

The 109th Christmas Bird Count



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American Birds

Volume 63

Published by the
National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7th floor
New York, NY 10014
October 2009

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Birders may not often think of American Coots (*Fulica americana*) as lovely photographic subjects, but these coots in motion at Clear Lake, California, provide just such an image. Photo/Barbara Bridges

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ON THE COVER: Though penguins have been tallied on Christmas Bird Counts in or near southern South America over the past few seasons, they have been of species that breed on the mainland, not birds restricted to the ice of the Antarctic continent. During the 109th CBC Adelle Penguins (*Pygoscelus adeliae*) were tallied for the first time (in the hundreds of thousands!), their inclusion a result of the brand new count, the first ever in Antarctica, at Cape Crozier. Photo/Noah Strycker

The 109th Christmas Bird Count

December 14, 2008 to January 5, 2009

Geoffrey S. LeBaron

Weather, weather, weather—when we plan, participate on, or summarize any given Christmas Bird Count, it always seems to boil down to a discussion of the effects of the weather. Good or bad, during the count period or leading up to it, or even in other parts of the globe, it's weather that drives birds and birders alike to do what they do and be in the places they are during the early winter period in which the Christmas Bird Count is held.

You'd think that the law of averages would allow an area that was particularly hard-hit in one season to have a year or three off, but Mother Nature doesn't seem to recognize such fairness. "Exceptional" and "Extreme" drought conditions continue—as they have for many years—over South Texas, while the "Severe" drought classification continues to cover most of the state of California. The Gulf Coast, just beginning to recover from the ravages of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, was clobbered again in September 2008 with Hurricane Ike, the third most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States. While Galveston, Texas, took the brunt of the storm and garnered most of the media attention, little note was made of the fact that the southwestern coastal areas of Louisiana were again inundated by a major storm surge, effectively obliterating the natural and human recovery that was under way from three years prior.

On a more immediate level for the 109th Christmas Bird Count, severe ocean storms again pummeled the West Coast from coastal British Columbia to northern California during much of the count period, causing multiple postponements and outright cancellation of

a number of counts. Rather than the El Niño season predicted by some, La Niña had returned for a second winter. Record snowfalls also fell across the Midwest and in the Mountain West, and a snowstorm in Louisiana (!) on December 11th moved to the northeast as an ice storm within 24 hours, encasing much of New York, New England, and the Atlantic Provinces with devastating amounts of ice just prior to the count period. Up to a million people were without power, some for weeks. Heavy snowstorms continued throughout the 109th Christmas Bird Count season, and CBC compilers and participants alike had their work cut out for them.

The 109th count stage was also set bird-wise; during the fall of 2008, a major southward flight of Pine Siskins occurred, and Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks began to appear both early and in good numbers. Discussions were shared regarding the likelihood of a winter finch flight, perhaps including different species from those of the flight of 2007–2008. Also, conditions in the fall had been fairly mild in some regions, while others (especially the northern Rockies) were hit with early heavy snow. As always, there were high hopes among birders of lingering migrants or wayward vagrants. Such are the carrots that entice us into the field during the CBC, or on any day of birding for that matter!

And out we went indeed, in full force, from December 14th, 2008, through January 5th, 2009, on the 109th Christmas Bird Count. Amazingly, despite needing to thread the needle of opportunity with weather conditions, another new record number of Christmas Bird Counts was submitted in the 109th count—2124, edging out

last season's all-time high of 2113 by 11 circles. Just think what would have been possible if a good number of counts had not been canceled due to weather! Of the 2124 areas included, 361 were in Canada (which took the brunt of the weather cancellations), 1673 were in the United States, and 90 in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, and beyond. As is virtually always the case, a good representation of new circles is included in those totals, and Table 1 lists the new counts included during the 109th season—9 in Canada, 18 in the United States, and 16 south of the United States-Mexico border. Again this season we welcome a flock of new counts (13) in Colombia, where enthusiasm for the CBC program continues to grow. We also welcome a new continent to the universe of the Christmas Bird Count—Antarctica! People may wonder why the Antarctic is relevant to the avifauna of North America. Sidestepping a discussion of melting ice sheets and global climate change, remember that many seabirds familiar to pelagic birders off the coasts of North America are deep austral breeders.



Each CBC season has its own avian highlights, and for the 109th count the big story was a major flight of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*). Though siskins were widespread on CBCs across much of North America, this one was photographed during the Great Backyard Bird Count. Photo/Linda Koning

This is confirmed by the fact that the Cape Crozier CBC list (five species in all) includes Wilson's Storm-Petrel, a common breeder along the rocky coasts of Antarctica and its nearby islands, but certainly also among the most familiar of all seabirds in North American waters. Also included is South Polar Skua—one of those real “carrots” that gets birders offshore on boats in the Northern Hemisphere. For more details of the Cape Crozier CBC, please see Noah Stryker's feature article included in these pages.

Thousands of circles means tens of thousands of observers, and in the 109th count we fanned out again across the countryside and waters to tally birds. All told, 59,813 total observers (50,475 field observers plus 9338 feederwatchers) participated on counts, not surprisingly (given the conditions) slightly shy of last season's all-time record number of participants. The regional breakdowns are as follows: 7515 field observers plus 3544 feederwatchers in Canada; 41,180 field observers plus 5750 feederwatchers in the United States, and 1780 field observers plus 44 feederwatchers in the Caribbean, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and Antarctica.

Effectively mustering all those birders is one of the many tasks of CBC compilers and subcompilers; without their careful management and efforts, the Christmas Bird Count would be a much less valuable tool for the conservation and research communities. Managing large groups of observers is no mean feat, and Table 2 lists the Christmas Bird Counts in the 109th season with some of the busiest compilers of all—the areas with 100 or more observers. Many thanks go to all compilers, with groups large or small.

The total number of birds tallied in the 109th Christmas Bird Count—65,596,663—is up from last season, possibly due to the effect of more roosts of some species being included in this year's count circles. The regional breakdown (2,836,595 in Canada; 61,347,290 in the United States; and 1,412,778

elsewhere) reflects not only the areas with the most coverage, but also the regions where the abundance of birds is likely to be highest. Many boreal breeders leave their northern haunts for more moderate climates in southern North America, while the abundance of birds encountered in the Neotropics is notoriously low. Numbers of birds encountered in the field in Latin America can be surprisingly small, even as the species diversity may be incredibly high. Table 3 lists all circles in the 109th Christmas Bird Count tallying 150 or more species, and thus blessed with both a diversity of habitats and species. Comparing counts with the highest species totals in North America and South America, we see that the stellar effort of 233 species tallied at Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, Texas, is eclipsed by the total of 420 species at Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador. Yet if we look at the actual number of birds encountered, the 97 observers in Texas tallied 628,451 birds, while the 161 observers in Ecuador found only 11,264 birds. In fact, if one large roost had been encountered in Texas, they could easily tally millions of birds; conversely, some groups in Latin America tally numbers of birds only in the hundreds. Each type of count has its own special challenges—and rewards!

While on the subject of bird diversity, 661 species (plus 38 forms and 28 introduced exotics) were tallied during the 109th Christmas Bird Count in Canada and the United States. Included this season are two new species to the cumulative CBC list: **Jack Snipe** from Eugene, Oregon, and **Little Bunting** from Greater Massett, British Columbia. The notoriously difficult to find but long-present **Sinaloa Wren** at Patagonia, Arizona, was frustratingly only seen during count week, even though it was present in the circle both before and after the census day. Additionally, one new taxon currently recognized as subspecies was tallied in the 109th CBC season: **“Brewster's” Brown Booby** from Laysan Island, Hawaii. And while not new to the overall Christmas Bird Count,

Table 1. New counts in the 109th (2008–2009) Christmas Bird Count

Count Code	Count Name
CANADA	
ABRD	Red Deer, Alberta
ABSV	Spruce View, Alberta
BCGF	Grand Forks, British Columbia
BCSH	Stewart-Hyder, British Columbia
BCVT	Valemount, British Columbia
MBPP	Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
ONMY	Massey, Ontario
ONPL	Pickle Lake, Ontario
YTJC	Johnson's Crossing, Yukon Territory
UNITED STATES	
AKCW	Cantwell, Alaska
CATJ	Tejon Ranch, California
FLFG	Flagler, Florida
IDGV	Garden Valley, Idaho
ILME	Monroe County, Illinois
ILRC	Rock Cut S.P., Illinois
KYLD	London, Kentucky
MIAM	Antrim-Old Mission, Michigan
MIER	Eaton Rapids, Michigan
MIOD	Oscoda, Michigan
MITW	Tawas, Michigan
MOCF	Confluence, Missouri
NCHR	Hanging Rock S.P., North Carolina
NMCV	Clovis, New Mexico
NMLR	Ladder Ranch, New Mexico
TXGT	Georgetown-Andice, Texas
VABH	Buchanan, Virginia
VTRD	Randolph, Vermont
CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICA, ANTARCTICA	
AQCC	Cape Crozier, Antarctica
CLAM	Parque Nacional Natural Amacayacu-Sector Matamata, Amazonas, Colombia
CLAQ	Andaqui, Caqueta, Colombia
CLIN	Ibague Zona Norte, Tolima, Colombia
CLIR	Islas del Rosario and Barz, Bolivar, Colombia
CLIZ	Ibague Zona Central, Tolima, Colombia
CLLC	Santuario de Fauna y Flora Los Colorados, Bolivar, Colombia
CLPB	Paipa, Boyaca, Colombia
CLPI	Pisba AICA, Boyaca, Colombia
CLPO	Pachaquiario, Meta, Colombia
CLSA	San Andres, San Andres y Providencia Islands, Colombia
CLSI	San Isidro, Huila, Colombia
CLTU	Tunja, Boyaca, Colombia
CRCV	CATIE-Villa Florencia, Costa Rica
MXBL	Barranca Rancho la Liebre, Sinaloa, Mexico
MXMD	Madera, Chihuahua, Mexico

Table 2. Counts with 100 or more participants in the 109th (2008–2009) CBC.

Code	Count Name	# Observers	(Field + Feeder)
ABED	Edmonton, AB	409	(119 + 290)
MACO	Concord, MA	353	(192 + 161)
OREU	Eugene, OR	228	(155 + 73)
CASB	Santa Barbara, CA	212	(209 + 3)
CAOA	Oakland, CA	208	(189 + 19)
ABCA	Calgary, AB	200	(77 + 123)
CAPR	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	197	(197 + 0)
ONLO	London, ON	180	(102 + 78)
ORPD	Portland, OR	173	(130 + 43)
VAFB	Fort Belvoir, VA	173	(167 + 6)
BCVI	Victoria, BC	164	(164 + 0)
ECNM	Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador	161	(161 + 0)
CAWS	Western Sonoma County, CA	158	(158 + 0)
SCHH	Hilton Head Island, SC	156	(156 + 0)
CASZ	Sonoma Valley, CA	155	(151 + 4)
ABSA	St. Albert, AB	148	(46 + 102)
WASE	Seattle, WA	148	(141 + 7)
OHCF	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	144	(103 + 41)
NSHD	Halifax-Dartmouth, NS	142	(75 + 67)
AKAN	Anchorage, AK	136	(88 + 48)
OHCI	Cincinnati, OH	135	(111 + 24)
WASD	Sequim-Dungeness, WA	134	(92 + 42)
ONOH	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON	132	(94 + 38)
DCDC	Washington, DC	131	(130 + 1)
NSWO	Wolfville, NS	131	(44 + 87)
BCVA	Vancouver, BC	130	(113 + 17)
LABR	Baton Rouge, LA	129	(39 + 90)
MANO	Northampton, MA	129	(116 + 13)
COBO	Boulder, CO	128	(106 + 22)
CASF	San Francisco, CA	123	(117 + 6)
NYIT	Ithaca, NY	123	(108 + 15)
CODV	Denver (urban), CO	122	(93 + 29)
FLSC	Sanibel-Captiva, FL	122	(122 + 0)
CAMC	Marin County (southern), CA	121	(113 + 8)
ONTO	Toronto, ON	120	(118 + 2)
VACL	Central Loudon, VA	119	(118 + 1)
CTHA	Hartford, CT	118	(108 + 10)
CAPA	Palo Alto, CA	117	(117 + 0)
NSKI	Kingston, NS	117	(20 + 97)
NJLH	Lower Hudson, NJ-NY	116	(116 + 0)
WIMI	Milwaukee, WI	116	(105 + 11)
RIBI	Block Island, RI	113	(113 + 0)
SCSC	Sun City-Okatie, SC	113	(95 + 18)
CAOC	Orange County (coastal), CA	112	(112 + 0)
PAPI	Pittsburgh, PA	112	(95 + 17)
MDSE	Seneca, MD	108	(106 + 2)
CRRF	Rain Forest Aerial Tram, Costa Rica	106	(106 + 0)
SKSA	Saskatoon, SK	105	(50 + 55)
AKFA	Fairbanks, AK	104	(72 + 32)
MAGB	Greater Boston, MA	104	(100 + 4)
TXBF	Buffalo Bayou, TX	103	(93 + 10)
OHMI	Millersburg, OH	102	(102 + 0)
CAON	Orange County (northeastern), CA	101	(101 + 0)
NJPR	Princeton, NJ	100	(88 + 12)



Though Winter Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) are found across much of North America on CBCs, this “Eastern” subspecies bird was a treat on California’s Santa Barbara CBC. Photo/Evan Caves

lied on their wintering grounds. Perusing the lists of the neotropical CBC results gives a staggering array of spectacular and range-restricted resident species as well as an amazing variety of species that breed in North America. Birds from across the hemisphere are counted all in turn, and the regional totals can often be impressive. Table 4 lists the areas that tallied the most species in their given state, province, or other area—the regional high counts in the 109th Christmas Bird Count.

In the big picture bird-wise, the 109th Christmas Bird Count is best characterized as a major irruption season for Pine Siskins. The event began earlier in the fall, with a big southward push, especially along the East Coast (where thousands of flyover siskins were tallied at hawk watches) from mid-October to early November. There was a bit of a lull, then just prior to the CBC period in December a second more widespread flight occurred. Pine Siskins blanketed much of North America south of Canada and east of the Pacific Coast states during the CBC, with high or record numbers encountered by CBC participants from New England westward through the Rockies and southward to Florida, the Gulf Coast, and south Texas and New Mexico. They made it just over the border into Mexico in small numbers, but missed Bermuda to the east.

Sage Thrasher was added to the cumulative Canadian CBC list from Blenheim, Ontario.

Canada and the United States only comprise a portion of the geographic area covered by the Christmas Bird Count, and all told there were 2126 species of birds tallied (plus additional 251 forms and hybrids) in North

America, the Caribbean, South America, Antarctica, and the Pacific Islands. Given the 13 new counts in Colombia, this species list is an ever-increasing roster of the birds of the Americas and beyond. Equally important on those Colombian (and other Latin American) CBCs are the North American breeding species that are tal-



Pine Warblers (*Dendroica pinus*) are fairly hardy birds and often linger far north of other warbler species. But this bird—a CBC first for Montana at Eureka—was decidedly out of place on a thermometer reading -20 degrees Fahrenheit! Photo/Lynda Young

Also in the east and mid-continent, a major flight of White-winged Crossbills was developing. Across south-central Canada and the northern tier of states from New England to the Rockies, White-winged Crossbills were recorded in good to record numbers. Interestingly in the west, both the siskins and White-winged Crossbills were replaced by a significant flight of Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings. Last season the Bohemians and Pine Grosbeaks moved eastward and southward; this season it was the coast of the Pacific Northwest that bore the fruit (probably literally) for these two species. Some other “winter finches” (Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, Common Redpolls, and American Goldfinches) were noted as up in some regions, especially in the Great Lakes and the West, but not in numbers of siskins or White-winged Crossbills. Unfortunately, Evening Grosbeak continues to be mentioned across the continent by its absence or low numbers; this species is declining dramatically just about everywhere, and the causes are not well understood.

Other avian events occurred during the 109th CBC as well, beginning with a winter raptor push prior to the count period. Snowy Owls, in some instances with near-record early dates, moved southward in October and November. But somehow the flight fizzled; during the count period, these majestic white raptors were encountered in average

Table 3. Counts with 150 or more species recorded in the 109th (2008–2009) CBC.

Table 3a. Counts north of the United States-Mexican border.

Count Code	Rank	Count Name	Species Recorded
TXMM	1	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, TX	233
TXGF	2	Guadalupe River Delta-McFadden Ranch, TX	217
CASB	3	Santa Barbara, CA	209
CAOC	4	Orange County (coastal), CA	202
CASD	5	San Diego, CA	201
CAMD	6	Moss Landing, CA	199
TXFR	6	Freeport, TX	199
CAPR	8	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	197
CAMP	9	Monterey Peninsula, CA	196
CARS	10	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	193
CAOV	11	Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad, CA	192
CACB	12	Centerville Beach to King Salmon, CA	188
CAMR	12	Morro Bay, CA	188
CAVE	14	Ventura, CA	187
TXSB	14	San Bernard N.W.R., TX	187
CACS	16	Crystal Springs, CA	184
CATO	17	Thousand Oaks, CA	183
CAWS	17	Western Sonoma County, CA	183
CAAR	19	Arcata, CA	181
CALB	20	Long Beach-El Dorado, CA	179
NCMC	21	Morehead City, NC	177
TXAR	22	Aransas N.W.R., TX	176
FLNR	23	West Pasco (New Port Richey), FL	175
CAMC	24	Marin County (southern), CA	174
CAOA	24	Oakland, CA	174
FLMI	24	Merritt Island N.W.R., FL	174
CAAN	27	Año Nuevo, CA	173
FLZE	27	Zellwood-Mt. Dora, FL	173
TXPA	27	Port Aransas, TX	173
TXWS	27	Weslaco, TX	173
CABE	31	Benicia, CA	172
CALA	31	Los Angeles, CA	172
CASF	31	San Francisco, CA	172
SCMC	31	McClellanville, SC	172
TXAZ	31	Anzalduas-Bentsen S.P., TX	172
TXCC	31	Corpus Christi, TX	172
CASC	37	Santa Cruz County, CA	171
CASJ	38	San Jose, CA	170
CASZ	38	Sonoma Valley, CA	170
CAPA	40	Palo Alto, CA	166
FLCO	40	Cocoa, FL	166
NCSB	42	Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands, NC	165
TXAP	42	Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., TX	165
TXLA	42	Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., TX	165
CAHF	45	Hayward-Fremont, CA	164
CASS	45	Salton Sea (south), CA	164
FLSP	47	St. Petersburg, FL	163
TXLS	47	La Sal Vieja, TX	163
CASM	49	Sacramento, CA	162
FLJA	50	Jacksonville, FL	161
CARC	51	Rio Cosumnes, CA	160
FLSR	51	Sarasota, FL	160
NCWI	51	Wilmington, NC	160
SCLP	51	Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC	160
SCWB	51	Winyah Bay, SC	160
FLGA	56	Gainesville, FL	159
CADN	57	Del Norte County, CA	158
CAPP	57	Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	158
TXBV	57	Brownsville, TX	158
CAMU	60	Malibu, CA	157
MDOC	60	Ocean City, MD	157
TXCF	60	Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff), TX	157
CALU	63	La Purisima, CA	156
NCMA	63	Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC	156
NJCM	63	Cape May, NJ	156
TXGA	63	Galveston, TX	156
TXHG	63	Harlingen, TX	156
VACC	63	Cape Charles, VA	156
AZGV	69	Green Valley-Madera Canyon, AZ	155
TXSA	69	Santa Ana N.W.R., TX	155
CAES	71	Escondido, CA	154
CAON	71	Orange County (northeastern), CA	154
ORCB	71	Coos Bay, OR	154
FLSB	74	South Brevard County, FL	153
GASV	74	Savannah, GA-SC	153
TXKI	74	Kingsville, TX	153
SCHH	77	Hilton Head, SC	152
TXAY	77	Armand Bayou, TX	152
AZRC	79	Ramsey Canyon, AZ	151
CASG	79	Santa Maria-Guadalupe, CA	151
CASU	79	San Juan Capistrano, CA	151
FLAL	82	Alafia Banks, FL	150
LACW	82	Crowley, LA	150
TXBP	82	Bolivar Peninsula, TX	150
TXCY	82	Cypress Creek, TX	150
TXRO	82	Rockport, TX	150

Table 3b. Counts south of the United States-Mexican border.

Count Code	Rank	Count Name	Species Recorded
ECNM	1	Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador	420
CRRF	2	Rain Forest Aerial Tram, Costa Rica	398
CRLS	3	La Selva, Lower Braulio Carillo N.P., Costa Rica	375
ECYY	4	Yanayacu, Ecuador	373
CRPR	5	Pacific Rainforest Aerial Tram-Carara Reserve, Costa Rica	310
CRMO	6	Monteverde, Costa Rica	299
RPPC	7	Pacific Canal Area, Panama	268
RPAC	8	Atlantic Canal Area, Panama	254
BLBC	9	Belize City, Belize	251
RPCC	9	Central Canal Area, Panama	251
BLPG	11	Punta Gorda, Belize	239
BLBE	12	Belmopan, Belize	233
GMAV	13	Atitlan Volcano, Guatemala	229
ECLA	14	Loma Alta, Ecuador	202
BLGJ	15	Gallon Jug, Belize	201
GMTK	16	Tikal, Guatemala	193
RPVC	17	Volcan, Chiriqui, Panama	184
MXCZ	18	Coast of Central Veracruz, Mexico	175
TRTR	19	Trinidad, W.I.	173
CLBB	20	Rio Barbas-Bremen Natural Reserve, Quindio, Colombia	172
MXES	21	Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico	168



Smallest of the North American white geese, the Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) is apparently increasing in numbers and is showing up more frequently in eastern regions of the continent. But this bird on the Bermuda CBC, a thousand miles or so out in the Atlantic Ocean, was a real treat. Photo/Andrew Dobson

numbers in expected areas. However, Rough-legged Hawks also moved early and remained more of a presence during the count. They were noted in high numbers particularly in two regions—New England and Montana/Idaho. Apparently their movements were focused along two continental barriers, the Atlantic seaboard to the east and the Rocky Mountains to the west.

Another dispersal of sorts was detected by observers during the 109th CBC—birds moving northward from Mexico. The aforementioned Sinaloa and also “Brown-throated” wrens in Arizona, plus vagrants such as Crimson-collared Grosbeak and Blue Bunting in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas illustrate this. Perhaps the most notable was a veritable incursion of five Masked Ducks at La Sal Vieja, Texas—a remarkable record for

this notoriously reclusive waterfowl.

Four species that are the subject of reintroduction programs in North America deserve note. Trumpeter Swans, while declining in their native Yellowstone Basin, are the subject of several highly successful introduction projects. In addition to the native western birds, these largest of all North American waterfowl were tallied across much of the upper Midwest and the East. Whooping Cranes, not yet “countable” except along the Gulf Coast of Texas, are being noted on CBCs in many regions. This year, in addition to Florida (where reintroduced birds have been tallied for several years now), Whoopers were seen in Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina. Two reintroduced raptors—California Condor and Aplomado Falcon—seem to be taking


hold well. Condors were reported on three California counts this season and have been seen once in the past on a CBC in Utah. Their numbers are increasing in the Grand Canyon—perhaps more counts in Arizona and Utah will find them in the upcoming years. Reintroduced Aplomado Falcons are doing well along the Gulf Coast of Texas, and we hope soon will be tallied in New Mexico and west Texas, where a second reintroduction effort for that species is under way.

So what is it that drives us to get out into nature and go birding and to continue the Christmas Bird Count tradition? Of course, birders want to see birds, and they are aware of the changes in species over time. As detailed elsewhere in this issue, the Christmas Bird Count has readily documented what thousands of us have known for some decades—that many species are shifting their ranges. Southern resident species are marching northward, and migrant species are wintering farther and farther northward and inland. It's nice to have the confirmation from a formal study, though we all knew that was going on. But why do we care?

Birding, and a general appreciation for the natural world, can be instilled in people at many times during their lives. Mentors or enthusiastic friends can turn people on to nature and promote an environmental awareness. Outdoor activities, whether through birding clubs, Audubon chapters, or scout and school groups, get people young and old inspired to watch wildlife—“Connecting People with Nature.” But perhaps the biggest influence can come from our parents and extended family during our formative years. I was incredibly fortunate to grow up with a family—and parents—who readily appreciated nature and were birdwatchers. Nothing was ever forced upon me, but the general philosophy of an appreciation of things “out there” was always present. My mother did balk during the season when I raised black widow spiders in our house for a high school senior science fair project,

but anything bird (or butterfly) related was always fair game. Cross-country trips with my parents became birding outings; expeditions with scouting and high school groups often turned into natural history tours. Those years molded my college and career paths and instilled in me a love for, and desire to share, birds and nature with others, even those who can seem unwilling field partners. We who participate on Christmas Bird Counts and similar outdoor activities are in an enviable position to positively influence those who are in the field with us and to pass on our ardor for birds and the rest of the natural world.

This past season, my CBC field partner Doug and I were trudging along in late afternoon in the wildlife refuge where we end our day. Over the years we've had some wonderful finds there, but also spent hours walking miles through thickets and along the salt pond shores tallying only a few common species. One of our "old friends" (birds as well as birders are old friends) was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull we were thrilled to discover on December 22, 2001. Each year since then we've tallied the same bird—often on the same rock—as part of our count. That bird has become a part of our tradition. But this season, the gull wasn't around, on the rocks, in the bay, or flying around. No manner of scoping could find our special gull, and we wondered if it had gone on to the great gull garbage dump in the sky.

As we finished our trek, we cast one last glance toward the rock where our missing friend had been and were surprised to see an elegant, dark-mantled gull flying towards us. It circled around the bay and landed—you guessed it—right on that rock. Our Lesser Black-backed Gull had returned, tallied for its eighth year. Was it looking for us as much as we were hoping to find it? That's doubtful, but it was a wonderful way to end the count. 

This summary is dedicated to my mother, Margaret Shaw LeBaron, an avid birder and concerned environmentalist who passed away on May 11, 2009.

Table 4. Regional high counts for the 109th (2008–2009) Christmas Bird Count.

Region	# of CBCs	Highest Count (species total)
St.-Pierre et Miquelon	2	Île St.-Pierre (50)
Newfoundland	11	St. John's (75)
Nova Scotia	18	Halifax-Dartmouth (134)
Prince Edward Island	2	Hillsborough (49)
	2	Prince Edward Island N.P. (49)
	10	Grand Manan Island (82)
New Brunswick	31	Montréal (69)
Québec	112	Blenheim (115)
Ontario	16	Cypress River-Spruce Woods (41)
Manitoba	21	Saskatoon (39)
Saskatchewan	37	Calgary (65)
Alberta	83	Victoria (137)
British Columbia	6	Fort Smith (21)
Northwest Territories	2	Arviat (2)
Nunavut	9	Rankin Inlet (2)
Yukon Territory	37	Whitehorse (22)
Alaska	29	Ketchikan (75)
Maine	17	Greater Portland (115)
New Hampshire	18	Coastal New Hampshire (94)
Vermont	33	Ferrisburg (80)
Massachusetts	4	Nantucket (134)
Rhode Island	16	South Kingstown (128)
Connecticut	68	New London (125)
New York	29	L.I.: Southern Nassau County (141)
New Jersey	70	Cape May (156)
Pennsylvania	7	Southern Lancaster County (106)
Delaware	24	Cape Henlopen-Prime Hook (145)
Maryland	1	Ocean City (157)
District of Columbia	44	Washington (101)
Virginia	46	Cape Charles (156)
North Carolina	20	Morehead City (177)
South Carolina	26	McClellanville (172)
Georgia	65	Savannah, GA-SC (153)
Florida	62	West Pasco (New Port Richey) (175)
Ohio	18	Toledo (96)
West Virginia	14	Charles Town (80)
Kentucky	30	Land Between the Lakes (97)
Tennessee	11	Reelfoot Lake (119)
Alabama	17	Gulf Shores (142)
Mississippi	65	Jackson County (144)
	38	Southern Hancock County (144)
Michigan	41	Rockwood (93)
Indiana	58	Goose Pond (105)
Wisconsin	46	Madison (83)
Illinois	31	Rend Lake (114)
Minnesota	26	Bloomington (60)
Iowa	21	Keokuk (90)
Missouri	21	Mingo N.W.R. (103)
Arkansas	21	Holla Bend N.W.R. (120)
Louisiana	17	Crowley (150)
North Dakota	16	Garrison Dam (45)
	10	Minot (45)
South Dakota	10	Pierre (71)
Nebraska	21	Lake McConaughy (97)
Kansas	19	Arkansas City (98)
Oklahoma	103	Oklahoma City (125)
Texas	32	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh (233)
Montana	26	Stevensville (82)
Idaho	20	Nampa (93)
Wyoming	42	Jackson Hole (69)
Colorado	33	Pueblo Reservoir (121)
New Mexico	22	Caballo (127)
Utah	12	St. George (109)
Nevada	35	Trukee Meadows (106)
Arizona	39	Green Valley-Madera Canyon (155)
Washington	39	Grays Harbor (142)
Oregon	120	Coos Bay (154)
California	10	Santa Barbara (209)
Hawaii	5	Waipi'o, Oahu (51)
Northern Mariana Islands	22	Saipan (52)
Mexico	4	Coast of Central Veracruz (175)
Belize	2	Belize City (251)
Guatemala	1	Atitlan Volcano (229)
Nicaragua	5	Sierritas de Managua, Conteo Navideño (96)
Costa Rica	4	Rain Forest Aerial Tram (398)
Panama	24	Pacific Canal Area (268)
Colombia	4	Rio Barbas-Bremen Natural Reserve, Quindio (172)
Ecuador	1	Mindo-Tandayapa (420)
Chile	1	Drake Passage, South Atlantic Ocean (21)
Antarctica	1	Cape Crozier, Antarctica (5)
Trinidad	4	Trinidad (173)
Bahamas	2	New Providence Island (119)
Dominican Republic	3	Puerto Escondido (77)
Puerto Rico	2	Cabo Rojo (133)
British Virgin Islands	3	Tortola (43)
U.S. Virgin Islands	1	St. Croix (69)
Bermuda		Bermuda (105)

The 109th Christmas Bird Count in Canada

December 14, 2008, to January 5, 2009

Richard J. Cannings

A total of 361 Canadian counts reported this year, down 10 from the 371 counts reporting for the last two years. For the second year in a row, weather played a dramatic role in counts across the country, particularly in the west. Four major counts on the British Columbia coast were canceled outright when a series of heavy snowfalls blocked roads for days on end. Only Atlantic Canada escaped the cold, enjoying a relatively balmy count period. Despite the decrease in counts done, there were nine new counts added to the Canadian fold: Grand Forks, Valemount, and Stewart-Hyder, BC; Red Deer and Spruce View, AB; Johnson's Crossing, YT; Portage la Prairie, MB; Massey and Pickle Lake, ON. The Kluane National Park count in southwestern Yukon was restarted after a long absence.

