

## **Sussex Christmas Bird Count**

The 61st annual Sussex CBC took place on Sunday 12/16. 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 91 species on count day despite the inclement weather. Waterfowl were the big story this year due to the lack of ice on most water. Highlights include:

- A red-necked grebe on Culver's Lake, only the second count record.
- Two double-crested cormorants, a record high for a bird that's only been seen on five previous counts.
- Twenty-seven great blue herons, the highest total since 1999.
- Five-thousand one Canada geese, just 9 shy of the count record of 5010 set back in 1992.
- A count-first cackling goose on the Homestead pond.
- A redhead duck.
- Forty bufflehead easily beats the old count record of 24 reached in 1979 and 1999.
- One-hundred twenty-seven hooded mergansers, breaking the count record of 107 set just last year.
- Three-hundred forty-seven ruddy ducks beats the record of 261 set in 1999.
- An Iceland gull on Culvers Lake.
- A count-week lesser black-backed gull on Franklin Pond.
- An eastern phoebe.
- A gray catbird.
- One cedar waxwing was the lowest total in 20 years.
- Sixty-nine white-crowned sparrows broke the old record of 59 set in 2010. One section alone had 55.
- Fifty-six house finches is the lowest since 1973. This species has shown a steady decline since peaking in the early 1990's.
- Eighty common redpolls. This is the first appearance of this species on the count since 1999. The record is 443 in 1997.

**Alan Boyd, compiler**

Common Loon	1	Ring-billed Gull	6610	Dickcissel	
D-C Cormorant	2	Herring Gull	437	Eastern Towhee	
Red-necked Grebe	1	Iceland Gull	1	Tree Sparrow	240
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Ls. Bl-backed Gull	CW	Chipping Sparrow	
Gr. Blue Heron	27	Gr. Blackbacked Gull	80	Field Sparrow	2
Mute Swan	114	Rock Pigeon	281	Savannah Sparrow	
Tundra Swan		Mourning Dove	275	Fox Sparrow	
Snow Goose	413	Barn Owl		Song Sparrow	163
Canada Goose	5001	E. Screech Owl	8	Swamp Sparrow	16
Cackling Goose	1	Gr. Horned Owl	10	Wh.-thr Sparrow	356
Wood Duck	11	Snowy Owl		Wh.-cr Sparrow	69
Gn. Winged Teal		Barred Owl	4	Dark-eyed Junco	980
Black Duck	55	Long-eared Owl		Lapland Longspur	
Mallard	476	Short-eared Owl		Snow Bunting	
N. Pintail		Saw-whet Owl		Red-wg. Blackbird	194
Bl. Winged Teal		Belted Kingfisher	18	E. Meadowlark	
N. Shoveler		Red-head Wood.		Rusty Blackbird	2
Gadwall	17	Red-bell. Wood.	33	Com. Grackle	1
Amer. Wigeon	1	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	1	Br.-head. Cowbird	110
Canvasback		Downy Woodpecker	97	B. Oriole	
Redhead	1	Hairy Woodpecker	10	Pine Grosbeak	
Ring-necked Duck	49	N. Flicker	15	Purple Finch	1
Lesser Scaup	4	Pileated Wood.	11	House Finch	53
Long-tailed Duck		E. Phoebe	1	Red Crossbill	
Com. Goldeneye	105	Horned Lark		Wh.-wing. Crossbill	
Bufflehead	40	Blue Jay	144	Com. Redpoll	80
Hooded Merganser	127	Amer. Crow	875	Pine Siskin	1
Com. Merganser	57	Fish Crow	24	Amer. Goldfinch	85
Red-Br. Merganser		Common Raven	4	Evening Grosbeak	
Ruddy Duck	347	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	247	House Sparrow	313
Black Vulture	114	Tufted Titmouse	197		
Turkey Vulture	86	Red-br. Nuthatch			
Bald Eagle	6	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	103	Total Species	91
N. Harrier	2	Brown Creeper	3	Count Week	1
Sharp-shin Hawk	3	Carolina Wren	55	Total Individuals	22156
Cooper's Hawk	8	Winter Wren	5		
N. Goshawk		Marsh Wren			
Red Should. Hawk	2	Gold.-cr. Kinglet	34	Parties:	12
Red-tailed Hawk	57	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5	Observers:	31
Rough-leg Hawk		E. Bluebird	90		
Golden Eagle		Hermit Thrush	1		
Amer. Kestrel	5	Amer. Robin	23	Low Temperature:	38
Merlin		Gray Catbird	1	High Temperature:	47
Pheasant	5	N. Mockingbird	39	A.M. Skies:	OC
Ruffed Grouse		Brown Thrasher		P.M. Skies:	OC
Wild Turkey	167	Amer. Pipit		Winds:	0-5 mph
N. Bobwhite		Cedar Waxwing	1		
King Rail		N. Shrike			
Va. Rail		Starling	2270		
Sora		Yel.-Rump Warbler	1		
Amer. Coot	7	Com. Yellowthroat			
Killdeer	8	Pine Warbler			
Wilson's Snipe	1	N. Cardinal	153		

