

## **Sussex Christmas Bird Count**

The 64th annual Sussex CBC took place on Sunday 12/20. 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 82 species on count day and 4 more during count week. Over the last twenty-five years the totals for this count have consistently been in the upper 80's to low 90's. The lack of snow cover and lake ice this year may have caused to birds to be spread out more and be tougher to pin down. Relatively low numbers of snow geese and Canada geese are probably due to this.

- A double-crested cormorant was found in Hyper Humus. This is only the sixth record for the count and all have been since 1991.
- A cackling goose was noted. This species, which was split from Canada goose in 2004, has been seen three of the last four years.
- Wood duck was missed for only the second time since 1990.
- Mallard and black duck totals were the lowest since the mid-1980's.
- However, gadwall numbers were the second highest ever - due mainly to one large flock in the Sparta area. Gadwall was not recorded on the count until 1979.
- A hen black scoter that had been noted on Culver Lake off and on since November 18 resurfaced on December 18 to become the first scoter of ANY species to ever appear on the count or count week. A drake surf scoter had been seen on Culver as recently as December 14, making it too early for count week consideration.
- Two long-tailed ducks were seen on Culver Lake on December 19, qualifying it for count week. This species has only been recorded twice on count day - in 1973 and 1992. But it has been seen on count week seven times in the past thirteen years.
- A record seventy-six buffleheads were seen, mainly on Culver Lake. In a normal winter the lake ice might have pushed them further south by now.
- A hen red-breasted merganser also made an appearance on Culver Lake for count week. This species has only been noted on count day six times.
- Sixteen bald eagles were observed, doubling the old record of eight set back in 2009. These birds cover some ground during the course of the day and the same individuals may have been counted by more than one party. But this is still a substantial increase over previous years.

- American kestrel was missed for only the third time in count history. It was not seen on the very first count in 1952, and then again in 2005. This species has declined considerably - the count high of sixty-seven was recorded in 1974.
- Two merlins were seen. They are now at least as common in winter as kestrels.
- A Virginia rail made a half-hearted response to a taped call at the upper end of Paulinskill Lake. The warmer weather is no doubt responsible was this bird lingering so long into winter.
- Two eastern phoebes were noted. This is the fifth year in a row they have appeared on the count.
- Nine ravens on the count almost tied the count high of ten set in 2008.
- Both kinglets came in low with golden-crowned and ruby-crowned at one each.
- Robins seem to everywhere this warm winter. We set a new high for the species with three-thousand nine-hundred twenty-two recorded.
- A chipping sparrow and an eastern towhee were also seen.
- White-crowned sparrow was a puzzling miss on this year's count. Although usually not seen in large numbers, it was only missed one other time - 2002 - in the last twenty-six years.

Thanks to everyone for participating! Next year's count will be on Sunday December 18.

