

SUMMARY
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 20, 2009

Canada Goose	3	Blue Jay	30
Mallard	4	Black-billed Magpie	1
Bufflehead	1 (3rd record)	American Crow	250
Gray Partridge	38	Horned Lark	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	Black-capped Chickadee	110
Sharp-tailed Grouse	196 (highest ever)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	12
Greater Prairie-Chicken	14	White-breasted Nuthatch	51
Wild Turkey	2	American Robin	16
Bald Eagle	2	European Starling	1580
Northern Harrier	CW	Cedar Waxwing	CW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	American Tree Sparrow	1
Cooper's Hawk	CW (2nd record)	White-throated Sparrow	11
Merlin	1	Song Sparrow	CW
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco	130
Rock Pigeon	540	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	1
Mourning Dove	3	Lapland Longspur	55
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	Snow Bunting	525
Great Horned Owl	2	Northern Cardinal	3
Snowy Owl	4	Red-winged Blackbird	314 (highest ever)
Short-eared Owl	38 (highest ever)	Common Grackle	5
N. Saw-whet Owl	1 (3rd record)	Purple Finch	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	CW (1st for count)	House Finch	238
Downy Woodpecker	37	White-winged Crossbill	1
Hairy Woodpecker	28	Common Redpoll	2
Northern Flicker	1	Pine Siskin	7
Pileated Woodpecker	2	American Goldfinch	99
Northern Shrike	1	House Sparrow	1052

Total of 48 species plus one race (Oregon Junco) on Count Day. Five additional species were observed during Count Week, making a total of 53 species. Total individuals = 5432

Observers: 24 observers in field in 10 parties, plus 21 observers at feeders. **Time and Distance:** 45 hours at feeders; 2.5 hours and 30 miles owling (nocturnal). Total party-hours = 54 and total party miles = 670 (7 hours and 10 miles on foot; 47 hours and 660 miles by car).

Participants in Field:

Sandy Aubol, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Corey Bergsrud, Charlie Christianson, Jane Crocker, Tim Driscoll, Nate Emery, Ann Flower, Corey Floden, Eve Freeberg, Deb Hanson-Gosnold, Will Gosnold, Judy Johnson, Carol Kelley, Frank Kelley, Dave Lambeth, Gladwyn Lynne, Gary Masilko, Rolf Paulson, Bob Seabloom, Pat Wilbur, Russ Wilbur, Bill Zaks, Deb Zaks

Feeder Watchers:, Mike Aubol, Sandy Aubol, Tim Aubol, Charlie Christianson, Paul & Sandi Erickson, Ann Flower, Deb Hanson-Gosnold, Mary Jane Henneman, Tom Hill, Gordon Iseminger, Frank Kelley, Cec Lambeth, Rhonda Poellot, Virginia Stewart, Nancy Swerdlow, Julia and Paul Wallin, Russ Wilbur, AJ Miller

Weather: Temperature range: 9 to 20 deg F. Winds westerly, 3-10 mph. Some fog in AM, overcast rest of day. No precipitation. Snow depth 3-4 inches.

Conditions: Excellent crop of crabapples and mountain ash. Cone crop fair. Sunflowers and corn mostly harvested, but several fields not plowed under. Small patches of open water were present below the dams on the Red and Red Lake Rivers, Grand Forks lagoons, Crystal Sugar beet plant lagoons, and springs in Kellys Slough.

Comments:

The count was conducted under very good conditions with little wind and moderate temperatures. Most of the minimum-maintenance roads could be driven, which aided in finding open-country species. This was the 49th consecutive year for this count in its present location. Record high counts were recorded for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Short-eared Owl, and Red-winged Blackbird. A new species for the count was an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker spotted by Russ Wilber at his feeders on the last day of the count. This provides a rare winter record for North Dakota and photos will be submitted to the North Dakota Rare Birds Committee. Cooper's Hawk was reported for the second time, and Northern Saw-whet Owl and Bufflehead for the 3rd time. The saw-whet owl responded to recordings of the calls of this species. Despite considerable effort using recordings, an Eastern Screech-Owl could not be located. This is a species that used to be relatively easy to hear when weather conditions permitted.

This has not been a good year for irruption of northern finches. However a male White-winged Crossbill photographed by Tim Driscoll was a nice surprise.

A summary of this report and other CBC-related information can be found under the Christmas Bird Count link at <http://grandcitiesbirdclub.weebly.com/>

A yahoo e-mail group for bird enthusiasts to communicate about birds in the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks area including surrounding communities is located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grandcitiesbirdclub/> To join, follow the links on the home page.