Participant numbers dropped by about 500 to 11,059, entirely due to a decrease in the numbers of field observers. The number of feederwatchers increased by about 200 this year—perhaps a further indication of the effects of bad weather. Bird numbers predictably fell as well; the individual total was down to 2.8 million from last year's 3.2 million, while the species total remained steady (albeit at a relatively low level) at 283.

The weather differential between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts made things interesting in the battle for top count this year. In the end, Victoria, BC, with 137 species, narrowly beat out Halifax-Dartmouth's 134, this despite Victoria enduring one of the snowiest days in that city's history. Blenheim, ON had the best inland count with 115 species. At the other end of the diversity spectrum, counts in Nunavut tallied two species—Common Eider and Common Raven. Other provincial high counts are shown in Table 1.

In last year's report I remarked how cold it had been, but this year made the previous effort look downright tropical (Table 2). Every region except the Atlantic coast was significantly colder than last year. In terms of abundance (Table 3), European Starling stabilized at last year's lower numbers but kept its number one position. The commonest waterbirds—Canada Geese and Mallards—also maintained their positions near the top of the list but continued to fall in numbers even when compared to last year's low results. The only common birds that really increased this year were American Crow, Snow Bunting, and American Goldfinch. The crow results are heartening (for crow lovers, at least), indicating a possible

rebound from losses due to West Nile virus in the northern part of their range.

Two species were added to the official Canadian Christmas Bird Count list this year. The most remarkable was a **Little Bunting** found in a flock of juncos at Greater Massett, BC. This little Eurasian sparrow is not only new for Canadian counts, but a first for any Christmas count anywhere. The other new species was a **Sage Thrasher** decidedly out of habitat at Blenheim, ON. The all-time Canada species list for Christmas Bird Counts now stands at 411. Wolfville, NS, had a Le Conte's Sparrow, only the second ever for a Canadian count, and a Manx Shearwater got on the count week list at Grand Manan, NB, the first time that species has made it into a Canadian CBC report.

Northern owls drifted southward in decent numbers this year, perhaps driven by snow and cold in the west. Snowy Owl numbers were well up this year, with 252 reported compared to last year's 65. These birds were distributed across the country (though BC only had one), with Ontario reporting 96. Northern Hawk Owls were seen almost everywhere as well, particularly in the west, with a total of 49 this year compared to 19 last year. Great Gray Owls also increased from 29 last year to 52 this

Table 1. Provincial and territorial summaries for the 109th Christmas Bird Count.

Province or Territory	Counts	Field observers	Feeder watchers	Species	Individuals	Highest species total and count
Alberta	37	791	783	105	159,551	65, Calgary
British Columbia	82	1794	596	215	787,006	137, Victoria
Manitoba	16	248	104	74	47,170	41, Cypress River-Spruce Woods
New Brunswick	10	193	86	110	51,952	82, Grand Manan
Newfoundland and Labrador	11	176	49	112	37,358	75, St. John's
Nova Scotia	18	431	464	161	226,872	134, Halifax-Dartmouth
Northwest Territories	6	64	19	23	5152	21, Fort Smith
Nunavut	3	2	0	2	129	2, Arviat, Rankin Inlet
Ontario	112	2813	1175	175	1,222,430	115, Blenheim
Prince Edward Island	2	36	4	64	22,215	49, Hillsborough, Prince Edward Island N.P.
Québec	32	620	144	116	188,037	69, Montréal
St.-Pierre et Miquelon	2	21	1	69	10,615	50, Île Saint-Pierre
Saskatchewan	21	237	85	79	73,729	39, Saskatoon
Yukon Territories	9	89	34	28	4379	22, Whitehorse
TOTAL	361	7515	3544	283	2,836,595	



Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), on British Columbia's Abbotsford-Mission CBC. Photo/Gord Gadsden



Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) at St. Johns, New Brunswick. Photo/Merv Cormier

year, more than half of them in Alberta.

In this wintry winter, it's nice to celebrate the summery birds that decided not to migrate, or more likely, migrated in the wrong direction and thus brightened the count lists of birders across the country. This year's lists included a Black Vulture at Brier Island, NS, White-eyed Vireo at Long Point, ON, a Western Kingbird and Summer Tanager at Halifax-Dartmouth, and a Black-headed Grosbeak at Chilliwack, BC. Some of

the vagrant gulls seem to be settling down—St. John's, NL, had a Yellow-legged Gull for the third year in a row, and Abbotsford-Mission, BC, had a Slaty-backed Gull for the second year in a row.

And at least one species is doing rather well in Canada despite the chilly winter. The Eurasian Collared-Dove continues its quest for world domination; this year 410 were seen on 18 counts from Terrace, BC, to Riverside, NB. 🐦

Table 2. Yes, it was a cold count: average minimum temperatures reported on Christmas Bird Counts across Canada (°C/°F).

Region	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
British Columbia	-2.4/27.7	-3.6/25.5	-2.4/27.7	-12.1/10.2
Prairies	-11.8/10.8	-11/12.2	-13.1/8.4	-25.8/-14.4
Central	-7.1/19.2	-1.7/28.9	-9.9/14.2	-11.2/11.8
Atlantic Territories	-4.7/23.5	-2.9/26.8	-9.7/14.5	-8.2/17.2
	-14.1/6.6	-20.4/-4.7	-24.3/-11.7	-31.8/-25.2



Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) at Beauce Sud, Québec. Photo/Paulin Rodrigue

Table 3. The 15 most abundant birds reported on the 109th Christmas Bird Count in Canada, with totals from the past two counts for comparison.

Species	109th Count	108th Count	107th Count
European Starling	326,355	317,615	457,478
American Crow	282,492	253,898	191,328
Canada Goose	176,799	207,993	297,987
Mallard	146,063	184,012	224,279
Black-capped Chickadee	115,657	121,875	132,821
Rock Pigeon	111,654	117,384	124,107
House Sparrow	100,767	124,430	138,627
Snow Bunting	99,059	80,289	41,469
Glaucous-winged Gull	90,482	93,513	112,596
Bohemian Waxwing	86,597	86,595	76,004
Dark-eyed Junco	74,437	85,397	66,514
Herring Gull	70,049	77,615	97,568
American Goldfinch	58,961	37,583	57,760
Dunlin	53,906	72,663	52,872
Mourning Dove	47,093	55,009	59,632



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) at St. Albert, Alberta. Photo/Ted Hindmarch

Christmas Bird Counts and Climate Change:

Northward Shifts in Early Winter Abundance

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Abstract

We used Christmas Bird Count data to investigate recent changes in the latitudinal center of abundance of North American birds. Among the 305 bird species in our study, there was a strong northward shift over the past 40 years. Of the 305 species, 208 (68.2 percent) shifted north. Wetland birds, forest birds, shrub birds, and generalists all had a majority of the species shifting northward, but grassland birds did not. These results and others are correlated with the warmer January weather experienced in the contiguous 48 United States over the past 40 years. There is no evidence that the species moving north are currently suffering population declines related to those moves, but if winters continue to warm, bird habitats and food supplies may not be able to track the warmer weather as effectively as many birds can.

Introduction

Bird ranges are dynamic. The ornithological literature is filled with details of range expansions and contractions. Changes in bird ranges can be caused by a wide variety of factors, including disease, competition, predation, human intervention,

The Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) is an arctic raptor that moves to the south in winter months and is one of a host of species whose core CBC range has shifted northward. This one was photographed near Spearfish, South Dakota. Photo/Scott Weins

Daniel K. Niven is Audubon's Senior Scientist for Bird Conservation. Previously he directed Audubon's Important Bird Areas Program, where he guided the development of IBA criteria and helped launch state IBA programs. Niven, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, brings to Audubon a lifelong interest in birds and conservation, having participated in CBCs since he was a toddler.

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G. Thomas Bancroft is Chief Scientist for the National Audubon Society. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of South Florida. Before joining Audubon in 2007 he was Vice President of the Ecology and Economic Research Department at the Wilderness Society. He worked for Audubon on Everglades issues in the 1980s and early 1990s.

and habitat changes. In the face of growing concern about rapid global changes in climatic conditions, much of it due at least in part to human activities (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2007), we decided to assess patterns of change in the winter distributions of various guilds of North America birds. Previous studies have suggested that the northern ranges of birds especially should often be determined by climatic variables such as winter temperature (Root 1988a, b, c).

The distribution and abundance of birds, and their changes, are better known than for any other type of organism. Birds are generally easy to detect, identify, and count relative to other organisms. They are widely distributed both geographically and among habitats. They include both widespread and geographically restricted species, habitat specialists and generalists, and both sedentary species with little ability to disperse and migrants whose individual movements may span 10,000 kilometers. As a result, they are an ideal class of organisms with which to study range dynamics and their causes.

We have especially good information about the range and population dynamics of North American birds because of two continental-scale bird surveys—the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), which is run in the United States by the U.S. Geological Survey and in Canada by the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which is run in the United States by the National Audubon Society and in Canada by Bird Studies Canada. The present study is based on 40 years of data from the Christmas Bird Count.

In this paper we report changes in the distribution of various guilds of birds over the past 40 years in North America, with a focus on patterns found among various guilds of land birds, including those that do or do not use supplemental food supplies. This paper expands upon ongoing work first reported by the Associated Press in February 2009 (Niven et al. 2009) and in a companion

paper (Niven et al. in prep) where we provide more detailed analyses about the relationship between changes in distribution and changes in winter temperature. We have included in our analyses all species that commonly occurred on the Christmas Bird Count during the 40-year period of the study.

Methods

● Climate data and analysis

Monthly average temperature estimates were available for each of the lower 48 U.S. states and the continental aggregate of these states (NOAA, National Climatic Data Center 2009). For each month we used least squares regression to assess the extent of change in continental temperatures over a 40-year time period from 1966 through 2005.

● Avian data, survey area, and time period covered

The Christmas Bird Count is the oldest and largest wildlife survey in the world. Currently, more than 2000 counts are conducted annually during a three-week period between mid-December and early January, with the participation of more than 30,000 volunteer observers contributing more than 60,000 person-days. Each local count is conducted once annually during a 24-hour period in a 15-mile-diameter circle. A variable number of observers divide into separate field parties and tally the total number of individuals of each species detected. An attempt is made to detect all species, but cryptic, rare, and nocturnal species, may be undersampled. Nonetheless, the CBC is applicable to assess continental change in the abundance and distribution of most species of relatively common birds in the continental U.S. and southern Canada.

We based our analysis on the 40-year time period from the winter of 1966–67 through the winter of 2005–06. Although the CBC began in 1900, we chose 1966–67 as a starting point because by that year the CBC survey methods had become standardized, and sample sizes, particularly in the western part of the survey area, were sufficient for statistical analyses.

The survey area was defined as the contiguous lower 48 U.S. states and the southern portions of Alaska and the Canadian provinces. The northern portions of Alaska and Canadian provinces were too poorly covered to provide meaningful data; therefore, the northern extent of coverage was defined based on the ecological boundaries of Bird Conservation Regions 5, 10, 11, 12, and 14, as defined by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI 2000).

The primary sampling units (strata) for our analyses are the portions of the 55 states and provinces occurring within the survey area as defined above. In all analyses, Rhode Island was merged with Connecticut; Washington, D.C., and Delaware were merged with Maryland; Prince Edward Island was merged with Nova Scotia; and the small portion of the Yukon was merged with British Columbia.

● Preliminary data analysis and choice of species

For all North American species, 40-year population trends and annual indices of abundance were estimated, both continentally and for each state and province (strata), with hierarchical models in a Bayesian analysis using Markov chain Monte Carlo techniques (Link et al. 2006, Niven et al. 2004, Sauer et al. 2004). Because the number of observers and amount of time devoted to each survey varies among CBCs, differences in effort among circles were accounted for in the model based on the number of party hours devoted to each survey (Link and Sauer 1999). This method estimates the best nonlinear effort adjustment appropriate for each species in each stratum and applies those adjustments to each circle in the strata.

To focus on widespread species for which we would be able to detect distributional change, our analyses only include species that met the following criteria continentally and in at least five strata: (1) the minimum number of CBC circles in the analysis was at least 25 continentally and five in each of at least five strata, (2) the precision estimate was sufficient that a trend of 10 percent per year or greater



Familiar birds both eastern and western are shifting their CBC ranges northward, including the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), left; Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), middle; and Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), right. Photos (left to right)/ Richard Lee, Ashok Khosla, Darrell E. Spangler

would be statistically significant; (3) the mean relative abundance was at least 0.01 (approximately equal to the average number of birds detected per circle with the average amount of effort), and (4) the percentage of the species' hemispheric early-winter range included within the CBC survey area was at least 1.0 percent. By applying these rules we were left with a total of 305 species.

● Definitions and Classifications

Each of the 305 species was classified into one of the following ecological guilds based on their distribution and habitat use during early winter:

Coastal birds—species whose distributions are largely restricted to the immediate coast or offshore waters. This group includes mostly waterbirds but also a few land birds (Saltmarsh and Seaside sparrows).

Waterbirds—species primarily dependent on aquatic or wetland habitats for feeding and/or roosting that are not restricted to coastal habitats. This guild includes some species found only in freshwater habitats and others that use both fresh and saltwater.

Land birds—species primarily dependent upon terrestrial habitats. Because land birds represent a large and diverse guild, we further subdivided them into additional habitat guilds as follows: (1) Grassland birds—occurring primarily in natural or artificial grassland habitats in winter, (2) Shrubland birds—occupying natural shrubland or rangeland habitat, as well as species characteristic of edge and young second-growth habitats (3) Woodland birds—species characteristic of

mature or late-successional deciduous or coniferous forests, savannahs, open woodlands, or gallery or riparian woodlands, (4) Generalists—species not easily classified within one of the other guilds due to approximately equal use of two or more habitat types during winter. We also included in this guild species often associated with urban or suburban environments.

We further subdivided land birds based on their use of supplemental food provided at feeding stations. Our classification generally follows that of Dunn and Tessaglia-Hymes (2001), but has been expanded and modified based on our personal experience and consideration of species accounts from the Birds of North America series (Poole 2005) as follows:

Regular feeder users—species that make regular use of human-supplemented food, and as a result may at times become partially reliant upon these food sources.

Occasional feeder users—Species that may use supplemental food sources when they are available, but are unlikely to develop any dependence upon these sources.

Non-feeder users—Species that rarely or never visit feeding stations.

● Change in Center of Abundance

Year-specific latitudinal centers of abundance within our survey area were estimated for each species as the mean centroid latitude among all strata (states and provinces) included in the analysis, weighted by the species' strata-specific indices of abundance and the area (in km²) of each stratum.

To facilitate the comparison of annual changes in latitudinal distribution

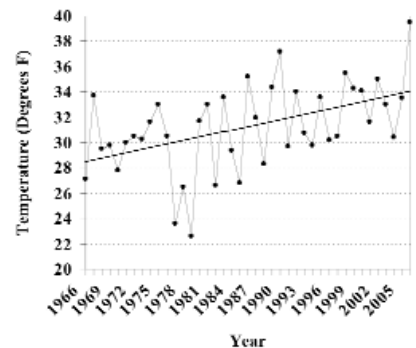


Figure 1. Change in average January temperature across the 48 contiguous United States, 1966–2006.

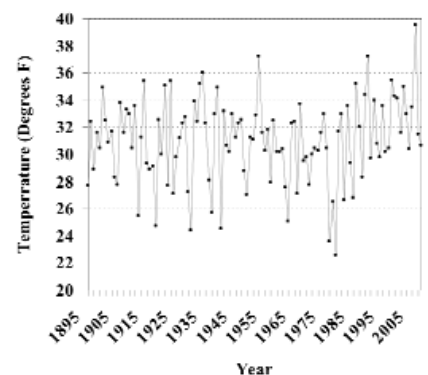


Figure 2. Change in average January temperature across the 48 contiguous United States, 1895–2008.

among species, for each species we subtracted the value of the centroid latitude in year one (winter 1966–67) from each of the 40 yearly estimates. This standardized the centroid latitudes of all species to start at zero in year one (1966–67) such that the values in all subsequent years reflected the amount of change since year one. For each species, and for the median values among all species in each guild, standard least squares linear

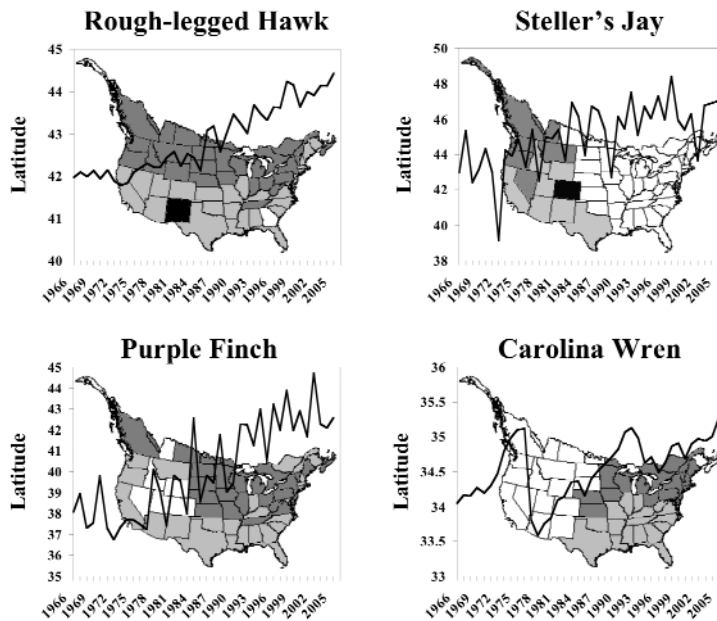


Figure 3. Change in latitudinal center of abundance and regional differences in population trends of selected species.

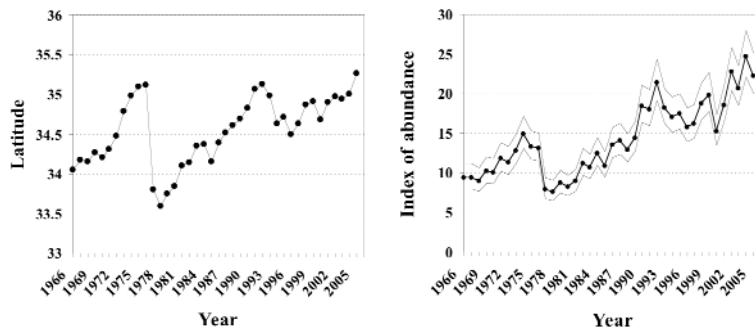


Figure 4. Annual change in the latitudinal center of abundance (left) and change in estimated continental abundance, with 95 percent confidence intervals, (right) for the Carolina Wren.

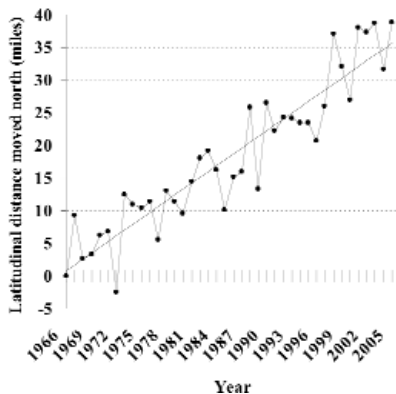


Figure 5. Average amount of change in the latitudinal center of abundance (in miles) of 305 widespread bird species in North America.

regression was used to determine the total amount of latitudinal change in miles.

● Geographic Variation in Population Trends

To explore geographic variation in population trends, for each species and each stratum in which it occurred, we calculated the deviation of the stratum-specific population trend from the continental population trend by subtracting the 40-year continental population trend estimate from the 40-year stratum population trend estimate. For simplicity we will refer to these differences as the “stratum trend deviations.” A positive stratum trend deviation indicates that the 40-year

population trend in that state or province was higher than the overall continental average and vice versa.

Results

● Temperature patterns

Based on regression analyses, January was the month that experienced the greatest amount of annual temperature change in the lower 48 states over the past 40 years (the period of our study). During this period the average January temperature increased more than 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit (Figure 1). In fact, both the coldest and warmest average January temperatures during the 114-year period for which we have data (from 1895 through 2008) occurred within our 40-year study period: the coldest two Januaries were in 1977 and 1979; the warmest was in 2006 (Figure 2).

● Distributional Changes of Selected Species

Our study confirmed northward shifts in many species, such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Northern Cardinal, that have been mentioned as moving north in other studies, informal writings, and personal conversations. Many other species that have been less subject to such discussions have also moved north, including Rough-legged Hawk, Steller's Jay, and Purple Finch (Figure 3). These changes may or may not involve overall range shifts, including retraction from the south and/or expansion to the north, but in all cases the pattern of change in relative abundance is reflected in regional differences in population trends.

The potential effect of temperature on distribution can be seen by considering the pattern of yearly change in the latitudinal center of abundance for Carolina Wren (Figures 3 and 4) in relation to changes in average January temperature (Figure 1). The pattern of expansion north was clearly reversed, according to the CBC data, in the winter of 1977–78 following the previously cold winter. Moreover, based on the continental annual indices of abundance, the southern shift in center of abundance in 1977–78 appears to accompany a continental

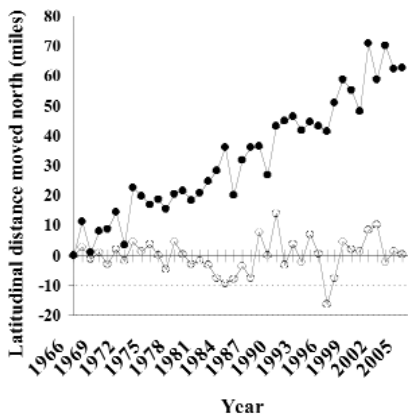


Figure 7. Change in center of abundance of species with significantly increasing (N=60; solid circles) or significantly decreasing (N=24; open circles) population trends. Definitions of significantly increasing and decreasing trends are given in Butcher and Niven (2007).

population decline likely reflecting mortality in the north, rather than simply a migration south (Figure 4).

● **Distributional Changes of Groups**

By aggregating annual patterns of distributional change among all 305 bird species in our study, we found a strong average shift in center of abundance to the north over the past 40 years (Figure 5, Niven et al. 2009, Niven et al. in prep.). The average distance moved was approximately 35 miles, or slightly less than one mile per year. Of these 305 species, 208 (68.2 percent) shifted north (Table 1), with 123 species (40.3 percent) shifting north more than 50 miles. (An appendix with species-specific information is available at <http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/bacc/pdfs/Appendix.pdf>).

Among the 305 species in our analysis, 179 were classified as land birds. Land birds as a group exhibited more latitudinal movement than did waterbirds or species restricted to the coast. Seventy-five percent of land birds shifted north an average of 48 miles (Table 1).

We divided land birds into four habitat guilds. Within three of the four guilds the birds shifted north on average (Table 1). Woodland birds shifted the most, whereas grassland birds showed almost no change (a negligible shift south of 3.2

Table 1. Latitudinal change in center of abundance and continental population trends for the 305 species analyzed, according to their habitat guild classification and use of feeders. Analyses are based on Christmas Bird Count data from 1966-2005.

Species Groups	Number of species	Percent of species shifting north:		Average distance shifted north (miles)	Average population trend (percent change/year)
		> 0 miles	> 50 miles		
All Species	305	68.2	40.3	34.8	0.9
Coastally-Restricted Species	33	57.6	33.3	19.9	0.5
Species not restricted to coast					
Waterbirds	93	59.1	34.4	14.6	2.2
Land birds	179	74.9	44.7	48.1	0.3
Regular feeder user	64	81.3	57.8	82.1	0.7
Occasional feeder user	56	73.2	33.9	37.3	0.0
Rarely/Never visit feeders	59	69.5	40.7	21.6	0.2
Generalist	26	65.4	42.3	27.1	1.7
Grass	26	50.0	26.9	-3.2	-1.1
Shrub	39	76.9	38.5	36.8	-0.6
Woodland	88	84.1	53.4	74.5	0.7
Regular feeder user	37	91.9	64.9	107.1	0.7
Occasional feeder user	27	77.8	40.7	53.1	1.3
Rarely/Never visit feeders	24	79.2	50.0	48.4	0.3

miles). We also divided the land birds into those that regularly, occasionally, or rarely/never use supplemental food provided at bird feeders. All three of these groups shifted their centers of abundance to the north (Table 1). Because feeder birds and woodland birds exhibited such strong patterns, and because many feeder birds are woodland species, we divided woodland birds by feeder use status. Woodland species showed significant northward shifts in the center of abundance regardless of whether or not they used feeders, indicating that shifts north are widespread and not simply an artifact of increased feeder availability and use.

● **Population trends**

CBC population trends show a positive bias relative to those for the same species on the BBS (Butcher and Niven 2007). Therefore, trends are likely not as positive as those shown in Table 1. Nonetheless, grassland and shrubland birds show declines as a group, woodland and coastal birds show small increases, and generalists and aquatic/wetlands birds show large increases (Table 1). When considering the complete suite of 305 species in our analysis, we found that species with significantly increasing trends showed strong northerly shifts in their center of distribution, whereas

species experiencing significant declines did not (Figure 7).

Discussion

LaSorte and Thompson (2007) and Hitch and Leberg (2007) previously reported that North American birds, on average, have shifted their distributions to the north in recent decades. Our study supports their findings and expands upon them by including a larger and more inclusive suite of species. In each of these studies and ours, the average yearly shift north of North American birds was approximately one mile per year. January temperatures rose significantly across the 48 states in the last 40 years, so it may not be surprising that a majority of the common and widespread bird species shifted to the north on the Christmas Bird Count during this period of warmer weather. Our results for the Carolina Wren (Figure 4) and those of Mehlman (1997) represent an example of how annual weather patterns (in this case, severe weather patterns) may affect both distribution and abundance. Niven et al. (in prep.) report strong evidence that the northward shifts in winter center of abundance are caused by the warmer temperatures. For example, annual variation in latitudinal centers of avian abundance is correlated

with annual variation in temperature, and among the lower 48 states, rates of population change are strongly correlated with rates of temperature change, independent of latitude. Because we found northward movements among almost all types of birds, a general factor such as temperature must be responsible rather than anything specific to a particular habitat or guild. However, provisioning of supplemental food at feeders may contribute to these patterns by increasing survivorship in northern areas with harsher winter conditions.

Our study has shown that birds are good indicators of warming winter weather, but the results do not generally suggest that the birds that moved over the past 40 years have suffered because of that movement. Among species with positive population trends, many shifted north (Figure 7). The major explanation for differences in population change over the last 40 years appears to be related to habitat rather than climate change: waterbirds, woodland birds, and generalists are all increasing, while shrubland and grassland birds are declining (Table 1). Therefore, if current winter temperature patterns were to stabilize, there may be little reason for concern for the future of most of the bird species included in this study. However, the IPCC (2007) has predicted that global warming will continue indefinitely unless humans act swiftly to curb the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and projected impacts of climate change are expected to be widespread (Karl et al. 2009). If winters continue to warm, many species that have done well over the past 40 years may not do so well in the future. Most plants and animals are unlikely to be able to respond to warming conditions as quickly as birds, and differences in the rate of movement may lead to ecological disruption of natural communities that could negatively affect even those birds that can quickly adjust their distributions (Lawler et al. 2009). Moreover, some groups of species may already be experiencing negative impacts of climate change. We found that birds

with significantly declining populations did not exhibit latitudinal shifts to the north (Figure 7). In other words, birds that shifted significantly north did better than species that did not. Further research may clarify this issue, but it may be that the pool of declining species includes species that were unable, for ecological or behavioral reasons, to shift their distributions north in response to climate change and therefore suffered as a result (McLaughlin et al. 2002, Malcolm et al. 2006, Sekercioglu et al. 2008). Indeed, species dependent upon specialized or localized habitats (such as salt marshes) or nonmigratory species restricted to oceanic islands or habitat islands (such as mountaintop habitats) may be least able to disperse to new areas as conditions change, and these species may be most severely affected by climatic change. 🐦

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The 109th Christmas Bird Count of 2008–2009 is now history, consisting of 2124 counts with about 59,800 observers recording about 65,573,000 individuals of 2126 species. In sharp contrast, the original 25 CBCs were taken on 25 December 1900 by 27 observers recording about 18,500 individuals of 90 species. The longest-running unbroken survey of avifauna in the world, the CBC is by far the largest survey of its kind on such a spatial scale.

4000

Four Hundred and Counting: *Reflections on a Long Association with the Christmas Bird Count*

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Paul Sykes on the Back Bay NWR CBC on the occasion of his 400th Christmas Bird Count, 29 December 2008, his 71st birthday. Photo/Robert L. Anderson



*I have been
involved with
the Christmas
Bird Counts
for 56 years...*

as a participant, organizer, compiler, and regional editor. It has been a most pleasant journey with many wonderful experiences: enjoying the pure joy of bird-

ing, contributing to our knowledge of early winter bird populations, experiencing the thrill of observing many different species at many localities and in different habitats, marveling at large numbers of birds (sometimes in the millions), and meeting and associating with great people over the years. It is only during the count periods that I see my many birding friends and enjoy the camaraderie of kindred spirits.

