

Sussex Christmas Bird Count

The 65th annual Sussex CBC took place on Sunday 12/18. 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.

Dense fog and drizzle in the early part of the day made birding difficult but we had a total of 84 species on count day and 1 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.

- A total of 1844 snow geese is the third highest for this species. Up until 2001, no more than 2 had ever been noted on a count. After that numbers began to rise abruptly.
- Cackling goose was recorded for the fifth year in a row.
- Two greater scaup were seen. This species has only been recorded on the count twice before, in 1953 and in 1970.
- Three-hundred ninety-one ruddy ducks is a new record. Numbers of this species rose to triple digits in 2012 and have remained there ever since.
- Four horned grebes. The high count for this species was 13 back in 1983, but it has only been reported on 3 counts since then.
- Five great blue herons is the lowest number since 1989, but this is likely due to the weather keeping them on the ground.
- Fourteen Cooper's hawks is a new record, topping the old record of 13 set in 2011.
- Four red-shouldered hawks tied the high set back in 1955.
- Difficult conditions caused eastern screech owl to be missed on count day. This has only happened 6 times in 65 years of this count, most recently in 1967.
- An eastern phoebe was seen for the sixth straight year. Prior to that this species was only found every 3 or 4 years.
- Three red-breasted nuthatches were seen, the first since 2008. Prior to 2008, they had seen 20 of the previous 21 years.
- One winter wren is the lowest total for this species since 2003.

- A gray catbird was seen. This species has only been missed once since 2003.
- Only 1 yellow-rumped warbler was seen. The high count for this species is 235 set back in 2000.
- White-throated sparrows were at their lowest number since 1995 with 173.
- Three rusty blackbirds were seen.
- An estimated 15000 common grackles were noted coming into the marsh at the south end of Hyper Humus at dusk. This easily blew away the old count record of 2642 set back in 1982.

Thanks to everyone for participating! Next year's count will be on Sunday December 17.

Alan Boyd, compiler

Snow Goose	1844	Great Horned Owl	8	Song Sparrow	94
Cackling Goose	1	Barred Owl		Swamp Sparrow	3
Canada Goose	3861	Belted Kingfisher	6	Eastern Towhee	
Mute Swan	55	Red-bellied Woodpecker	39	Northern Cardinal	137
Wood Duck	6	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Red-winged Blackbird	617
Gadwall		Downy Woodpecker	76	Rusty Blackbird	3
American Wigeon		Hairy Woodpecker	15	Common Grackle	15039
American Black Duck	41	Northern Flicker	15	Brown-headed Cowbird	124
Mallard	364	Pileated Woodpecker	17	House Finch	112
Green-winged Teal		American Kestrel	1	Purple Finch	2
Northern Pintail	3	Merlin		Pine Siskin	
Ring-necked Duck	69	Eastern Phoebe	1	American Goldfinch	73
Greater Scaup	2	Blue Jay	197	House Sparrow	370
Lesser Scaup	1	American Crow	812		
Bufflehead	30	Fish Crow	4		
Common Goldeneye	40	Common Raven	4		
Hooded Merganser	154	Horned Lark		Total Species	84
Common Merganser	155	Black-capped Chickadee	200	Count Week	1
Ruddy Duck	391	Tufted Titmouse	176	Total Individuals	38472
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3		
Wild Turkey	73	White-breasted Nuthatch	62		
Common Loon	2	Brown Creeper	1	Parties	12
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Winter Wren	1	Observers	28
Horned Grebe	4	Carolina Wren	22		
Great Blue Heron	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3		
Black Vulture	150	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Low Temperature	34
Turkey Vulture	75	Eastern Bluebird	155	High Temperature	47
Northern Harrier	2	Hermit Thrush	2	A.M. Skies	O/C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	American Robin	671	P.M. Skies	O/C
Cooper's Hawk	14	Gray Catbird	1	Winds	2 to 10
Bald Eagle	6	Brown Thrasher			
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Northern Mockingbird	28		
Red-tailed Hawk	68	European Starling	4136		
American Coot	4	Cedar Waxwing	49		
Killdeer	1	Snow Bunting			
Wilson's Snipe		Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		
Ring-billed Gull	5783	American Tree Sparrow	79		
Herring Gull	370	Field Sparrow	2		
Great Black-backed Gull	6	Fox Sparrow	3		
Rock Pigeon	303	Dark-eyed Junco	842		
Mourning Dove	187	White-crowned Sparrow	2		
Eastern Screech Owl	CW	White-throated Sparrow	173		