**Participants by Area – Sussex CBC 12/16/2012**

**Area 1&3** Sandy McPhail, Karyn Cichocki

**Area 2** Jack Padalino, Fred Weber

**Area 4** Wade Wander, Sharon Wander

**Area 5** Linda Matula, George Eschenbach, Pat Dufort

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

**Area 8&9** Beverly Robertson, Dave Spangenburg, Joe Zurovchak

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

**Area 12** Jim Zamos, Tom Halliwell, George Nixon, Hank Burk

**Area 13&14** George Johnson, Posie Popa

**Area 15** Ken Witkowski

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

**Area 17&18** Blais Brancheau, Bob Templin, Josh Osowski

12/16/2012

## Totals by Area

SPECIES	1&3	2	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Common Loon												1	1
Pied-billed Grebe											2		2
Red-necked Grebe		1											1
D-C Cormorant		1						1					2
Gr. Blue Heron	9	1	2	1	1	1	7	2	1	2			27
Gr. Egret													0
Mute Swan	6	7	4	4		2	1	38	22	3	3	24	114
Tundra Swan													0
Snow Goose				150		140	23			100			413
Canada Goose	403	180	500	349	87	1241	1045	200	450		125	421	5,001
Cackling Goose							1						1
Wood Duck	1					1	2		7				11
Black Duck	11	4				16	2	2	5	11	4		55
Mallard	95	12	24	7	42	50	75	12	64	12	45	38	476
N. Pintail													0
Gn. Winged Teal													0
Blue-winged Teal													0
Gadwall	17												17
Amer. Wigeon								1					1
Canvasback													0
Redhead												1	1
Ring-necked Duck		25								10	9	5	49
Lesser Scaup								1				3	4
Long-tailed Duck													0
Com. Goldeneye		90							11		1	3	105
Bufflehead		20					2		6	6		6	40
Hooded Merganser		14				8	26	1	4	4	44	26	127
Com. Merganser		5					46			1		5	57
Red-br. Merganser													0
Ruddy Duck		60					3					284	347
Black Vulture				12		1	100					1	114
Turkey Vulture				21	1	2	25				5	32	86
Bald Eagle		1					1				2	2	6
N. Harrier								2					2
Sharp-shin Hawk	1				1				1				3

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## Totals by Area

SPECIES	1&3	2	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Cooper's Hawk	1				1		2		1		1	2	8
N. Goshawk													0
Red Should. Hawk		1						1					2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	10	4	10	9	8	4	2	1	1	3	57
Rough-leg Hawk													0
Golden Eagle													0
Amer. Kestrel	1		2						2				5
Merlin													0
Pheasant	2					2	1						5
Ruffed Grouse													0
Wild Turkey		34	18		43	30	30	1	3		8		167
N. Bobwhite													0
King Rail													0
Va. Rail													0
Sora													0
Amer. Coot												7	7
Killdeer	5						3						8
Snipe												1	1
Amer. Woodcock													0
Ring-billed Gull	26	5000	6	7	40	393	250	48	86	41	7	706	6,610
Herring Gull		200			9	85	1	42		1		99	437
Iceland Gull		1											1
Ls. BI-backed Gull													0
Glaucous Gull													0
Gr. BI-Backed Gull					2	12		24				42	80
Rock Pigeon	50	2	20	1	41	2	71	18	68			8	281
Mourning Dove	10	8	94	45	33	17	30	17	2	16	3		275
Barn Owl													0
E. Screech Owl	1	1		1			1	3			1		8
Gr. Horned Owl	2	2				1	2	2	1				10
Snowy Owl													0
Barred Owl	1							2	1				4
Long-eared Owl													0
Short-eared Owl													0
Saw-whet Owl													0

