

SUMMARY
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 20, 2015

Note: The three numbers shown for each species are the number reported for Minnesota followed by the number for North Dakota, and then the total for the count. Names of several of the more unusual species are boldfaced.

Canada Goose	2500-370-2870	Common Raven	CW (5 th record)
Mallard	145-9-154	Horned Lark	0-3-3
Green-winged Teal	0-2-2 (2 nd record)	Black-capped Chickadee	37-171-208
Redhead	1-0-1 (1 st record)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	0-1-1
Ruddy Duck	CW (2 nd record)	White-breasted Nuthatch	15-49-64
Gray Partridge	22-68-90	Golden-crowned Kinglet	CW
Ring-necked Pheasant	0-35-35	Townsend's Solitaire	0-1-1 (6 th record)
Sharp-tailed Grouse	0-123-123	American Robin	0-4-4
Greater Prairie-Chicken	0-11-11	Varied Thrush	0-1-1 (6 th record)
Wild Turkey	0-2-2	Gray Catbird	1-0-1 (2 nd record)
Bald Eagle	6-10-16 (new high)	Brown Thrasher	0-1-1 (5 th record)
Northern Harrier	0-1-1	European Starling	38-116-154
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW	Cedar Waxwing	0-8-8
Cooper's Hawk	CW	Lapland Longspur	0-5-5
Rough-legged Hawk	0-1-1	Snow Bunting	70-25-95
Rock Pigeon	146-705-851	American Tree Sparrow	13-1-14
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0-22-22 (new high)	Song Sparrow	CW
Mourning Dove	0-4-4	White-throated Sparrow	0-6-6
Great Horned Owl	1-6-7	Harris's Sparrow	0-1-1
Snowy Owl	1-1-2	White-crowned Sparrow	CW (5 th record)
Short-eared Owl	0-21-21	Dark-eyed Junco	126-156-282 (new high)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0-1-1	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	4-2-6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0-1-1	Northern Cardinal	0-3-3
Downy Woodpecker	7-30-37	Western Meadowlark	0-3-3 (8 th record)
Hairy Woodpecker	4-22-26	Common Grackle	0-1-1
Northern Flicker	0-3-3	Brown-headed Cowbird	0-3-3 (3 rd record)
Pileated Woodpecker	0-3-3	Purple Finch	0-2-2
American Kestrel	2-1-3	House Finch	48-92-140
Merlin	0-1-1	Red Crossbill	CW
Northern Shrike	0-4-4	Common Redpoll	84-240-324
Blue Jay	7-18-25	Hoary Redpoll	0-7-7
Black-billed Magpie	0-2-2	Pine Siskin	46-94-140
American Crow	54-187-241	House Sparrow	140-254-394 (new low)

Species Summary: On Count Day, total of 57 species plus 1 race (Oregon Junco). Eight additional Count Week species giving a total of 65 species. Total number of individuals = 6432.

Observers: 26 observers in field in 15 parties (4 observers in 2 parties in MN, 22 observers in 13 parties in ND), plus 14 observers at feeders (2 in MN, 12 in ND).

Time and Distance: 8:00 AM to 5:15 P.M., except for owling. Total party-hours by Field Participants = 67.95 and total party miles = 565.85 (10.25 hours and 19.85 miles on foot; 53.7 hours and 534 miles by car; 1.5 hours and 6 miles on skis; 1 hour and 3 miles on snow shoes; 1.5 hours and 3 miles nocturnal birding (“owling”). 46.5 hours were spent by 14 observers watching feeders. (For EGF part of count: 2 feeder watchers for 10 hours; 6.25 hours and 62 miles by car; 3.5 hours and 5 miles on foot).

Participants in Field:

In Minnesota: Terry and Joanne Johnson, Dave Lambeth, and Bruce Keifenheim. *In North Dakota:* Sandy Aubol, Carl and Shelby Barrentine, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Charlie Christianson, Jane Croeker, Tim Driscoll, Will Gosnold, Deb Hanson, Mary Jane Henneman, Mike Jacobs, Catherine Johnson, Gary Masilko, Merle Mikkelson, Rolf Paulson, Bob and Nikki Seabloom, Matthew Spoor, Anne Walker, Art Young, Bill and Deb Zaks.

Feeder Watchers:, *In Minnesota:* Tim Aubol, Sandy Martens. *In North Dakota:* Julie Abrahamson, David Berg, Ken Drees, Ann Flower, Julie Gladwin, Tom Hill, Gordon and Trudy Iseminger, Cec Lambeth, Keith Trzynka, Julia Wallin, Matt Wallace

Weather: Temperature range: 12 to 18 deg F. Wind northerly, 7-13 mph. Cloudy skies. No precipitation. 5 inches snow on ground. Still water 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:

This was the 55th Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC. The Count Day total of 57 species was the second highest, exceeded only by 62 in 2012. The Count Week plus Count Day total of 65 equaled the previous record, also set in 2012.

The 2015 CBC was preceded by an unusually mild fall with temperatures consistently well above normal. The snow cover of 5 inches of snow came just two days before the Count Week began. This along with much colder temperatures may have caused some displacement of birds from open country to roadsides and city feeders. Varied Thrush, Brown Thrasher and Harris’s Sparrow were all seen in A.J. Miller’s yard northeast of campus. Townsend’s Solitaire, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Red-breasted Nuthatch were observed in the Abrahamson’s yard in the 3400 block of Belmont Avenue. The Gray Catbird was photographed by Terry Johnson at the East Grand Forks Heritage Center. The Redhead was found in the Crystal Sugar ponds. Most of these unusual species seemed to show up just after the snowfall and colder temperatures.

The Cooper’s Hawk seen by Julia Wallin at the beginning of Count Week had a blue band. This provided another winter record for one of Tim’s birds, and so far all mid-winter Cooper’s have been females. Two Chukars seen by Tim Driscoll in the Kellys Slough area were not included in the count because they are not an established breeder here and not likely to migrate to our area on their own. The high count of 12 Bald Eagles may be the result of delayed migration due to the late freezeup of lakes in Canada.

This report and other CBC-related information are archived under the Christmas Bird Count link at <http://grandcitiesbirdclub.weebly.com/>. Count data will be submitted to the National Audubon Society.