Participants by Area – Sussex CBC 12/18/2016

Area 1 Sandy McPhail, Karyn Cichocki

Area 2 Fred Weber, Jack Padalino

Area 3 Marianne Ofenloch, Giselle Smisko

Area 4 Donna Traylor, Don Traylor

Area 5

Area 6&7 Marge Barrett, Joe Burgiel

Area 8&9 Beverly Robertson, Will Test, Amy Supko, Dave Supko

Area 10&11 Dennis Briede, Alan Boyd

Area 12 Tom Halliwell, George Nixon

Area 13&14 George Johnson, Rosemary Popa

Area 15 Ken Witkowski

Area 16 Merle Tanis, Roger Tanis, Bill Warren, Mike Gannon

Area 17&18 Blais Brancheau, Bob Templin, Connie Warren

12/18/2016

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Snow Goose	1	1	61					77	1700			4		1,844
Cackling Goose								1						1
Canada Goose	1038	1000	428	24		4	317	525	310		33	111	71	3,861
Mute Swan		12									2	2	39	55
Wood Duck						1			1	4				6
Gadwall														0
American Wigeon														0
American BI Duck	2	10				5	2				2	14	6	41
Mallard	83	30	8			77	17	26	14	30		16	63	364
Green-winged Teal														0
Northern Pintail		3												3
Ring-necked Duck		60										3	6	69
Greater Scaup													2	2
Lesser Scaup		1												1
Bufflehead		20									3	4	3	30
Common Goldeneye		40												40
Hooded Merganser		50									8		96	154
Common Merganser												1	154	155
Ruddy Duck		40									2	19	330	391
Ring-necked Pheas							7							7
Wild Turkey		21					52							73
Common Loon		1										1		2
Pied-billed Grebe		2										1	1	4
Horned Grebe		3										1		4
Great Blue Heron	1	1						3						5
Black Vulture	1	30	47	5			2	26	16			23		150
Turkey Vulture	7	2	9	6		7	13	4	11		2	6	8	75
Northern Harrier									2					2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			1		1		1	1			2		7
Cooper's Hawk		1	3			1	2	3	3			1		14
Bald Eagle	1	2						1				2		6
Red-should Hawk			1			1						1	1	4
Red-tailed Hawk	5	3	6	8		1	17	8	6		9	2	3	68
American Coot		4												4
Killdeer									1					1

12/18/2016

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
Wilson's Snipe														0
Ring-billed Gull	69	5000	77	3		3	45	18	250	1		17	300	5,783
Herring Gull		300	3				2	4	2		3	6	50	370
Gr BI-backed Gull													6	6
Rock Pigeon	27	50	25	50		20	120	4	4				3	303
Mourning Dove	18	20	33	19		19	1	5	37	12		13	10	187
E Screech Owl														0
Great Horned Owl								6	2					8
Barred Owl														0
Belted Kingfisher	2							2					2	6
Red-bellied Wood.	6	2	4	1		5	3	4	2		3	7	2	39
Yel-bell Sapsucker								1				2		3
Downy Woodpecker	7	5	6	3		4	3	5	5		6	27	5	76
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	2			2	1	2	1			2	1	15
Northern Flicker	3	1					3	2	2	1	1	2		15
Pileated Wood	2	5				1		2	2	1	1	2	1	17
American Kestrel				1										1
Merlin														0
Eastern Phoebe								1						1
Blue Jay	23	14	16	23		13	32	23	8	6	11	19	9	197
American Crow	27	25	449	40		23	60	19	25	11	28	20	85	812
Fish Crow									1				3	4
Common Raven		2				1							1	4
Horned Lark														0
Bl-cap Chickadee	18	32	7	5		11	20	17	25	5	12	31	17	200
Tufted Titmouse	18	11	12	11		18	9	16	14		11	48	8	176
Red-br Nuthatch		1	1				1							3
Wh-br Nuthatch	6	7	4	2		6	2	10	6		4	10	5	62
Brown Creeper												1		1
Winter Wren									1					1
Carolina Wren	3		2	1			1	4	3		4	2	2	22
Golden-cr Kinglet									1		2			3
Ruby-cr Kinglet														0
Eastern Bluebird	7	8	2	10		3	44	15	39	1	7	15	4	155
Hermit Thrush								2						2

