

2008 Christmas Bird Count

SUMMARY

Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC December 21, 2008

Mallard	CW
Bufflehead	CW (2 nd record)
Gray Partridge	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	3
Sharp-tailed Grouse	47
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1
Wild Turkey	4
Bald Eagle	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	CW
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Merlin	1
Glaucous Gull	CW
Rock Pigeon	1162
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2
Great Horned Owl	2
Snowy Owl	CW
Red-bellied Woodpecker	CW
Downy Woodpecker	32
Hairy Woodpecker	23
Northern Flicker	CW
Pileated Woodpecker	3
Northern Shrike	2
Blue Jay	12
Black-billed Magpie	4
American Crow	101
Horned Lark	1
Black-capped Chickadee	93
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	23
American Robin	2
European Starling	574
Cedar Waxwing	12
White-throated Sparrow	16
Song Sparrow	CW
Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco	164
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	2
Lapland Longspur	3
Snow Bunting	1739
Northern Cardinal	10
Red-winged Blackbird	74
Common Grackle	2
Purple Finch	15
House Finch	273
Hoary Redpoll	2
Common Redpoll	159
Pine Siskin	825
American Goldfinch	16
House Sparrow	1127

Total of 40 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day. Eight additional species were observed during Count Week, making a total of 48 species. Total individuals = 6535

Observers: 11 observers in field in 9 parties, plus 29 observers at feeders. **Time and Distance:** 61 hours at feeders; 0 hours and 0 miles owling. Total party-hours = 51 and total party miles = 561 (3.5 hours and 3 miles on foot; 47.5 hours and 558 miles by car).

Participants in Field:

Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Tim Driscoll, Eve Freeberg, Erik Fritzell, Carol Kelley, Frank Kelley, Judy Johnson, Dave Lambeth, Robert W. Lewis, Pat Wilbur, Russ Wilbur

Feeder Watchers:, Sandy Aubol, Charles Christianson, Paul & Sandi Erickson, Ann Flower, Ed Halas, Deb Hansen, Gordon Iseminger, Mike Kamedula, Frank Kelley, Cec Lambeth, Frank & Lucy Matejcek, Vickie & Matt Misialek, Diana & Ed O'Reilly, Rhonda Poellot, Paul Ray, Carol & Doug Rerick, Kristin Rundquist, Terry & Muriel Stadstad, Virginia Stewart, Nancy Swerdlow, Julia Wallin, Russ Wilbur, AJ Winter

Weather: Temperature range: -5 to -1 deg F. Winds northwesterly, 20-25 mph in AM, and 10-20 mph in the afternoon. Blowing snow in the morning resulted in poor visibility. No precipitation. Skies were partly cloudy. Snow depth variable but about 6 inches on average.

Conditions: Weather Snow depth = 6 inches. Excellent crop of crabapples and mountain ash. Cone crop fair. There was an exceptional number of acres of unharvested sunflower and corn, and still other fields where these crops had been harvested but not plowed under. Small patches of open water were present below Riverside Dam, at the Grand Forks lagoons, and at small springs and seeps in Kellys Slough.

Comments:

This was the 48th consecutive year for this count in its present location. The extreme cold and wind chill pretty much limited observation to what could be seen from vehicles and homes. Open country birds were particularly hard to find because of poor visibility in the morning and the birds staying out of the wind.

Record high counts were recorded for Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. Several species were quite low in number, but for most it was likely because of the poor birding conditions. After two previous counts in which a gull was seen but not identified as to species, a Glaucous Gull that has been in the area for at least 10 days was observed within the count circle during count week.