The Early Years

My interest in birds began at the age of 10. At that time my parents, sister, and I lived in the suburbs of Norfolk, Virginia, in Lafayette Residence Park. This section of the city had many large old trees, well-landscaped yards, and extended for about a mile along the Lafayette River, a tidal estuary bordered by small patches of salt marsh. It was a heavily developed area but a good place to find a variety of birds. This neighborhood was home for my first 27 years. A small strip of salt marsh extended halfway through the center of our large city block. Neighbors Eloise and Joseph Shank (editor of the evening newspaper, the *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, and later the *Ledger-Star*), lived on our block with their backyard on this marsh. Mrs. Shank had nest boxes and various types of bird feeders provisioned during the colder months. She also fed hummingbirds during spring, summer, and early fall using homemade feeders (no hummingbird feeders were commercially available at that time). All the bird activity in this landscaped yard attracted my attention; you could see birds close-up

without optics. At 10, I was awestruck by the different species, their behaviors, and their intricate plumages. From this time on I was hooked.

I purchased my first binoculars in 1950 for \$130, a pair of 7x35 Bausch & Lomb Zephyrs. I earned the money cutting grass and raking leaves, and collecting and selling scrap iron and paper; Christmas and birthday money also helped! I still have these bins, which are in good working order.

At 12 or 13 I met other birders in the Norfolk–Virginia Beach area and began birding regularly on weekends, holidays, and sometimes after school. Floy C. Burford, Frank (Pop) C. Richardson, and W. (Froggy) F. Rountrey became my mentors in the 1950s, taking me birding all over Tidewater Virginia, and occasionally elsewhere in the state, as well as to North Carolina's Outer Banks.

My parents, and three aunts who also lived in the neighborhood, were very supportive of my birding hobby from the beginning, and that support extended over many years. Mom would get up early and fix me a hot breakfast, then Dad would drive me to meet other birders until the time I obtained my driver's license. Dad would also pick me up if I had no means of getting home. When I finally had a license I used the family car, or if that was not available, I was usually able to borrow my aunts' car. In later years my parents let me use our house as lodging for visiting birders that had come from out of town for the CBCs. We often had as many as 15 birders "camping out" on all available floor space in the living and dining rooms and foyer.

In 1952 at age 15, I joined the Virginia Society of Ornithology, where I soon met and birded with birders and professional ornithologists (Ruskin S. Freer, John H. Grey, J.J. Murray, Jack E. Perkins, Robert O. Paxton, Fred R. Scott, C.C. Steirly, Charles "Mo" E. Stevens, and Alexander Wetmore, to

mention a few). In February 1953 I was a junior founding member of the Cape Henry Bird Club at Norfolk (now the Cape Henry Audubon Society). I am still a member of both organizations.

My first spotting scope, a Bausch & Lomb Balscope Sr., with 30x and 60x interchangeable eyepieces and a tripod, was a gift in 1954 from birding friend Connie Darden of Norfolk. Connie was buying a new scope, and our mutual friend Floy Burford suggested she give the scope and tripod to me rather than to the Cape Henry Bird Club. This reliable old scope, now mounted on a different tripod, sits in front of a picture window in my study, overlooking our wooded backyard in Watkinsville, Georgia.

The Journey

My first CBC was at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in what was then Princess Anne County, Virginia (now the city of Virginia Beach) on 26 December 1953; I was 15. Floy Burford was compiler. At that time there were no participation fees (some individuals and counts voluntarily sent contributions to defray publication costs). This 54th (1953–1954) Christmas Bird Count was published in the April 1954 issue of *Audubon Field Notes* (AFN). That issue cost \$2; subscription to all six issues of AFN was \$3. Gasoline was 33 cents or less per gallon; the service station attendant pumped the gas, cleaned the windshield, checked oil level and air pressure in the tires at no extra charge, and road maps were free. Candy bars and soft drinks were 5 cents, hot dogs went for 15 cents, and hamburgers 20 cents. The first official fee for the counts (50 cents per observer) came with the 56th CBC (1955–1956) to help defray costs of printing the CBC issue. The fee to cover publication costs was gradually increased over the years to the current \$5, which, like 50 cents long ago, might buy two hamburgers. Cape

Paul W. Sykes Jr. has been birding for 61 years and involved with Christmas Bird Counts for the past 56 years. He is the first person to have participated on 400 or more CBCs. Paul is a retired U.S. Department of the Interior wildlife research biologist and is now scientist emeritus with his former home office, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. In retirement, he continues with his research, initiated in 1999, on the survival, longevity, and site fidelity of the eastern population of the Painted Bunting from North Carolina to Florida.

Henry Audubon Society, as the longtime sponsor of three counts—the Back Bay NWR, Bodie-Pea Island (North Carolina), and Little Creek (Virginia) CBCs—agreed in the 1990s and continues to the present to pay the \$5 fee for all participants on these counts.

I took over as compiler for the Back Bay NWR count the next year, at the age of 16 (two days shy of my 17th birthday). Since 1954 I have compiled 174 Christmas Bird Counts at six localities in three states (Table 1). Over the years I started five new CBCs, four of which are still ongoing. I started the Little Creek and Norfolk County counts in southeastern Virginia in 1954. I changed the name of the Norfolk County CBC to Chesapeake two years after the city of Chesapeake, including all of Norfolk County, was incorporated in 1963. This count was discontinued after 1967. In 1957, while a sophomore at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, I started the Nansemond River CBC, but it ran only intermittently through 1967. Edward (Ned) S. Brinkley restarted this count in 1995, but shifted the center of the count circle slightly. I started the Bodie-Pea Island CBC in 1965 while in graduate school at North Carolina State and have continued as compiler to the present. In 2005, Steve Holzman (a biologist and information technology specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Ecological Services Office in Athens,



The original Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge as it appeared in December 1959. At the time, the refuge administrative complex could only be reached by driving or walking the sand beach 5 miles from the nearest paved road, by shallow draft boat, or by float plane. Photo by Paul Sykes.

Table 1. Christmas Bird Counts Compiled by Paul W. Sykes Jr., 1954 through 2008.

State	Number of Different Counts	Count Name (Code)	Inclusive Years	Number of Counts
Georgia	1	Lake Oconee (GALO) ¹	2005–2008	4
North Carolina	1	Bodie-Pea Island (NCBP)	1965–2008	44
Virginia	4	Back Bay NWR (VABB)	1954–1961, 1963–2006, ² 2007–2008 ³	54
		Little Creek (VALC)	1954–1961, 1963–2008 ³	54
		Nansemond River (VANR)	1957–1960, 1963, 1966, 1967	7
		Norfolk County/Chesapeake (VANC/VACH)	1954–1961, 1965–1967	11
Totals 3	6	GA = 1; NC = 1; VA = 4		174

¹ Co-compiler with Steve Holzman 2005–2008.

² I was in the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean area during the Christmas Count period in 1962–1963 and did not participate on any CBCs.

³ Co-compiler with Dorie Stolley in 2007–2008.

Georgia) and I started the Lake Oconee CBC in Greene County, Georgia, about 20 miles south of Athens. In 2007, Dorie S. Stolley (a biologist with the USFWS at Back Bay NWR, now visitors' services manager at Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR at Cape Charles) joined me as co-compiler of the Back Bay NWR count. All CBCs that I have compiled have been published in *Audubon Field Notes*, *American Birds*, or more recently, on National Audubon's website, with Virginia CBCs also published in *The Raven*, and, since 1965, the one North Carolina count in *The Chat*.

Over the past 56 years I have participated on CBCs in seven states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (Table 2). The only year I missed was in 1962 while on active duty in the U.S. Navy. The ship on which I was stationed, the destroyer tender, *USS Shenandoah* (AD-26), home ported at Norfolk, was deployed to the Mediterranean during the 63rd CBC. I tried but was unable to return home for the counts. The Back Bay NWR and Little Creek CBCs that year were compiled by Henry A. Hespenheide and W. (Froggy) F. Rountrey, respectively. Hence I have participated on counts for 55 of the past 56 years.

I participated on counts in four states from Florida to Virginia for several years. All travel to and from the counts

has been by car—an estimated 200,000 miles. The greatest straight-line distance between counts was 815 miles, about 1075 road miles, from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, to Cape Charles, Virginia. Only one count is done per calendar day, and time on individual CBCs has ranged from 7 to 13 hours afield (this does not include time driving to and from the count circles), with a mean somewhere between 11 to 12 hours per count, including nocturnal efforts but not time at compilations. I have nearly always attended compilations for counts that have them, as I find it most interesting to learn what the other parties have seen during the day. I try to get five to seven hours sleep per day during the counts and regularly go on five CBCs consecutively in North Carolina and Virginia. The most miles walked on the counts in a year were 33 on nine CBCs in 1988 (3.7 miles per count).

During my early CBC years I had no idea that they would become a lifelong pursuit, but my interest has never diminished. In the last few years I realized I would soon reach a significant milestone in the number of counts in which I have taken part. I was elated to reach that plateau of 400 counts on my 71st birthday on 29 December 2008 on the 109th CBC at the Back Bay NWR, Virginia. This was also the first CBC on which I participated in 1953, and the

Table 2. Annual Christmas Bird Count Participation by Paul W. Sykes Jr., 1953 through 5 January 2009.

State	Number of Different Counts	Count Name	Participation ¹	
			Inclusive Years	Number of Years
Alabama/Georgia	1	Eufaula NWR	1997–2001	5
Total				5
Florida	6	Biscayne Natl. Park	1981, 1983, 1988	3
		Ft. Lauderdale	1974, 1983, 1984, 1987–1993	10
		Gainesville	1991	1
		Merritt Island NWR	1988, 1991	2
		Stuart	1971	1
		West Palm Beach	1972–1993	22
Total				39
Georgia	11	Albany	1995	1
		Athens	1994–2001, 2008	9
		Atlanta	1994–2007	14
		Augusta	2002–2003	2
		Dublin	1990, 1991, 1993–1995	5
		Glynn County	1992	1
		Harris Neck	2002–2005	4
		Lake Oconee	2005–2008	4
		Piedmont NWR-Rum Creek WMA	1989–2008	20
		St. Catherines Island	2002–2008	7
Total				67
Maryland	1	Ocean City Pelagic	1979	1
Total				1
North Carolina	5	Bodie-Pea Island	1965–2008	44
		Cape Hatteras	1981–2008	28
		Ocracoke	1997	1
		Raleigh/Wake County	1964	1
		Roanoke Rapids	1991	1
Total				75
South Carolina	7	ACE Basin	1992	1
		Aiken	1997, 1998, 2005–2007	5
		Clemson	1993	1
		Rocky River	1997	1
		Savannah River Plant	1990, 1995	2
		Lake Wateree	2006	1
		Winwah Bay	2005	1
Total				12
Virginia	8	Back Bay NWR	1953–1961, 1963–2008 ²	55
		Cape Charles	1965–1978, 1980–2008	43
		Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel	2003	1
		Chincoteague NWR	1965, 1970–1978, 1980	11
		Dismal Swamp	1993, 1994, 1996–2000, 2002	8
		Little Creek	1954–1961, 1963–2008 ²	54
		Nansemond River	1957–1960, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1995–2009	22
		Norfolk County/Chesapeake	1954–1961, 1965–1967	11
Total				205
TOTALS	38	--	--	403^{3,4}

¹ Participated on only one count per calendar day; minimum of 7.5 hours in field per count, but averaged between 11–12 hours per count. Participated on my first CBC in 1953 (Back Bay NWR, VA) at age 15.

² I was in the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean area during the Christmas Count period in 1962–1963 and did not participate on any CBCs.

³ My 300th CBC was Little Creek, VA, on 31 December 1999; 350th CBC was Atlanta, GA, on 19 December 2004; and 400th CBC was Back Bay NWR, VA, on 29 December 2008.

⁴ From 1954 (at age 16) through 2009 I have compiled 174 CBCs. Highest number of CBCs participated on in one year was 14 in 1997, 13 in 2005, and 12 in 1995, 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2006.

first I compiled, in 1954. Eighteen people attended the compilation that evening at Seacrest Restaurant, in the count circle in the community of Pungo in Virginia Beach. Back Bay NWR manager, Jared Brandwein, presented me with a certificate of appreciation, and my co-compiler, Dorie Stolley, most thoughtfully baked and decorated a chocolate birthday cake that was enjoyed by all. The wording on top of the cake read “Happy 400th, 71st Paul.” I had carefully scheduled my 400th count to be at Back Bay NWR (Table 4). I ended the 109th CBC with my 403rd count at Nansemond River CBC on 3 January 2009. Are 500 counts possible in a lifetime? Just maybe, if health and will continue unabated.

From that first count in 1953, I kept a file of each CBC in which I took part. These files now fill several file cabinet drawers plus four boxes, and continue to increase annually. To date I have been on 38 different counts in seven states (Table 2), having participated five times on counts in Alabama, 39 in Florida, 67 in Georgia, once in Maryland, 75 in North Carolina, 12 in South Carolina, and 205 in Virginia.

I’ve been very fortunate to have had a flexible work schedule my entire 42-year career as a wildlife research biologist (now emeritus) with the U.S. Department of the Interior. I’ve been located at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center’s (Laurel, Maryland) field stations in Florida, Hawaii, and Georgia. Joan, my bride of 47 years (several married birding friends refer to her as a saint for her indulgence of my birding hobby), has been most tolerant of my involvement with the CBCs these many years. The combination of a flexible work schedule, an understanding spouse and family, a willingness to survive on less than seven or eight hours sleep per night while driving long distances and eating convenience foods, combined with the sheer joy of birding at different places not subject to much snowfall has enabled me to maximize my count participation over the long haul.

I have remained dedicated to a select group of CBCs over the years, mainly in coastal Virginia and northeastern North Carolina (Table 2), despite the fact that Joan and I have not lived in the Norfolk area since 1964. After moving from Tidewater Virginia, we lived in Raleigh, North Carolina, for three years, at Delray Beach, Florida, for almost 20 years, and for the past 23 years at Watkinsville, Georgia. While living in Florida, we would load up our Chevy station wagon and, with our three children, drive straight through to one of our parents' homes in Norfolk or Currituck County, North Carolina—a 17-hour drive prior to completion of I-95, and a 15-hour drive after completion. During the Florida years we spent only one Christmas day at our home in Delray Beach, but that one year I left the next day for the counts in Virginia and North Carolina.

Up until the 101st CBC (2000–2001), the inclusive dates for the counts and the length of the count periods varied widely in the early years of CBC history (examples: December 24 to January 2, December 14 to January 2, December 19 to January 4). Starting with the 101st, dates were permanently fixed from December 14 through January 5. This made the length of the period 23 days—a greater number than any prior count period. Making the inclusive dates permanent allowed for long-range planning and provided greater flexibility in selecting count dates.

The highest numbers of CBCs I participated in in one CBC season were 14 in 1997, 13 in 2005, and 12 in 1995, 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2006. Most years I have done 11 CBCs or fewer. Chandler S. Robbins, another veteran CBCer, informs me that the most counts he went on in one year was 12 in 1977. I am sure there are a number of other avid CBC participants who have done 12 or more counts in one year. For instance, the “grand champion” in doing Christmas Bird Count marathons is Kelly McKay of Quad Cities, Illinois, who in the 103rd CBC (2002–2003) participated in an amazing 20 counts in

Table 3. Regional Christmas Count Editing for *American Birds* by Paul W. Sykes Jr., 1974–2001.

CBC Number	Years	Region	Number of CBCs Edited and Summarized
75th	1974–1975	NC, SC, GA, FL	74
76th	1975–1976	"	75
77th	1976–1977	"	76
78th	1977–1978	"	80
79th	1978–1979	"	80
80th	1979–1980	"	89
81st	1980–1981	"	87
82nd	1981–1982	"	91
83rd	1982–1983	"	100
84th	1983–1984	"	103
85th	1984–1985	"	106
86th	1985–1986	"	104
87th	1986–1987	GA, FL ¹	66
88th	1987–1988	"	70
89th	1988–1989	"	70
90th	1989–1990	"	73
91st	1990–1991	"	73 ²
92nd	1991–1992	"	75
93rd	1992–1993	"	74
94th	1993–1994	"	74
95th	1994–1995	"	74
96th	1995–1996	"	73
97th	1996–1997	"	74
98th	1997–1998	"	75
99th	1998–1999	"	78
100th	1999–2000	"	77
101st	2000–2001	"	81
Total	27	4 States for 12 Years	2172
		2 States for 15 Years	

¹ Region was split in 1987 with North Carolina and South Carolina paired and Georgia and Florida paired.

² No regional summaries were published for the 91st CBC in 1991, Vol. 45, but some regional editor's brief comments were included in the overall count summary.

Iowa and Illinois between 14 December and 5 January (McKay 2003). He did even more on the 104th CBC (2003–2004), participating on 23 different CBCs—one count for each day during the count period. No one else to date has accomplished this feat or even come close. He drove 7100 miles, slept only 32 hours (if correct, this is an average of 1.4 hours per count), and saw 132 species over the course of 267 hours on the counts (McKay 2004).

Harry Armistead and Will Russell started the Cape Charles count in 1965. I have participated on every Cape Charles count except one, in 1979 (Table 2). I was on Richard Rowlett's Ocean City Pelagic CBC the day before the Cape Charles count, but the trip was weathered out, and instead ran the next day at the same time as Cape Charles. As a consolation, I saw my life Great Skua

off the Maryland coast and was still able to make the compilation of the Cape Charles count. Another count I have participated on since its inception (by Harry LeGrand and Carl Perry in 1981) is the Cape Hatteras count, now compiled by Pat Moore. Other counts I have been on for a number of years include West Palm Beach from 1972 to 1993, then run by Howard P. Langridge and now by Charles Weber; the Piedmont NWR–Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area, Georgia, 1989 to present, compiled by Terry Johnson; and Nansemond River, 1954 to 1961, 1965 to 1967, and 1995 to present, now under the helm of Robert (Bob) L. Ake.

Harry Armistead for many years has graciously taken on the task of scheduling the dates in cooperation with the compilers of many, but not all, of the CBCs on the coasts of Maryland,

Virginia, and northeastern North Carolina in an effort to minimize competition for participants. This enabled a number of us to go on more counts in a row and not have to do much “back-tracking,” either starting north and going south, or the reverse. For the past 11 years, Harry and son George, Jared Sparks, myself, and several others started with Cape Hatteras, then moved north to Bodie-Pea Island, Back Bay NWR, Cape Charles, and, for me, Little Creek and Nansmond River. The difficulty of getting all compilers to agree on the dates of their counts to accommodate these arrangements has not been easy. Consequently, Will Russell, with his well-known dry humor, composed a short poem (below) nearly 40 years ago. At that time Chan Robbins was compiler of the Ocean City CBC (Jay Sheppard took over from Chan in 2000).

A Compiler's Lament

*What a pity Ocean City
Can't be disregarded.
No one in Virginia cares
When Marylanders are getting started.*

*Poison Robbins on Thanksgiving.
That would solve our problems.
Blackwater would evaporate
Scheduling would be sedate.*

*If Sykes would stay in Florida
Things would be a cinch.
Virginia would be devastated
Maryland quite elevated.*

*Paul says this and Harry that
Why is Chandler so contrary.
Ah—I know what can be done
Hold Chincoteague in February!*

*It is no use
I've racked my brain
It simply can't be done
I thus suggest
We drop all counts
'til 1981.*

—Will Russell

Some years ago (I forget the year) a strong northeast storm forced me to postpone the Back Bay NWR count for several days. This is the only CBC I have postponed. For the past 30-plus years the counts have been scheduled well in advance, so we must take a chance with the weather, and with many more counts in the general region, postponement would not be possible now.

Several long associations with Christmas Bird Counts are truly remarkable. Charlie Rogers of Princeton, New Jersey, went on his first CBC at Princeton in 1900 and had missed only one count until his death at 89—a run of 78 years. Harry B. McConnell of Cadiz, Ohio, at age 89 completed his 55th year on the Cadiz CBC, unbroken since he started in 1901 (Robbins 2006). Chan Robbins, now 91, has been on counts for 74 consecutive years through the 109th CBC (Robbins pers. comm.). Charlie (Mo) Stevens of Charlottesville, Virginia, over a period of 63 years through 2007, has participated on 220 CBCs in Virginia. He has been on 17 different counts and compiled 166, all in Virginia. The dedication of these four gentlemen to the counts over the years is truly inspiring.

Birding with his longtime friend, W. (Froggy) F. Rountrey, Frank (Pop) C. Richardson, at age 100, participated on the Little Creek, Virginia, count on 31 December 1986, the 87th CBC (Leukering 1987, photo p. 544). He is probably the oldest person to ever go on a Christmas Bird Count. He went on his first CBC at age 65 in 1951 at Back Bay NWR, and managed to go on a total of 47 counts over the years (Sykes 1991). Pop lived to be 104.

It is interesting to note that Chandler Robbins became the compiler on his very first CBC at Belmont and Fresh Pond (Cambridge), Massachusetts, on 26 December 1934 (three years before I was born) at the age of 16. Chan continued to compile the Belmont CBC through 1947 (Robbins 2006). He has participated on 397 published CBCs from 1935 through 2008 (109th CBC).

Chan is a lifelong birder with “fantastic ears” and exceptional bird-identification skills. He was associate editor and technical editor of *Audubon Field Notes* from 1947 to 1990, and he established eight CBCs in Maryland from 1946 through 1949. He is a world-renowned wildlife research biologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, where he is scientist emeritus and still maintains an office. Among his many accomplishments, he is co-author with Robert Stewart of the *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, and co-author with Bertel Bruun and Herbert S. Zim of *A Guide to Field Identification Birds of North America* in 1966 and subsequent editions (Boone and Dowell 1987, Dowell and Sheppard 2005, Robbins 2006).

One of the youngest persons to go on a Christmas Bird Count is undoubtedly the well-known biologist and birder extraordinaire, Peter Pyle (with the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes Station, California). His father, Robert (Bob) L. Pyle, I vividly recall, told me that his wife, Leilani (Billie to many of her friends) went on counts in Maryland when she was pregnant with Peter. Now 51, Peter has been on one or more counts every year since he was born (Peter Pyle pers. comm.). I am sure that there are a number of other staunch birders who have gone on counts for 50-plus years that should also be recognized.

Through the 74th (1973–1974) CBC, Allan D. Cruickshank had been editing and summarizing all the counts. Beginning with the 75th (1974–1975) CBC, Canada, the United States, Middle America, and the West Indies were divided into 25 CBC regions; some regions have since been further subdivided. I became the regional editor for North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida at that time, and remained in that position through the 86th (1985–1986) CBC (Table 3). Starting with the 87th (1986–1987) CBC, this region was split, and Harry LeGrand became the regional editor for North and South Carolina. I continued

as the regional editor for Georgia and Florida for the 87th through the 101st CBC, thus serving as a regional editor for 27 years. After I relinquished the duty of regional editor in 2001, I recommended to CBC Director Geoff LeBaron that Florida and Georgia be made independent CBC regions and suggested for my replacements Giff Beaton for Georgia and Bill Pranty for Florida. Both of these well-known birders accepted the duties and continue as regional editors to the present. During this time I edited 2172 counts and wrote summaries for 26 years (no regional summaries were published for the 91st [1990–1991] CBC).

Events of Interest

Everyone has had interesting or humorous situations arise while on CBCs, and I am no exception.

On the Cape Charles count one year, Townley Wolfe and I went to the door of a farmhouse to request permission to bird the property and were met at the door by the owner with shotgun in hand. We made a hasty retreat. Dan Connelly, George Reeves, and I, a couple of years ago at Aiken, South Carolina, were stopped by the local sheriff's deputy for trespassing, having been reported by the local caretaker of a large property with an absentee owner. The "no trespassing" sign on the old logging road where we entered the property was hidden from view by vegetation, and we did not see the sign until we were leaving. Dan, being local, talked to the deputy and the matter was dropped, but as a result we lost an hour or so of good birding.

Once on the Norfolk County CBC I forgot my binoculars, but did not discover this until first light. I was working with Dick Peake, who, of course, had his bins, and we had a spotting scope. I birded without my binoculars, mostly by ear. It was an interesting but often frustrating day of birding. This was the count that for many years had millions of blackbirds (Red-winged, Rusty, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed

Table 4. The Final Countdown to Paul Sykes's 400th Christmas Bird Count, on the 109th Anniversary of the World's Longest-Running Bird Survey.

Date	Count Name (Code)	Count Compiler(s)	Sykes Count Number
14 December	St. Catherines Island, GA (GASC)	Emil K. Urban (Augusta, GA)	394
15 December	Piedmont NWR-Rum Creek WMA, GA (GAPR)	Terry W. Johnson (Forsyth, GA)	395
20 December	Athens, GA (GAAH)	Eugenia Thompson and Mary Case (Athens, GA)	396
21 December	Lake Oconee, GA (GALO)	Paul Sykes (Watkinsville, GA) and Steve Holzman (Bishop, GA)	397
26 December	Drive from Watkinsville, GA, to Nags Head, NC	--	--
27 December	Cape Hatteras, NC (NCCH)	Pat Moore (Buxton, NC)	398
28 December	Bodie-Pea Island, NC (NCBP)	Paul Sykes (Watkinsville, GA)	399
29 DECEMBER	BACK BAY NWR, VA (VABB)	Paul Sykes (Watkinsville, GA) and Dorie Stolley (Virginia Beach, VA)	400
30 December	Cape Charles, VA (VACC)	Harry Armistead (Philadelphia, PA)	401
31 December 2008	Little Creek, VA (VALC)	Paul Sykes (Watkinsville, GA)	402
3 Jan. 2009	Nansemond River, VA (VANR)	Bob Ake (Norfolk, VA)	403

Cowbirds) and European Starlings that roosted in the eastern part of the Great Dismal Swamp.

During a Bodie-Pea Island count in the early 1970s, John Williamson, manager of the Pea Island NWR, and I lit a "small" fire in the marsh on the Pamlico Sound side of the refuge to try to flush rails into view. The prescribed fire burned out of control; we spent a couple of hours putting it out and never did observe any rails.

When I was in my teens, I found several Common Mergansers, always a good bird in the area, on a large lake near the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base on the Little Creek CBC. When I left the area, I had a minor fender bender with another vehicle. Fortunately, this is the only auto accident I've had on a count in 56 years.

Several years ago I scheduled our Back Bay NWR countdown at the restaurant where we have customarily held the compilation. We arrived to find it closed! I was so embarrassed—I didn't know the restaurant closed on Sundays. It was too late to go elsewhere, and I had

to cancel the countdown—this is the only time in the history of that count there was no compilation.

I had another restaurant situation in January 2007. Robin Carter and I worked a sector of South Carolina's Lake Wateree CBC. This was my 12th and final count for the 107th CBC. Robin and I, together with the count compiler Donna Slyce and her husband, went to a local restaurant for a delightful meal, with lots of interesting conversation. I left the restaurant ahead of the others, and on the drive home I realized that I had skipped town without paying my tab. When I got home I called Robin; he had paid for my meal. I humbly apologized and mailed him a check posthaste. It must be the white hair or lack thereof.

A lot of birding friends and traveling companions used to kid that I couldn't pass a McDonald's or Burger King without a "Big Mac or Whopper attack." My love of fast foods, as well as fried chicken and other fried fare, finally caught up with me. I underwent quintuple bypass surgery on 6 November 1996, at the relatively young age of 58.

Fortunately, I did not have a heart attack, “only” heavily occluded “plumbing.” Recovery was rapid, and I fully participated in 10 CBCs in three states (Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia) that year, feeling fine on all counts. Since this wake-up call, my eating habits have changed dramatically—now salads and grilled skinless chicken beckon me rather than hamburgers and french fries.

After my dad passed away from a heart attack at 64, my mother kept the house in Norfolk for many years. She did not live in the house or rent it, but lived a block and a half away with her three sisters in a large house my maternal grandparents built in 1909, visiting her house almost daily. Each year during the count period, Mom let out-of-town birders stay at the empty house. During one count in the early 1970s, everyone except one couple had left early that morning to go birding. My mother went there early that morning and found the couple engaged in intimate behavior (as Shakespeare would say, “making the beast with two backs”). When she learned they were not married, being very straight-laced about such matters, she was furious. That evening she really laid into me! Fortunately, the tempest passed, and she continued to let birders stay at the house during subsequent counts.

One year it suddenly turned cold, and the edges of the bay and refuge impoundments at Back Bay NWR froze over quickly. Harry Armistead, others, and I were amazed to find several eastern cottonmouths coiled on top of the ice, too cold to move. It was a bizarre sight. Also, it was highly entertaining to see King Rails slipping and sliding across the ice.

Several years ago during a Bodie-Pea Island count, a dry cold front with very strong northwest winds (some gusts to 55 miles per hour) moved through coastal North Carolina late in the afternoon. I was at the Pea Island NWR visitor center when the winds swept in, and met up with Bob Pilch and Dean Bohon, who had finished their section of the count. The detached restroom

building was closed for renovation. Fortunately, two portable toilets had been set up at the edge of the parking lot. Bob availed himself of one of the portable units. Just as he exited, a strong gust of wind blew it over, spilling the contents into the parking lot. Bob was lucky. The three of us had a good laugh before we went to report the situation to the refuge staff.