12/18/2016

Totals by Area

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12	13&14	15	16	17&18	TOTAL INDIV.
American Robin	4	2	5	17		14	172	19	400			32	6	671
Gray Catbird								1						1
Brown Thrasher														0
North Mockingbird	2	3	1	3		2	8	5	1	1	2			28
European Starling	198	110	459	163		135	543	212	2000	250		59	7	4,136
Cedar Waxwing		17	9				22	1						49
Snow Bunting														0
Yel-rumped Warbler														0
Amer Tree Sparrow	15	12	4	1		1	28	12	6					79
Field Sparrow											2			2
Fox Sparrow							1	2						3
Dark-eyed Junco	106	170	91	84		65	81	45	33	12	34	81	40	842
Wh-crown Sparrow			1						1					2
Wh-throat Sparrow	31	30	10	18		5	11	43	6		8	10	1	173
Song Sparrow	9	8	17	7		7	6	21	8		2	2	7	94
Swamp Sparrow		1									2			3
Eastern Towhee														0
Northern Cardinal	22	6	3	7		12	31	16	8		7	23	2	137
R-winged Blackbird		1					8	5	600			3		617
Rusty Blackbird									3					3
Common Grackle						20	12		15000			7		15,039
Br-headed Cowbird				46		4			25			49		124
House Finch	12	12	51			7	3	9	4		3	3	8	112
Purple Finch												2		2
Pine Siskin														0
American Goldfinch	4	7	3	12		5	16	12	7		1	6		73
House Sparrow	76	40	41	26		28		21	90			40	8	370
TOTAL SPECIES	37	54	36	29	0	36	39	47	47	13	30	49	41	38,475

