

# Spring Bird Count

## April 29, 2017

*Submitted by Elizabeth Link, Bird Count Compiler*

The Spring Count in Greensboro was held on April 29. The weather was warm for the time of year, with a low of 72 and a high of 86 degrees. Skies were partly to mostly cloudy and winds were light, averaging 10 mph with an occasional gust to 20 mph. There was no precipitation. A front had stalled over the area Thursday night, making for some interesting count week birds. Some of those birds had left by Saturday, but enough of them hung around to have a pretty good count.

Thirty-four counters took part in the count, a few more than our average of thirty. Those counters put in 98.25 party hours, slightly lower than our average of 103.

At this point I should note that George Wheaton's work in hunting down and consolidating 50 years of Spring Count data, as well as Roberta Newton's work in creating bar graphs for each species, has made comparisons of this year's count with previous years' data infinitely easier than in the past. I chose to use the last 20 years of data for averages, as being relevant to current conditions, so all references to an "average" refer to the last 20 years.

For this year's count, we had a total of 121 species which is slightly lower than our average of 125. For the last 20 years, our highest species count was 136 in 2005, and lowest was 110 in 2010.

The number of individual birds counted was 9,039. This was well above our average of 7,221. I went back to 1995 for a year in which a larger number of birds (9,625) was counted.

Notables included a Greater Scaup, found by Clarence Mattocks' group on a retention pond, the first occurrence of a Greater Scaup in the 50 years of records, and a Black-billed Cuckoo found by Henry Link.

Many thanks to all who made the count possible through their participation:

Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Bruce Billings, Jim Buchanan, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynne Gray, Craig Lawrence, Jane Lawrence, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Lyn McCoy, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Lauren Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Ann Presnell, Danny Royster, Tripti Sawal, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Ann Steighner, Jim Strickland, Emily Tyler, Ann VanSant, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, Stella Wear, and Melissa Whitmire.

The results of the count are below: (cw = count week bird)

## 2017 Spring Bird Count List

	TOTAL				
Canada Goose	501	American Kestrel	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	2
Wood Duck	13	Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	Northern Waterthrush	2
American Wigeon	cw	Acadian Flycatcher	2	Black-and-white Warbler	17
Mallard	94	Eastern Phoebe	43	Prothonotary Warbler	2
Greater Scaup	1	Great Crested Flycatcher	36	Common Yellowthroat	49
Red-breasted Merganser	cw	Eastern Kingbird	23	Hooded Warbler	1
Hooded Merganser	1	White-eyed Vireo	8	American Redstart	22
Wild Turkey	4	Blue-headed Vireo	6	Cape May Warbler	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Red-eyed Vireo	88	Northern Parula	55
Rock Pigeon	239	Blue Jay	153	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Mourning Dove	207	American Crow	324	Black-throated Blue Warbler	37
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Fish Crow	29	Palm Warbler	5
Chimney Swift	254	Common Raven	1	Pine Warbler	32
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8	Purple Martin	328	Yellow-rumped Warbler	90
Killdeer	39	Bank Swallow	2	Prairie Warbler	17
Least Sandpiper	1	Tree Swallow	66	Black-throated Green Warbler	2
Spotted Sandpiper	6	North. Rough-winged Swallow	84	Yellow-breasted Chat	8
Solitary Sandpiper	16	Cliff Swallow	92	Eastern Towhee	127
Greater Yellowlegs	cw	Barn Swallow	50	Chipping Sparrow	108
Ring-billed Gull	66	Carolina Chickadee	161	Field Sparrow	19
Caspian Tern	cw	Tufted Titmouse	209	Savannah Sparrow	1
Double-crested Cormorant	447	White-breasted Nuthatch	31	Grasshopper Sparrow	9
Great Blue Heron	145	Brown-headed Nuthatch	43	Song Sparrow	119
Great Egret	2	House Wren	28	White-throated Sparrow	74
Green Heron	2	Carolina Wren	177	Summer Tanager	8
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	87	Scarlet Tanager	17
Black Vulture	53	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11	Northern Cardinal	485
Turkey Vulture	78	Eastern Bluebird	163	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	cw
Osprey	9	Veery	1	Blue Grosbeak	6
Mississippi Kite	cw	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Indigo Bunting	59
Bald Eagle	1	Swainson's Thrush	2	Bobolink	10
Cooper's Hawk	7	Wood Thrush	33	Red-winged Blackbird	48
Red-shouldered Hawk	20	American Robin	370	Eastern Meadowlark	41
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Gray Catbird	120	Common Grackle	392
Red-tailed Hawk	16	Brown Thrasher	40	Brown-headed Cowbird	50
Great Horned Owl	1	Northern Mockingbird	171	Orchard Oriole	19
Barred Owl	12	American Pipit	1	Baltimore Oriole	4
Belted Kingfisher	6	European Starling	435	Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	Cedar Waxwing	468	Ring-necked Ducks	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	128	House Sparrow	20		
Downy Woodpecker	49	House Finch	146		
Hairy Woodpecker	6	American Goldfinch	544	Total individuals	9039
Northern Flicker	23	Ovenbird	16	Total species count day	121
Pileated Woodpecker	12	Worm-eating Warbler	2	Total Species count week	6