Parting Thoughts

The 101st counts (2000–2001) were the last to be printed in their entirety. Since then, the details of all individual counts are available only in electronic form; regional summaries and high species counts are printed together with various interesting papers pertaining to the counts in the now single volume *American Birds*. I was deeply saddened and disappointed with this change. I strongly feel this was a huge mistake and that the majority of the CBC participants have been “short changed” in the process. I fully realize that costs were rising, and this was a quick practical solution. Although electronic format is great for data analysis, and anyone can now access the data (see Butcher 2003), I dare say most participants no longer read as many of the individual count results as they did when they were printed. Who would prefer to read a 300-page publication online rather than in book form? I, and many others I have spoken with, when on business or birding trips, would take along a copy of *American Birds* to read when not otherwise engaged. I urge Audubon to reinstate the printed form of the count results as had been done for 101 years, and to continue the electronic medium as well. To cover the publication costs the price for the “book” could be increased, more ads for birding products included, donations requested from birders/count participants, corporate sponsors sought, and other fund-raising plans developed. The birding community would benefit greatly if sincere effort were made to resurrect the ever-popular printed publication.

Acknowledgments

I extend my appreciation to the hundreds of people who have participated on the six counts of which I have been, or continue to be, the compiler or co-compiler. In particular, I wish to thank the following: David Abbott, Bob and Jorn Ake, Gerald and Anna Akers, Jerry Amerson, Ed Ames, Shearin Anderson, Bob Anderson, George and Harry Armistead, Cooper Barefield, Tim Barry, Jane Beavers, Michael Bender, Bill Blakeslee, Mike Boatwright, Dean Bohon, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Breweiser, Ned Brinkley, Rexanne Bruno, M. Micou Browne, Allen Bryan, Norm Budnitz, Floy Burford, Susan Campbell, Derb Carter, Jay Carter, Will Cook, Walter Cooper, Dan Cristol, John and Thelma Dalmas, Connie Darden, Ricky Davis, Adam D’Onofrio, Paul and Phil DuMont, Chris Eley, Elisa Enders, F.O. and Billy Efirid, Nick Flanders, Wavell Fogleman, Mrs. Leamon Forest, Mark Freeman, Jane Frigo, John Fussell, Charlie Gambill, David Galewski, John Gallegos, Lena Gallitano, Buddy Garrett, John Getgood, Chuck Gibson, Clay and Sam Gifford, Gilbert Grant, Mike Griffin, Anna and Gisela Grimm, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Tom Gwynn, Henry Haberyan, Charlie Hacker, Bob Hader, Virginia Hank, George B. Harris, Kaye Herndon, Frans and Henry Hesperheide, Peter Hill, Earl (Bud) Horn, Renee Hudgins, David and Linda Hughes, Kent Ihrman, Wayne Irvin, Helen Irving, Mike Iwanik, Lee Jones, Edythe James, Teta Kain, Cheryl and Panos Kanes, Bill Keith, Bonnie and Cam Kepler, Ken Knapp, Karla and Palm Lawler, Bob Lewis, Dale Lewis, Jeff Lewis, Edmund and Harry LeGrand, Bob and Kathy Loomis, Bill Lotz, Carol Ludwig, Merrill Lynch, Mary Ann Madison, Ken and Lee Markley, David Matson, Paul McQuarry, Dorothy and Mike Mitchell, Emily Moore, Neal Moore, Randy Moore, Mary Frances Morrisette, Jeremy Nance, Clayton Norris, Dick and Dwight Peake, Grayson (Butch) Pearce, Chap Percival, Jack Perkins, Carl Perry,

continued on page 119

In the late 1800s New York City was the center of a fashion feud. Throughout the city, women's hats were festooned with feathers—plumes that had been plucked from birds such as herons, cuckoos, egrets, and even owls. Fortunately, not everyone approved of the craze. Newspaper stories with grizzly pictures caught the public's attention, and some Americans denounced the slaughter, publishing in journals and forming protest groups. Eventually laws were passed, and the feather trade diminished.

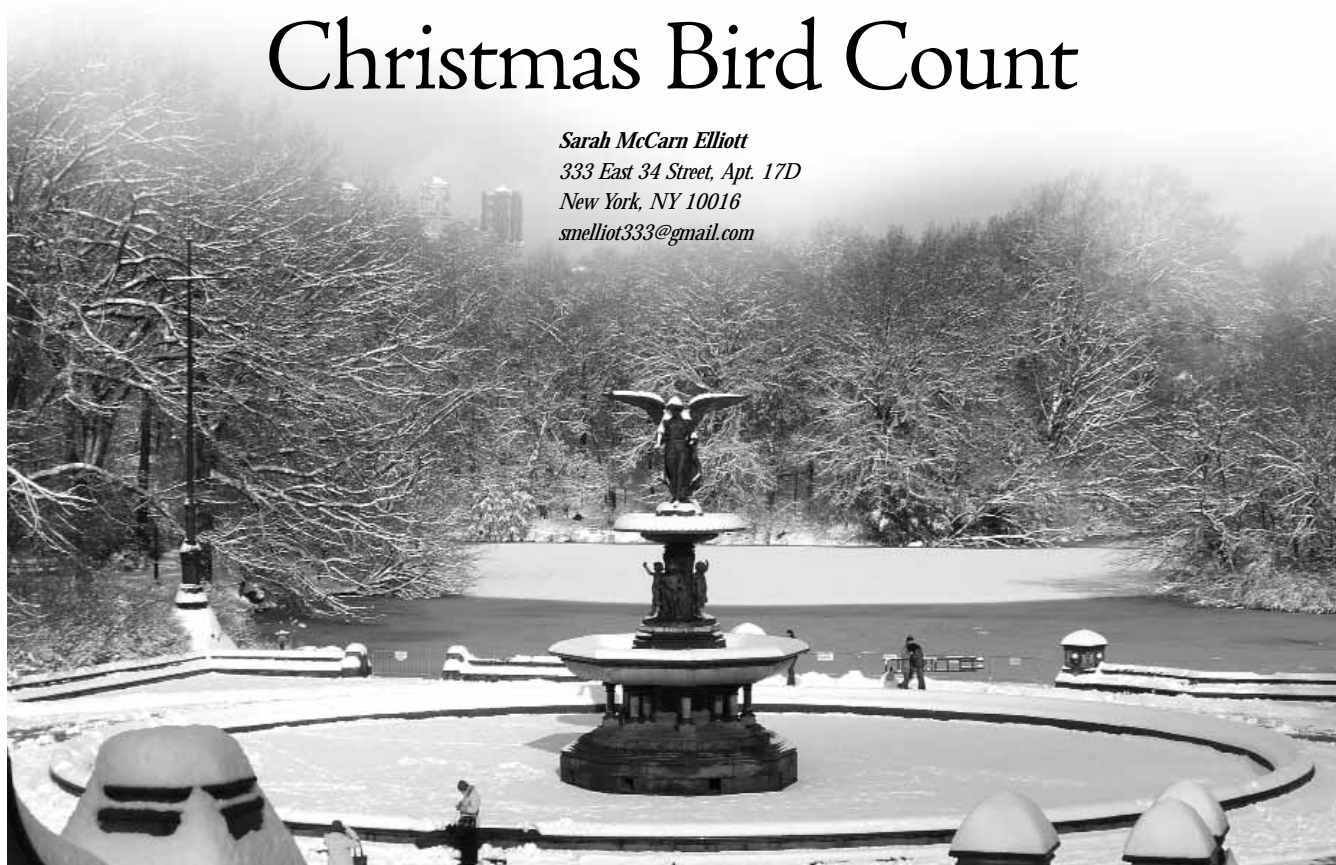
The feather war lasted nearly a quarter century, focusing public attention onto birds and their defenders, supporters who became a part of the Audubon movement. One of these champions was Frank Chapman, a curator of ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History and the man who established the magazine *Bird-Lore* in 1899. Chapman proposed a possible solution for another kind of bird slaughter, that of the sport of shooting birds and other game at Christmas, where the hero of the day was the man in the hunting party who brought down the biggest haul. Chapman suggested to some of his friends that they should go out at Christmas to count birds, not kill them. In 1899, he organized a trial count that took place in various locations. Participants were asked to describe the weather, list the region, and tally their time and birds encountered. Two counts were made in the area on that day—one in Princeton, New Jersey, and the other in New York City's Central Park.



Not Just a Walk in the Park

New York's Central Park Christmas Bird Count

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In the center of the park is the Ramble, Olmstead's beautiful 37-acre "wilderness" of shady glades, streams, pools, trees, flowers, bridges, and swirling foot paths that lead travelers from 72nd Street to 79th Street. It was meant to soothe the spirit and refresh weary city strollers; today it is world famous for the numbers of birds and birdwatchers it attracts.

Making History in Central Park

Central Park was designed in 1858 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. In a time when parks were laid out for the wealthy, this large park was meant to be free for everyone, including the working poor. Central Park is an 843-acre rectangle of green that stretches two and a half miles north from 59th Street to 110th Street and a half-mile east-west from Fifth Avenue to Central Park West.

In the center of the park is the Ramble, Olmstead's beautiful 37-acre "wilderness" of shady glades, streams,

Pictured, left top: Central Park attracts people—and birds—from all over. This Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) was a CBC treat on the 105th CBC. Photo/Lloyd Spitalnik. Left bottom: The design and features of the park make it a treat for humans and birds alike. Photo/Robert Paul Young/Wikimedia Above: Central Park is an oasis of green amid the sea of city buildings, and is a haven for wildlife as well as an escape for New Yorkers. Map/Central Park Conservancy

pools, trees, flowers, bridges, and swirling foot paths that lead travelers from 72nd Street to 79th Street. It was meant to soothe the spirit and refresh weary city strollers; today it is world famous for the numbers of birds and birdwatchers it attracts.

Part of that experimental season, and the first person to do a Christmas Bird Count in Central Park, was Charles Rogers, a 12-year-old birding enthusiast. His count and that of the Princeton counters were duly reported in *Bird-Lore*. Those first participants were enthusiastic, so Chapman proposed the count to his readers in the October 1900 issue of the magazine.

The first *national* count was held Christmas Day in 1900, and 25 reports were published in the February 1901 issue of *Bird-Lore*. For this, his second count for Central Park, Charles reported 12 Herring Gulls, a Downy Woodpecker, four starlings, "abundant" White-throated Sparrows, two Song Sparrows, and a robin. Charles must have bragged about

his accomplishment because a year later he shared the glory with two other boys, Clinton Abbott and George Hix. All three went to Central Park, but they didn't bird together. George went early and reported four species, including 1000 Herring Gulls and 51 starlings. The day had turned damp and overcast when Charles arrived. He saw the gulls, about 100 White-throats, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. He also reported seeing three bluebirds on December 15. Clinton Abbott arrived late in the morning to count birds in light rain and south winds. His report added Fox Sparrow, cardinal, and Brown Creeper to the park list.

A Tradition With a Long History

More than a hundred years later, the Central Park CBC is still going strong. A park birder since 1960, I joined the count in mid-1970s. In those days I was considered an avid birdwatcher, and in 1968 I began leading bird walks for the National Audubon Society. Later I was doing walks for the New York City Audubon chapter as well as writing articles for their newsletter. I frequently birded with Dick Sichel, the compiler for the park's Christmas Bird Count; in 1985, 20 years later, I became the next Central Park compiler.

Going back through the records, it's fascinating to learn about the early years of the count. When the time came for the fifth park census, seven people stepped up. It was cold; one of the counters reported four inches of snow on the ground. All of them saw Black-capped Chickadee, most saw Hairy Woodpecker, two found Hermit Thrush, and there were single reports of junco, Red-shouldered Hawk, and American Crow. George Hicks came early and searched the north end of the park. He left and returned to the Ramble in the afternoon. His find of the day was a European Goldfinch, an import.

Sarah McCarn Elliott, a birdwatcher for 50 years, has led countless bird walks for Audubon and other organizations. She and Lambert Pohner produced park bird and butterfly pamphlets and led bird classes until his death in 1987. In 1975 she started the Bird Book, a notebook kept at Central Park's Boat House restaurant where birders list new arrivals by name, date, and park location. For 15 years Sarah has produced "The Elliott Newsletter: Nature Notes from Central Park," about birds, trees, flowers, insects, and mammals. Much of this information will be folded into her forthcoming book Four Seasons in Central Park.



Waterfowl of an amazing variety are attracted to open water in Central Park, and occasionally Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) can even be tallied on CBCs. Photo/Don Riepe

Two years later, the weather for the seventh Central Park count was cloudy, windy, and cold. Charles Rogers and George Hix were there but not together. Each of them saw 14 species of birds, including Red-tailed Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and “Purple” Grackle. On December 23, Clinton Abbott and R.E. Stackpoll saw a grackle as well as a Chaffinch, another import and a species never tallied in the park again.

After that count Charles Rogers slipped out of Central Park and went to watch birds in Princeton Woods. In time, he became a professor at Princeton University. In 1939 he received a visit from an adolescent bird enthusiast named Peter Mott. He took Peter on as a birding student and together they watched birds once a month for the next five years. Peter participated in the Princeton Christmas Bird Counts with Rogers, who was the compiler at the time. Years later Peter Mott served twice as President of New York City Audubon and has occasionally participated in the Central Park Christmas Bird Count. These events are not just a coincidence, but a concatenation!

Anne Crolius was probably the first woman to do a Christmas Bird Count in Central Park. On the ninth CBC she reported 16 species, including American Goldfinch, towhee, and Carolina Wren.

She returned for the tenth count and again listed 16 species, this time with Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Sharpshinned Hawk, American Goldfinch, and best of all, a male Baltimore Oriole that had been hanging around for two weeks.

An all-woman group counted in the 17th Central Park CBC during World War I. Mrs. Fisher, Ruth Fisher, and Farida Wily worked not as lone rangers but as a team. They saw 10 species and 631 individuals, including 13 Black-capped Chickadees. They searched but did not find the “Brown-headed” Chickadees (now Boreal) that had been thrilling birdwatchers that year. After World War II, Farida Wiley was the first person to lead what became popular spring bird walks in the park.

Irv Cantor, now in his late eighties, is sturdy and alert, and visits Central Park often in spring and fall. Younger birders (those not older than 60) call him Irving and fling out his name to enhance their status among birders. Irv remembers that there were very few birders when he was young. The weather was much colder then. Few trees provided food for the birds and there were no bird-feeding stations, so when winter came the birds left. Now birders run a bird-feeding station from early fall to late spring, presided over by enthusiasts, most recently Neil Emond. Seed and suet

attract and keep birds through the winter, allowing American Goldfinches, redpolls, and many other birds remain for the count.

When Irving did the Central Park count in 1935 he was alone. It was 21 degrees Fahrenheit and the park was covered with snow. He was out from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. and tallied 16 species of birds; his report was published in *Bird-Lore*. Irv thinks some of the birds he saw in 1935 were not counted in 2008. Back then, he saw Green-winged Teal, two pintails, a pheasant, and 18 Wood Ducks. He counted 175 black ducks but only 40 Mallards. I called him to make sure there really were 18 Wood Ducks. It was true. The ducks were in a hole in the ice at the 59th Street Pond, which otherwise was completely frozen over. Irv continued to do the counts, but not in Central Park. He went to the Bronx to join a group of keen, young birders that included Roger Tory Peterson.

A New Era and Great Finds

In the 1960s and 1970s Dick Ryan ran the Central Park count, presiding over the day in the park and tabulating reports from other locations. Collectively, these counts covered a required area 15 miles in diameter. Dick then moved to New Jersey and organized a

new 15-mile area from counts on both sides of the river, and Central Park became a part of that count, the Lower Hudson circle. Dutifully, Dick kept a full set of records in a box inside the small zoo where he worked; unfortunately, the box was removed and years of separate counts were lost, with only the aggregate of the Lower Hudson count remaining.

From 1971 to 1984 Dick Sichel ran the Central Park count and reported his records to Dick Ryan. In 1977, the count had 25 participants, a record number for the count. Participants during those years were always treated to hundreds and thousands of Herring Gulls, hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls, thousands of Rock Pigeons, and hundreds of House Sparrows. White-throated Sparrows appeared in modest numbers, except in 1982 when 355 were counted, exceeding a previous high of 118. Common Grackles numbered less than a dozen per year, except in 1978 when we had 532 of them.

Duck numbers in the Reservoir section of the park have varied greatly, but the star of the Reservoir in the 1980s was the Tufted Duck—common in Europe but not here. In the days before the count, my birding partner, Lambert Pohner, went to the Reservoir in all kinds of weather to tease out this treasure. With great diligence, one Tufted Duck was found in the Reservoir for each of the counts between 1981 and 1985. The word went out and people came from far and wide to see it. Lambert would keep tabs on the bird through the winter. One spring day he saw a female fly into the Reservoir and quickly sort her way through the population, rejecting would-be suitors. According to Lambert, when the female found the lone male, she must have told him, “Okay, Big Boy, you’re it.” Lambert saw the pair rise and fly away, together.

Ring-necked Ducks are found all over North America but are seldom seen in Europe. They are seldom seen in Central Park, either. It’s hot news when this species appears in the Reservoir; single

birds were counted in ’55, ’64, ’81, ’82, ’83 and ’84. Iceland Gulls, as their name suggests, are also rare here; one was found in 1976 and another was found in 1985. Many out-of-state birders came to see the gull.

The Count Gains Momentum

With the annual counts becoming more of an event in the 1970s and ’80s, people started to take notice. Although I had been birding in Central Park since 1960, and frequently birded with Dick Sichel, I yearned to join his Christmas count. One day in 1975 he asked me why I didn’t. Because, I said, I hadn’t been asked. He laughed and explained that anyone could come and count, so I joined immediately. In those days, about two dozen people went to five sections of the park and counted birds in small groups. We stopped at about noon and met at the Boat House, a Central Park restaurant at about 74th Street, on the shore of the lake (where they rent out the rowboats), to eat and tabulate our birds. It was usually hard to hear each other over the din of the surrounding customers, but these events certainly were jolly.

On Dick’s watch we got a lot of media attention. Paul Montgomery of the *New York Times* came and wrote us up for what may have been the first national press coverage of our CBC. One of the counters, Dorothy Borg, and I appeared on the front page of the paper, faces covered with binoculars. This really was the first national coverage of these counts, and lots of other news and TV coverage followed. A crew from NBC even joined us to cover the story of the counts across America, with stops in Colorado, New England, and New York. They spent the first hour of our count searching for equipment to replace what they left in a cab. Deep into January, a version of this day appeared on evening news hour with Peter Jennings.

In 1985 Dick Sichel was in the hospital with serious heart problems and I was chosen by New York City Audubon to replace him as compiler. Bookkeeper,



Sarah Elliott with her “Birds Count” plaque commemorating her 20 years coordinating the Central Park CBC, and presented to her the same day the Boreal Owl was found. Photo/Neil Emond

too. Discrepancies between the number of people who signed up and the number of people who paid forced me to come up with a system of tracking counters and fees. We distributed address cards to fill out and hand in with fees; bird lists, arranged in the tally order, to use in the field; a section map to show the shape of each territory and its borders; and a sheet of tips and rules, with the time to quit and where to go for the parkwide tally and party. We were lucky. After a few tough times trying to get seats for all of us at the popular Boat House we were invited to the third floor of the Arsenal and even given food! The landmark building, at 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, is the oldest in Central Park.

People at the park’s north end, or participants too pooped to hike down to the Arsenal, could climb into vans and ride with accommodating park rangers. Once the meal was over we passed out the parkwide tally sheet. People from each section called out numbers when I read out the bird names, and in time the pages filled up with numbers, zeros, and totals.

The big moment came when we got to the section for rare or surprising birds. These names were followed by sighs, and sometimes shouts of joy. When the tally was over, participants would go out to find the “best bird” of the day. Some of the best were warblers—Cape May, Orange-crowned, Wilson’s, Ovenbird,

and Black-and-white; for numbers, four Hairy and four Red-headed woodpeckers; Rusty Blackbird, cowbird, Merlin, Red-shouldered Hawk, Fish Crow, raven, Western Tanager, and Belted Kingfisher.

Two Ovenbirds are on that list. I saw the first in 1987, as I was leaving the park after the count. I told Dick Ryan about the bird when he called from New Jersey for my count totals. Because the sighting was so unusual, he said I needed a picture and more eyes for the report. I called a half-dozen birders and asked them to step into the park on their lunch hour and call me if they saw the Ovenbird. They all did! That day I found out why the bird was still there. There was a homeless man, asleep on the ground, and around him were the remains of a meal. The bird was pecking its way around him, eating crumbs.

The park's CBC continued to get public attention during my time as compiler, and so more people came to take part. With more counters to cover the ground, the park was divided into seven sections. Two big sections were split in half, and each became easier to cover in one morning. Now, instead of finding 6, 12, or 18 species, many more birders reported many more birds. I'm glad Clinton Abbott saw a Brown Creeper in 1901. We see at least one every year now. No other groups in the Lower Hudson count can make that statement.

In 1990, the count showed high numbers for specific birds. There were 12 Red-tailed Hawks, 23 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 248 Blue Jays, 57 American Crows, 69 Black-capped Chickadees, 270 Tufted Titmice, 42 White-breasted Nuthatches, 230 grackles, 50 cardinals, 48 juncos, 508 White-throated Sparrows, seven Fox Sparrows, and one Western Tanager. In the case of the tanager it was a 100 percent increase. Alas, the tanager died in January and was taken to the American Museum of Natural History; the autopsy proved it was a young male that starved to death.

That 1990 count was surprising for some changes. Since the mid 1980s

there had been a dramatic drop in duck populations, but counters that year reported 58 black ducks and 355 Mallards. And there were no swans, geese, or egrets on the count. There were 568 House Sparrows, but starlings were not listed—in those days they were counted at a roost, not in the park. Considering all of these developments, the total of 5446 birds was surprisingly high. Two reasons explain that success: mild weather through the fall and into December, and enough people to cover all the areas of the park.

Between 1985 and 1994 we tallied 42 to 50 species of birds. During that time, the avian population varied from a low of 3542 birds in 1989 to a high of 5564 birds in 1994. Between 1995 and 2004 we tallied a low of 44 species for 1999, (a disappointing number for our centennial count,) and a high of 78 species in 2002. The bird population varied from 4201 birds in 2003 to a high of 8066 birds in 1998. To tally 4201 birds may seem meager these days, but during the 2003 count we endured the worst weather I've ever experienced on a count. Thunder, lightning, drenching rain, and, I think, a little hail. It was incredibly difficult to peer through sheets of water, and I was amazed we were able to see 67 species that day. I'm also amazed that stalwart folk showed up and kept counting! The party at the Arsenal had more food than guests, but the proud survivors were in very good spirits.

Change in a New Century

These days it's difficult to determine the number of people who come to take part in the counts. Many birders arrive at 8 A.M. and go to the South Pumping Station of the Reservoir. There they are met by David Krauss, who, with a scope and a clicker, has been counting the sleeping gulls for half an hour. The gulls rise in small groups and fly off as birders fill out address cards and turn in their fees. By 8:15, participants have joined one of the seven groups and moved off. Other birders come late, join a group somewhere in the park, but leave before

the end—and don't pay the fee. Still others come late, count what they can, then hand in address cards and fees at the party. In the 1990s my address lists varied between 30 and 50 people. But 86 counters came to count in 1999 for our centennial, and in 1998 115 people paid and were listed. This past Christmas the Arsenal was jammed with birders, probably more than a hundred people came to get the news and celebrate.

Modern technology is having an inevitable effect on the Central Park count. People bring digital cameras to document rare birds. More counters talk to each other on cell phones to send alerts on moving birds—especially the Red-tailed Hawks. Now, when we're at the Arsenal announcing the numbers for each bird, Regina Alvarez enters the numbers in a computer and they flash up on a screen for all to see. Soon we will be able to get almost instant results for each bird as well as totals for the entire count. All this data is fed into the database at National Audubon; eventually we'll learn to make better use of the enormous amount of data. Area weather and topography maps will help, as will a better understanding of how global warming has caused birds such as Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, and Red-bellied Woodpecker to shift farther north.

In 2003, after running the Central Park Count for 19 years, it suddenly occurred to me that it would be good to stop at 20. My last season as organizer was 2004. Few women have run these counts, and I'm one of the longest serving. On the day of a party to celebrate the passing of the torch I was surprised and touched to receive—with the exception of one sitting grouch—a standing ovation. Commissioner of Parks Adrian Benepe made some kind and jolly remarks. He presented me with a plaque with my bird logo and the motto "Birds Count!" They sure do.

Mother Nature gave us the best treat of all that day—a Boreal Owl. The species had never been seen in Manhattan or Central Park. Birders trek to places around the globe in North

America, Europe, and Asia just to see this owl—and one was right here in Central Park. At first, the count participants called it another saw-whet owl, like the one seen elsewhere in the park that day. Some birders consulted guides but said the owl didn't look quite right. Several people went home and came back with scopes to study every feather. Sure enough, it was the first Boreal Owl for Central Park. It was wonderful that the owl spent a week with us at the famous Tavern on the Green restaurant, where birders from near and far came to pay homage. My friend Jeremy Mynott, author of *Birdscapes*, gave a yelp from England when he got the news. He'd been looking for the Boreal Owl for years.

The Christmas count has changed since I retired. E.J. McAdams, the executive director of New York City Audubon from 2002 to 2006, suggested that staff serve as compiler for Central Park and the larger Lower Hudson

count circle in which it resides. I am grateful not to have to operate all the hardware of the count, but I worry that birds are present but are being missed on count day. Because ours is a half-day morning count, those birders that spot a “good” bird in the afternoon don't know how to report it. Also, unless reminded, the staff at the post-count tally may not explain rules about the importance of including birds in the count period and how to call to report them. This can lead to uncounted birds. The problem could be solved if the information and phone number were printed on the parkwide tally sheet.

Rare birds seen just before or just after the day of the count *need to be recorded in the count period*. Wouldn't you hate to miss a crossbill, Boreal Chickadee, Evening Grosbeak, or Tufted Duck because it appeared near count day, not on it? When the bird is listed as count week, at least you know what year it

showed up in your area. If you hear about a feathered treasure that shows up you can rush out to search for it before it leaves. Birders used to call a birders' hotline number to report such birds. Now tough old-timers think they know it all, so why bother with excited neophytes. Well, as any Boreal Owl can tell you, not every mistake is made by a new birder!

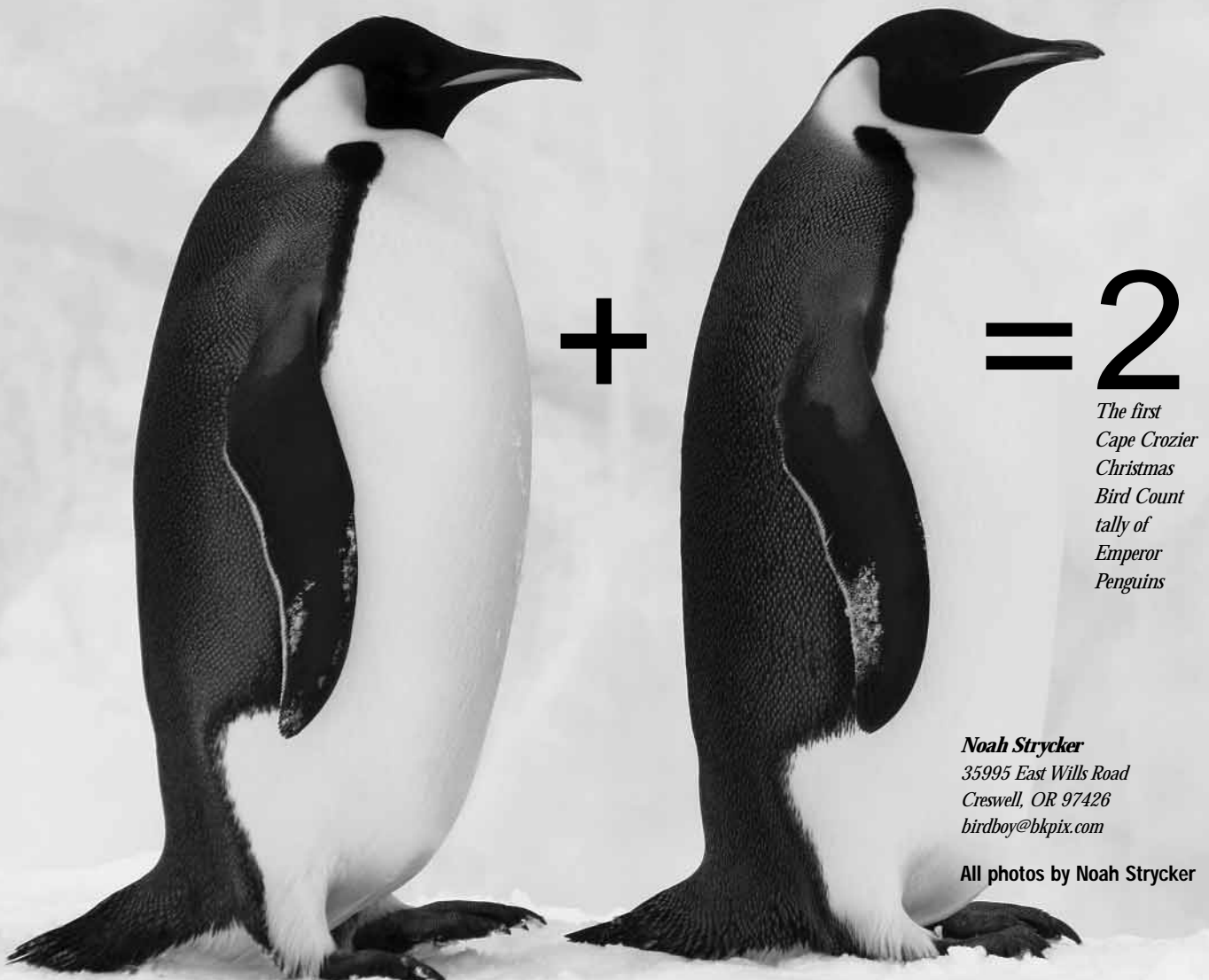
I am grateful for the birds that teach us to see things we never noticed before, and that enable us to have the fun of talking about it all with friends old and new. I am proud to have been a part of what National Audubon Society President John Flicker calls, “A really important scientific endeavor.” “We do not know,” he says, “what our children and grandchildren will see when they look back on our counts, but hopefully they'll be doing the same thing and maintaining this wonderful tradition.” Thank you, President Flicker, and thank you, Frank Chapman! 🐦



Clockwise from top left: White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) on thistle feeder, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), and European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Photos/Neil Emond

On the Ice:

The First
Christmas Bird Count
in Antarctica



*The first
Cape Crozier
Christmas
Bird Count
tally of
Emperor
Penguins*

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All photos by Noah Strycker

Forget the other superlatives: Antarctica is a Christmas Bird Count wasteland.

