

Sussex Christmas Bird Count

The 63rd annual Sussex CBC took place on Sunday 12/14. I'd like to thank everyone who participated and give a special thanks to Merle and Roger Tanis for hosting the wrap-up once again.

We had a total of 85 species on count day and another 6 during count week. It seemed like a slow day but most songbird totals were well within their normal range. Carolina wrens, which normally take a hit after a harsh winter, were actually seen in above average numbers.

- Count week horned grebe, cackling goose, and Iceland gull were noted.
- Only three snow geese were seen, down from 2918 in 2013.
- We had 8420 Canada geese, far exceeding the previous high of 5893 set last year.
- Two canvasbacks were seen, the first for the count since 2002.
- Three count week long-tailed ducks. This species has only been seen on count day twice (1973, 1992) but has been recorded on count week 6 times just since 2003.
- We saw 177 black vultures, which beat the old high of 141 from 2007.
- One merlin was seen, only the third time for this species.
- A count week peregrine was at Hyper Humus. This species has only been seen once on count day back in 1986.
- Culver Lake had 110 American coots, not a record but the highest total in 30 years.
- Two long-eared owls were heard, one by Jim Zamos behind his house and the other by Roger Johnson on Price Rd.
- We had 162 downy woodpeckers, beating the old record of 152 set in 1998.
- Twenty pileated woodpeckers was also a record. The old high was 18 in 2007.
- Two eastern phoebes, 2 gray catbirds, and a chipping sparrow were seen.
- American crows were out in force with 1802, which beat the old high of 1662 from 1995.
- A total of 70 fish crows nearly doubled the old high of 37 from 2010.

Alan Boyd, compiler

Common Loon		Ring-billed Gull	4929	Dickcissel	
D-C Cormorant		Herring Gull	174	Eastern Towhee	
Horned Grebe	CW	Iceland Gull	CW	Tree Sparrow	203
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Glaucous Gull		Chipping Sparrow	1
Gr. Blue Heron	14	Ls. Bl-backed Gull		Field Sparrow	2
Mute Swan	44	Gr. Black-backed Gull	2	Lark Sparrow	
Tundra Swan		Rock Pigeon	607	Fox Sparrow	CW
Snow Goose	3	Mourning Dove	301	Song Sparrow	118
Canada Goose	8420	E. Screech Owl	11	Swamp Sparrow	5
Cackling Goose	CW	Gr. Horned Owl	10	Wh.-thr Sparrow	238
Wood Duck	2	Snowy Owl		Wh.-cr Sparrow	2
Gn. Winged Teal		Barred Owl	2	Dark-eyed Junco	819
Black Duck	73	Long-eared Owl	2	Lapland Longspur	
Mallard	388	Short-eared Owl		Snow Bunting	
N. Pintail	1	Saw-whet Owl		Red-wg. Blackbird	5
Bl. Winged Teal		Belted Kingfisher	8	E. Meadowlark	
N. Shoveler		Red-head Wood.		Rusty Blackbird	
Gadwall	15	Red-bell. Wood.	65	Com. Grackle	7
Amer. Wigeon	6	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	7	Br.-head. Cowbird	2
Canvasback	2	Downy Woodpecker	162	B. Oriole	
Redhead		Hairy Woodpecker	18	Pine Grosbeak	
Ring-necked Duck	67	N. Flicker	35	Purple Finch	1
Lesser Scaup	1	Pileated Wood.	20	House Finch	174
Long-tailed Duck	CW	E. Phoebe	2	Red Crossbill	
Com. Goldeneye	35	Horned Lark		Wh.-wing. Crossbill	
Bufflehead	30	Blue Jay	194	Com. Redpoll	
Hooded Merganser	52	Amer. Crow	1802	Pine Siskin	
Com. Merganser	265	Fish Crow	70	Amer. Goldfinch	124
Red-Br. Merganser		Common Raven	2	Evening Grosbeak	
Ruddy Duck	138	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	326	House Sparrow	382
Black Vulture	177	Tufted Titmouse	253		
Turkey Vulture	87	Red-br. Nuthatch			
Bald Eagle	6	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	155	Total Species	85
N. Harrier	6	Brown Creeper	7	Count Week	6
Sharp-shin Hawk	7	Carolina Wren	66	Total Individuals	25229
Cooper's Hawk	5	Winter Wren	4		
N. Goshawk		Marsh Wren			
Red Should. Hawk		Gold.-cr. Kinglet	5	Parties	13
Red-tailed Hawk	86	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	Observers	29
Rough-leg Hawk		E. Bluebird	205		
Golden Eagle		Hermit Thrush	5		
Amer. Kestrel	2	Amer. Robin	35	Low Temperature	35
Merlin	1	Gray Catbird	2	High Temperature	43
Peregrine	CW	N. Mockingbird	38	A.M. Skies	O/C
Pheasant	CW	Brown Thrasher		P.M. Skies	O/C
Wild Turkey	108	Amer. Pipit		Winds	8-15 mph
N. Bobwhite		Cedar Waxwing	10		
King Rail		N. Shrike			
Va. Rail		Starling	3307		
Sora		Yel.-Rump Warbler	7		
Amer. Coot	110	Com. Yellowthroat			
Killdeer	2	Pine Warbler			
Wilson's Snipe	1	N. Cardinal	139		

