

2005 Christmas Bird Count

SUMMARY

Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 18, 2005

Wood Duck	1
Mallard	8
Gray Partridge	21
Ring-necked Pheasant	15
Sharp-tailed Grouse	22
Greater Prairie-Chicken	13
Wild Turkey	6
Bald Eagle	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	CW
Golden Eagle	CW
American Kestrel	CW
Merlin	2
Rock Pigeon	1031
Mourning Dove	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	3
Great Horned Owl	4
Snowy Owl	1
Downy Woodpecker	37
Hairy Woodpecker	19
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Northern Shrike	1
Blue Jay	21
Black-billed Magpie	8
American Crow	179
Horned Lark	55
Black-capped Chickadee	121
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	36
Brown Creeper	1
Hermit Thrush	1
American Robin	29
European Starling	99
Bohemian Waxwing	14
Cedar Waxwing	53
American Tree Sparrow	4
White-throated Sparrow	10
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	2
Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco	138

Lapland Longspur	220
Snow Bunting	1066
Northern Cardinal	5
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Western Meadowlark	CW
Common Grackle	1
Purple Finch	1
House Finch	248
Common Redpoll	16
Pine Siskin	16
American Goldfinch	86
House Sparrow	1247

Total of 48 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day. Four additional species were observed during Count Week, giving a total of 52 species for Count Week. Total individuals = 4290.

Observers: 24 observers in field in 11 parties, plus 9 observers at feeders only. **Time and Distance:** 14 hours at feeders; 4.25 hours and 63 miles owling. Total party-hours = 58.75 and total party miles = 764.75 (9.75 hours and 7.75 miles on foot; 49 hours and 757 miles by car).

Participants in Field:

Patti Allewa, Ben Bartos, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Charles Christianson, Richard D. Crawford, Tim Driscoll, Ann Flower, Eve Freeberg, Erik Fritzell, Julie Gaddy, Alicia Kelley, Frank Kelley, Robert Kruger, Dave Lambeth, Robert W. Lewis, Rolf Paulson, Jeff Roswick, Bob Seabloom, Brent Stevens, Pat Wilber, Russ Wilber, Bob Winchester, Deb Zaks and Bill Zaks

Feeder Watchers: Patti Allewa, Martin Brown, Glinda Crawford, Melanie Crawford, Ed Halas, Gordon Iseminger, Paul Ray, Garl Rieke, Keith Trzynka.

Weather: Low and high temperatures were -14 and 0 deg Fahrenheit. Winds were westerly, in the range of 4-12 mph throughout the day. No precipitation. Sunny skies.

Conditions: Snow depth = 4 inches. Excellent crop of crabapples and a very good crop of Mountain Ash berries. The cone crop was poor. Open water only where flowing water, mainly below dams on the Red River and the English Coulee. Also a small area at the Grand Forks lagoons and springs in Kellys Slough.

Comments:

This was the 45th consecutive year for this count in the present location. Hermit Thrush and Golden Eagle (count week) were new species for the count. Wood Duck and Wild Turkey were recorded for the 2nd time.

New highs were set for Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and N. Cardinal (5 of each). Ten White-throated Sparrows was also a new high.

Overall the numbers recorded for several species were not impressive when compared to previous counts. Several species were significantly below their long-term averages. American Crows again totaled about a third of the number before West Nile Virus. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Black-capped Chickadee were also low in number. The total for House Sparrows (1247) is about a 1/3rd the number reported a few decades earlier. Compared with recent years, this was a low year for finding raptors in the prairie grasslands as only one Snowy Owl, one Rough-legged Hawk, one Red-tailed Hawk, and one Golden Eagle were found with two of these species not seen on count day.