Barren in the literal sense, the frozen continent stands as Earth's indisputably coldest, highest, driest, windiest, and most utterly inhospitable continent. Desolate also in the CBC sense, Antarctica has never hosted a count—until 2008.

When the 109th CBC season rolled around in December, I found myself stationed in a frozen tent on the ice at remote Cape Crozier on Antarctica's Ross Island, a long helicopter ride from the U.S. Antarctic research base of McMurdo Station, which is itself an uncomfortable five-hour cargo jet ride south from New Zealand. Cape Crozier achieved fame in Apsley Cherry-Garrard's classic book, *The Worst Journey in the World*, a gripping account of a near-disastrous sledging trip in midwinter 1911 to collect Emperor Penguin eggs as part of the ill-fated Scott expedition. For us modern explorers, the purpose of enduring the freezing, isolated, stark, harsh, primitive, teeth-chattering conditions related directly to the 300,000 Adélie Penguins that breed each year at Cape Crozier. Two other researchers and I spent three consecutive months at the cape, between November and February, to study the bustling penguin city as part of a long-term project.

I was in a panic. Here I sat, birds everywhere, thousands of miles from the nearest CBC circle. For a bona fide CBC addict like me—I generally average six or eight a year—the prospect of a count-less season was nothing short of alarming.

It's not that Antarctica fails to qualify for a CBC. Yes, most of the 2,000 counts are in North America. But CBC circles also spread over Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean islands. You can join counts in Hawaii, at Midway Atoll, and Guam. There is even a ship-based count in the Drake Passage, between the tip of South America and the Antarctic Peninsula. I thought, "Why not Antarctica?"

The only previous attempt at an Antarctic count died an early death. A proposed CBC circle at Palmer Station, on Anvers Island just off the Antarctic Peninsula, was approved several years ago but never conducted. I imagined those Palmer Station observers probably froze or succumbed to scurvy before they could lift their binoculars. In reality, the opposite was true—researchers at Palmer Station had experienced a bad run of weather, precluding them from conducting their research. Count day weather was perfect—but research took precedence over their elective Christmas Bird Count.

To meet the requirements of a CBC, a location must host at least one bird species that occurs in North America at other times of year. Several Antarctic birds, including South Polar Skua and Wilson's Storm-Petrel, regularly visit North American waters, easily qualifying the region for a CBC, even if the penguins never waddle that far north.



*We agreed, in true
CBC spirit, to
conduct our count
on Christmas
Day...like the
Island of Lost Toys,
we were too remote
to be included in
St. Nick's route.
The CBC would
give our camp a
welcome festive
spark.*

Pictured above: Home in a hut at Cape Crozier. Left: Emperor Penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*)

That did it for me. Now I just had to convince my two coworkers, Michelle Hester and Kirsten Lindquist, to join me in launching the first official Antarctic Christmas Bird Count.

"It's citizen science!" I expounded over a mug of hot chocolate in early December. "I mean, *think* about it—the first Antarctic count!"

The three of us hunkered around a single propane heater in our freezer-size hut, warming our bones in typical 15-below weather. We'd already spent a month together, cut off from civilization, mostly obsessing about penguins.

"Uh, what's a Christmas Bird Count?" Michelle asked.

"My friend did one of those, once, in California," Kirsten said. "It's like you go birding all day."

"And record every individual bird," I added, cheerfully.

We stared at each other, thinking of all those penguins.

"How are we going to count every single penguin?" Michelle asked.

"Yeah, like, do we have to go around and number them all?"

"We'll do an estimate," I said.

"Estimate a quarter million penguins?"

"Well..." Kirsten began.

"We could..." Michelle replied.

"Great!" I concluded, brightly. "We'll pick a day and keep track of the birds we see in the field that day. This will be awesome!"

The scientists who managed our penguin research project approved the idea over satellite email, as did CBC headquarters, even though Antarctica required a whole new section in the dataset. The Cape Crozier Christmas Bird Count was now official.

We agreed, in true CBC spirit, to conduct our count on Christmas Day. After all, we needed to celebrate something with the quality chocolate we'd been jealously hoarding. In Antarctica, Christmas is just another day—and it's guaranteed to be white. A red National Science Foundation helicopter makes the rounds of field camps near McMurdo Station on

Noah K. Strycker, 23, a recent graduate of the Oregon State University Fisheries and Wildlife Science program, writes about, photographs, paints, researches, and observes birds at home in Oregon and worldwide. He is the associate editor of Birding magazine and writes the BirdBoy column in WildBird magazine. He has contributed articles and photographs to all major North American bird magazines as well as a number of books, including Good Birders Don't Wear White, Birds of Oregon: A General Reference, and Birds of the United States and Canada.

The collective roar of so many penguins, like a stadium of sports fans, could be heard more than a mile away. Everywhere, penguins croaked, mated, defecated, slept, bashed each other, caressed each other, and waddled in meandering paths. The birds formed a seething mass like an unruly rock concert crowd, and smelled like a Third World sewage treatment pond.

December 25, complete with a dressed-up Santa, but, like the Island of Lost Toys, we were too remote to be included in St. Nick's route. The CBC would give our camp a welcome festive spark.

In the southern hemisphere, seasons are flipped. Christmas defines the height of summer. The ice sparkles in 24-hour sunshine. But it still feels like winter. A typical afternoon registers 10-below-zero temperatures, snow falls occasionally, and windstorms frequently gust up to 100 miles per hour. Just after Thanksgiving, one such storm flattened my tent, snapping the inch-thick aluminum poles like toothpicks.

In this austere environment, birds thrive. At Cape Crozier, diversity is predictably low, but, with a quarter million penguins in our count circle, we would observe more individuals than most counts back home record with dozens of contributing teams.

I hoped for three species on our count: Adélie Penguin (guaranteed), South Polar Skua (guaranteed, because a few hundred nest at Cape Crozier), and Snow Petrel (with luck). Over the previous month, we'd recorded four additional birds at Crozier, any of which were possible on count day: Emperor Penguin, Southern Fulmar, Antarctic Petrel, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel.

Few CBCs can rival the low species thresholds of Antarctica, but a count in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, holds the all-time record. For the past 20 years, the annual count has tallied exactly one species: Common Raven. This year, the Prudhoe Bay CBC notched a particularly exciting result, posting a high tally of 119 individuals, though every last one was, well, a raven.

Only a very few CBCs have ever been conducted without recording at least one bird. Birdless expanses exist, but apparently most people are not crazy

enough to record the lack of data. For instance, the U.S. South Pole Station, landlocked by thousands of miles of ice and about 10,000 feet above sea level, is rarely visited by avian forms. Every now and then, a South Polar Skua flies by. Now *that* would be the place to carve out a hard-core CBC circle.

As the big day loomed, our thoughts turned to the weather. We absolutely depended on good conditions on Christmas. At Cape Crozier, we kept to a schedule in our fieldwork, but storms stranded us indoors, where we entered data and hatched plots—like CBC plans. If a blizzard raged on Christmas, we were sunk. We had few options in severe weather, and they were all bad. We'd have to delay the count, risk dangerous conditions, or record the one skua that was visible nesting on the helipad outside our tiny hut window.

As it happened, we worried for nothing. Christmas Day arrived bright, clear, and crisp, an auspicious beginning for our historic count.

Christmas Day was a typical work day for the penguin crew. It started with the usual bleary-eyed granola breakfast accompanied by the daily discussions of bathing (no shower), unattainable food (no refrigerator), and facial hair (no sense in getting out my razor). After breakfast, we laboriously suited up in extreme-cold-weather gear and then strapped on crampons—inch-long metal spikes attached to the sole of a boot—before heading out to the ice.

A 45-minute hike separated our camp from the Adélie Penguin colony, sprawled in a rocky valley along the shore of the frozen Ross Sea. We strode down an inclined ice sheet, crunching with assured steps as our crampons bit the slippery surface, eyes shielded from the glare by polar sunglasses, shoulder-

ing heavy packs. I enjoyed the invigorating daily commute; it served as our only exercise, and it staved off the extra weight that most Antarctic workers gain over the course of a season.

Along the way, we picked up our first CBC birds. South Polar Skuas, like World War II bombers, materialized as attack-divers, screeching and wheeling as we passed within a hundred yards of their nests in rocky scree. Occasionally, one would make contact, whumping my head like a flying boxing glove. I shook my own gloved fist in the air, but the aggressive skuas hardly took notice.

We topped out on a saddle overlooking the penguin colony and drank in the spectacular view. Rock and ice sloped away in all directions. Every few feet, just beyond pecking distance of its neighbor, a penguin protected its nest. The collective roar of so many penguins, like a stadium of sports fans, could be heard more than a mile away. Everywhere, penguins croaked, mated, defecated, slept, bashed each other, caressed each other, and waddled in meandering paths. The birds formed a seething mass like an unruly rock concert crowd, and smelled like a Third World sewage treatment pond.

The penguin nests all looked the same, a shallow scrape lined with rocks barely able to contain the eggs or keep the chicks from rolling down the hill. Individual chicks recognized their parents by voice. Teenage penguins mobbed every adult carrying food. At brief and efficient mealtimes, chicks shoved their beaks deep into an adult's gape and gobbled up streams of regurgitated fish.

Skuas patrolled the colony, ripping into lost or emaciated penguin chicks. Carcasses piled up; if not blown on the wind, they would remain for hundreds or thousands of years, mummified by dry

Antarctic air. Penguin remains crunched constantly underfoot. Vertebrae and skulls were used as nest stones. Downy feathers swirled on the breeze like snow.

As usual, we three researchers split up for the day, flipping on VHF radios to communicate across the wide colony.

"I'll head up Pat's Peak to do a sea watch," I said, removing my ice crampons in anticipation of the rocky climb.

"All right," said Michelle, "I'll take Area B."

"And I'll canvass the Superhighway [the penguins' route to the sea]," said Kirsten.

"Don't worry about counting penguins," I said. "We'll do that this afternoon. But anything else is fair game for the CBC, so keep track of numbers today."

Nods of assent, and we shuffled off in separate directions.

After a 20-minute hard scramble among boulders, cliffs, and steep snowfields, I summited Pat's Peak, towering more than a thousand feet above the penguin city. The penguins below looked like ants in the valley. I unearthed a spotting scope stashed among the rocks, set up a clear view of the Ross Sea, and readied for a long vigil.

We performed daily sea watches primarily to spot whales. Orcas (Killer Whales) and Minke Whales are theorized to compete with penguins for aquatic food sources. As whales move in when ice breaks out in the midst of the breeding season, penguins might have to swim longer distances to find krill and fish to eat. Whale presence could be contrasted with penguin foraging data to test this theory.

I swept the oceanic horizon with the spotting scope, searching for movement. Against the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf, a fin splashed in the sunlight, then another. A pod of Orcas surfaced, spouting long plumes of seawater. I counted more than a dozen before they submerged, hunting underneath the adjacent ice.

Then I hit the CBC jackpot.

In an icy lead, two Emperor Penguins stood with shoulders hunched at the edge of open water. I watched them through the scope, their figures easy to discern

even a mile off. Emperors nest at Cape Crozier, but breed during Antarctic winter. Most had already vacated to spend the summer among pack ice far out to sea, but, for some reason, these two lingered. They were a lucky addition to our CBC list. As I admired the Emperor Penguins, my radio crackled to life.



Above: A Snow Petrel glides by the summit of Pat's Peak.

Below: The Cape Crozier CBC recorded 79 South Polar Skuas.



A static-filled voice boomed out the melodious strains of that old familiar Christmas song: "Better watch out, better not cry ..."

Whoever it was sang the entire song, never releasing the transmit button. On my exposed perch, I had picked up the channel usually reserved for more official business transmitted from McMurdo Station, 70 miles away.

Continuing to scope the ocean, I hoped to pick up a Snow Petrel, and almost didn't notice when one practically whacked me over the head. I felt a *whiff* of air against the back of my neck and straightened, startled, as the petrel

circled me, repeatedly gliding within five feet of the mountaintop, before winging away along a ridgeline. I admired its pure white plumage set off by curious black eyes. Snow Petrels have never been recorded breeding on Ross Island. They nest in deep crevices on rugged cliffs, in places difficult to access. We encountered several such birds over the season, indicating possible territoriality.

My radio erupted once again. Kirsten, among the penguins far below me, reported on a line-of-sight channel.

"Hey! I just had a flyby Wilson's Storm-Petrel!"

Frenzied radio discussion followed, and gesticulations. I could see Kirsten in her conspicuous red parka below, pointing into space. Having the size and flight of a swallow, the storm-petrel was too tiny to spot from my angle, but it was a very good bird for our Christmas count.

"Are you eating sardines?" I asked. Storm-petrels seemed to materialize whenever we cracked a tin of sardines, maybe attracted by the smell.

"Not this time. It just sailed by."

"All right," I said. "I'm coming down. Let's do some band resighting, then we can figure out how to count all these penguins."

Quickly stashing the spotting scope, I shouldered my pack and descended into the valley of penguins.

We spent the afternoon wandering among the birds, searching for metal flipper tags. Tens of thousands of penguins have been banded at Cape Crozier, each with a unique number. Recording the numbers of returning birds year after year provides a large set of data on life history characteristics.

As dinnertime approached, we held a war conference to decide how to count the penguins.

"We've got satellite photos of this penguin colony," Michelle began.

"Yeah, they're clear enough to count individual birds," said Kirsten. "We could just count dots on the photo."

"Count a quarter million dots? That'd take weeks! We've gotta eat our Christmas chocolate, remember."

“And the birds might be at a different density now than when the photo was taken earlier this season.”

I thought about it.

“How’s this?” I said. “We conduct ground counts on a set of subcolonies this afternoon, then figure out what percentage of area they cover on the satellite photo with a GIS [Geographic Information Systems] program. Then, we can calculate a multiplication factor to estimate the total colony population.”

It sounded easy enough.

We picked a few subcolonies—small, meandering hummocks densely populated with penguin nests—and counted every single penguin in those areas, ticking off individuals on handheld mechanical counters. Mentally sifting through hordes of penguins proved a strain on the eyes, but much more gratifying than performing a total census.

After returning to camp for the evening, I fired up a laptop, plugged into solar power, and analyzed the penguin colony’s area with our GIS program. A few simple calculations, and our observations fueled a well-educated estimate of our penguin population. Though not an exact census, the estimate landed close to other, more in-depth studies of Crozier penguin populations. After some discussion, we decided to exclude baby penguins, which would double the overall count and inflate the perception of penguin population sizes.

And that was that. The first Cape Crozier Christmas Bird Count was over. By day’s end, we had tallied:

270,885	Adélie Penguin
79	South Polar Skua
6	Snow Petrel
2	Emperor Penguin
1	Wilson’s Storm-Petrel

Reclining next to the propane heater, I broke out my holiday chocolate.

“Anyone care for solid perfection?”

We indulged. The bars were frozen solid and broke into dangerously pointy shards. We consumed our chocolate in the same way porcupines mate—very carefully.

Michelle rummaged under a case of pots and pans, and, in a grand gesture, pulled out a bottle of wine, saved for the occasion.

“Anyone care for liquid perfection?”


We divided the wine among our mugs, unwashed from hot chocolate.

“To the first Antarctic Christmas Bird Count—”

“And Christmas in Antarctica—”

“Cheers!”

Acknowledgments

Thanks to David Ainley, Grant Ballard, Katie Dugger, Michelle Hester, Kirsten Lindquist, and all members of the PenguinScience project, funded by the National Science Foundation, for a wickedly awesome field season—and the Christmas Bird Count of a lifetime. 

How do you count a quarter million penguins?



The Birds of Christmas in London, Ontario: One Hundred Years and Going Strong

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I was flying high all day. It was a once in a lifetime event—the 100th Christmas Bird Count for London, Ontario. After weeks of preparation and hundreds of emails and phone calls, the day had finally come, with luck sandwiched between two snowstorms. The first system dumped rather a lot of snow, bringing the ground cover to about 8 inches. Though this made getting around a bit slow, it was also reminiscent of the first two decades of the CBC, when wintry weather was the norm, so we trudged onward.

In honor of the 100th CBC, I was determined to persuade at least 100 individuals to be field observers. Once accomplished, and with 74 registered feederwatchers, we had the highest number of participants ever. It was great to have so many feederwatchers because the birds were not as plentiful out in the bush due to the cold and snow, and many of them seemed to be taking advantage of feeders.

One could enjoy the nostalgia of it all. As my son, Rob, and I trudged along in the deep snow, much as many other field participants all over the city and the surrounding countryside were doing, we felt like we were stepping in the footprints of our area pioneer birders, naturalists, and conservationists.

I talked about that with Tony Verboom, who, along with his

father and sons and grandsons, carried on a long tradition of London CBCs. He said he felt great pleasure in doing the route that meant so much to our count—the Wonnacott Farm, west of London. W.E. Saunders, our club's founding father, was likely watching their progress along the river flats from some celestial birding observation post. Saunders, in 1883, was elected to the first regular American Ornithological Union meeting as a nonfounding member. Among other accomplishments, he was a prominent member in founding the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (Ontario Nature) and was instrumental in the creation of Point Pelee National Park. Saunter's winged spirit probably watched the observers at another of his familiar areas of bird study, Westminster Ponds, as they walked along its trails.

I am pleased to say that we were able to cover all the areas our CBC forebears had investigated over the previous 99 years. That included the Sifton Bog

continued



**Right: Pete Read, compiler, and Sue Read at London's 100th count celebratory dinner. Photo/Hugh Casbourn
Pictured above, the London commemorative pin.**

Pete Read is an avid birder and nature enthusiast living near London, Ontario. Since retiring from a long teaching career, he has used his knowledge of natural science gleaned from over 40 years of field study to provide consulting for environmental planning and assessments, and to lead organized nature field trips for various organizations and tour companies. Look for him each spring at Point Pelee National Park or in winter out tramping through the snow on the first Saturday of the London CBC period.



(aka Redmond Pond), thanks to Bill Judd, our oldest outdoor participant at 92. Even the few remaining wild areas at Trott's Swamp, a former hot spot that was drained and replaced by a mall and apartment buildings, was covered by Fran Girling, also in her nineties; she poked her head out the window and looked for birds from the balcony of her apartment. A ground crew stomped along the rail line nearby. A party even covered the same area we believe the two participants on the first London CBC in 1909 had walked, near the forks of the Thames River, the confluence point where London was founded.

The weather of the day was indicative of the old days. Records indicate that winters were quite severe around the early years of the last century. We imagined our fore-birders mushing uphill for miles through piles of snow to complete the CBC, as we were doing on this December 20th. Our temperatures ranged from 5 degrees Fahrenheit for owling to a high of about 14 degrees during the day. The winds were calm to start but escalated out of the east to 9 miles per hour, with gusts to 19. It was partly to mostly cloudy, and a trace of snow fell on some parts of the circle during the day. We had about 8 to 10 inches of snow on the ground, but the bitter, wintry day couldn't hold us back, and we prevailed to make it a truly successful centenary CBC.

Our exciting day ended with a scrumptious potluck dinner at our traditional gathering spot, where we shared not only food but our adventures of the day. We told stories of exciting finds and trends, but also many tales of our past glories on CBC outings. Participants received a commemorative CBC pin that I had designed. At a later club meeting, we again reminisced with a slide show detailing the vast and rich history of our London CBC. It was a fine celebration of our significant achievement.

In the Beginning and Through the Years

Let's turn our attention to the humble beginnings of our London Christmas

Bird Count. Although several counts were undertaken in Canada when the Christmas Bird Census began in 1900, it wasn't until 1909 that London became involved.

The beginning is clouded in mystery, but this much we know. Two teenage boys, Floyd Jones and Alex Eastwood, who probably attended London Collegiate Institute, a secondary school now known as London Central Secondary School, went out for two hours on December 23, 1909. They found nine species of birds: Common Redpoll, Hairy Woodpecker, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-capped Chickadee, and American Crow. The



W.E. Saunders, right, at Wonnacott farm 1930s. Photo courtesy Fran Girling

teenagers likely walked along the Thames River close to their homes in central London.

For what reason did these young people complete the count? The only link I can find that might help to solve the riddle is that a man named J.F. Calvert began teaching at the school in 1909, putting him there at the same time as the students. He was known as a great influence on young people, encouraging them in the field of natural science. His brother, E.W. Calvert, took part in a few earlier counts in other locations, and so J.F. had knowledge of CBC events.

Was the first CBC a response to Calvert's suggestion that they take part in this relatively new concept of counting birds in winter? Was it a school project? Perhaps the school received *Bird-Lore*, the predecessor to *Audubon Field Notes*, which published the CBC statistics for North America, and Calvert or the boys developed an interest in the idea.

Although the two boys were not recorded in any subsequent CBCs for London, Calvert took part for many

years, starting in 1910, and was likely the compiler for many of the early counts. Jones became a member of the McIlwraith Ornithological Club (which later became the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London), but Eastman moved from the area.

In the first few decades the London counts were in the "vicinity" of London, which meant they were in areas where local birders liked to go birdwatching. Of special interest was the bird-prolific land and forest along the Thames River. Observers tended to start on the west side of London, heading west along the river and into the wilds, often walking to Delaware, Ontario, some 10 miles one way.

As we do today, the counters often made a complete day of it, meeting for supper afterwards. In 1931, a small but hardy group made a campfire in a remote area and ate camp food and smoked pipes while listening to the last of their CBC-collected species of the day, a Great Horned Owl, hooting in the distance. Such dedication!

Once count circles became the rule, around 1950, the core of our circle was located in a number of closely spaced spots, usually centered in west London's Springbank Park. Since 1984, the center has been at the gates to Reservoir Park, next to Springbank Park, to honor my compiler predecessor, Bill Jarman, who lived beside the park.

In 1915, the National Audubon Society accepted two counts from the London area, December 26 and December 28. Four gentlemen took part, two in each count. There must have been an epiphany sometime the next year because the men involved joined forces in subsequent years under the banner of the McIlwraith Ornithological Club.

Although the McIlwraith Club was founded in 1890 by W.E. Saunders, regular meetings did not take place from 1904 to 1914. After the club reconvened officially in 1915, they took on the compilation of the London CBC in 1916. Yet one could almost have labeled it the club's count from the second year of the London count, as many members who

went out in 1916 had already taken part in counts since 1910.

Saunders first came on board as a registered participant in 1916 and took part regularly until 1942. I suspect he had an unofficial hand in the events and compilation of the CBCs as he was so active in the birding community, especially the McIlwraith Club, and was known to bird regularly in the winter.

In 1918, the first female participant mentioned, Mrs. Middleton, became involved in our counts. Since then, many women have taken part.

According to minutes of meetings for the McIlwraith Club, it appears that E.M.S. Dale took over the compilations in 1917; he held that post until 1936. His predecessor, J.F. Calvert, was not in every count after that. Keith Reynolds, a club member and nature columnist for the *London Free Press*, London's local newspaper, became the compiler in 1936 and continued until 1939.

Mr. Dale, Mr. Standfield, Bill Morris, and Rae Brown compiled the counts from 1940 to 1942. Kay Fetherston, granddaughter of W.E. Saunders, was out with him on some of his last CBCs, and she was the compiler for 1943 and 1944. I am not sure who compiled the count from 1945 to 1946, but it may have been Bill Girling, back from the war. He was recorded in the club's minutes as the compiler in 1947, and he continued in that job until 1953. Jim



London Christmas counters in the late 1970s. Photo courtesy Barb Bain

Leach compiled the CBC beginning in 1954, and Bill Girling took back the compiler job in 1965. The next year Bill Jarman took on the role and was assisted by Bill Girling from 1976 to 1982. In 1983 I took over the task of compiling and continue in the role.

Remembering Counts

It's remarkable that London has had a CBC in London for so many consecutive years. One would think that as happens with other counts, some issue would come up to lead to a cancellation or withdrawal from participation. The most significant of those possible issues might have been the World Wars, yet even with the two major conflicts, and the number of field observers down, our counts were still completed. As one could imagine, there are more than enough interesting stories from such a long period (see sidebar below). Most have to do with the weather, which can be nasty. We have

never completely canceled a CBC due to weather but have had to postpone a few. Here a few of the interesting stories I received from people when I solicited memories from our club members.

Tony Verboom Jr. has fond memories of Christmas when he was a young lad in the '50s. Gifts were secondary to his excitement about going out on CBCs with his dad, Tony Verboom, and Bill Girling, one of our compilers. A special memory is the sighting in 1961 of the only Northern Waterthrush seen on the count. He still participates in the CBC, covering his favorite spot, the Wonnacott farm, with his children and grandchildren.

Linda Wladarski, Ross Snider, and Dave Martin, affectionately known as the Down-in-the-Dumpsters, have the dubious honor of covering the London dump for the CBC. They like that spot because with lots of "food" around, the chances of seeing some interesting birds are greatly increased. Unfortunately, the dump grounds are pretty clean and well-kept. They've never seen a Snowy Owl or Short-eared Owl on the count, and usually there aren't that many hawks. Maybe that's because there isn't as much mammal food as one might expect; for example, none of them can ever remember seeing a rat on their annual visit.

The biggest highlight of the dump crew's day is watching the gull parade. Usually hundreds, sometimes thousands, of gulls drop in for some fast food. But

Found in the club's archives, a letter from W.E. Saunders to Keith Reynolds dated December 30, 1942—the last CBC for him and the year before he passed away—is presented here in its original form.

"Last Saturday, 26th we took the Christmas census and it was poor. The day was O.K. but the walking was 8 inches to 2 feet of snow with a crust that would almost bear a fellow but not quite. What a day. Jim Edie and I went to the Spruce Swamp and I walked only partway down the west side, and then sat by a fire while Jim did the rest. 5 species only in there, Gull, Chick, Downy, Cardinal and Jay. And our grand total was only 29 or 30. I have the list of 29 and think there is another; Pheasant??? We had Buffle (Hofferd??) Black, Goldeneye, Am. Merg, Chick, W.B. Nut, Crow, P.H. Lark, Redpoll, R.S.H; R.T.H; R.L.H; Sparrowhawk, Tree, Sp, Junco; Hairy, Downy, Starling

No pheasant, grouse quail, siskin, but we did get Redpoll and goldfinch Screech and G.H. (Hedley)

We had donuts and cocoa in Gord's shack and then my car went to Delaware to see Mrs Johnson. She has done poorly on Cardinals this winter; the most she has seen at once is 20, while last winter she had 24 one day. Too bad. But she had no new ones for the list.

Frances and Kathleen and Marj. walked to Springbank and found 5 Creepers.

Pete Patterson's unit arrived in England about the 21st.

Eli didn't go out on the census, so you see we were short of a lot of good people.

I forgot to tell you that the walking at Wonnacotts was so bad that our party didn't do all the usual places; and Mel didn't go out. The poor chap isn't well and has pain pretty often so that his pep is used up."

because not much dumping occurs on Saturdays, our count day, most times the birds are disappointing. Nevertheless, gulls still show up, take a quick look, and often just hang around while they think about where to go next. The three dumpster counters have reported over the years common gulls to be sure, but they thrill at the discovery of such rare gulls as Iceland, Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed, and even California.

The worse scenario is when the gulls are loafing on top of the garbage hills, forcing the birders to get out of the car and walk to see the birds. These intrepid CBCers always pray for really cold weather, because even if it's only a degree or two below freezing, they still end up with boots covered in a two- to three-inch layer of slimy dump muck, which makes its way into the car, altering the atmosphere in there. Even so, the three consider themselves to be among the luckiest of all CBC counters.

Christmas Counts are a family affair for the Loyer/Leparskas family. Their son, Allan, started while still in the womb and continued for the next 15 years. Dave McLeod was the family's "leader" for most of those years and helped them identify trees, shrubs, and seeds, as well as birds. One year when they were walking through a rather wet spot, young Allan stepped into some mud and promptly stepped out of his boots and into more mud with his stocking feet! Getting the boots out of the clingy mud proved to be quite a challenge. Their daughter, Miranda, took part in the CBC from birth to 2007, a total of nine years. Harriet still can't believe that she and Henry carried their kids all that way, but they are delighted to see that both children enjoy the outdoors and nature.

About 15 years ago Ian Platt and his son, Gavin, were owling just west of London on Westdel Bourne at 5:00 A.M. A city policeman came up wanting to know what the two of them were up to. Ian told him about the CBC and showed him how he was playing a tape for screech owls. The policeman was quite



Anita and Stan Caveney spelling out 100. Photo/Lisette Verbeem

interested and told Ian and Gavin that he had seen a large owl being chased by a mob of crows in the city center earlier in the night. Tick and tick. And so they added Great Horned Owl to their list!

The Statistics

Most CBCers understand how interesting it is to look at the data and make comparisons in the area of trends, to check out the gasp-inducing rarities, or to read accounts of the exploits of the birders. We have sighted 159 species over a century of counting, and we have had reports of four more count week birds and at least two distinct races.

