

SUMMARY
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 17, 2017

Note: Species names that are bold-faced have been seen five or fewer times.

	TOTAL	MN	ND
Canada Goose	2500	2500	0
Mallard	21	21	0
Redhead	1	0	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	25	0	25
Gray Partridge	33	7	26
Sharp-tailed Grouse	53	0	53
Greater Prairie-Chicken	8	0	8
Rock Pigeon	2000	150	1850
Eurasian Collared-Dove	21	0	21
Bald Eagle	6	2	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	0
Red-tailed Hawk	2	0	2
Great Horned Owl	4	1	3
Snowy Owl	5	1	4
Barred Owl	1	0	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	0	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	1	2
Downy Woodpecker	34	4	30
Hairy Woodpecker	17	3	14
Northern Flicker	5	1	4
Pileated Woodpecker	4	0	4
American Kestrel	1	0	1
Merlin	1	0	1
Northern Shrike	3	1	2
Blue Jay	29	13	16
Black-billed Magpie	3	0	3
American Crow	257	82	175
Common Raven	1	0	1
Horned Lark	1	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	220	25	195
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	3	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	61	8	53
Brown Creeper	1	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	CW	0	CW
American Robin	28	8	20
European Starling	364	100	264
Bohemian Waxwing	8	0	8
Cedar Waxwing	55	49	6
Lapland Longspur	4	0	4
Snow Bunting	100	0	100
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	235	42	193

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	2	0	2
Harris's Sparrow	4	1	3
White-throated Sparrow	3	0	3
White-crowned Sparrow	CW	0	CW
Fox Sparrow	1	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	CW	0	CW
Northern Cardinal	5	4	1
Pine Grosbeak	2	2	0
House Finch	150	31	119
Purple Finch	12	0	12
Common Redpoll	574	174	400
Hoary Redpoll	3	2	1
Pine Siskin	28	0	28
American Goldfinch	1	0	1
House Sparrow	399	47	352

Species Summary: On Count Day, total of 52 species. There were 3 additional Count Week species giving a total of 55 species. In addition, one race (Oregon Junco) observed during Count Week. Total number of individuals = 6544.

Observers: 23 observers in field in 14 parties (4 observers in 2 parties in MN, 19 observers in 12 parties in ND), plus 16 observers at feeders (2 in MN, 14 in ND).

Effort: 8:00 AM to 5:00 P.M. Total party-hours by Field Participants = 61.25 and total party miles = 465. (49 hours and 447 miles in cars, 8 hours and 11 miles on foot, 3 hours and 5 miles on skis, 1.25 hours and 2 miles snowshoeing). 1.5 hours and 1.5 miles on foot owling. A total of 64 hours were spent by 16 feeder watchers.

(Of the above, the effort in MN: 3 feeder watchers and 12 hours. 7.5 hours and 65 miles by car, 0.5 hours and 1 mile on foot.)

Participants in Field:

In Minnesota: Terry and Joanne Johnson, Dave Lambeth, and Bruce Kiefenheim. *In North Dakota:* Sandy Aubol, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Charlie Christianson, Jane Croeker, Ann Flower, Nick Goodman, Will Gosnold, Deb Hanson, Catherine Johnson, Judy Johnson, Calla Olson, Rolf Paulson, Russ and Pat Wilber, Bob and Nikki Seabloom, Matthew Spoor, Art Young, Bill Zaks.

Feeder Watchers:, *In Minnesota:* Tim Aubol, Sandy Martens, Diane Wales. *In North Dakota:* Julie Abrahamson, Patti Alleva, Adam Chambers, Aileen Combs, Jane Croeker, David Berg, Erik Fritzell, Julie Gladwin, Gordon and Trudy Iseminger, Cec Lambeth, AJ Miller, Keith Tryznka.

Weather: Temperature range: 10 to 29 deg F. Wind southerly, 5-14 mph. Clear skies. 4 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 57th Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC. Fifty-two species were found on Count Day, and an additional three species during Count Week, to give a total of 55. This was the 5th time that 50 or more species were recorded on Count Day.

The conditions for counting were excellent because of low wind velocity and a temperature range that was favorable for participants to be out and about. Most minimum maintenance roads in the country were passable. There was very good coverage of the Greater Grand Forks Greenway, even on skis and showshoes (thanks to Jane Croeker!). The 2017 CBC was preceded by a generally mild fall and early winter.

The most notable records were: The 3rd record for Fox Sparrow, one had been coming to Erik Fritzell's feeder for several days. The second record for Redhead, a female at the Grand Forks lagoons. The first record was a drake at the Crystal Sugar ponds in 2015. The 4th record for Brown-headed Cowbird, a male seen by Deb Hanson during Count Week. And Barred Owl recorded for just the 4th time. This owl had been found by Sandy Aubol early in the Count Week and was relocated on Count Day by Jane Croeker. This species along with Northern Saw-whet Owl and Common Raven may be becoming regular on our CBCs. The saw-whet responded to recordings played in the woodland between Lincoln Golf Course and the former Koininia area. On the other hand, recordings of Eastern Screech-Owl played at five locations with suitable habitat elicited no response, further raising concern that this species may no longer be a regular within the count circle. At least five Snowy Owls were within the circle, and one was located less than a mile outside. Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owls, sometimes each present in double-digit numbers, were no-shows this year.

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