

SUMMARY
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC
December 15, 2019

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

	Total	MN	ND
Canada Goose	CW	CW	
Mallard	18	18	
Ring-necked Pheasant	5		5
Gray Partridge	69		69
Sharp-tailed Grouse	45		45
Greater Prairie-Chicken	CW		CW
Rock Pigeon	1314	505	809
Eurasian Collared-Dove	10		10
Bald Eagle	7	1	6
Red-tailed Hawk	CW		CW
Rough-legged Hawk	CW		CW
Great Horned Owl	4	1	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1		1
Downy Woodpecker	35	11	24
Hairy Woodpecker	22	5	17
Pileated Woodpecker	2		2
Northern Flicker	CW		CW
American Kestrel	1	1	
Merlin	2		2
Northern Shrike	6		6
Blue Jay	14	3	11
Black-billed Magpie	14		14
American Crow	255	70	185
Common Raven	3	1	2
Horned Lark	7		7
Black-capped Chickadee	174	45	129
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	1	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	35	12	23
American Robin	10	9	1
European Starling	113	10	103
Cedar Waxwing	72	2	70
House Finch	171	18	153
Purple Finch	5		5
Common Redpoll	1		1
Pine Siskin	332	30	302
American Goldfinch	1		1
Snow Bunting	210	10	200
Lapland Longspur	18		18
American Tree Sparrow	1		1

	TOTAL	MN	ND
Fox Sparrow	1		1
Song Sparrow	1		1
Harris's Sparrow	1		1
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	158	57	101
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	3	2	1
White-throated Sparrow	4		4
Red-winged Blackbird	3		3
Rusty Blackbird	1		1
Common Grackle	1		1
Northern Cardinal	13	5	8
House Sparrow	480	238	242

Species Summary: On Count Day, total of 44 species plus one race (Oregon Junco). There were 5 additional Count Week species giving a total of 49 species. Total number of individuals = 3648 .

Observers: 25 observers in field in 12 parties (5 observers in 2 parties in MN, 20 observers in 10 parties in ND), plus 15 observers at feeding stations (3 in MN, 12 in ND).

Effort: 8:00 AM to 5:00 P.M. Total party-hours by Field Participants = 53.7 and total party miles = 635 (52.7 hours and 632 miles in cars, 1 hours and 2 miles on foot. One hour of nocturnal birding using playbacks for owls. A total of 57 hours was spent by feeder watchers.

Participants in Field:

In Minnesota: Terry and Joanne Johnson, Bruce Kiefenheim, Dave Lambeth, and Ryan Mandelbaum. *In North Dakota:* Sandy Aubol, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Jane Croeker, Ron Franz, Erik Fritzell, Karen George, Deb Hanson, Mary Jane Hennemann, Catherine Johnson, Judy Johnson, Mike Jacobs, Dave Lambeth, Lynda Lafond, Ryan Mandelbaum, Rolf Paulson, Bob Seabloom, Diane Wales, Pat Wilber, Russ Wilber, Bill Zaks, Megan Zopfi.

Feeder Watchers: *In Minnesota:* Tim and Sandy Aubol, Sandy Martens. *In North Dakota:* Julie and Harmon Abrahamson, David Berg, Elizabeth Delgado, Erik Fritzell, Julie Gladwin, Kathy Hertel, Cec Lambeth, AJ Miller, Rolf Paulson, Rhonda Poellot.

Weather: Temperature range: -5 to 14 deg F. Winds southerly, 10-15 mph. Cloudy skies. Trace of snow. Still water frozen. There were areas of open water on Red River and Red Lake River, and Crystal Sugar lagoons in MN.

Comments:

This was the 59th Grand Forks – East Grand Forks CBC. Forty-four species were found on Count Day, and an additional five species during Count Week, to give a total of 49.

Because of low temperatures and moderate winds counting was done from cars and at feeder stations. Above average snowfall to some extent prevented travel on minimum maintenance road. The 2019 CBC was preceded by heavy snow fall in early October and early December. A very wet fall prevented harvesting of crops. There were several fields of standing corn and at least one field of sunflowers within the count circle.

Changes in water management at the Grand Forks lagoons accounts for the lack of waterfowl there. A sizeable flock of Canada Goose at the Crystal Sugar ponds could not be found Count Day. Birds were very scarce in open country where several species were absent or seen in very low numbers. Snowy Owl was not recorded Count Day or Count Week for the first time in 50 years. Snow Buntings were scarce and there was only one Common Redpoll. Yet Pine Siskins were numerous at some but not all feeders. Northern Cardinal continues to increase with six being recorded at one feeding station. House Sparrows were seen at only six of 15 feeding stations.

Fox Sparrow was recorded for the 5th time. The same feeder (Mona and Harley Leake's) also had a Song Sparrow and a White-throated Sparrow. This is the same feeding station that had both Scarlet Tanager and Western Tanager in early November!

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 and the Minnesota Ornithological Union.

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