Participants by Area – Sussex CBC 12/14/2014

Area 1 Sandy McPhail, Karyn Cichocki

Area 2 Fred Weber

Area 3 Marianne Ofenloch, Giselle Smisko

Area 4 Wade Wander, Sharon Wander, Zuzu Wander

Area 5 Linda Matula, George Eschenbach

Area 6&7 Marge Barrett, Joe Burgiel

Area 8&9 Beverly Robertson, Glenn Mahler

Area 10&11 Dennis Briede, Alan Boyd

Area 12 Tom Halliwell, Roger Johnson, Hank Burk, Jim Zamos

Area 13&14 George Johnson, Rosemary Popa

Area 15 Ken Witkowski, Christine Sullivan

Area 16 Merle Tanis, Roger Tanis, Bill Warren

Area 17&18 Blais Brancheau, Bob Templin

12/14/2014

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Common Loon														0
Pied-billed Grebe		2											1	3
Red-necked Grebe														0
D-C Cormorant														0
Gr. Blue Heron	2		1	1				5	1	1		3		14
Gr. Egret														0
Mute Swan	3	10					2		6			3	20	44
Tundra Swan														0
Snow Goose				1			1	1						3
Canada Goose	768	2650	947	238	176	180	1565	1280	150	293	43	117	13	8,420
Cackling Goose														0
Wood Duck										2				2
Black Duck		30	2		6		4	6	10		5	10		73
Mallard	50	57	6		29	52	7	52	20	39	38	16	22	388
N. Pintail											1			1
Gn. Winged Teal														0
Blue-winged Teal														0
Gadwall			15											15
Amer. Wigeon								6						6
Canvasback		2												2
Redhead														0
Ring-necked Duck		40								24			3	67
Lesser Scaup		1												1
Long-tailed Duck														0
Com. Goldeneye		35												35
Bufflehead		30												30
Hooded Merganser							16	17			7	12		52
Com. Merganser		32	3					130					100	265
Red-br. Merganser														0
Ruddy Duck	5	100						1					32	138
Black Vulture	1	75	19		27	3	12	13	14	1	1	8	3	177
Turkey Vulture	1	1	1	2	19	4	21	2	6	5	2	4	19	87
Bald Eagle								2	1		1	2		6
N. Harrier				1		1	3		1					6
Sharp-shin Hawk	1		1					1	1		1	2		7

12/14/2014

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Cooper's Hawk			1					1	2			1		5
N. Goshawk														0
Red Should. Hawk														0
Red-tailed Hawk	7	4	8	8	7	6	12	7	10	5	4	2	6	86
Rough-leg Hawk														0
Golden Eagle														0
Amer. Kestrel					1				1					2
Merlin							1							1
Pheasant														0
Ruffed Grouse														0
Wild Turkey		10			40		37		2	6		13		108
N. Bobwhite														0
King Rail														0
Va. Rail														0
Sora														0
Amer. Coot		110												110
Killdeer										2				2
Snipe										1				1
Amer. Woodcock														0
Ring-billed Gull	2	4000	5	2	6	3	97	101	140	52	2	19	500	4,929
Herring Gull		120	3				2	10	10		4		25	174
Iceland Gull														0
Ls. BI-backed Gull														0
Glaucous Gull														0
Gr. BI-Backed Gull		1											1	2
Rock Pigeon	35	50	45	47	7	28	20	190	20	140			25	607
Mourning Dove	79	10	11	17	2	58	18	14	20	10	1	54	7	301
Barn Owl														0
E. Screech Owl		1						1	9					11
Gr. Horned Owl	4	2					1	1	2					10
Snowy Owl														0
Barred Owl						1			1					2
Long-eared Owl									2					2
Short-eared Owl														0
Saw-whet Owl														0