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## Totals by Area

SPECIES	1&3	2	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1		2	2	18
Red-head Wood.													0
Red-bell. Wood.	5	3	1	2	4	3	3	2	1	2	7		33
Yel-bell. Sapsucker											1		1
Downy Woodpecker	14	9	5	4	8	9	6	7	1	5	16	13	97
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	2		1		2		1				10
N. Flicker	2	1	3		1	5	1	1	1				15
Pileated Wood.		1	1		1	1		3	1	1	2		11
E. Phoebe					1								1
Horned Lark													0
Blue Jay	20	12	22	23	19	14	8	8	10	2	6		144
Amer. Crow	85	17	108	36	46	77	27	30	144	7	74	224	875
Fish Crow								4				20	24
Common Raven		2				1	1						4
Bl.-cap. Chickadee	13	15	22	26	25	18	14	16	6	20	25	47	247
Tufted Titmouse	16	18	14	23	12	9	15	19	3	11	40	17	197
Red-br. Nuthatch													0
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	11	12	12	11	6	3	11	7	4	6	12	8	103
Brown Creeper							1	1			1		3
Carolina Wren	6	5	1	10	7	8	5			2	2	9	55
Winter Wren	1		1	1			1	1					5
Marsh Wren													0
Gold.-cr. Kinglet	5			3	1	15	2	6	2				34
Ruby-cr. Kinglet			1			1	3						5
E. Bluebird	14	30	1		7	1	8	20	4		3	2	90
Hermit Thrush							1						1
Amer. Robin	2	1		1	3	1		9	6				23
Gray Catbird									1				1
N. Mockingbird	4	1	6	3	8	6	6	1	2		1	1	39
Brown Thrasher													0
Amer. Pipit													0
Cedar Waxwing					1								1
N. Shrike													0
Starling	133	520	348	164	442	197	82	100	253	30	1		2,270
Yel.-Rump Warbler					1								1

