

2006 Christmas Bird Count

SUMMARY

Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 17, 2006

Canada Goose	CW
Mallard	CW
Gray Partridge	63
Ring-necked Pheasant	3
Sharp-tailed Grouse	47
Greater Prairie-Chicken	CW
Wild Turkey	7
Bald Eagle	2
Northern Harrier	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	CW
Rough-legged Hawk	31
American Kestrel	CW
Merlin	CW
Rock Pigeon	2400
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5
Eastern Screech-Owl	CW
Great Horned Owl	4
Snowy Owl	2
Short-eared Owl	31
Northern Saw-whet Owl	CW
Red-bellied Woodpecker	CW
Downy Woodpecker	34
Hairy Woodpecker	17
Northern Flicker	2
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Northern Shrike	1
Gray Jay	CW
Blue Jay	9
Black-billed Magpie	1
American Crow	394
Black-capped Chickadee	95
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	43
Brown Creeper	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
American Robin	10
European Starling	1800
Bohemian Waxwing	CW

Cedar Waxwing	123
Song Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	24
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	3
Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco	169
Lapland Longspur	3
Snow Bunting	46
Northern Cardinal	1
Red-winged Blackbird	65
Western Meadowlark	2
Rusty Blackbird	CW
Brewer's Blackbird	4
Common Grackle	1
Purple Finch	5
House Finch	204
Common Redpoll	104
Hoary Redpoll	2
Pine Siskin	11
American Goldfinch	11
House Sparrow	978

Total of 46 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day. Thirteen additional species were observed during Count Week, giving a total of 59 species for Count Week, which ties the previous high. Total individuals = 6771.

Observers: 18 observers in field in 9 parties, plus 12 observers at feeders only. **Time and Distance:** 15 hours at feeders; 1.5 hours and 5 miles owling. Total party-hours = 60.5 and total party miles = 744 (6 hours and 8 miles on foot; 54.5 hours and 736 miles by car).

Participants in Field:

Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Melanie Crawford, Richard D. Crawford, Tim Driscoll, Eve Freeberg, Erik Fritzell, Alicia Kelley, Frank Kelley, Cec Lambeth, Dave Lambeth, Robert W. Lewis, Rolf Paulson, Bob Seabloom, Lewis Spicer, Pat Wilber, Russ Wilber, Deb Zaks and Bill Zaks

Feeder Watchers: Jim and Mary Antes, Glinda Melanie, and Richard Crawford, Ed Halas, Gordon Iseminger, Cec Lambeth, Ed O'Reilly, Kristen Rundquist, Keith Trzynka, AJ Winter

Weather: Temperature was 26 deg F at beginning and 22 deg at end. Winds were w-nw, 12 mph gusting to 25 in the morning, and 10-15 mph at the end. No precipitation. Skies were partly cloudy to overcast.

Conditions: A light snow cover in early December had largely disappeared from most areas, leaving a snow depth of 0-1 inches. Excellent crop of crabapples. The cone crop was poor. Open water only where flowing water, mainly below the dam on the Red River, a large lagoon at the Crystal Sugar lagoon in EGF, a small area at the Grand Forks lagoons and springs in Kellys Slough.

Comments:

This was the 46th consecutive year for this count in the present location. Cooper's Hawk and Brewer's Blackbird were firsts for count day although both had been previously reported for count week. Gray Jay was observed during count week, for the first time in 30 years. Northern Saw-whet Owl found in count week was only the second record for the GF/EGF CBC.

New highs were set for Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, with all 3 species found in the saline/alkali grasslands west of Grand Forks where there must be a high vole population.

The 24 White-throated Sparrows also set a new high and were found in two flocks: 6 coming to scattered seed on the south side of Chester Fritz Library, as has happened for the last several winters, and 18 coming to a feeder along the English Coulee at an apartment building south of DeMers Avenue.

Dark-eyed Junco and Red-winged Blackbird also established new highs for the count.

Eurasian Collared-Doves have likely been permanent residents since 1999. But this year was only the 3rd time they had been recorded on the count. Five birds were seen at a backyard feeding station in nw Grand Forks.

Although Gray Jays had been present since mid-October, they eluded us on count day. Tim Driscoll saw 2 on 13th Ave S, near Washington St, the day after the count.

On the last day of count week, permission was obtained to check the Crystal Sugar lagoons where two Canada Geese and 40 Mallards were found.

On the evening of Dec 18, Ron Martin from Minot and Corey Ellingson from Bismarck joined Dave Lambeth for owling. Eastern Screech-Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl responded to tapes of their calls.