12/14/2014

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Belted Kingfisher	1		1		1			2	1		1		1	8
Red-head Wood.														0
Red-bell. Wood.	4	1	6	3	11	10	2	4	11	2	1	6	4	65
Yel-bell. Sapsucker			2		2		1	1				1		7
Downy Woodpecker	18	9	14	8	33	10	5	13	15		5	23	9	162
Hairy Woodpecker	3	1	2		2			3	1	1	2	3		18
N. Flicker	4	1	3	1	7		3	6	5	1	1	3		35
Pileated Wood.	3	1	1	2				3	2		2	4	2	20
E. Phoebe								1				1		2
Horned Lark														0
Blue Jay	28	14	11	29	36	10	15	8	17	1	4	7	14	194
Amer. Crow	66	75	481	127	68	58	81	203	41	31	18	28	525	1,802
Fish Crow			24						3				43	70
Common Raven						2								2
Bl.-cap. Chickadee	22	15	37	12	31	25	23	29	30	5	19	53	25	326
Tufted Titmouse	15	13	38	4	23	28	9	11	19		9	59	25	253
Red-br. Nuthatch														0
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	13	16	21	5	15	8	11	9	9	1	10	18	19	155
Brown Creeper								2	3			2		7
Carolina Wren	21	3	11	3	9	2	1	3	3		2		8	66
Winter Wren					2				2					4
Marsh Wren														0
Gold.-cr. Kinglet	1							2	2					5
Ruby-cr. Kinglet			1			1								2
E. Bluebird	29	12	24	15	20	3	21	27	16	8	4	20	6	205
Hermit Thrush	1		1		2			1						5
Amer. Robin	17				1	2	5	3	2	4			1	35
Gray Catbird	1									1				2
N. Mockingbird	9	2	3	1	3	5	3	5	2	1	3		1	38
Brown Thrasher														0
Amer. Pipit														0
Cedar Waxwing		10												10
N. Shrike														0
Starling	65	16	560	320	7	240	210	341	360	1070		20	98	3,307
Yel.-Rump Warbler							2	4	1					7

12/14/2014

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Pine Warbler														0
Yel.-br Chat														0
N. Cardinal	17	1	16	6	18	8	12	27	16	1	2	9	6	139
Dickcissel														0
Eastern Towhee														0
Tree Sparrow	29	10	40	7	12	2	30	10	57		3	3		203
Chipping Sparrow	1													1
Field Sparrow											2			2
Vesper Sparrow														0
Savannah Sparrow														0
Fox Sparrow														0
Song Sparrow	14	6	11	3	10	7	16	8	32	4	2	3	2	118
Swamp Sparrow				1				2	2					5
Lark Sparrow														0
Wh.-thr Sparrow	34	8	27	13	39	14	11	60	5		6	19	2	238
Wh.-cr Sparrow				2										2
Dark-eyed Junco	51	42	85	55	181	51	73	54	48	6	50	67	56	819
Lapland Longspur														0
Snow Bunting														0
Red-wg. Blackbird			2		1				2					5
E. Meadowlark														0
Rusty Blackbird														0
Com. Grackle					7									7
Br.-head. Cowbird					2									2
B. Oriole														0
Pine Grosbeak														0
Purple Finch	1													1
House Finch	32	6	6	10	18	17		8	63	7		6	1	174
Com. Redpoll														0
Pine Siskin														0
Amer. Goldfinch	10		11	8	6	4	3	31	6		23	8	14	124
Evening Grosbeak														0
House Sparrow	78	32	60	16	63	52	15	14	10	1	15	20	6	382
TOTAL SPECIES	42	46	44	32	40	32	38	52	53	31	35	38	37	

NUM. OF YRS. EACH SPECIES WAS SEEN AND HIGH COUNT. ' 0-0' BIRDS WERE COUNT WEEK ONLY.

