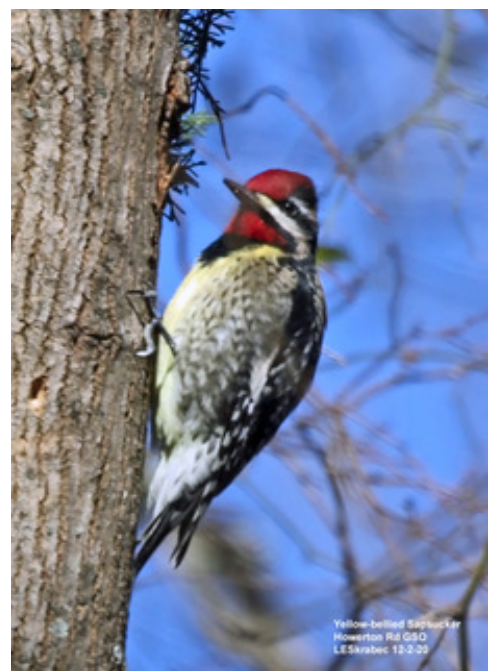
Purple Finch by Lou Skrabec



Golden-crowned Kinglet by Lou Skrabec



Eastern Bluebird by Lou Skrabec



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Lou Skrabec