The value of bird feeders in locating wintering species is vastly important. Besides giving opportunities for many of our less active participants, many of the unusual species we've recorded have been found near or at feeders; examples include Dickcissel, Pine Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Mockingbird. Often feeders are responsible for our only sightings of some birds each count, such as White-crowned Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. Could we be the Cardinal Capital of Canada without feederwatchers?

Our CBC ground crews have also encountered some really special species for our area: a Common Loon, trapped by ice and rescued; a late lingering Green Heron; a recent trio of Trumpeter Swans; and others such as Sora, Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock, California Gull,

American Three-toed Woodpecker, American Pipit, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee. We also have single records with poorly written or no documentation. These include Common Tern, Gray Jay, House Wren, Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, and Broad-winged Hawk. Count week highlights include Yellow Warbler, Bared Owl, Nashville Warbler, Band-tailed Pigeon, and American White Pelican.

There are many other rare birds for our area that we've counted just a few times over the years. Ones that might not be expected to be encountered again, if ever, could include Loggerhead Shrike, Virginia Rail, Northern Rough-winged and Barn swallows, Black-backed Woodpecker, Thayer's Gull, Long-tailed Duck, Boreal Chickadee, and Red Crossbill. Though we had two out of three years recently with Double-crested Cormorant, one doesn't expect this species to linger. Nor would we expect too many Horned Grebes, Northern Saw-whet Owls, or Bonaparte's Gulls.

I would expect only the occasional report of Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Bohemian Waxwing, and Chipping Vesper, and Savannah sparrows. But with climatic changes it will be interesting to see what happens over the next 100 years.

The Name Game

Because our counts span the century mark, trying to look up information online has led to some interesting problems. For example, we are often

surprised at the names of some of the birds. It can lead to particular difficulties, especially when trying to learn years of certain species or to make the abundance graphs from the CBC website. For instance, I noticed Chewink as a species seen in early counts. Some of you will know that that is the Eastern Towhee, but did you know it was also referred to as the Ground-robin, Towhee, and the Rufous-sided Towhee? I have a reference to a "Spotted" race of the latter bird, which would mean that in that year there was a rare visitor from the west, now known as the Spotted Towhee.

The Snow Bunting was also called the Snowflake or Snow Bird. The American or Common Crossbill is now the Red Crossbill. Duck names often were from hunter's vernacular, so Baldpate was the American Wigeon, Oldsquaw became the Long-tailed Duck, Cobhead is the Common Goldeneye, and so on. There was one reference to Red-legged Black Duck, apparently considered a race of the American Black Duck. And speaking of races, one would often hear the term Prairie Horned Lark. The present Dark-eyed Junco was sometimes split into the Oregon, as well as the Slate-colored, Junco. Our Northern Cardinal has been known as Cardinal Grosbeak, and even War-bird. The Butcherbird was either of the shrikes, as was the Great Gray Shrike. Cedar-birds and Cherry-birds were Cedar Waxwings. Did you know that Northern Harriers were formerly Marsh Hawks, and Great Blue Herons just Cranes? Wild Canary was another name for American Goldfinch. Which do you like for our Common Grackle—Bronzed or Purple? Falcons had other names in the past: Sparrow Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, and Duck Hawk. I will leave you to decide which was which. We have seen the Northern Saw-whet Owl on several counts, but it was previously noted as the Acadian Owl. What would a Brown-headed Chickadee be?

Two of my favorite names, only appearing on one count each, are Bog-sucker for the American Woodcock and

Fly-up-the-creek for the Green Heron. Those nicknames are great, aren't they?

Many of the names are closer alternatives to what we call them now but cause a bit of confusion when you are retrieving data. When looking up a certain "shorebird," it might be wise to try the general name Snipe, as it will be listed under Common and Wilson's. And Goldeneye will come up with choices such as Common, American, and perhaps others. And even our Northern Flicker could be under that or Yellow-shafted Flicker.

So keep an open mind as you look up data online under species.

Conditions Change Over the Years

Going through the count's history, it's interesting to note the changes that have taken place over the years—from how counters got around in the field to the level of participation.

Getting around

One wonders how the early birders got around and found birds during rather risky winters, especially in the early years. Modern vehicles, which allowed participants from different areas to gather into parties as well as complete owling and driving routes, have made a major contribution toward the success of our mission.

Getting around on earlier counts probably meant that counters were restricted mainly to walking. However, I can't imagine some groups walking all the way out to Delaware, a distance of about 10 miles one way, without some kind of transportation back, especially when there was deep snow. I don't find any reference to vehicle use until the 1930s, though I assume getting to locations might have meant using cars even before then.

Cars are a big part of the CBC now, as there are about eight routes that are mostly driving, with counters only stopping briefly to look about or pish at a brush pile. Safety can be an issue in snowy weather, and one must concern oneself with the likelihood of sliding into

some troubles from which only the Canadian Automobile Association or a friendly farmer can save you.

State-of-the-art binoculars, thermal protective clothing, reliable transport, modern communication devices, and efficient networking have totally changed the way the modern-day winter birder gathers and shares CBC data. Ironically, the use of snowshoes, albeit at times made of different materials, does span the years. In 1914, counters were on snowshoes, and we've used them many times since, including this year.

Weather

Weather conditions have shown much variation. Though one day of the winter hardly exposes a trend for a winter season, most count dates have been near the end of December, so one can get a feel for the conditions for at least a few days around the count. With that in mind, it appears that the first 20 years of our CBCs were among those with the most wintery conditions. After a few milder decades, the late 1950s through the late 1980s were typical of our seasons, with good amounts of snow and cold temperatures, enough to freeze even much of the running water. But we had relatively mild winters through the 1990s and into the new century.

This mild weather has led to obvious trends in the number of species and birds counted. We found more individuals and a greater number of wintering species in those years that were milder, for obvious reasons. This is especially true for waterfowl, due to open water allowing them to feed. The opposite conditions tended to reduce the numbers overall, and many birds are found huddled in sheltered spots or forced into feeders.

Participants

Of course, the number of people taking part helps to increase our numbers, even though one likely compares hours and results these days.

The number of feederwatchers is of great importance. Without them we would not

continued on page 119

The Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) continues to extend its range and numbers across much of North America. Most of this species' expansion is to the north and west from its original point of colonization in Florida, and during the 109th count its northern frontier was established from sea to sea all the way across Canada. This bird was photographed at the western edge of Canadian occurrence at Terrace, British Columbia. Photo/Diane Weismiller



A vian Gems of all Descriptions

The Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) is familiar and widespread on Christmas Bird Counts across much of North America, and can be a regular feature in the field and at feeders throughout the Midwest. But this partial albino male cardinal at Salina, Kansas, must have presented quite an identification challenge for observers there. Photo/Carl Hensley



When a new Christmas Bird Count is conducted in Latin America, there is a good chance that new species will be included in the cumulative CBC database. This lovely Red-headed Tanager (*Piranga erythrocephala*), a first for the overall count, was tallied at the new CBC in Barranca Rancho la Liebre, Sinaloa, Mexico. Photo/Rene Valdes



One of the North American waterfowl most sought after by birders is the Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*), a species primarily of the coasts of the Bering Sea. They do occasionally wander down the Pacific Coast to be tallied on CBCs, and this bird was found on the restarted Coquille Valley, Oregon, count. Photo/Steve Dimock



The "big" grebes of North America—Clark's and Western—are real carrots when found in the East, but are regularly counted on open water during CBCs in many areas of the West. The usual challenge is identifying Clark's from Westerns, but this season observers at the Balmorea, Texas, CBC were presented with a real treat—both species present with young birds. These Clark's Grebes (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) were among those with young there. Photo/Kelly B. Bryan



Observers heading to regions other than the United States and Canada for their Christmas Bird Counts often yearn for new and exciting bird species to add spice to their CBC, year, or life lists. However, as so often happens when birding, sometimes other highlights emerge. This past season among the expected 15 or so Northern Parulas (*Parula americana*) encountered at New Providence Island, Bahamas, was this stunning male with aberrant plumage. Photo/Neil McKinney

from the 109th Christmas Bird Count

Birders in the northern Rockies may expect to find interesting western owls, perhaps even members of a species (the Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis*) that has been the recent epicenter of conservation issues. But the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is the expected species in the northern Rockies, and this one was tallied on Idaho's Moscow-Pullman CBC. Photo/Paul Holick

This first winter Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), nicely compared in front of a third-winter American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), was tallied on the Kalispell, Montana, Christmas Bird Count. Rare in the interior and west, this Iceland Gull provided the second CBC record—and third overall state record—in Montana. Photo/Daniel Casey

For birders interested in “little brown jobs” and especially sparrows, the Gulf Coast, Texas, and southwestern states are the place to be on a CBC. An amazing diversity of sparrows can be found on counts there, and this Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) was photographed on the Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Texas, count. Photo/Greg Lavaty



Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) is a central Mexican species, and birders hoping to add this bird to their American Birding Area life list ordinarily would hope to find it as a rarity in southeastern Arizona. But neotropical kingbirds often surprise us, and this vagrant kingbird was tallied at Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. Photo/Ross Landry

The regional summaries in the pages that follow are presented in geographical order. This alphabetical index will assist you in finding the summary for a particular region.

Species appearing in boldface in the regional summaries are deemed "unusual" by the regional editors, unless otherwise noted.

All maps in the regional summaries were created by Caroline Jackson.

A key to the editorial codes used in the summaries can be found on page 107.

For full names of count circles, please see the listing beginning on page 108.

Calling All Counters!



We're always looking for images to use in *American Birds*, such as photographs of birds seen during the Christmas Bird Count or participants in the field. If you would like your pictures considered for publication, please go to the CBC page on the Audubon website, <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>, and click on the link for online photo submittal.



Audubon



BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

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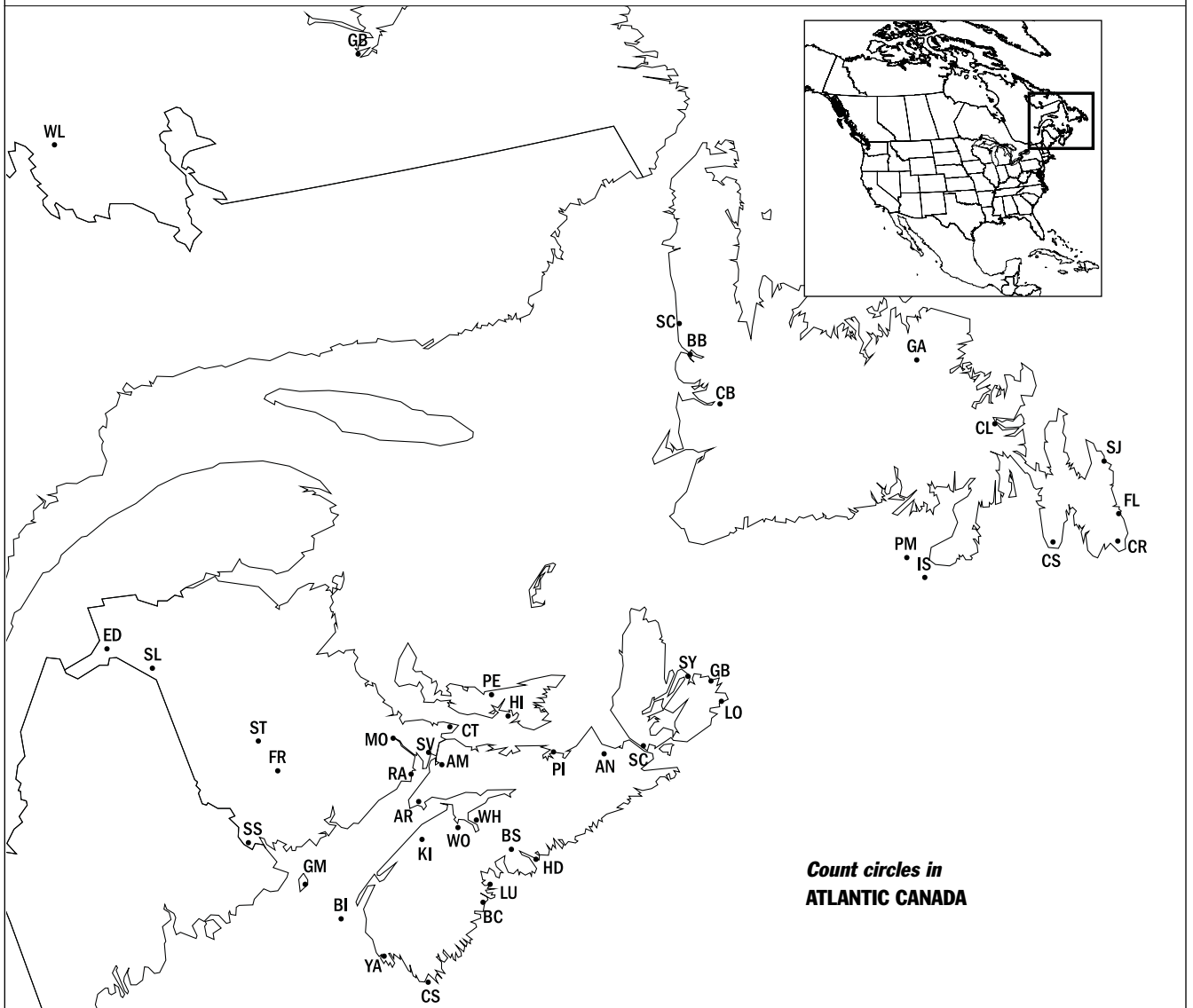
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Regional Summaries of the 109th Christmas Bird Count



Count circles in
ATLANTIC CANADA

ATLANTIC CANADA

New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador,
Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island,
Sainte-Pierre et Miquelon

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Again, more counts lapsed—one long established and two recently added—leaving 41 as the fewest since 2000–01. Total number of observers (857) and overall party-effort in time (2462 hours) and distance (10,170 miles) were accordingly down slightly from the recent averages, but slightly more parties (494) than ever were packed into the

remaining circles; perhaps there was a flight (of birders) to the “better” counts. Overall number of individual birds (333,561) was among the lowest in a decade, but this may also have been driven by real declines in some very common species, as considered below. It was a very balmy December with the highest average count day temperature ever (about 36 degrees Fahrenheit), a sharp contrast with last year’s longtime record lows. There was little or no snow cover except in northern New Brunswick and in Labrador, and still fresh waters were widely unfrozen. The weather presumably had something to do with the record number of species reported (182, plus 2 in count period). Not sur-

prisingly, there has been a near-significant ($p = 0.07$) increase in average count day temperatures in the region during the last 25 years, so we can expect more hangers-on in future CBCs. As usual, Nova Scotia led the way in numbers of species (167 plus 4 in count period), and Halifax-Dartmouth set an astonishing all-time regional record of 134 species, plus two count period birds.

Counts of most waterfowl on fresh waters and the sea were within recent limits. Exceptions included the burgeoning Canada Goose, with the biggest tally ever. Also, despite some recent concerns about scoters, there were record-high counts of Surf and Black, and a near record for White-winged

Scoter. Harlequin Duck seemed to have reached a plateau after years of heartening recovery. Among unusual waterfowl, a first CBC **Cackling Goose** was well studied on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. The three Eurasian Green-winged Teal and 20 Tufted Ducks were found only in St. John's, NL, and a recurrent hybrid of the latter with scaup, presumably a Greater in Iceland, was ticked in Pictou Harbour, NS. Details were not available for two hybrid Barrow's Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser on the St. Paul's-Cow Head, NL, count, but they have occurred there before.

Counts of other waterbirds and shorebirds were mostly within usual wide limits, although both loons seemed to recover from low levels of recent years. Although other shearwaters have lingered in the past, a count period **Manx Shearwater** photographed off Chebucto Head, near Halifax, produced a first, and a Virginia Rail a third, regional CBC record. No shorebird find was unprecedented; a third regional Spotted Sandpiper on Grand Manan Island, NB, was carefully checked to eliminate a vagrant Common. A few Lesser Yellowlegs have occurred before, but six well-studied birds near Halifax were unusual. We've also had single Great Egrets, but this year two lingered on Cape Sable Island, NS. Below-average counts of the regular large gulls continued the recent trends. St. John's, NL, had its usual Eurasian gulls—a Mew (Common), a **Yellow-legged**, and a count period **Slaty-backed**, the latter a regional CBC first. A tardy **Forster's Tern** on the Cape Race count was a first in winter for NL. Finding large numbers of alcids inshore is always chancy, and the usual masses of Razorbills wintering in the mouth of the Bay of Fundy were not encountered.

Land birds benefited from the mild weather (and later suffered from heavy snowfalls and freeze-thaws). Counts of most Galliformes were within their irregular and wide fluctuations. There have been no CBC Gray Partridge in Nova Scotia since 1995–96, but they persist on Prince Edward Island, where,



Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*), Fredrickton, New Brunswick. Photo/Merv Cormier

perhaps tellingly, there have always been few or no CBC pheasants (known predators on ground-nesting birds). Thirteen Turkey Vultures were routine, but a **Black Vulture** on Brier Island, NS, casual in the Maritimes in recent winters, was a regional CBC first. One Cooper's Hawk in New Brunswick and two in Nova Scotia reflect an ongoing increase (and acceptance) of records. Broad-winged Hawks again lingered, one in New Brunswick and three in Nova Scotia, all well described and one photographed. An inevitable (unwelcome?) addition to regional CBCs (and to the New Brunswick checklist) was a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** on the Riverside-Albert count. A total of 39 Snowy Owls was only surpassed by the 1987–88 count, and along with three Northern Hawk Owls in New Brunswick (occasional singles on past counts), will doubtless fit wider patterns this winter. The woodland owls were well represented, including a third regional Boreal Owl on the Halifax-Dartmouth count and the highest-ever total (26) of Northern Sawwhets. Woodpecker counts were all within usual ranges, except that lingering Northern Flickers doubled all previous totals.

A Western Kingbird in Halifax was, perhaps surprisingly, a fourth on Nova Scotia CBCs. Low CBC tallies of Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Red-breasted

Nuthatch continue the trend of recent counts. This is also evident, along with some largely boreal migrant species, on the Breeding Bird Survey; global warming, forestry? Among the boreal-taiga irruptives, counts of Northern Shrikes were about average, and Bohemian Waxwing came in at half of last winter's count. European Starlings continued their (welcome) recent decline. Counts of laggard warblers were mostly about average. Orange-crowned was exceptionally common (19), and the only "southerners" were a count period Yellow-throated in Gander, NL, and the second largest numbers ever (15) of Yellow-breasted Chat. Numbers of most of the regularly wintering sparrows were within recent ranges. A well-described **Le Conte's Sparrow** on the Wolfville, NS, count supplied a first CBC and second winter record for the region. The 29 Hoary Redpolls were all on the two Labrador counts. Although there are a few regional winter records of **Painted Bunting**, one at a feeder in Dartmouth, NS, was only our second on a CBC. Dickcissel is casual in winter, but the seven on CBCs were unusual. Baltimore Oriole numbers (48), nearly all in Nova Scotia, were almost 50 percent higher than the previous record, but counts of other icterids were low. Counts of forest finches were mostly within recent limits.

House Finch in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia seems to have bounced back from recent declines. Common Redpolls were a mere echo of last winter's extravaganza, and the 29 Hoary Redpolls were all in Labrador. House Sparrows, almost regrettably, continue to decline.

QUÉBEC

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The 109th Christmas Bird Count was fairly good in Québec. A total of 119 species were observed on count day, of which 40 were aquatic species (33 percent of all species), 20 raptors (hawks and owls; 17 percent), and 59 land birds (grouses, woodpeckers, passerines; 50 percent).

Thirty-two counts were completed in Québec; the border count of Ottawa-Gatineau (half in Québec and half in Ontario) is included in this analysis as well. The 33 counts were held between December 14th and January 3rd. The most popular day was December 14th with 11 counts, followed by December 20th with 9 counts. Strong winds and cold temperatures may have affected some counts, but none of the compilers report-

ed any storms when commenting on their results. In total there were 858 participants, of which 714 were in the field and 144 at feeders. Ottawa-Gatineau had the highest number of field observers (94) followed by Montréal (80).

A total of 188,037 individuals of 119 species were reported. Among Québec counts, Granby ranked first with 28,434 birds, mostly as a result of the presence of its crow roost (25,643 American Crows), followed by Québec City with 23,863 birds (of which 9305 were Bohemian Waxwings) and Saint-Jean-sur-le-Richelieu with 23,379 birds (of which 16,981 were crows). In the province of Québec, Montréal ranked first in number of species (69), followed by Longueuil (64), Lennoxville (63), and Québec (61); Ottawa-Gatineau (half in Ontario) reported 72 species. These numbers are well below the above-80-species marks established in previous years.

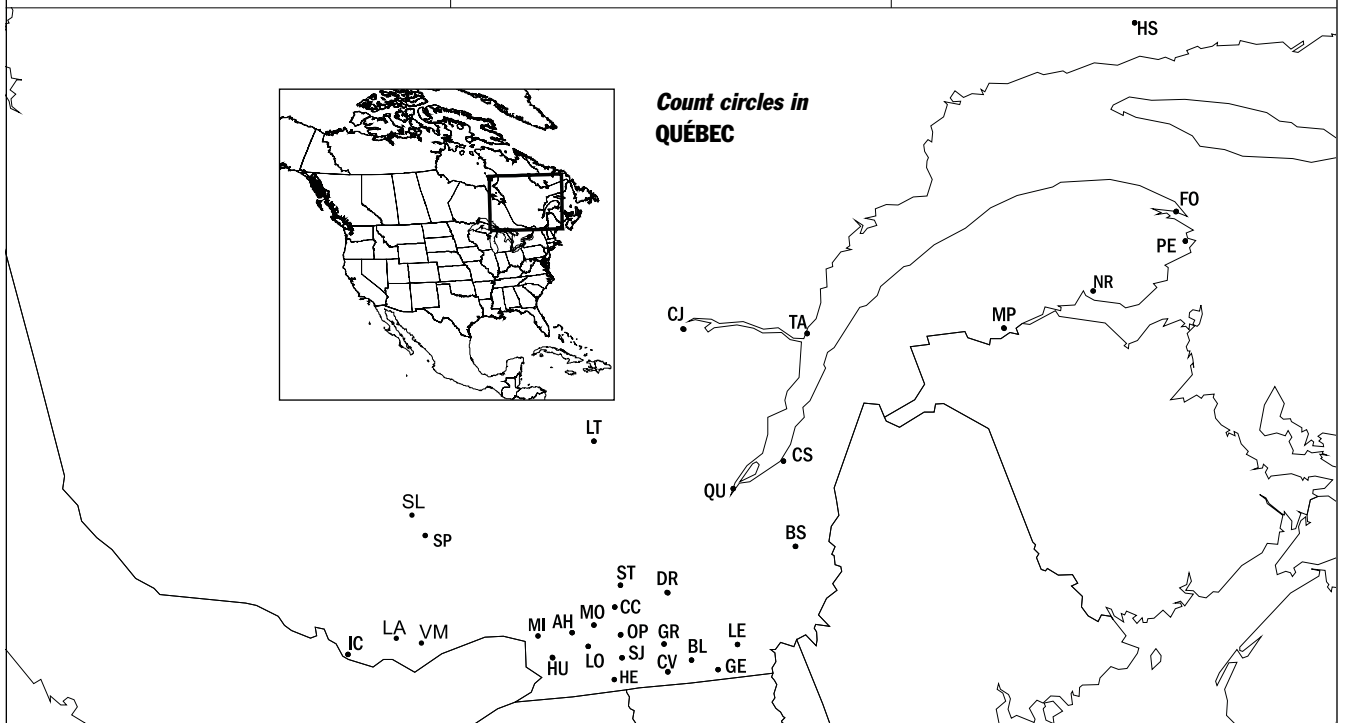
Three species were reported in all counts: Mourning Dove, Common Raven, and European Starling. The total number of individuals (province of Québec) was more than 10,000 individuals in five species: American Crow (53,417), European Starling (17,891), Bohemian Waxwing (17,751), Black-capped Chickadee (12,544), and Rock Pigeon (11,590).

If we look at threatened species, the

total of 247 Barrow's Goldeneyes remains well below the 789 birds observed in the 105th count (2004-05). Five counts had Barrow's Goldeneyes this year: Tadoussac (120 individuals), Perce (104), Forillon (22), Ottawa-Gatineau (5), and Montréal (1). Only eight Harlequin Ducks were observed (Forillon 6, Montréal 1, and Longueuil 1). Two birds of prey maintained their "high" numbers of the previous year: Bald Eagle (37 individuals) and Cooper's Hawk (46). Nine Peregrine Falcons were also reported.

Regarding the highlights, I should point out the following species observed in only one count this year: Gadwall (1 individual in Longueuil), American Wigeon (2 in Montréal), Green-winged Teal (2 in Québec City), Ring-necked Duck (1 in Longueuil), Lesser Scaup (6 in Montréal), Surf Scoter (2 in Forillon), Bufflehead (18 in Tadoussac), Common Pheasant (241 in Sainte-Anne-du-Lac), Pied-billed Grebe (1 in Lennoxville), Red-necked Grebe (1 in Perce), Lesser Black-backed Gull (1 in Montréal), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 in Montréal), Black-backed Woodpecker (1 in Québec City), Eastern Phoebe (1 in Montréal), Winter Wren (1 in Montréal), and Eastern Towhee (1 in Montréal).

One species is clearly increasing in Québec: the Wild Turkey. Besides the



count at Ottawa-Gatineau (17 individuals), Québec observers established a new high mark of 635 individuals distributed throughout eight counts: Cowansville (215), Lennoxville (112), Ile-du-Grand-Calumet (93), Lac-Brome (75), Georgeville (60), Lascelles (34), Hudson (30), and Granby (16). Historically, turkeys were first reported on Québec CBCs in the count week of the 90th count (1989–90). In the following year, eight birds were observed on count day. Seven years later (the 98th count), the tally reached 20 individuals. Then numbers began to increase more rapidly, reaching 169 individuals in the 107th count, 405 in the 108th, and 635 this year. Obviously, the Wild Turkey is now well established in southern Québec. It will be interesting to document how the species will extend its range to the north in the coming years.

ONTARIO

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More typical December weather conditions than last year were found throughout the province during the 109th count, and the south saw a huge influx of winter finches, particularly White-winged Crossbills. A total of 112 counts out of 128 established circles had complete data reported this year, with two new counts this year at Massey and Pickle Lake, both in the Northwest. Some snow was reported in all but six count circles, and most counts reported temperatures well below the freezing mark on count day. Presence of snow was much more significant on the southern counts this year. Once again, open water was limited to larger bodies of water for the most part, but waterfowl numbers were greater than last year, as the freeze-up happened later this season.

A total of 2814 people participated in the field, regaining the 300-participant drop of the previous year. An additional 1175 people spent 2484 hours watching



Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Delta, Ontario. Photo/Marty Burke

feeders, up slightly over last year. The participants logged a total of 45,698.92 miles, up approximately 5000, and a total of 7982.75 party hours were logged, up slightly from last year. All regions had active owling in pre-count hours—a total of 232.75 hours and 1380.42 miles were logged. A total of 1,222,479 individuals were recorded of 176 different species, up three species over the 108th count period.

Blenheim led the field this year with 113 species reported, followed by Kingston and Long Point with 106 species each, and Hamilton with 104. A Sage Thrasher at Blenheim, a Spotted Towhee at Point Pelee, and two different Black-throated Blue Warblers at Toronto were amongst the highlights.

In the Northwest, 13 of the 16 established counts reported, up two from last year, with new counts at Pickle Lake and Massey. The area produced 26,404 individuals and 70 different species, an increase in number and diversity of species over last year. Thunder Bay led the area with 38 species, followed by Massey with 31 species and Fort Francis with 30. Temperatures for counts in the area ranged from a high of 32 degrees Fahrenheit at Mountain Chutes to a low of -33 degrees in Eagle River. All counts reported still water frozen, while moving water was frozen to partly open. Snow depth ranged from zero inches in

Nipigon-Red Rock to a maximum depth of 31.2 inches recorded at Fort Francis. In all, 104 participants spent 271.25 hours in the field, a greater number of observers but less time in the field than last season, and they were split into a maximum of 48 parties. They clocked a total of 2035.4 miles for the area, up from last year. Three hours were spent owling, during which 9 miles were logged. Feeder-watchers were again active with 192 participants logging 301 hours. These efforts garnered 97 birds per party hour.

Waterfowl counts were again limited this year due to the mostly frozen conditions. Significant sightings included **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (1, ND) at Eagle River, **Hoary Redpoll** (1) at Gameland, **Brown Thrasher** (1) at Ignace, **Mourning Dove** and **Eastern Towhee** at Nipigon-Red Rock, and **Golden Eagle** at Thunder Bay.

In the Northeast, 8 of 11 counts reported. A total of 72 species, down 9 from last year, and 20,641 individuals, up from last year, were reported in this area. Sault Saint Marie led the area again with 57 species tallied, followed by Sudbury with 40 and Marathon with 29. All the counts in this area reported daytime highs below the freezing mark. In most circles, still water was frozen again this year, while open water remained partially open, with the exception of Manitouwadge where it was frozen. There was snow in all parts of the Northeast, ranging from 4 inches in Sault Saint Marie to 36 inches in Chapleau. A total of 133 participants were in the field during the count period, logging a total of 1264 miles and 285.25 hours. Sault Saint Marie and Marathon both posted owling results this year, with 4.5 hours and 15.5 miles logged. The number of feeder-watchers more than doubled this year, with 115 observers (over last year's 52) logging 215.5 hours. Efforts in this area garnered 72 birds per party hour, much higher than last year.

Waterfowl sightings were concentrated in Sault Saint Marie and Sudbury as usual, and very limited in other areas,

with 72. The area produced 143 species, with participants logging 20,493 party miles over 3221.5 total party hours, resulting in 89 birds per party hour. Owlwing was conducted on just under half of the counts in this area, logging 59.5 hours and 372 miles.