SPECIES	YRS	HIGH	SPECIES	YRS	HIGH	SPECIES	YRS	HIGH
Common Loon	11	3	N. Bobwhite	5	12	Swainson's Thrush	1	1
Red-throated Loon	2	1	King Rail	0	0	Hermit Thrush	34	23
Pied-billed Grebe	33	25	Va. Rail	28	6	Amer. Robin	58	2473
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Sora	2	2	Gray Catbird	19	3
Horned Grebe	11	13	Common Gallinule	2	1	N. Mockingbird	57	159
D.C. Cormorant	5	2	Amer. Coot	37	228	Brown Thrasher	6	2
Amer. Bittern	3	1	Killdeer	44	21	Amer. Pipit	6	80
Gr. Blue Heron	50	30	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	Cedar Waxwing	48	545
Gr. Egret	0	0	Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	N. Shrike	20	6
Tundra Swan	4	8	Wilson's Snipe	52	30	Loggerhead Shrike	6	2
Mute Swan	58	236	Amer. Woodcock	13	2	Starling	62	23183
Gr. Wh-Front. Goose	1	1	Ring-billed Gull	45	7526	Nashville Warbler	1	1
Snow Goose	21	8110	Herring Gull	56	3315	Cape May Warbler	3	1
Brant	3	3	Kumlien's Gull	1	1	Yel.-Rump Warbler	39	235
Canada Goose	45	8420	Iceland Gull	12	2	Pine Warbler	1	1
Cackling Goose	2	2	Ls. Bl-backed Gull	16	4	No. Waterthrush	1	1
Wood Duck	36	20	Glaucous Gull	3	2	Com. Yellowthroat	1	1
Gn. Winged Teal	23	19	Gr. Bl-Backed Gull	32	316	Yel.-br Chat	0	0
Black Duck	62	314	Rock Dove	32	1101	N. Cardinal	62	250
Mallard	61	888	Mourning Dove	62	1145	Dickcissel	2	3
N. Pintail	14	6	Barn Owl	13	2	Eastern Towhee	23	4
Bl. Winged Teal	5	6	E. Screech Owl	56	20	Tree Sparrow	63	1445
N. Shoveler	5	2	Gr. Horned Owl	51	36	Chipping Sparrow	14	6
Gadwall	18	44	Snowy Owl	2	1	Field Sparrow	40	33
Eurasian Wigeon	1	2	Barred Owl	27	5	Vesper Sparrow	5	8
Amer. Wigeon	16	57	Long-eared Owl	20	7	Lark Sparrow	2	1
Canvasback	20	38	Short-eared Owl	1	2	Sav. Sparrow	7	4
Redhead	14	18	Saw-whet Owl	3	1	Fox Sparrow	38	51
Ring-necked Duck	43	285	Belted Kingfisher	61	28	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1
Greater Scaup	2	8	Red-head Wood.	27	9	Song Sparrow	63	230
Lesser Scaup	26	36	Red-bell. Wood.	51	80	Swamp Sparrow	60	69
Long-tailed Duck	2	1	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	30	13	Wh.-thr Sparrow	63	617
Com. Goldeneye	44	200	Downy Woodpecker	63	162	Wh.-cr Sparrow	28	69
Bufflehead	30	40	Hairy Woodpecker	63	35	Dark-eyed Junco	63	1422
Hooded Merganser	43	127	N. Flicker	58	74	McCown's Longspur	1	1
Com. Merganser	51	4193	Pileated Wood.	50	20	Lapland Longspur	8	8
Red-breasted Merg.	6	2	E. Phoebe	10	2	Snow Bunting	12	120
Ruddy Duck	28	347	Horned Lark	41	991	Red-wg. Blackbird	59	1288
Black Vulture	22	177	Blue Jay	63	593	E. Meadowlark	37	160
Turkey Vulture	28	156	Amer. Crow	63	1802	Rusty Blackbird	42	372
Bald Eagle	22	8	Fish Crow	11	70	Brewer's Blackbird	1	1
N. Harrier	39	12	Common Raven	13	10	Com. Grackle	49	2642
Sharp-shin Hawk	44	16	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	63	716	Br.-head. Cowbird	59	2095
Cooper's Hawk	40	13	Boreal Chickadee	2	5	B. Oriole	8	2
N. Goshawk	10	1	Tufted Titmouse	63	333	Pine Grosbeak	5	127
Red Should. Hawk	22	4	Red-br. Nuthatch	43	103	Purple Finch	57	438
Red-tailed Hawk	63	138	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	63	179	House Finch	50	1036
Rough-leg Hawk	27	7	Brown Creeper	53	21	Red Crossbill	4	16
Golden Eagle	0	0	Carolina Wren	44	84	Wh.-wing. Crossbill	2	1
Amer. Kestrel	60	67	Winter Wren	33	10	Com. Redpoll	22	443
Merlin	3	2	Sedge Wren	1	1	Pine Siskin	33	281
Peregrine	1	1	Marsh Wren	9	2	Amer. Goldfinch	63	410
Gyrfalcon	0	0	Gold.-cr. Kinglet	58	143	Bl.-Headed Grosbeak	0	0
Pheasant	53	61	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	40	19	Evening Grosbeak	35	485
Ruffed Grouse	43	9	E. Bluebird	44	307	House Sparrow	63	3028
Wild Turkey	27	360	Gr.-cheeked Thrush	1	1	Monk Parakeet	1	1
						Bl.-hooded Parakeet	1	1