

SUMMARY
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 14, 2014

Note: The three numbers shown for each species are the number in Minnesota followed by the number in North Dakota, and then the total for the count.

Cackling Goose	1--0--1	Blue Jay	1--10--11
Canada Goose	900--2--902	Black-billed Magpie	0--6--6
Mallard	121--2--123	American Crow	64--177--241
Northern Pintail	1--0--1 (2 nd count record)	Common Raven	0--CW--CW
Common Goldeneye	CW--3--3	Black-capped Chickadee	44--221--265
Ruddy Duck	1--0--1 (1 st count record)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2--2--4
Gray Partridge	17--21--38	White-breasted Nuthatch	10--49--59
Ring-necked Pheasant	0--2--2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	0--7--7
Sharp-tailed Grouse	0--13--13	American Robin	0--22--22
Greater Prairie-Chicken	0--CW--CW	Varied Thrush	0--1--1 (5 th record)
Cooper's Hawk	CW--CW--CW	European Starling	196--240--436
Northern Goshawk	0--1--1	Cedar Waxwing	0--3--3
Bald Eagle	1--0--1	Lapland Longspur	0--19--19
Rock Pigeon	95--1017--1112	Snow Bunting	6--108--114
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0--11--11	White-throated Sparrow	0--8--8
Mourning Dove	0--1--1	Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco	73--183--256
Great Horned Owl	0--3--3	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	2--1--3
Barred Owl	0--1--1	Northern Cardinal	0--2--2
Snowy Owl	0--CW--CW	Common Grackle	0--4--4
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0--CW--CW	Red-winged Blackbird	0--129--129
Downy Woodpecker	5--34--39	Rusty Blackbird	0--CW--CW
Hairy Woodpecker	5--19--24	Purple Finch	0--2--2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0--CW--CW	House Finch	8--79--87
Northern Flicker	0--1--1	Common Redpoll	50--93--143
Pileated Woodpecker	3--0--3	Hoary Redpoll	0--2--2
Northern Shrike	1--0--1	Pine Siskin	9--68--77
		House Sparrow	41--362--403

Species Summary: On count day, total of 45 species plus 1 race (Oregon Junco). Seven additional count week species giving a total of 52 species. Total number of individuals = 4590.

Observers: 22 observers in field in 13 parties (5 observers in 2 parties in MN, 17 observers in 11 parties in ND), plus 14 observers at feeders (3 in MN, 12 in ND).

Time and Distance: Starting Time 8:00 AM, End Time 5:15 P.M. 38.75 hours watching feeders. Total party-hours = 68.25 and total party miles = 609.25 (17.5 hours and 21.9 miles on foot; 48.25 hours and 563.05 miles by car; 2.5 hour and 25 miles nocturnal birding (“owling”).

Participants in Field:

In Minnesota: Terry and Joanne Johnson, Dave Lambeth, Bruce Keifenheim, and Wes Rogers. *In North Dakota:* Todd Alfes, Sandy Aubol, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Jane Croeker, Jerry Cole, Tim Driscoll, Ann Flower, Deb Hanson, Mary Jane Henneman, Judy Johnson, Sandy Roethler, Bob Seabloom, Nikki Seabloom, Matthew Spoor, Pat Wilber, Russ Wilber, Art Young

Feeder Watchers:, *In Minnesota:* Sandy and Tim Aubol, Sandy Martens. *In North Dakota:* Julie Abrahamson, David Berg, Julie Gladwin, Julie Grassel, Gordon and Trudy Iseminger, Cec Lambeth, Rhonda Poellot, Virginia Stewart, Keith Trzynka, Julia Wallin

Weather: Temperature range: 34 to 37 deg F. No wind in early morning, northerly up to 12 mph by late afternoon. Heavy fog all day. No snow on ground. Still water was frozen. There were areas of open water in Kellys Slough, Grand Forks Lagoons, below Riverside Dam on Red River, below dam on Red Lake River, and Crystal Sugar lagoons in MN.

Comments:

Count Day was conducted in heavy fog. There was no snow cover which allowed all minimum maintenance roads to be traversed, and considerable time spent walking, especially along the Greenway. The preceding week had been unusually warm, but this warm period was preceded by unseasonable cold in November. All fields of corn and sunflower had been harvested, but some fields had not been plowed under.

This was the 54th Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC. The most unusual species were:
Cackling Goose – 3rd record in last four years, after the recent split from Canada Goose.

Northern Pintail -- 2nd CBC record the other record was in 1999

Ruddy Duck -- 1st CBC record, found at the Crystal Sugar ponds where there is a warm water discharge

Northern Goshawk -- photographed

Barred Owl – 3rd record for the count

Varied Thrush -- 5th record for the count

A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Sandy Aubol's feeder both before and after count week. Merlin was missed for the first year since 1987. The 87 House Finches was the lowest since 1993, which was soon after they became established in Grand Forks. The decline of House Sparrows continues. This year's total of 403 House Sparrows is the lowest in over 40 years and is far below the high of 7334 in 1989. Earlier low numbers may have been due to low number of counters. No American Goldfinches were reported, and all redpolls seen were in open country and not at feeding stations.

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 can be joined by following the link on the home page at the above site.