**Alan Boyd, compiler**

Common Loon		Ring-billed Gull	5629	Dickcissel	
D-C Cormorant	1	Herring Gull	184	Eastern Towhee	1
Horned Grebe		Iceland Gull		Tree Sparrow	178
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Glaucous Gull		Chipping Sparrow	1
Gr. Blue Heron	8	Ls. Bl-backed Gull		Field Sparrow	8
Mute Swan	62	Gr. Black-backed Gull	3	Lark Sparrow	
Tundra Swan		Rock Pigeon	268	Fox Sparrow	17
Snow Goose	13	Mourning Dove	273	Song Sparrow	107
Canada Goose	3177	E. Screech Owl	8	Swamp Sparrow	3
Cackling Goose	1	Gr. Horned Owl	2	Wh.-thr Sparrow	277
Wood Duck		Snowy Owl		Wh.-cr Sparrow	
Gn. Winged Teal		Barred Owl		Dark-eyed Junco	1076
Black Duck	43	Long-eared Owl		Lapland Longspur	
Mallard	281	Short-eared Owl		Snow Bunting	
N. Pintail		Saw-whet Owl		Red-wg. Blackbird	785
Bl. Winged Teal		Belted Kingfisher	6	E. Meadowlark	
N. Shoveler		Red-head Wood.		Rusty Blackbird	2
Gadwall	34	Red-bell. Wood.	67	Com. Grackle	625
Amer. Wigeon	12	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	4	Br.-head. Cowbird	2482
Canvasback		Downy Woodpecker	99	B. Oriole	
Redhead	7	Hairy Woodpecker	16	Pine Grosbeak	
Ring-necked Duck	11	N. Flicker	24	Purple Finch	32
Black Scoter	CW	Pileated Wood.	13	House Finch	138
Long-tailed Duck	CW	E. Phoebe	2	Red Crossbill	
Com. Goldeneye	75	Horned Lark	14	Wh.-wing. Crossbill	
Bufflehead	76	Blue Jay	376	Com. Redpoll	
Hooded Merganser	86	Amer. Crow	1753	Pine Siskin	
Com. Merganser	161	Fish Crow	67	Amer. Goldfinch	163
Red-Br. Merganser	CW	Common Raven	9	Evening Grosbeak	
Ruddy Duck	133	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	197	House Sparrow	417
Black Vulture	138	Tufted Titmouse	209		
Turkey Vulture	133	Red-br. Nuthatch			
Bald Eagle	16	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	146	Total Species	82
N. Harrier	2	Brown Creeper	6	Count Week	4
Sharp-shin Hawk	6	Carolina Wren	10	Total Individuals	33184
Cooper's Hawk	5	Winter Wren	5		
N. Goshawk		Marsh Wren			
Red Should. Hawk		Gold.-cr. Kinglet	1	Parties	13
Red-tailed Hawk	56	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1	Observers	31
Rough-leg Hawk		E. Bluebird	192		
Golden Eagle		Hermit Thrush	8		
Amer. Kestrel		Amer. Robin	3922	Low Temperature	34
Merlin	2	Gray Catbird	1	High Temperature	40
Peregrine		N. Mockingbird	42	A.M. Skies	P/C
Pheasant		Brown Thrasher		P.M. Skies	P/C
Wild Turkey	111	Amer. Pipit		Winds	5-10 mph
N. Bobwhite		Cedar Waxwing	86		
King Rail		N. Shrike			
Va. Rail	1	Starling	8423		
Sora		Yel.-Rump Warbler	13		
Amer. Coot	CW	Com. Yellowthroat			
Killdeer		Pine Warbler			
Wilson's Snipe		N. Cardinal	141		

**Participants by Area – Sussex CBC 12/20/2015**

**Area 1** Sandy McPhail, Karyn Cichocki

**Area 2** Fred Weber, Jack Padalino

**Area 3** Marianne Ofenloch, Grace Gordon, Jake Barta

**Area 4** Wade Wander, Sharon Wander, Zuzu Wander

**Area 5** Donna Traylor, Don Traylor

**Area 6&7** Marge Barrett, Joe Burgiel, Roberta Bramhall, Bob Barth

**Area 8&9** Ken Witkowski

**Area 10&11** Dennis Briede, Alan Boyd

**Area 12** Tom Halliwell, Roger Johnson, Hank Burk

**Area 13&14** George Johnson, Rosemary Popa, Bob Bradley

**Area 15** Ken Witkowski

**Area 16** Merle Tanis, Roger Tanis, Bill Warren

**Area 17&18** Blais Brancheau, Bob Templin, Lori Krieger

12/20/2015

## 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		1												1
Red-necked Grebe														0
D-C Cormorant									1					1
Gr. Blue Heron	1		1					1		1	1		3	8
Gr. Egret														0
Mute Swan	6	8			2		5	2	23	2	2	8	4	62
Tundra Swan														0
Snow Goose												13		13
Canada Goose	446	400	161	235	5	28	301	817	225	362	61	94	42	3,177
Cackling Goose				1										1
Wood Duck														0
Black Duck		10	27					2	3			1		43
Mallard	40	60	10		8		6	32	27	16	8	27	47	281
N. Pintail														0
Gn. Winged Teal														0
Blue-winged Teal														0
Gadwall	5	1						2		26				34
Amer. Wigeon	11	1												12
Canvasback														0
Redhead													7	7
Ring-necked Duck		1									6	4		11
Lesser Scaup														0
Long-tailed Duck														0
Com. Goldeneye		75												75
Bufflehead		55									3		18	76
Hooded Merganser	1	6						10			7	13	49	86
Com. Merganser	1	16						141				3		161
Red-br. Merganser														0
Ruddy Duck		70								60			3	133
Black Vulture		90	23	3	5	4		9		2	1	1		138
Turkey Vulture		25	20	5	11	5	9	6	8	7	2	10	25	133
Bald Eagle	1	3	1		2		1	2	2	2	1	1		16
N. Harrier						1			1					2
Sharp-shin Hawk	1							1	1			1	2	6