Some species of winter finches were numerous in this stronghold during the 109th count period, though not in the numbers of the previous year, due to irruption to the south and west this year. Significant sightings included **Wild Turkey** at Algonquin, **Cedar Waxwing (new)** at Bancroft, **Northern Mockingbird** (1, ND) at Caledon, **Varied Thrush** (1, GD, PH) at Deep River, **Northern Shoveler** (1, GD) at Huntsville, **Eastern Towhee** (1, GD), **Eurasian Wigeon** (1, GD) and **Red-headed Woodpecker** (CW, GD) at Kingston, **Varied Thrush** (PS) at Lanark Highlands, **Red-throated Loon** (CW) at Minden, **Red-shouldered Hawk** (ND) at Ottawa-Gatineau, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (1, ND) at Pakenham-Arnprior, and **Short-eared Owl** (1, GD) at Peterborough.

Finally, 25 of 26 counts in the South reported, with Dunnville absent. A total of 652,359 individuals were tallied during counts by the 843 observers in the field, more observers but fewer birds than the previous year. Temperatures were above freezing on many of the counts, particularly those toward the end of the count period. The vast majority of counts reported moving water open, while still water was mostly frozen. A total of 12,248 party miles were logged during the 2431.75 party hours in the field. Most counts had owlwing activity—87.75 hours and 567 miles were recorded in the area this year. An additional 186 observers logged 322.75 hours at feeders, both up from last year. The efforts contributed 268 birds per party hour, by far the highest in the region, and 156 species.

Blenheim had the most species with 113, followed by Long Point with 106 and Hamilton with 104. White-winged Crossbills were widespread throughout the south this year, with only three count

circles not reporting this rare species to the south in the 109th count period.

Highlights in the South included **Pomerine Jaegar** (1, GD) and **Sage Thrasher** (1, GD) at Blenheim, **Golden Eagle** (1, GD) and **Sandhill Crane** (26, GD) at Cedar Creek, **White-eyed Vireo** (1, GD) at Long Point, and **Spotted Towhee** (1, GD, PH, PS) at Point Pelee, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (2, both GD, PH).

Thanks to all for their efforts this year and last. Keep sending in your reports and comments—they are much appreciated. Good birding to you all!

PRAIRIE PROVINCES AND NORTHERN CANADA

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This year 82 Christmas Bird Counts were held in the region, down 6 from last year: 16 in Manitoba, 21 in Saskatchewan, 37 in Alberta, 5 in Northwest Territories, and 2 in Nunavut. A total of 115 species were reported: 74 in Manitoba, 79 in Saskatchewan, 105 in Alberta, 23 in Northwest Territories, and 2 in Nunavut. Cypress River again edged out Winnipeg for the top spot in Manitoba by a single species (41 to 40), all the more impressive since Cypress River has far fewer observers and no waterbirds! With 39 species, Saskatoon led the way in Saskatchewan for the sixth consecutive year, with Gardiner Dam a remote second at 32. In Alberta, Calgary reported the most species (65), followed by Medicine Hat with 55; Edmonton dropped to third place with 50.

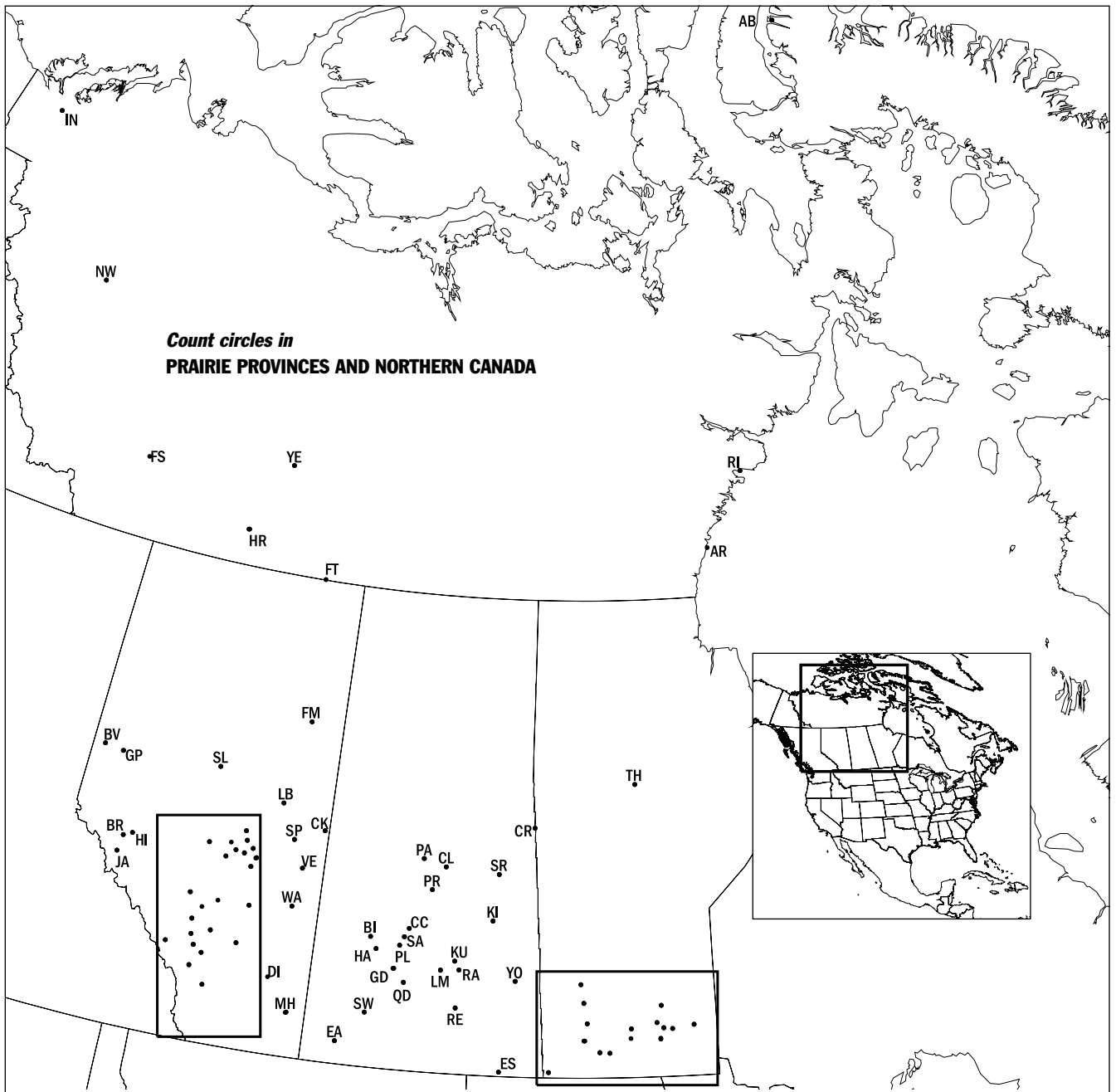
Wintry weather struck with a vengeance on the first day of the CBC period this year, bringing intense north winds and temperatures hazardous to exposed skin. The rest of the period was mostly cold, but the winds abated in most areas.

In Manitoba, the Red River-St. Adolphe count was retired and the Morden count was missing in action. These were partly offset by a new count at Portage la Prairie. Waterfowl were a big story on several counts. The total of 1316 Mallards at Oak Hammock is astounding, especially as they were likely greatly undercounted. Winnipeg managed five species of waterfowl, including Northern Pintail, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. Brandon found two rare-in-winter birds, Redhead and Pied-billed Grebe.

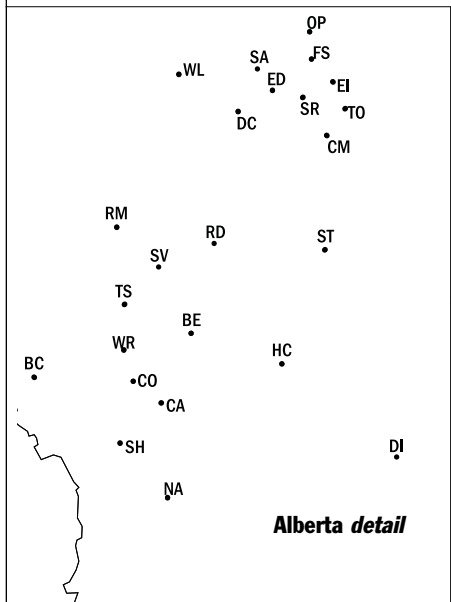
Diurnal raptors were unremarkable, with 13 Bald Eagles across the province being the most numerous. Merlins seem to have declined in recent years. There were nine this year, with the four in Winnipeg and three in Portage accounting for most. The former is a low total, especially considering the fact that the Portage count is new.

Eurasian Collared-Doves totaled 15 on three counts, with Glenboro (at 6) and Lyleton (in count week) recording them for the first time. Dauphin had them for the second time; their total of nine more than doubled the previous year's total. It was not a banner year for owls. Counters noted 28 Snowy Owls on 10 counts (half at Oak Hammock) and five Great Gray Owls, with three at Pinawa and singles at Riding Mountain and St. Martin. A feeder-visiting adult Red-headed Woodpecker was a nice find at Selkirk.

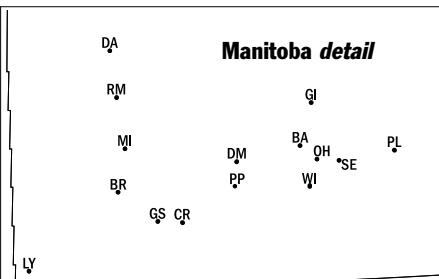
Corvids were mixed, with Blue Jays a little higher than the low numbers of recent years, but Black-billed Magpies were in low numbers on all counts. By contrast, American Crows are doing really well, found on 11 counts, including Riding Mountain for only the fifth time in that count's 30-year history. Common Ravens are also doing well



**Count circles in
PRAIRIE PROVINCES AND NORTHERN CANADA**



Alberta detail



Manitoba detail

and continue to increase in areas where they never used to be found, as demonstrated by Lyleton's impressive total of 22; this number smashing their previous record of 8 set only last year.

Three Northern Cardinals graced a feeder in the Selkirk count circle, the

only ones reported on counts this year, although there were others present elsewhere in the province. Among native sparrows, Song Sparrows were the most widespread, with singles at Selkirk (at the same feeder as the Red-headed Woodpecker) and Minnedosa. Only Winnipeg reported White-throated Sparrows, and one Harris's Sparrow was spotted at Brandon.

Observers noted very few icterids this year; eight Common Grackles were reported on three counts (plus a count week bird), and a Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Cypress River. Among finches,

Purple Finches, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins all put on strong showings. Indeed, if not for Winnipeg, Purple Finches would outnumber House Finches, and for once I'm totally satisfied all the Purple Finches were correctly identified. Pine Grosbeaks were widespread but not very numerous except at Pinawa, which had one-third of the provincial total. White-winged Crossbills were scarce and Red Crossbills absent. Evening Grosbeaks were at some of the lowest numbers ever recorded.

In Saskatchewan, ice fog hindered most counts at dams, and only nine species of waterbirds were reported. Cackling Geese made their fifth consecutive appearance at Gardiner Dam. Estevan also had Cackling Geese, and the majority of the Canada Geese, with an impressive count of 9464, along with the only Canvasback. A single Bufflehead remained at the Qu'Appelle Valley Dam, while a pair of Hooded Mergansers were far north at Squaw Rapids.

Upland gamebird numbers appeared stable. Noteworthy were two record counts: a remarkable 231 Ring-necked Pheasant at Estevan and an equally impressive 76 Willow Ptarmigan at Creighton. The ptarmigan number was nearly double the record total that Creighton established just last year!

Raptor numbers decreased slightly, but 11 species were still reported. Bald Eagle numbers declined, with only 14 present at their traditional winter outpost at Gardiner Dam. Though somewhat overdue, Swift Current added Northern Harrier to their all-time list. Sharp-shinned Hawk was a count period bird at Estevan, with Saskatoon adding a lone Cooper's. Clark's Crossing reported the only Gyrfalcon, and the only Prairie Falcon was at Gardiner Dam.

Only three American Coots remained at their usual spot on the Boundary Dam reservoir. Also at their traditional area was a pair of Glaucous Gulls at Gardiner. The Eurasian Collared-Dove continues to expand its range, with Biggar adding the import to its all-time list and a record total of 108 birds at Swift Current.

Northern Hawk Owls were seen on four counts, including one south of the boreal forest at Saskatoon. The only Great Gray was at Candle Lake. In spite of the bitter cold, Short-eareds lingered at Biggar, Harris, and Kutawagan Lake.

A count week Mountain Chickadee east of its normal range was seen at Swift Current for only the ninth CBC record. Magpie numbers declined, but Common Raven numbers continued their 10-year increasing trend. Participants recorded an impressive 235 at Yorkton, which I consider a "southern" count!

Brown Creepers were seen in only two areas, but Yorkton managed to find eight of them. Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers dropped noticeably, with only single birds at Regina and Saskatoon. After last year's invasion there were only three Townsend's Solitaires reported from Pike Lake, Qu'Appelle Dam, and Swift Current. A vagrant Varied Thrush was found at Candle Lake. Conversely, American Robin numbers were up, seen on eight counts. Bohemian Waxwing numbers dropped drastically, with only 1340 birds on nine counts. At Saskatoon there were 101 Cedars—not far behind the mere 200 Bohemians counted!

Rare during this season, a Spotted Towhee turned up at Eastend. Even more shocking was Saskatchewan's second CBC Eastern Towhee, which strayed far from its range to a feeder at Candle Lake in the boreal forest. Incredibly, this bird survived the entire winter! Sparrow numbers declined in the poor weather. Single American Tree and Harris's sparrows lingered at Eastend. White-throats survived at Pike Lake and Saskatoon. The declining Rusty Blackbird was represented by a single bird at Pike Lake.

Some winter finch numbers were up from last year. Pine Grosbeaks showed up in 15 areas. The only Purple Finches were seven at Pike Lake. House Finch numbers rebounded from last year, with a record high count of 686 in Saskatoon and a first appearance on the Harris CBC. White-winged Crossbills were seen on 11 counts, while Reds were conspicu-

ous by their absence. Both Common and Hoary redpoll numbers were down.

In Alberta, new counts were included from Red Deer and Spruce View. Athabasca, Grande Cache, and High River were delinquent this year.

More than 10,000 Canada Geese were seen in southern Alberta, the first increase in numbers in four years. Alberta Mallard numbers (9800) were the lowest since 1984, and Common Merganser numbers were the lowest since 1987. Far to the north, Rankin Inlet, NU, reported 25 Common Eiders, a slight increase over last year.

Unlike the rest of southern Canada, Wild Turkeys are not increasing in Alberta; two were seen at Sheep River. Two Virginia Rails were recorded at Banff-Canmore, the fourth time since 1999 this species has been reported there. The Eurasian Collared-Dove continues to expand its range, with a northerly report from Vermilion, though overall numbers were fewer than last year. Seventeen Northern Hawk Owls were reported from nine Alberta counts, with the high of six at Snake's Head. A total of 25 Northern Pygmy-Owls were seen, mostly along the foothills; 11 of them at Cochrane Wildlife Reserve. Great Gray Owls (30) were numerous and widespread in Alberta.

Corvids were found in lower numbers than usual, particularly Blue Jays, Black-billed Magpies, and Gray Jays. Common Ravens seem to be holding their own with high counts from Arctic Bay, NU (271); Yellowknife, NWT (1,820); and Fort McMurray, AB (700). A single American Robin was seen in Hay River. Bohemian Waxwings were present in the thousands in Alberta, but only 23 birds were counted in NWT. Cedar Waxwings increased rather dramatically this year as 252 birds were sighted from five provincial counts, four more counts than last year.

Two Northern Cardinals, a male and female, were photographed on Strathcona's count day. Not only is this species unusual for the province, but the same male has become a resident in the

count circle for the past three years, and in October 2008 a female arrived. Is this the beginning of a new western breeding population? Pine Grosbeaks were reported from all locations except for five counts east of the Queen Elizabeth Highway, which may represent the eastern extent of its wintering range in southern Alberta. House Finch numbers continue to spread and increase throughout the province, nearly doubling last year's total count.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON TERRITORY

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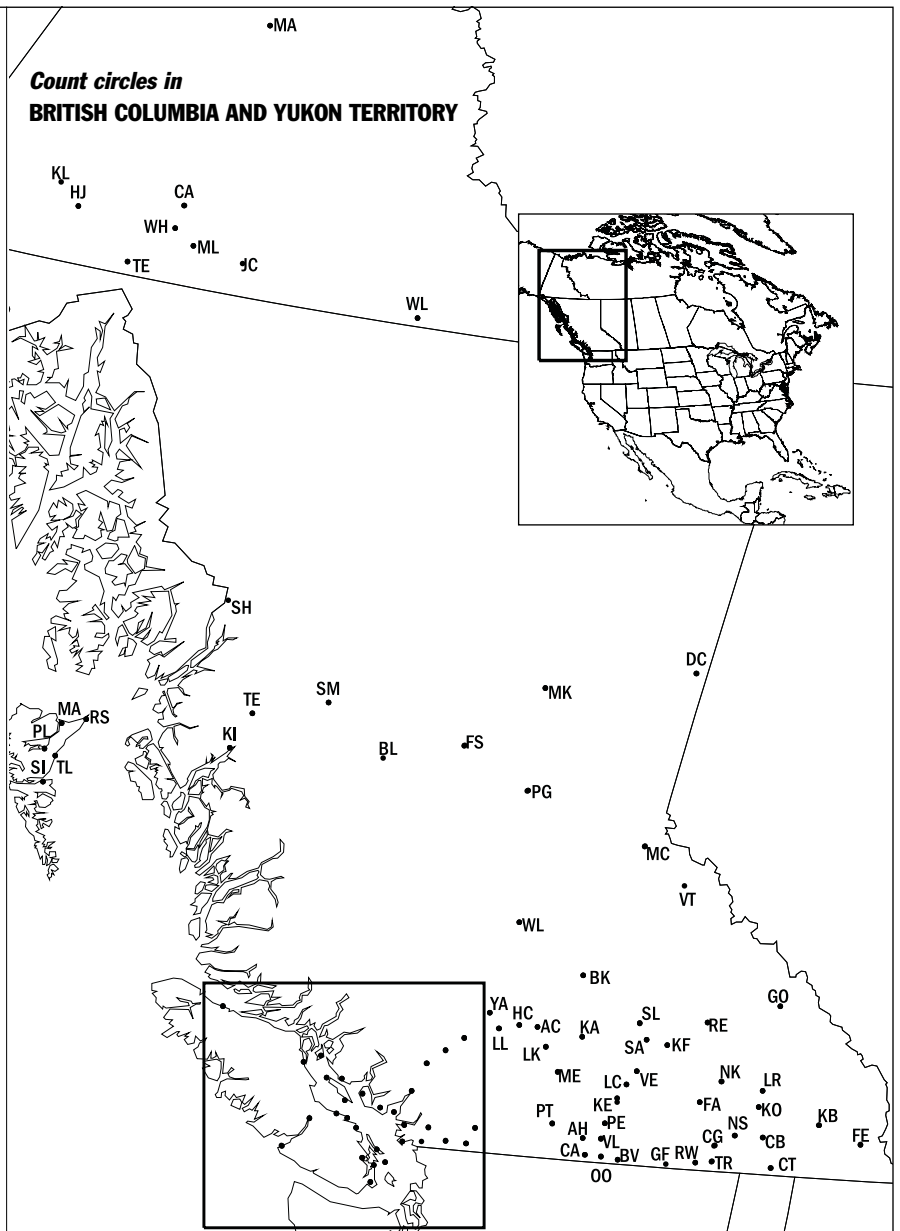
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If some thought the 108th count took place during the stormiest winter in memory, the 109th was stormier. The British Columbia coast, a region not accustomed to serious snow, endured a series of heavy snowfalls, making road travel difficult or impossible for days on end. Four major coastal counts—Comox, Deep Bay, Prince Rupert, and White Rock—were canceled outright, an unprecedented drop in effort. A number of small new counts—from Grand Forks, Stewart-Hyder, Valemount, and Johnson's Crossing—made up the difference, so the overall count total remained steady at 92. The Charlie Lake count disappeared when the participants moved south, and the Kluane National Park count was revived after an 11-year absence. As was the case last year, Interior counts were less affected by the weather, although a serious Arctic front moved into the region on the first day of the count period, resulting in some very cold birders and generally low species counts.

Not surprisingly, the species total for British Columbia counts dropped to 215 this year, well down from last year's 227. Likewise, the Yukon total fell to 28 from 35. Victoria took the top species total with 137 species; Ladner fell to second with 133. In the Interior, Oliver-Osoyoos tallied 102 species, down 19 from last year's total, barely squeezing by

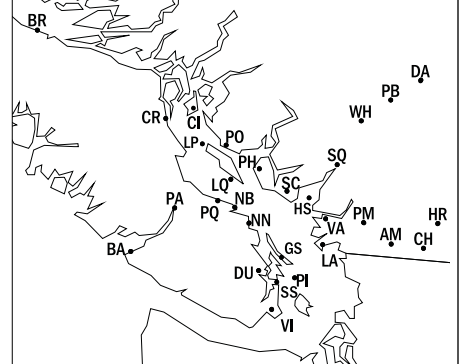
Count circles in BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON TERRITORY



Penticton with 101 species. Whitehorse was tops in the Yukon with 22 species, down three from last year.

With those major coastal counts not reporting, meaningful trends in waterfowl numbers are hard to calculate, though Brant numbers seem generally stable. A count week Trumpeter Swan at the new Johnson's Crossing count in southern Yukon was farther north than normal. Spruce Grouse were seen on seven counts, with the highs this year being three at both Teslin and Whitehorse. Wild Turkeys were seen on 11 counts this year—up from 10 last year—but the numbers reported dropped somewhat from 624 to 498. Whitehorse had nine Willow

British Columbia detail



Ptarmigan, but, despite some alpine searches, White-tailed Ptarmigan was missed entirely across the region for the second year in a row. Rose Spit had nine Yellow-billed Loons; the only other was a single at Nanaimo.



**Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*),
Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia.
Photo/Gord Gadsden**

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to spread, with reports from seven counts, up from five counts last year. Cawston continues to have the main concentration, with 64 birds reported, but both Ladner (24) and Oliver-Osoyoos (23) are shaping up to be secondary centers. Penticton reported the only Western Screech-Owl this year, and it was an off-year for Snowy Owls, with only a single bird at Dawson Creek. Northern Hawk Owls staged a minor invasion throughout the region, with 11 seen on 13 counts, including 2 each at Burns Lake-Francois Lake and Smithers. Northern Pygmy-Owls were common in the southern Interior, particularly the Okanagan Valley, where the high count of 11 came from Bridesville.

Despite the snow and cold and canceled counts, Anna's Hummingbird numbers remained high, with 665 seen on 22 coastal counts, about half of them at Victoria. What the snow and cold did bring out was the Red-breasted Sapsuckers, forced out of the mountain forests into suburban gardens. This year 370 were seen—about seven times the normal numbers—including an amazing 110 at Sunshine Coast alone.



**House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*),
Nanaimo, British Columbia.
Photo/Jennifer Provencher**

One of the best birds in the region was a Prairie Warbler reported from Sooke, unfortunately with few details and no subsequent sightings. Even more remarkable was a Little Bunting at Greater Massett, not only a new bird for Canadian Christmas Bird Counts but a first for any CBC in North America. Though clearly not in the same league as the bunting, a Black-headed Grosbeak at Chilliwack also provided excitement.

One highlight of the CBC data is the number of forest finches, since they fluctuate widely from year to year and region to region. Pine Grosbeaks were back in decent numbers (2526) after last year's lows, but Common Redpolls dropped by about half from last year's totals, with only 4399 seen. Red Crossbills were basically absent from the interior of British Columbia with only 29 seen; Whitehorse had 38. Red Crossbills were even hard to come by on the coast; Broughton Strait had the high count of 167. White-winged Crossbills were also notable by their absence this year, with a meager total of 41 seen on five counts throughout the region. Pine Siskins dropped back down this year, with only 19,345 seen, most of those on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Evening Grosbeaks maintained their numbers of last year with 1670 reported.

ALASKA

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To sum up Alaska's 109th CBC season in a nutshell: record number of participants (993); near-record number of counts (37); sub-average numbers of total species (134 plus 7 during the count weeks) and individual birds (160,458) compared to the past five years; a new count circle, at Cantwell (to keep the folks at Denali N.P. honest); and decade milestones reached for the counts at Craig-Klawock and Denali N.P. (20 years), Eagle River and the Matanuska Valley (30 years), and Anchorage

(50 years!). And for this year's "fun stat," only one species, Common Raven, was recorded on each of the total 37 counts; although 16 species (mostly passerines) were found on at least one count performed in each of the four geographic/climate subregions of the state.

The 12 southeast subregion counts (Chilkat, Craig-Klawok, Glacier Bay, Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan, Mitkof Island, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, and Wrangell Island) recorded 103 species and 45,139 individuals, with count day temperatures ranging from -6 degrees Fahrenheit (Chilkat) to 39 degrees Fahrenheit (Sitka). Ketchikan produced the most species (75; also highest for the region), Mitkof Island recorded the most individual birds (9842), and Sitka enlisted the most participants (44). New subregion high counts were established for Red-breasted Sapsucker (15; also a new region high count), Downy Woodpecker (4), Fox Sparrow (97), and Lincoln's Sparrow (8), all at Ketchikan (where local high counts were set for a remarkable 23 species—certainly a benchmark count day for the entire region). Other unusual sightings included Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Swamp Sparrow, and count week American Coot and Purple Finch at Ketchikan; six Bonaparte's Gulls at Haines (no details); Eurasian Wigeon, Canvasback, Anna's Hummingbird, and count week Hermit Thrush at Juneau; and count week Red-tailed Hawk and Hermit Thrush at Sitka.

Nine counts were completed in the southcoastal subregion (Anchorage, Cordova, Eagle River, Homer, Kodiak, Matanuska River, Narrow Cape-Kalsin Bay, Seward, and Soldotna), tallying 111 species and 76,128 individuals. Kodiak produced the most species (74), and Anchorage the most individuals (31,927) and participants (136), with count day temperatures ranging from -20 degrees Fahrenheit (Eagle River) to 37 degrees Fahrenheit (Homer and Kodiak). New subregion high counts were set for Northern Flicker (2) and Bohemian Waxwing (23,566—also a new high count for the region,

eral counts were apparently not conducted, no doubt due once again to inclement weather. The total of 3309 participating observers is close to the average number of birders annually taking part in New England CBCs in recent years. Their combined effort is reflected by the regional total of 9619.75 party hours spent in the field and a total of 43,208.43 party miles covered.

This year the highest overall CBC species total in New England belonged to Nantucket, an insular count that managed to log 134 species. Elsewhere in southern New England, Cape Cod was not far behind with 132 species, and in Connecticut, New London (125) and New Haven (124) nearly went head to head. The leader in the Ocean State was South Kingstown with 128 species. Top honors in northern New England belonged to Greater Portland (115) in Maine, Coastal New Hampshire (94) in New Hampshire, and Ferrisburg (80) in Vermont. As has been previously noted on several occasions, many of these accolades consistently belong to the same small pool of regional CBCs. This, however, in no way reflects upon the diligence or perseverance of the hundreds of birders who faithfully cover generally less species-rich inland areas where winter bird populations are inevitably lower than in coastal areas where region-leading cumulative totals are usually attained. In other words, every bird counts when it comes to monitoring trends in winter bird populations.

As usual some terrific birds and remarkable discoveries were made dur-



Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), Augusta, Maine.
Photo/Heather R. Davidson

ing the CBC period. This year's "Editor's Choice Award" for the most outrageous species recorded was a jump ball between **Cattle Egret** at Nantucket, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Stratford-Milford, and two **Summer Tanagers** in Maine at Greater Portland and Blue Hill. Had a count week **Cave Swallow** at New Haven been seen on count day it would also have been in the mix. Perhaps not surprisingly, all of these species had been present for some time prior to the CBC period. Cattle Egret is a first for a New England CBC; however, Cave Swallow is a species that has been regularly appearing later and later in New England each fall in recent years, so a CBC occurrence is practically inevitable. Almost as notable as the occurrence of Cattle Egret and Summer Tanager were appearances of single **Barnacle Geese** at Quinnipiac and Sturbridge (count week). Although the question of provenance was discussed in reference to Barnacle Geese last year, the appearance of a free-flying **Graylag Goose** at Rutland this year raised this discussion to a new level. Despite the fact that there are several accepted records of this Palearctic goose for Labrador and Newfoundland, to date there are no unequivocal reports for the United States, where most reports are generally believed to pertain to escaped domesticated forms of this widely kept species. In the interest of conservatism this report is best left on the shelf.

