

2002 Christmas Bird Count

SUMMARY

Grand Forks - East Grand Forks CBC

December 15, 2002

Mallard	3
Bald Eagle	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	CP
American Kestrel	1
Merlin	1
Gray Partridge	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	3
Greater Prairie Chicken	CP
Sharp-tailed Grouse	29
Wild Turkey	1
Rock Dove	1515
Eurasian-collared Dove	1
Mourning Dove	CP
Eastern Screech-Owl	2
Great Horned Owl	2
Snowy Owl	1
Downy Woodpecker	37
Hairy Woodpecker	33
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	5
Northern Shrike	1
Blue Jay	3
Black-billed Magpie	18
American Crow	485
Horned Lark	4
Black-capped Chickadee	107
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	78
Brown Creeper	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	CP
Townsend's Solitaire	CP
American Robin	5
Varied Thrush	CP
European Starling	220
Cedar Waxwing	70
American Tree Sparrow	22
Fox Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	6
Harris's Sparrow	1

Dark-eyed Junco	146
Lapland Longspur	11
Snow Bunting	253
Red-winged Blackbird	61
Rusty Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	13
Purple Finch	3
House Finch	193
Common Redpoll	2
American Goldfinch	18
House Sparrow	1457
TOTAL	4832

Total of 46 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day. Six additional species during Count Week, giving a total of 52 species. Total of 4832 individuals.

OBSERVERS: 23 observers in field in 10 parties, plus five observers at feeders only. Time and Distance: 10 hours at feeders; 1.5 hours and 10 miles owling. Total party-hours = 57 and total party miles = 553 (21 hours and 21 miles on foot; 36 hours and 532 miles by car).

PARTICIPANTS IN FIELD: Patti Alleva, AnnaLisa Batson, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Glinda Crawford, Richard D. Crawford, Tim Driscoll, Ann Flower, Eve Freeberg, Robert Freeberg, Ursula Flem, Alicia Kelley, Frank Kelley, Robert Kruger, Cec Lambeth, David O. Lambeth, Robert W. Lewis, Carol Rau, Jeff Roswick, Schurkey Swanke, Robert Seabloom, Pat Wilber, Russ Wilber, Deb Zaks

FEEDER WATCHERS: Gordon Iseminger, Jean Johnston, Larry Lynell, Paul Ray, Garl and Judy Rieke, Keith Trzynka

WEATHER: Low and high temperatures were 28 and 37. Winds began ENE at about 5 mph and became southeasterly at 15-20 mph in the afternoon. No precipitation. Cloudy. .

CONDITIONS: Snow depth = 0 inches. Following the coldest October on record, the fall period was otherwise mild and dry. A few days with record-breaking highs in the forties occurred just before the count. Long stretches of the Red River were open below Riverside Dam, but still water was iced over. Excellent crops of crabapples and cones. All seeds were available because of lack of snow. In country, hundreds of acres of corn had been harvested, but the stubble had not been turned under. Not much sunflower. Mountain ash has largely disappeared from city because of fire blight. The number of feeders being maintained was the lowest in memory. Dike construction along both sides of the Red River, and along the Red Lake River, has resulted in the removal of many trees.

COMMENTS: This was the 42nd count held in the present location. The Count Day total of 46 species is the second highest. Despite the high total, veteran observers felt that birds were unusually scarce and hard to find. The high species

count was due to: (1) Extensive scouting of the count circle throughout Count Week (3 days before the count and 3 days after). (2) Unusually mild weather on count day and no snow depth, which allowed extensive coverage of the area, both by foot and by car.

Wild Turkey and Fox Sparrow were firsts for the count. Several Turkeys had been seen within the count circle during late summer and early Fall. The origin of these birds is unknown, but the particular bird present on count day had been frequenting a feeder on Altmonte for several weeks. The feeder is located just across from the Greenway in the Lincoln Drive area of Grand Forks.

Bald Eagles were found for the 5th time since first being recorded in 1997. This year's sightings were on the Red River in the vicinity of where they nested this past summer. Sharp-shinned Hawk was recorded for the 7th time (first observed in 1995, now overwintering regularly), and Red-tailed Hawk was seen for only the 4th time. Eurasian Collared Dove was seen for the second time. American Crow, Black-billed Magpie, and Dark-eyed Junco set new highs. In contrast to last year when exceptional numbers of Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, and Short-eared Owls were seen, only one individual in this group, Snowy Owl, was seen on count day. Pine Siskins were absent, which is consistent with their disappearance from the eastern part of the state. Only two redpolls were seen. An early morning gathering of 260 American Crows were seen in Sherlock Park. A Varied Thrush at "Fox Farm", and a Townsend's Solitaire on the Minnesota side of the Red River, were seen on the first day of the count period, but could not be relocated for count day. The Solitaire has since been seen at the location where first found.

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