12/16/2012

## Totals by Area

SPECIES	1&3	2	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	16	12	18	23	19	18	19	4	1	2	9	12	153
Dickcissel													0
Eastern Towhee													0
Tree Sparrow	96	26	21	2		53	31	10			1		240
Chipping Sparrow													0
Field Sparrow	1											1	2
Vesper Sparrow													0
Savannah Sparrow													0
Fox Sparrow													0
Song Sparrow	22	4	8	17	2	15	21	56	2	2	2	12	163
Swamp Sparrow			1	1		3	4	4		3			16
Wh.-thr Sparrow	34	17	2	70	28	14	97	55	12		11	16	356
Wh.-cr Sparrow	55		1	12	1								69
Dark-eyed Junco	70	220	120	161	92	116	24	65	3	19	47	43	980
Lapland Longspur													0
Snow Bunting													0
Red-wg. Blackbird	3			1			170	20					194
E. Meadowlark													0
Rusty Blackbird	2												2
Com. Grackle					1								1
Br.-head. Cowbird	60	50											110
B. Oriole													0
Pine Grosbeak													0
Purple Finch						1							1
House Finch	12	2		6	6		2	4	5	2	3	11	53
Red Crossbill													0
Wh.-wing. Crossbill													0
Com. Redpoll						80							80
Pine Siskin								1					1
Amer. Goldfinch	27	6	1	5	6	6	2	9		11	12		85
Evening Grosbeak													0
House Sparrow	40	60	10	50	23	12	60	2	18	20	6	12	313
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</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	10	3	N. Bobwhite	5	12	Swainson's Thrush	1	1
Red-throated Loon	2	1	King Rail	0	0	Hermit Thrush	32	23
Pied-billed Grebe	32	25	Va. Rail	28	6	Amer. Robin	56	2473
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Sora	2	2	Gray Catbird	17	2
Horned Grebe	11	13	Common Gallinule	2	1	N. Mockingbird	55	159
D.C. Cormorant	5	2	Amer. Coot	35	228	Brown Thrasher	5	2
Amer. Bittern	3	1	Killdeer	42	21	Amer. Pipit	6	80
Gr. Blue Heron	48	30	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	Cedar Waxwing	46	545
Gr. Egret	0	0	Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	N. Shrike	19	6
Tundra Swan	4	8	Wilson's Snipe	51	30	Loggerhead Shrike	6	2
Mute Swan	56	236	Amer. Woodcock	13	2	Starling	60	23183
Gr. Wh-Front. Goose	1	1	Ring-billed Gull	43	7526	Nashville Warbler	1	1
Snow Goose	19	8110	Herring Gull	54	3315	Cape May Warbler	3	1
Brant	3	3	Kumlien's Gull	1	1	Yel.-Rump Warbler	37	235
Canada Goose	43	5010	Iceland Gull	12	2	Pine Warbler	1	1
Cackling Goose	1	1	Ls. Bl-backed Gull	15	4	No. Waterthrush	1	1
Wood Duck	34	20	Glaucous Gull	2	1	Com. Yellowthroat	1	1
Gn. Winged Teal	23	19	Gr. Bl-Backed Gull	30	316	Yel.-br Chat	0	0
Black Duck	60	314	Rock Dove	30	1101	N. Cardinal	60	250
Mallard	59	888	Mourning Dove	60	1145	Dickcissel	2	3
N. Pintail	12	6	Barn Owl	13	2	Eastern Towhee	23	4
Bl. Winged Teal	4	6	E. Screech Owl	54	20	Tree Sparrow	61	1445
N. Shoveler	5	2	Gr. Horned Owl	50	36	Chipping Sparrow	12	6
Gadwall	16	44	Snowy Owl	2	1	Field Sparrow	39	33
Eurasian Wigeon	1	2	Barred Owl	26	5	Vesper Sparrow	5	8
Amer. Wigeon	14	57	Long-eared Owl	19	7	Lark Sparrow	1	1
Canvasback	19	38	Short-eared Owl	0	0	Sav. Sparrow	7	4
Redhead	13	8	Saw-whet Owl	4	2	Fox Sparrow	37	51
Ring-necked Duck	41	285	Belted Kingfisher	59	28	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1
Greater Scaup	2	8	Red-head Wood.	27	9	Song Sparrow	61	230
Lesser Scaup	24	36	Red-bell. Wood.	49	80	Swamp Sparrow	58	69
Long-tailed Duck	2	1	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	28	13	Wh.-thr Sparrow	61	617
Com. Goldeneye	42	200	Downy Woodpecker	61	152	Wh.-cr Sparrow	26	69
Bufflehead	28	40	Hairy Woodpecker	61	35	Dark-eyed Junco	61	1422
Hooded Merganser	41	127	N. Flicker	56	74	McCown's Longspur	1	1
Com. Merganser	49	4193	Pileated Wood.	48	18	Lapland Longspur	8	8
Red-breasted Merg.	5	2	E. Phoebe	8	2	Snow Bunting	11	120
Ruddy Duck	26	347	Horned Lark	40	991	Red-wg. Blackbird	57	1288
Black Vulture	20	141	Blue Jay	61	593	E. Meadowlark	37	160
Turkey Vulture	26	156	Amer. Crow	61	1662	Rusty Blackbird	41	372
Bald Eagle	20	8	Fish Crow	9	37	Brewer's Blackbird	1	1
N. Harrier	37	12	Common Raven	11	10	Com. Grackle	47	2642
Sharp-shin Hawk	42	16	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	61	716	Br.-head. Cowbird	57	2095
Cooper's Hawk	38	13	Boreal Chickadee	2	5	B. Oriole	8	2
N. Goshawk	10	1	Tufted Titmouse	61	333	Pine Grosbeak	5	127
Red Should. Hawk	21	4	Red-br. Nuthatch	43	103	Purple Finch	56	438
Red-tailed Hawk	61	138	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	61	179	House Finch	48	1036
Rough-leg Hawk	26	7	Brown Creeper	52	21	Red Crossbill	4	16
Golden Eagle	0	0	Carolina Wren	42	84	Wh.-wing. Crossbill	2	1
Amer. Kestrel	58	67	Winter Wren	31	10	Com. Redpoll	22	443
Merlin	1	1	Sedge Wren	1	1	Pine Siskin	33	281
Peregrine	1	1	Marsh Wren	9	2	Amer. Goldfinch	61	410
Gyrfalcon	0	0	Gold.-cr. Kinglet	56	143	Bl.-Headed Grosbeak	0	0
Pheasant	53	61	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	38	19	Evening Grosbeak	35	485
Ruffed Grouse	43	9	E. Bluebird	42	307	House Sparrow	61	3028
Wild Turkey	25	360	Gr.-cheeked Thrush	1	1	Monk Parakeet	1	1
						Bl.-hooded Parakeet	1	1