

2001 Christmas Bird Count

Summary

Grand Forks - East Grand Forks CBC

December 16, 2001

SPECIES

Bald Eagle	2
N. Harrier	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	CW
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	13
American Kestrel	1
Merlin	1
Prairie Falcon	CW
Canada Goose	CW
Wood Duck	1
Mallard	1
Common Goldeneye	CW
Gray Partridge	55
Ring-necked Pheasant	2
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5
Greater Prairie-Chicken	9
Gull species	CW
Rock Dove	1200
Mourning Dove	1
E. Screech-Owl	1
Great Horned Owl	4
Snowy Owl	8
Short-eared Owl	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Downy Woodpecker	19
Hairy Woodpecker	24
N. (Yel.-sh) Flicker	3
Pileated Woodpecker	CW
Northern Shrike	3
Blue Jay	13
Black-billed Magpie	7
Am. Crow	357

Horned Lark	CW
B.-c. Chickadee	247
Red-breasted Nuthatch	19
Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	58
Brown Creeper	1
Am. Robin	23
European Starling	479
Bohemian Waxwing	8
Cedar Waxwing	2
Am. Tree Sparrow	25
White-throated Sparrow	4
Dark-eyed Junco	61
Oregon Junco	1
Lapland Longspur	1
Snow Bunting	1
N. Cardinal	2
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	3
Pine Grosbeak	CW
Purple Finch	CW
House Finch	134
Red Crossbill	CW
Common Redpoll	99
Pine Siskin	12
Am. Goldfinch	15
House Sparrow	950

Total of 48 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day.
Count Week total of 58 species. Total of 3883 individuals.

Observers: 18 observers in field in 10 parties, plus 8 observers at feeders only. Time and Distance: 25 hours at feeders; 1.25 hours and 15 miles owling. Total party-hours = 62 and total party miles = 753.5 (12 hours and 13.5 miles on foot; 50 hours and 740 miles by car).

Participants in Field: Patti Alleva, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Glinda Crawford, Richard D. Crawford, Tim Driscoll, Eve Freeberg, Ursula Flem, Jim Grijalva, Mike Jacobs, Alicia Kelley, Frank Kelley, Scott Kelley, Robert Kruger, Cec Lambeth, David O. Lambeth, Robert

W. Lewis, Carol Rao, Arthur Schroder

Feeder Watchers: Ed Halas, Gordon Iseminger, Jean Johnston, Larry Lynell, Paul Ray, Garl and Judy Rieke, Keith Trzynka

Weather: Low and high temperatures were 27 and 34. Winds began westerly at about 5 mph and switched to northwesterly with a maximum of 20 mph. Snow flurries in the morning, brief period of sunshine in afternoon, otherwise cloudy.

Conditions: Snow depth = 2-3 inches. The fall period had been dry and daily temperatures had consistently been well above average. Red River was open for at least two miles before the dam. Still water was iced over. Abundant crabapples, moderate weed supply, poor cone crop. Mountain ash has disappeared from city because of fire blight. All agricultural fields (notably, the sunflower fields) had been harvested and tilled. The number of feeders being maintained continues to be well below the average present before the flood.

Comments: This was the 41st count held in the present location. The Count Day total of 48 species broke the previous record by 3 species. The Count Week total of 58 species topped the previous high by 3 species. The unusually high total is believed to be due to: (1) Extensive scouting of the count circle throughout Count Week (3 days before the count and 3 days after). (2) The very mild Fall season, which resulted in the lingering of waterfowl and raptors. (3) Unusually mild weather on count day and little snow depth allowed extensive coverage of the area.

Common Goldeneye and Wood Duck were recorded for the first time. An unidentified gull species was present the first three days of count week; two observers thought the most likely possibilities were Iceland or Thayer's, but lack of information on the wing and tail patterns may preclude positive identification. Open-country species (Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and Horned Lark) were all but absent (one of each!). The numbers of Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, and Am. Crow set new highs.

Observations in the days preceding the count clearly indicated that Bald Eagles were still migrating through the area. They were found for the 4th time since first being recorded in 1997. Other notable raptors included N. Harrier for the 4th time, Sharp-shinned Hawk for

the 6th time (first observed in 1995, now overwintering regularly), Cooper's Hawk for the second time (1st record was last year), Red-tailed Hawk for only the 4th time, and the exceptional number of Rough-legged Hawks. It is interesting that Merlin has apparently decreased in recent years. Canada Goose was recorded for only the third time. The Common Goldeneye was seen only on the first day of the count and presumably continued its migration. The Wood Duck is still (early January) hanging around the area of warm water discharge on the English Coulee near Altru. Greater Prairie Chicken was found for the 3rd time after reintroduction in the early 1990s. The total for American Crow set a new high, however, this is the species most likely to be over-counted. The number of Pine Siskins was low. Because only one Snow Bunting was found, and the numbers of Rock Dove and House Sparrow (lowest since 1966!) were also low, the total number of individuals counted was the lowest since 1984.

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