SPECIES	YRS	HIGH	SPECIES	YRS	HIGH	SPECIES	YRS	HIGH
GWF Goose	1	1	Common Gallinule	2	1	RC Kinglet	41	19
Snow Goose	23	8110	American Coot	38	228	Eastern Bluebird	46	307
Brant	3	3	Killdeer	45	21	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	1
Cackling Goose	4	2	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	Swainson's Thrush	1	1
Canada Goose	47	8420	Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	Hermit Thrush	36	23
Mute Swan	60	236	Wilson's Snipe	52	30	American Robin	60	3922
Tundra Swan	4	8	American Woodcock	13	2	Gray Catbird	21	3
Wood Duck	37	20	Ring-billed Gull	47	7526	Brown Thrasher	6	2
Gadwall	19	44	Herring Gull	58	3315	North Mockingbird	59	159
Eurasian Wigeon	1	2	Iceland Gull	12	2	European Starling	64	23183
American Wigeon	17	57	Kumlien's Gull	1	1	American Pipit	6	80
American Black Duck	64	314	LBB Gull	16	4	Cedar Waxwing	50	545
Mallard	63	888	Glaucous Gull	3	2	McCown's Longspur	1	1
Blue-winged Teal	5	6	GBB Gull	34	316	Lapland Longspur	8	8
Northern Shoveler	5	2	Rock Pigeon	34	1101	Snow Bunting	12	120
Northern Pintail	15	6	Mourning Dove	64	1145	North Waterthrush	1	1
Green-winged Teal	23	19	Barn Owl	13	2	Nashville Warbler	1	1
Canvasback	20	38	Eastern Screech Owl	57	20	Com Yellowthroat	1	1
Redhead	15	18	Great Horned Owl	53	36	Cape May Warbler	3	1
Ring-necked Duck	45	285	Snowy Owl	2	1	Pine Warbler	1	1
Greater Scaup	3	8	Barred Owl	27	5	YR Warbler	41	235
Lesser Scaup	27	36	Long-eared Owl	20	7	Yellow-breasted Chat	0	0
Black Scoter	0	0	Short-eared Owl	1	2	American Tree Sp	65	1445
Long-tailed Duck	2	1	N Saw-whet Owl	3	1	Chipping Sparrow	15	6
Bufflehead	32	76	Belted Kingfisher	63	28	Field Sparrow	42	33
Common Goldeneye	46	200	RH Woodpecker	27	9	Lark Sparrow	2	1
Hooded Merganser	45	154	RB Woodpecker	53	80	Fox Sparrow	40	51
Common Merganser	53	4193	YB Sapsucker	32	13	Dark-eyed Junco	65	1422
RB Merganser	6	2	Downy Woodpecker	65	162	WC Sparrow	29	69
Ruddy Duck	30	391	Hairy Woodpecker	65	35	WT Sparrow	65	617
Northern Bobwhite	5	12	Northern Flicker	60	74	Vesper Sparrow	5	8
RN Pheasant	54	61	Pileated Woodpecker	52	20	Savannah Sparrow	7	4
Ruffed Grouse	43	9	American Kestrel	61	67	Song Sparrow	65	230
Wild Turkey	29	360	Merlin	4	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1
Red-throated Loon	2	1	Peregrine	1	1	Swamp Sparrow	62	69
Common Loon	12	3	Gyr Falcon	0	0	Eastern Towhee	24	4
Pied-billed Grebe	35	25	Monk Parakeet	1	1	North Cardinal	64	250
Horned Grebe	12	13	Nanday Parakeet	1	1	BH Grosbeak	0	0
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Eastern Phoebe	12	2	Dickcissel	2	3
DC Cormorant	6	2	Northern Shrike	20	6	RW Blackbird	61	1288
American Bittern	3	1	Loggerhead Shrike	6	2	Eastern Meadowlark	37	160
Great Blue Heron	52	30	Blue Jay	65	593	Rusty Blackbird	44	372
Great Egret	0	0	American Crow	65	1802	Brewer's Blackbird	1	1
Black Vulture	24	177	Fish Crow	13	70	Common Grackle	51	15039
Turkey Vulture	30	156	Common Raven	15	10	BH Cowbird	61	2482
Golden Eagle	0	0	Horned Lark	42	991	Baltimore Oriole	8	2
Northern Harrier	41	12	BC Chickadee	65	716	Pine Grosbeak	5	127
Sharp-shinned Hawk	46	16	Boreal Chickadee	2	5	House Finch	52	1036
Cooper's Hawk	42	14	Tufted Titmouse	65	333	Purple Finch	59	438
Northern Goshawk	10	1	RB Nuthatch	44	103	Red Crossbill	4	16
Bald Eagle	24	16	WB Nuthatch	65	179	WW Crossbill	2	1
RS Hawk	23	4	Brown Creeper	55	21	Common Redpoll	22	443
Red-tailed Hawk	65	138	Winter Wren	35	10	Pine Siskin	33	281
Rough-legged Hawk	27	7	Marsh Wren	9	2	American Goldfinch	65	410
King Rail	0	0	Sedge Wren	1	1	Evening Grosbeak	35	485
Virginia Rail	29	6	Carolina Wren	46	84	House Sparrow	65	3028
Sora	2	2	GC Kinglet	60	143			