

SUMMARY
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 18, 2016

Note: The format for each species is to show the number reported for Minnesota followed by the number for North Dakota, and then the total for the count. The names of two species are boldfaced because of their rarity

	MN-ND-Total		
Canada Goose	0-70-70	American Crow	55-143-198
Mallard	8-3-11	Common Raven	CW-5-5
Gray Partridge	0-24-24	Horned Lark	0-1-1
Ring-necked Pheasant	0-4-4	Black-capped Chickadee	17-90-107
Sharp-tailed Grouse	0-53-53	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6-4-10
Greater Prairie-Chicken	0-2-2	White-breasted Nuthatch	4-19-23
Rock Pigeon	10-1162-1172	Brown Creeper	0-CW-CW
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0-2-2	American Robin	19-14-33
Bald Eagle	2-2-4	European Starling	0-42-42
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW-1-1	Bohemian Waxwing	21-CW-21
Rough-legged Hawk	0-15-15	Cedar Waxwing	2-3-5
Great Horned Owl	1-3-4	House Sparrow	126-229-355 (low)
Snowy Owl	0-CW-CW	House Finch	21-123-144
Short-eared Owl	0-15-15	Purple Finch	7-33-40
Long-eared Owl	0-1-1 (1 st record)	Common Redpoll	8-2-10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1-3-4	Pine Siskin	1-7-8
Downy Woodpecker	5-26-31	American Goldfinch	45-39-84
Hairy Woodpecker	2-14-16	Lapland Longspur	0-155-155
Northern Flicker	0-2-2	Snow Bunting	0-42-42
Pileated Woodpecker	0-3-3	American Tree Sparrow	0-2-2
Northern Shrike	0-3-3	Dark-eyed Junco	37-72-109
Blue Jay	5-12-17	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	0-CW-CW
Black-billed Magpie	0-1-1	Northern Cardinal	0-7-7
		Common Grackle	0-3-3

Species Summary: On Count Day, total of 44 species. Two additional Count Week species giving a total of 46 species. In addition, one race (Oregon Junco) observed during Count Week. Total number of individuals = 2859.

Observers: 20 observers in field in 15 parties (4 observers in 3 parties in MN, 16 observers in 11 parties in ND), plus 21 observers at feeders (2 in MN, 18 in ND).

Time and Distance: 8:00 AM to 5:00 P.M. Total party-hours by Field Participants = 55.3 and total party miles = 646.5 (3 hours and 2.5 miles on foot; 52.3 hours and 644 miles by car). 57 hours were spent by 21 observers watching feeders. (For EGF part of count: 2 feeder watchers for 8 hours; 9.5 hours and 48 miles by car; 0.75 hours and 0.5 miles on foot).

Participants in Field:

In Minnesota: Terry and Joanne Johnson, Dave Lambeth, and Gladwyn Lynne. *In North Dakota:* Sandy and Tim Aubol, Carl and Shelby Barrentine, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Jane Croeker, Tim Driscoll, Kurt Ellwanger, Dave Lambeth, Gary Masilko, Rolf Paulson, Russ and Pat Wilber, Bob and Nikki Seabloom, Matthew Spoor, Art Young.

Feeder Watchers: *In Minnesota:* Tim Aubol, Sandy Martens. *In North Dakota:* Julie Abrahamson, Patti Alleva, Carl Barrentine, Barb Carlson, Jane Croeker, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, David Berg, Erik Fritzell, Julie Gladwin, Mary Jane Henneman, Gordon and Trudy Iseminger, Cec Lambeth, AJ Miller, Ed and Bette Olson, Ronda Poellot, Julia Wallin, Matt Wallace

Weather: Temperature range: -20 to -3 deg F. Wind southerly, 8-15 mph. Clear skies. No precipitation. 8 inches snow - pack. Still water frozen. There were areas of open water in 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 56th Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC. Forty-four species were found on Count Day, and an additional two species during Count week to give a total of 46.

Very cold temperatures along with the wind produced wind chills in the -40 deg range at the start of the count. This along with the snow pack severely limited coverage on foot. This made finding birds difficult and may partially account for a number of species tallied in lower than average numbers. The 2016 CBC was preceded by an unusually mild fall in which the average temperature in November was 14.7 deg above normal. Open water was widespread to the end of November. However, temperatures plummeted and heavy snow occurred ahead of Count Week. The coldest temperature of the year was on the day of the count. A 15+ inch snowfall closed unplowed (minimum maintenance roads) to travel.

The **Long-eared Owl** found by Sandy and Tim Aubol near Dakota Kennels was a **first** for the count. Common Raven was recorded by 3 different parties and may no longer merit bold-facing. There was a good number of Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls (15 each) despite the blustery conditions that may have kept Snowy Owls down and out of sight. Purple Finch staged the 2nd highest total ever (there were 52 in 1995). Both Northern Cardinal and Red-bellied Woodpecker were near their all-time highs. Although there was a good number of American Goldfinch, there were few Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins with other Northern finches being absent. There was not a diversity of waterfowl (some species might have been present and missed because of the fog over the open water at the lagoons). Notably absent was Red-winged Blackbird and White-throated Sparrow. The latter, usually present on the UND campus, was missing for the first time since 1997. The total of 2853 birds counted was the lowest total since the 1960s and House Sparrows continued their long-term decline. Throughout the 1970s into the early 1990s, their numbers frequently were in the 4000-9000 range.

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.