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## 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	2							1	2					5
N. Goshawk														0
Red Should. Hawk														0
Red-tailed Hawk	2	9	7	5	7	4	4	8	6		1	1	2	56
Rough-leg Hawk														0
Golden Eagle														0
Amer. Kestrel														0
Merlin									2					2
Pheasant														0
Ruffed Grouse														0
Wild Turkey		20			19		29	4		3			36	111
N. Bobwhite														0
King Rail														0
Va. Rail								1						1
Sora														0
Amer. Coot														0
Killdeer														0
Snipe														0
Amer. Woodcock														0
Ring-billed Gull	131	4000	11	7	42		24	75	250	80	1	8	1000	5,629
Herring Gull		100	3	5				5	50		1		20	184
Iceland Gull														0
Ls. BI-backed Gull														0
Glaucous Gull														0
Gr. BI-Backed Gull		2							1					3
Rock Pigeon	41	60	41	13	17	13		9	40	17	14		3	268
Mourning Dove	7	1	9	25	15	42	2	19	105	8	33	5	2	273
Barn Owl														0
E. Screech Owl		2							6					8
Gr. Horned Owl								1	1					2
Snowy Owl														0
Barred Owl														0
Long-eared Owl														0
Short-eared Owl														0
Saw-whet Owl														0

12/20/2015

## 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	1	1				1	6
Red-head Wood.														0
Red-bell. Wood.	5	9	8	2	4	3	3	9	10	2	6	5	1	67
Yel-bell. Sapsucker					1			1	1			1		4
Downy Woodpecker	10	6	6	2	9	5	2	12	10	3	4	11	19	99
Hairy Woodpecker		2	1		1	1		5	2		1	1	2	16
N. Flicker	1	2	3					10	4	2		2		24
Pileated Wood.	2	2		1	1			4				1	2	13
E. Phoebe						1		1						2
Horned Lark	14													14
Blue Jay	27	50	11	56	18	14	4	53	50	4	17	34	38	376
Amer. Crow	20	40	996	126	20	46	13	55	78	42	8	22	287	1,753
Fish Crow			16						1				50	67
Common Raven		4	1								2		2	9
Bl.-cap. Chickadee	13	5	10	18	8	11	7	21	16	5	8	21	54	197
Tufted Titmouse	25	6	9	28	7	10		16	4	2	18	37	47	209
Red-br. Nuthatch														0
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	8	24	5	9	5	7	6	14	8	2	8	16	34	146
Brown Creeper		1						1	2		1	1		6
Carolina Wren				3	1			2	1				3	10
Winter Wren				1					3				1	5
Marsh Wren														0
Gold.-cr. Kinglet									1					1
Ruby-cr. Kinglet												1		1
E. Bluebird	18	40	8	15	4	6		13	30	46	3	8	1	192
Hermit Thrush		2		2				3					1	8
Amer. Robin	32	50	235	3	106	25	40	187	3000	57		39	148	3,922
Gray Catbird								1						1
N. Mockingbird	11	2	2	5	1	5	5	2	2	2	3	1	1	42
Brown Thrasher														0
Amer. Pipit														0
Cedar Waxwing		12	46	1	6			3		12			6	86
N. Shrike														0
Starling	61	500	3991	105	71	215	141	378	1800	1090	11	10	50	8,423
Yel.-Rump Warbler						5		4	4					13

12/20/2015

## 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	14	5	11	9	13	13	2	10	13	5	6	15	25	141
Dickcissel														0
Eastern Towhee									1					1
Tree Sparrow	36	15	5	9	21	3		46	39		1	3		178
Chipping Sparrow						1								1
Field Sparrow						7			1					8
Vesper Sparrow														0
Savannah Sparrow														0
Fox Sparrow		12				1			2		2			17
Song Sparrow	4	8	5	6	4	10	5	17	34			4	10	107
Swamp Sparrow								1	2					3
Lark Sparrow														0
Wh.-thr Sparrow	28	40	11	2	61	7	3	59	31			30	5	277
Wh.-cr Sparrow														0
Dark-eyed Junco	49	125	79	60	83	111	41	144	80	53	41	92	118	1,076
Lapland Longspur														0
Snow Bunting														0
Red-wg. Blackbird		2	100	77		5			600		1			785
E. Meadowlark														0
Rusty Blackbird	2													2
Com. Grackle			24				1		600					625
Br.-head. Cowbird		100	2332						50					2,482
B. Oriole														0
Pine Grosbeak														0
Purple Finch		12	1		1			13	5					32
House Finch	6	5	8	13	10	2	2	19	17	13	3	6	34	138
Com. Redpoll														0
Pine Siskin														0
Amer. Goldfinch	15	1	45	2	34	6	10	12	7		4	18	9	163
Evening Grosbeak														0
House Sparrow	56	70	28	5	40	64		36	15		5	18	80	417
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	



