

## 2003 Christmas Bird Count

### SUMMARY

Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC

December 14, 2003

Canada Goose 8  
Gadwall 2  
Mallard 11  
Common Goldeneye 2  
Gray Partridge 41  
Ring-necked Pheasant 19  
Sharp-tailed Grouse 30  
Greater Prairie-Chicken CW  
Bald Eagle 1 ad  
Northern Harrier CW  
Sharp-shinned Hawk CW  
Northern Goshawk CW  
Red-tailed Hawk 1  
Rough-legged Hawk 4  
American Kestrel 1  
Merlin 1  
Rock Pigeon 1173  
Mourning Dove CW  
Eastern Screech-Owl 1  
Great Horned Owl 5  
Snowy Owl CW  
Barred Owl 1  
Short-eared Owl CW  
Red-bellied Woodpecker CW  
Downy Woodpecker 50  
Hairy Woodpecker 53  
Northern Flicker 3  
Pileated Woodpecker 6  
Northern Shrike 9  
Blue Jay 17  
Black-billed Magpie 17  
American Crow 346  
Horned Lark 1  
Black-capped Chickadee 193

Red-breasted Nuthatch 8  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 94  
 Brown Creeper 1  
 American Robin 14  
 European Starling 2677  
 Cedar Waxwing 11  
 Song Sparrow 1  
 White-throated Sparrow 8  
 Harris's Sparrow CW  
 Dark-eyed Junco 113  
     Oregon Junco 1  
 Lapland Longspur 84  
 Snow Bunting 41  
 Northern Cardinal CW  
 Red-winged Blackbird 14  
 Rusty Blackbird 6  
 Common Grackle CW  
 Purple Finch 3  
 House Finch 258  
 White-winged Crossbill 11  
 Common Redpoll 147  
 Hoary Redpoll 5  
 Pine Siskin 7  
 American Goldfinch 35  
 House Sparrow 1255

Total of 47 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day.  
 Eleven additional species during Count Week, giving a total of 58  
 species for Count Week. Total of 6789 individuals.

Observers: 24 observers in field in 13 parties, plus 10 observers at  
 feeders only. Time and Distance: hours at feeders; 0.5 hours and  
 0.5 miles owling. Total party-hours = 78 and total party miles = 659  
 (31 hours and 36 miles on foot; 47 hours and 623 miles by car).

#### Participants in Field:

Patti Alleva, Ben Bartos, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Charles  
 Christianson, Glinda Crawford, Richard D. Crawford, Tim Driscoll,  
 Ann Flower, Eve Freeberg, Robert Freeberg, Ursula Flem, Robert  
 Jung, Alicia Kelley, Frank Kelley, Robert Kruger, David O. Lambeth,

Robert W. Lewis, Carole Rau, Jeff Roswick, Robert Seabloom, Pat Wilber, Russ Wilber, Deb Zaks, William Zaks

Feeder Watchers: Gene Brueckner, Ed Halas, Jim Haselton, Gordon Iseminger, Francis Jacobs, Cec Lambeth, Garry Pearson, Paul Ray, Garl Rieke, Keith Trzynka,

Weather: Low and high temperatures were 15 and 29 deg Fahrenheit. Winds began at 5-10 mph and increased to 10-15 mph in the afternoon. No precipitation. Skies were overcast in the morning and mostly cloudy in the afternoon.

Conditions: Snow depth = 2 inches. Excellent crop of crabapples, fair crop of Mountain Ash berries, and fair cone crop. Open water included about 0.5 miles below Riverside Dam, the sugar beet lagoons, and a small area at the Grand Forks lagoons.

Comments: This was the 43rd count held in the present location. The Count Day total of 47 species is the second highest, and the count week total of 58 ties the all-time high.

Common Goldeneye and Barred Owl were recorded on count day for the first time; Canada Goose and Gadwall were recorded count day for the second time. After appearing for the first time in 1997, Bald Eagle has now been recorded on 6 of the last 7 counts. The eagle was seen at the nest n. of East Grand Forks that they used last year. A Snowy Owl was found in the circle on the last day of count week. This species has been seen on count day or count week every count since 1970. Short-eared Owls were present in double-digit numbers on the last day of count week and there is little doubt that a movement into the area occurred at that time. The count of six Pileated Woodpeckers ties the previous high. Only the count of 14 Northern Shrikes in 1985 exceeds this year's count of 9. White-winged Crossbills were seen for the first time since 1997, and Hoary Redpoll for the first time since 1995 when it was recorded during count week. The number of Pine Siskins continues to be low in comparison with the numbers seen in the mid 1990s.

A very pleasant day allowed excellent coverage of the areas. However, feeder watchers indicated that few birds were present at the feeders.