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	35	23
Pied-billed Grebe	34	25	Va. Rail	29	6	Amer. Robin	59	3922
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Sora	2	2	Gray Catbird	20	3
Horned Grebe	11	13	Common Gallinule	2	1	N. Mockingbird	58	159
D.C. Cormorant	6	2	Amer. Coot	37	228	Brown Thrasher	6	2
Amer. Bittern	3	1	Killdeer	44	21	Amer. Pipit	6	80
Gr. Blue Heron	51	30	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	Cedar Waxwing	49	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	59	236	Amer. Woodcock	13	2	Starling	63	23183
Gr. Wh-Front. Goose	1	1	Ring-billed Gull	46	7526	Nashville Warbler	1	1
Snow Goose	22	8110	Herring Gull	57	3315	Cape May Warbler	3	1
Brant	3	3	Kumlien's Gull	1	1	Yel.-Rump Warbler	40	235
Canada Goose	46	8420	Iceland Gull	12	2	Pine Warbler	1	1
Cackling Goose	3	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	33	316	Yel.-br Chat	0	0
Black Duck	63	314	Rock Dove	33	1101	N. Cardinal	63	250
Mallard	62	888	Mourning Dove	63	1145	Dickcissel	2	3
N. Pintail	14	6	Barn Owl	13	2	Eastern Towhee	24	4
Bl. Winged Teal	5	6	E. Screech Owl	57	20	Tree Sparrow	64	1445
N. Shoveler	5	2	Gr. Horned Owl	52	36	Chipping Sparrow	15	6
Gadwall	19	44	Snowy Owl	2	1	Field Sparrow	41	33
Eurasian Wigeon	1	2	Barred Owl	27	5	Vesper Sparrow	5	8
Amer. Wigeon	17	57	Long-eared Owl	20	7	Lark Sparrow	2	1
Canvasback	20	38	Short-eared Owl	1	2	Sav. Sparrow	7	4
Redhead	15	18	Saw-whet Owl	3	1	Fox Sparrow	39	51
Ring-necked Duck	44	285	Belted Kingfisher	62	28	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1
Greater Scaup	2	8	Red-head Wood.	27	9	Song Sparrow	64	230
Lesser Scaup	26	36	Red-bell. Wood.	52	80	Swamp Sparrow	61	69
Black Scoter	0	0	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	31	13	Wh.-thr Sparrow	64	617
Long-tailed Duck	2	1	Downy Woodpecker	64	162	Wh.-cr Sparrow	28	69
Com. Goldeneye	45	200	Hairy Woodpecker	64	35	Dark-eyed Junco	64	1422
Bufflehead	31	76	N. Flicker	59	74	McCown's Longspur	1	1
Hooded Merganser	44	127	Pileated Wood.	51	20	Lapland Longspur	8	8
Com. Merganser	52	4193	E. Phoebe	11	2	Snow Bunting	12	120
Red-breasted Merg.	6	2	Horned Lark	42	991	Red-wg. Blackbird	60	1288
Ruddy Duck	29	347	Blue Jay	64	593	E. Meadowlark	37	160
Black Vulture	23	177	Amer. Crow	64	1802	Rusty Blackbird	43	372
Turkey Vulture	29	156	Fish Crow	12	70	Brewer's Blackbird	1	1
Bald Eagle	23	16	Common Raven	14	10	Com. Grackle	50	2642
N. Harrier	40	12	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	64	716	Br.-head. Cowbird	60	2482
Sharp-shin Hawk	45	16	Boreal Chickadee	2	5	B. Oriole	8	2
Cooper's Hawk	41	13	Tufted Titmouse	64	333	Pine Grosbeak	5	127
N. Goshawk	10	1	Red-br. Nuthatch	43	103	Purple Finch	58	438
Red Should. Hawk	22	4	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	64	179	House Finch	51	1036
Red-tailed Hawk	64	138	Brown Creeper	54	21	Red Crossbill	4	16
Rough-leg Hawk	27	7	Carolina Wren	45	84	Wh.-wing. Crossbill	2	1
Golden Eagle	0	0	Winter Wren	34	10	Com. Redpoll	22	443
Amer. Kestrel	60	67	Sedge Wren	1	1	Pine Siskin	33	281
Merlin	4	2	Marsh Wren	9	2	Amer. Goldfinch	64	410
Peregrine	1	1	Gold.-cr. Kinglet	59	143	Bl.-Headed Grosbeak	0	0
Gyr Falcon	0	0	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	41	19	Evening Grosbeak	35	485
Pheasant	53	61	E. Bluebird	45	307	House Sparrow	64	3028
Ruffed Grouse	43	9	Gr.-cheeked Thrush	1	1	Monk Parakeet	1	1
Wild Turkey	28	360				Bl.-hooded Parakeet	1	1