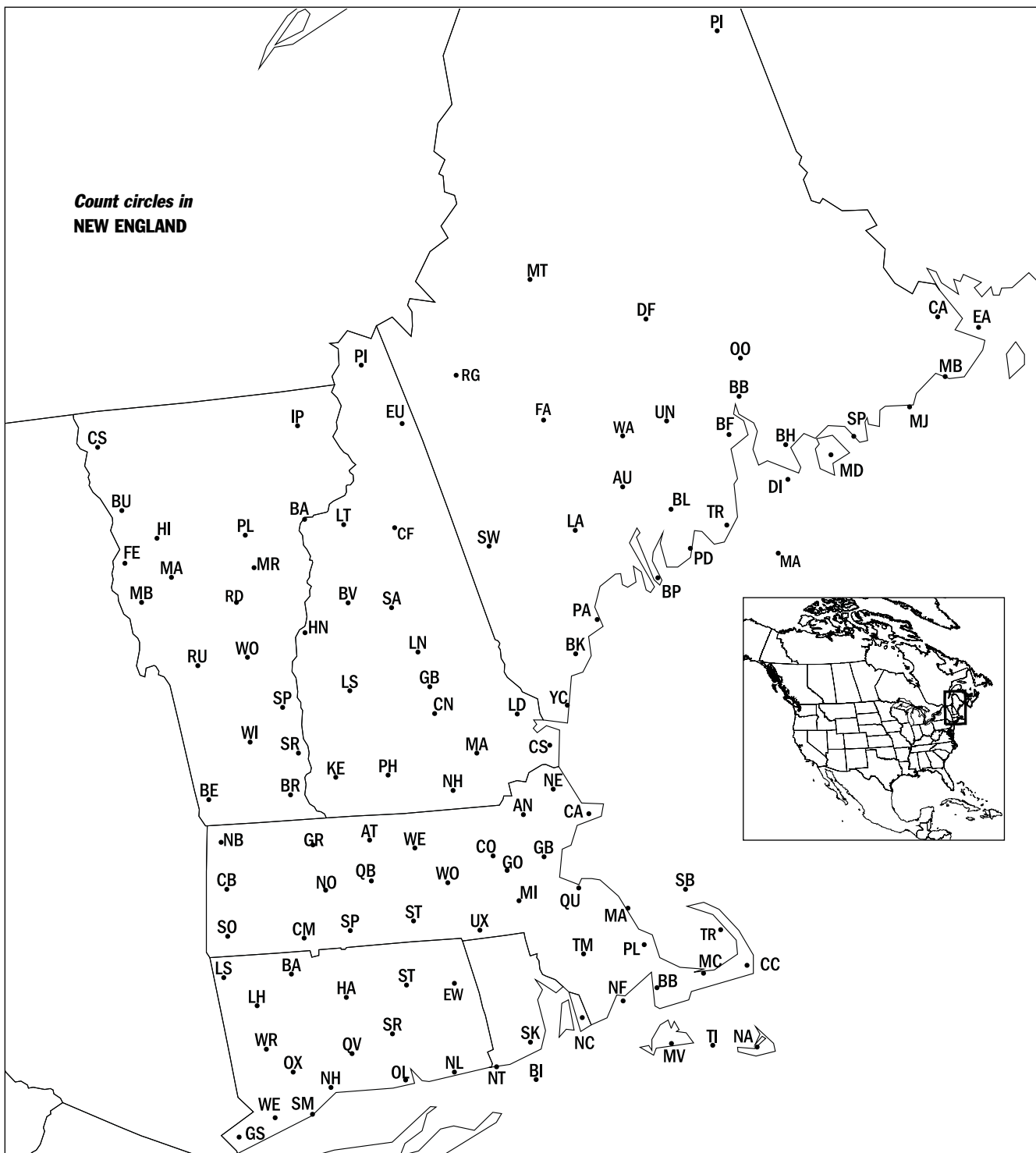
Besides the luminaries already mentioned, there were a number of other outstanding CBC discoveries this season. In the seabird department belong a **Northern Fulmar** at Cape Ann, an unidentified **shearwater** at Truro, and single **Pomarine Jaegers** at Stellwagen Bank and Cape Ann (count week). Northern Fulmar and Pomarine Jaeger have precedence on regional CBCs, and fulmars are common in the offshore waters of New England in winter. Nonetheless, all three of these species, including the unnamed shearwater, represent notable inshore occurrences in late December. A count week **Common Tern** reported at

Moose Island, unfortunately without details, would also be most unusual in the Gulf of Maine in late December. The always-reclusive, if not enigmatic, **Yellow Rail** at Nantucket was especially notable, even though this probably represents a species whose early winter occurrence in coastal New England is generally overlooked. Tardy shorebirds included **two Semipalmated Plovers** at Stratford-Milford, **American Oystercatcher** at New Haven, **Willet** at Mid-Cape Cod, and **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Cape Cod.

A count week **White-winged Dove** at New Haven unfortunately could not be located on count day, while a **Rufous Hummingbird** at Mid-Cape Cod, though seemingly remarkable, hardly raises eyebrows any more since this species has now become practically annual in December somewhere in New England. Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Augusta and Greenwich-Stamford practically fall in the same category these days as Rufous Hummingbird. A **Varied Thrush** at Coastal New Hampshire and a count week **Western Tanager** at Quincy, though slightly less unusual, were nonetheless highly noteworthy.

In the recent range/population expansion category, top honors probably belong to **Boat-tailed Grackle** with a new high count of 35 set at Stratford-Milford—the species' only reliable station in New England. **Black Vulture**, with a regional total of 119, is a close second, even though this number failed to eclipse the record of 155 set in 2006–07.

Without a doubt the signature irruptive species for the winter of 2008–09 was Pine Siskin. Both New Hampshire and Massachusetts recorded more than 3500 Pine Siskins, and the regional grand total came to nearly 13,000. This was in marked contrast to little more than 850 Common Redpolls tallied regionwide, compared to more than 18,000 last winter. The lack of synchrony between these two species underscores the fact that although they might appear similar, their food requirements are apparently different. Redpolls



tend to be willow bud and alder catkin specialists that emanate from the Arctic, while Pine Siskins principally rely upon the seeds of birch and spruce produced within subarctic boreal forests. The key point is that when one of these food groups is in short supply, there will not necessarily be a shortage of the other. Further reflective of the highly cyclical and variable nature of “winter finch” movements was the paltry regional total

of 821 Pine Grosbeaks compared to last season’s 7800. White-winged Crossbill, however, made a much better showing than in many recent winters, with a number of CBCs in every New England state recording the presence of at least a few of these itinerant winter visitors.

Perhaps the most dramatic fluctuation shown by any of the winter irruptive species was Bohemian Waxwing. The 108th CBC season that produced a

record-smashing regional total of 10,420 last year was followed this year by a mere 3781 birds, of which more than 3300 were in Maine. The fluctuations in this western *Bombycillid* never cease to amaze!

A regional overview of the totals of irruptive predators this season revealed the following: Northern Goshawk (24), Rough-legged Hawk (157), Short-eared Owl (31), Snowy Owl (51), Northern

Saw-whet Owl (44), and Northern Shrike (68). In a general way these numbers suggest that 1) boreal forest prey populations were seemingly sufficient to keep Northern Saw-whet Owls home this winter following their gigantic irruption last year, and 2) tundra voles and lemmings must have been in short supply somewhere in the Arctic to significantly drive up the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls.

Other New England raptor totals reflecting obvious trends included 525 Bald Eagles (eclipsing by one the regional high set in 2004–05); Cooper's Hawk (571), continuing its dominance over Sharp-shinned Hawk (430) in regional abundance; and American Kestrel (34), whose numbers continue to freefall from the 25-year low of 56 set in 2004–05. Considering that Merlin (96) was a species that less than 25 years ago required details when reported, and that Peregrine Falcon (65) was removed from the list of endangered species as recently as 10 years ago, it should be obvious how significant is the decline in American Kestrel numbers.

Combing through the entire cadre of CBC results inevitably produces a variety of other notable items, a selection of which is provided in the lines that follow. Practically unknown in New England at any season not so many years ago, Greater White-fronted Geese were this year recorded at Quinnipiac, Northampton, and Sturbridge. To amplify comments last season about the source of Greater White-fronted Geese in New England, it seems appropriate to note that a flock of 17 Greater White-fronted Geese in Massachusetts last spring was *not* of the Greenland race *flavirostris*, hence making the subspecific identification of individuals appearing on CBCs all the more critical. Seemingly consistent with the increased interest in the species since being elevated to specific rank, **Cackling Geese** were identified at Laconia, Northampton, and Sturbridge. A Blue-winged Teal at Old Lyme was the only one in the region, and for the second season in a row a hybrid Common



Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*), Stratford-Milford, Connecticut. Photo/Scott Kruitbosch

Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser was reported, this year from Mt. Desert. Despite the low total of 23,693 Long-tailed Ducks at Nantucket last winter, the tally of 291,683 this year offered little indication that the vast numbers annually spending the winter off Nantucket Island are declining.

No Pacific Loons were reported this CBC season, and the only Eared Grebe was at Buzzards Bay. Increasingly frequent in early winter in New England, Great Egrets at York County, Napatree, South Kingstown, Cape Cod, Mid-Cape Cod, Greenwich-Stamford, and Old Lyme (plus count week individuals at New Haven and Nantucket) may be as much a function of the regional increase in this species as early winter weather.

Not unlike Great Egrets, the increasingly regular appearance of Ospreys on New England CBCs may similarly be a function of the species' regional population increase. This year there were reports from Cobble Mountain, Millis, Old Lyme, and one during count week at Concord, MA. A remarkable hybrid Red-tailed Hawk x Red-shouldered Hawk at Saxton's River was present for the second year in a row. The only Golden Eagle in the region this year appeared at Bennington.

A Sora at Truro made an unusual CBC appearance, but among the shorebirds only the previously mentioned species were of particular note. Two Little Gulls at Nantucket along with count week individuals at Cape Ann and South Kingstown were noteworthy, as were two well-documented Thayer's

Gulls at Cape Ann, where rare gulls seem to be of routine occurrence in recent winters. A remarkable tally of **129** Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Nantucket more than doubled the high count for any previous New England CBC—a statistic all the more startling given what as yet is only fragmentary evidence of nesting in North America.

A total of 362 Red-bellied Woodpeckers tallied in the three northern New England states blows the doors off any previous CBC total in that region, so arguably this species also belongs in the running for the population expansion award category, only it has had longer to reach this milestone. Remember, however, that this species was practically a vagrant throughout most of the region less than half a century ago! Blue-headed Vireos at Greater Portland and Greater Boston no doubt brightened the days of Christmas counters on those CBCs, as must have flocks of Tree Swallows at Napatree (18) and Martha's Vineyard (6). The number of American Robins in New England regularly lingering at least into early winter is increasingly astounding! Aside from a handful of sea ducks, American Crow, and Northern Starling, robin numbers rank very close to the top for one of the most abundant species on New England CBCs. A cumulative tally of 170,925 this winter seems positively staggering, with Massachusetts CBCs alone hosting 128,000-plus of these traditional "Harbingers of Spring." Bob Dylan's line, "the times they are a-changin'" seems poignantly appropriate here.

In addition to the previously mentioned Yellow-throated Warblers, noteworthy and out-of-season wood-warblers included an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Greater Portland, an Ovenbird at Cape Cod, and a Northern Waterthrush at Greater Boston. Most extraordinary, however, was the regional high total of **63 Yellow-breasted Chats**, including 17 at Cape Cod, 12 at Buzzards Bay, and singles at Greater Portland and Thomaston-Rockland. In all probability this remarkable number represents a new all-time national high count for this ordinarily reclusive species that is generally scarce or absent in winter throughout the United States. In the sparrow department especially notable occurrences included Clay-colored Sparrows at Greater Portland, Greenwich-Stamford, Stratford, and Woodbury-Roxbury; a count week Grasshopper Sparrow at Thomaston-Rockland; three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Napatree; and Lincoln's Sparrows at Cape Cod and Millis. Despite the relative absence of redpolls in the region, a single count week Hoary Redpoll was well documented at Nantucket.

NEW YORK

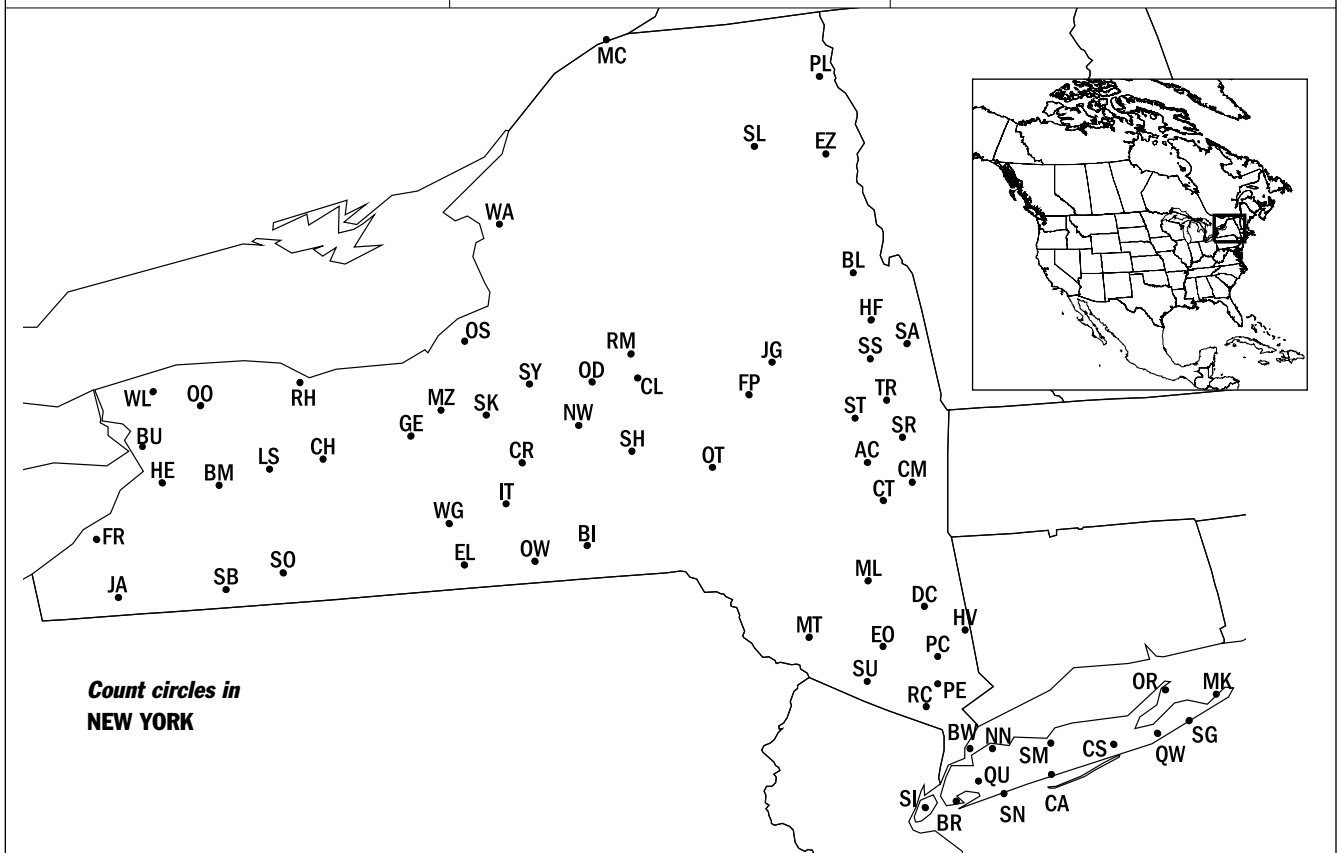
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The 109th Christmas Bird Count in New York was a bit of a lackluster affair. White-winged Crossbills began showing up in the state in August, but the anticipation of a good winter finch year did not quite materialize, although participants counted record numbers of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins. Numbers of most species were good, but few real rarities were seen. Overall, 214 species were recorded on 68 counts, for a total of 1,445,181 individuals.

Seven species of geese were seen in the state this year, with Greater White-fronted Goose found on three counts, Ross's Goose on two, and Barnacle Goose on one (Captree). On the whole waterfowl numbers were near normal, with the regular number of the rarer species. Once again the Montezuma count was the only count to record Trumpeter Swan, with an impressive total of 38. Some of these birds are from

the Ontario stocking program, but the number of breeding pairs nesting in the Montezuma area in summer is increasing and clearly adding to the CBC total. Eurasian Wigeon were seen on four counts, and a single Eurasian Green-winged Teal was found on the Southern Nassau count. King Eiders were seen on the Southern Nassau and Montauk counts, and a single Common Eider appeared at Rochester. Surf and White-winged scoter counts seemed near normal, but Black Scoters were far above average for the third time since the 105th count. The species was reported on 12 counts, but most of the total of 39,833 came from the 27,100 seen on the Captree count.

The Western Grebe on the Staten Island count was the first on a CBC in the state since the 87th season. A Little Blue Heron showed up in Brooklyn. Golden Eagles continue to be seen around the state, with two in Binghamton, one in Catskill-Coxsackie, one in Salem, and one count week in Cortland. Bald Eagle, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon remained at near-record numbers.





**Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*),
Brooklyn, New York. Photo/Steve Nanz**

Four Sandhill Cranes were seen on the Montezuma count where this species is now found nearly year-round. Shorebirds were rather scarce, with the Spotted Sandpipers seen on the Orient count and count week on Staten Island perhaps the most unusual. Four counts reported Lesser Yellowlegs. Two Purple Sandpipers at Buffalo and a count week bird in Rochester were the only individuals of this species seen away from the coast. Always scarce in winter, Laughing Gull was found on three Long Island counts. Although almost annual (not quite) along the Niagara River, the Franklin's Gull at Buffalo was only the third for that count. A total of five Black-headed Gulls were seen on three Long Island counts. Iceland Gull numbers remained high as in the last few years. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on four Long Island counts, but the one in Rochester was the most surprising. Always a rare bird in the state, a Dovekie was seen count week on the Southern Nassau count. Usually the most numerous alcid in New York in winter, Razorbill was seen in small numbers on seven Long Island counts, but the one photographed in Rochester was new for that count and very unusual on Lake Ontario, with only two previous sightings.

Monk Parakeet continues its slow increase in the state, with 80 seen on five counts. Barn Owl was found on only two coastal counts this year. It was a good year for Snowy Owls, with 20 seen on 15 counts. The Northern Hawk Owl in Plattsburgh cooperated for viewers

well after the CBC. Short-eared Owl numbers on New York CBCs have been in a steady decline since the 1960s, but, with 42 seen on 20 counts, numbers were up somewhat in comparison with the last few years. No longer even remotely common in New York, Red-headed Woodpecker was reported on the New Woodstock-Southern Highlands, Wilson-Lake Plains, and Southern Nassau County counts. In 1959 Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported on only one CBC in New York, but the species has increased in the state dramatically and steadily since then. Fifty years later numerous counts continue to record new high numbers for the species, and it was only not seen on five counts in the state. Woodpecker numbers overall remained high.

After tallying five species of flycatchers last year, the 109th New York CBC recorded only the Eastern Phoebe, with only single individuals on six counts. Neither the White-eyed Vireo reported on the Brooklyn count nor the Blue-headed Vireo on the Queens count came with details.

As usual, the Saranac Lake count recorded nearly all of the state's Gray Jays, but this year Bolton Landing added two individuals. The American Crow's habit of congregating in winter roosts makes it somewhat confusing to monitor, but this year's total of 150,333 was a record for the state, suggesting that it has recovered here from the significant decline caused by West Nile virus in 2000 through 2004.

Although it is likely that most winter and early spring claims of Swainson's Thrush are actually Hermit Thrushes, the report of one on the Queens CBC had decent details. Bohemian Waxwing was scarce this year, with only four seen in Plattsburgh and one in Rochester.

Unusual warblers seen this year were Nashville and Prairie warblers in Queens during count week, a Yellow Warbler in Brooklyn, and an Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler photographed on the Southern Nassau County count. The most unusual report this year was a

Blackpoll Warbler on the Brooklyn count that purportedly was photographed, but, like all the Brooklyn rarities, was not substantiated by details provided to this reviewer.

A Grasshopper Sparrow on the Captree count was quite unexpected and new to the count. The only "sharp-tailed" sparrows identified to species were found on the Southern Nassau County count—one Nelson's and two Saltmarsh sparrows—but two each unidentified to species were reported in Brooklyn and Central Suffolk County. Individual Dickcissels were found on the Sagaponack and Bronx-Westchester region counts. A few Baltimore Orioles are reported every year, and three were seen this year. Brooklyn has had nine previous oriole reports before, and South Nassau County 17, but the one at Catskill-Coxsackie was new to the count.

Overall, it was a decent year for winter finches. Pine Grosbeak was scarcer than last year with only 60 seen on five counts. Red Crossbill was about normal or a little high for non-invasion years, with 51 seen on eight counts, four of which considered them rare species. White-winged Crossbills appeared in the state in late summer, and it proved to be a good invasion year—1925 reported on 32 counts—with many counts reporting record high numbers. It was an off year for redpolls, but still 19 counts had a total of 168 Common Redpolls. It was a banner year for Pine Siskins, with 61 counts reporting them and the highest statewide total ever of 7,295. Only the counts of 1963–64 and 1987–88 came close to the totals of this winter.

NEW JERSEY/PENNSYLVANIA

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Despite a somewhat chilly November, the weather during the count period was warmer than normal, with some late-December counts being run in 60-degree temperatures. This may have

contributed to the long list of half-hardy and late-lingering species encountered, but the season failed to produce any outstanding rarities, although Pennsylvania added two new species.

New Jersey again posted the same 29 counts for the third year in a row, and recorded 202 species, slightly above the 20-year average. Cape May led with only 156 species, but did have the typical long list of unusual ones. Barnegat (136) was second, followed by Oceanville (131) and Cumberland County (126). In contrast to last year, when nine counts set new record highs, only Raritan Estuary posted a new high at 110 species, one more than the previous best.

Single Ross's Geese at Cumberland County and Princeton were among the 36 species of waterfowl, which also included a returning Barnacle Goose in Northwestern Hunterdon. Seventeen Cackling Geese on nine CBCs was evidence of the time spent searching through large flocks of Canadas for the one or two Cacklers. Barnegat (6) and Cape May (5) shared the 11 King Eiders, while Cape May had the bulk of the Common Eiders with 38.

Walnut Valley succeeded in locating a single Ruffed Grouse this year, but Wild

Turkey hit another high at 2078 birds on 23 counts. Barnegat and Long Branch each had a Red-necked Grebe, and Barnegat added the only Eared Grebe, presaging a near-record influx of this species during January. An Osprey at Great Swamp was a surprise, less so were two at Oceanville and a single at Raritan Estuary. An amazing 307 Bald Eagles were tallied, with 58 on the Cumberland CBC, as only Sandy Hook and the pelagic count missed the species. Barnegat had the only Golden Eagle.

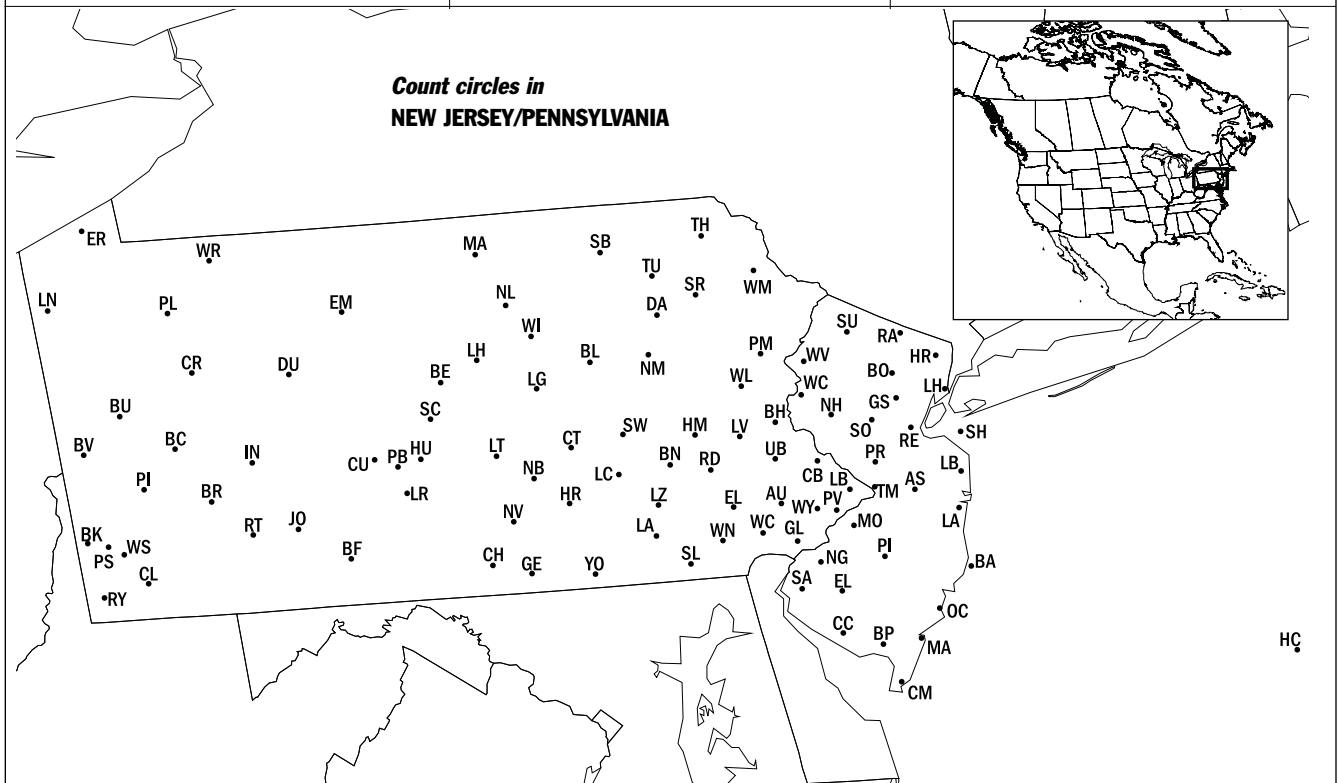
A Common Moorhen at Sandy Hook was a good find, while a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Marmora was the highlight of the 18 species of shorebirds encountered statewide. One Laughing Gull was a surprise along the Delaware River at Moorestown, and Oceanville also had one, but no count reported either Little or Black-headed Gull. The single Forster's Tern at Lakehurst was the only one of the season, and a Razorbill at Barnegat and seven at Cape May were the only alcids seen by shore-based parties.

Snowy Owl was an unexpected find on the Belleplaine CBC, but the several others known to be in the state during the season escaped detection on their respective counts. Barnegat and Cape

May each had a Rufous Hummingbird, and Cape May added a Rufous/Allen's that couldn't be identified as to species. Sussex County tallied the only Northern Shrike, and Walnut Valley added both **White-eyed Vireo** and Blue-headed Vireo. A total of 38 Common Ravens were found on 10 counts, an amazing result when one realizes that the first state CBC record was only in 1991.

Among the eight species of warblers encountered were 12 Orange-crowned, 4 Nashville, and 2 Black-and-whites. Lark Sparrow was a highlight of the Sussex CBC, as were Lincoln's Sparrows at Belleplaine and Somerset County. Cape May had the only Dickcissel. Sandy Hook had two Red Crossbills, but only Barnegat produced three White-winged Crossbills just days before the beginning of a major irruption of this species, which eventually reached every corner of the state.

Pennsylvania submitted a new high of 70 counts, with Curtin and Nescopeck Mountain returning, but Dingman's Ferry failing to report. The total of 165 species was the lowest since 2003, but still 6 above the 20-year average. Southern Lancaster County regained the top spot with 106 species, followed by





**Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*),
Erie, Pennsylvania. Photo/Chuck Gehringer**

last year's leader Harrisburg (101), Southern Bucks County (100), Western Chester County (98), and Lititz (97). Nine counts achieved new highs, including such long-running CBCs as Huntingdon, Pennypack Valley, Rector, Tunkhannock, Williamsport, and Wild Creek-Little Gap.

Thirty-two species of waterfowl included a flock of 12 Greater White-fronted Geese in Bedford County and two more at Lehigh Valley. Individual Ross's Geese were in Central Bucks County, Delaware County, and Lititz, while 17 Brant at West Chester was an unusually large number. Five tagged Trumpeter Swans were at Erie, two Blue-winged Teal in Southern Bucks were exceptional, and a **Harlequin Duck** at Warren was an outstanding find.

Culp and Lock Haven-Jersey Shore each had a Red-throated Loon, while Southern Bucks had the state's only Great Egret (3) and Black-crowned Night-Heron (2). A well-described Osprey was far inland at Scranton, but the total of 335 Bald Eagles on 49 counts beat last year's record total by almost 100 birds, as Southern Lancaster County (69) and Linesville (50) had the lion's share. Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk were also noted in exceptionally high numbers. A flock of 13 Sandhill Cranes was a bonus for Linesville, and Southern Bucks added one.

An **American Avocet** at Erie was the first ever for a Pennsylvania CBC. Other shorebird highlights included a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Lewistown, a

Least Sandpiper in Newville, and a lone American Woodcock at Wild Creek-Little Gap. Two Laughing Gulls were surprise visitors to the Southern Bucks County CBC, and birders at Erie picked a Little Gull out of a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. Bucks County continues to be one of the gull capitals of North America. In addition to the highest number of Herring Gulls (61,000+), Southern Bucks also had two Thayer's, 16 Iceland, eight Glaucous, and 188 Lesser Black-backed gulls (second highest). Central Bucks had the highest total of Lesser Black-backs with 230, and Lower Bucks was fourth with 141. Only Cocoa, Florida, managed to prevent a sweep of the top three spots.

Again this year there was a single Rufous Hummingbird, this time at a Harrisburg feeder. The 13 Northern Shrikes were down from last year's 24, but still above average. For the fourth consecutive year Pennypack Valley had a flock of Northern Rough-winged Swallows (75), and Lancaster added one. The Pennypack total is the third highest in the U.S.; no state north of Florida in the east had any. Tunkhannock had an Ovenbird, the fourth CBC record for the state in the past five years.

A new species for the Pennsylvania CBC list was a **Henslow's Sparrow**, nicely photographed at Western Chester County. The five Lincoln's Sparrows reported included two at Rector and one photographed at Clarion. Three counts had a total of seven Red Crossbills, but the major invasion of White-winged Crossbills brought 619 to 31 CBCs. Four counts had a total of 28 Evening Grosbeaks, with White Mills (24) getting most of them.

DELAWARE/MARYLAND

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With the exception of a short period of cold weather in early November, this region's fall and early-winter period was notable for its cool nights and relatively



**Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*),
Elkton, Maryland. Photo/Sean McCandless**

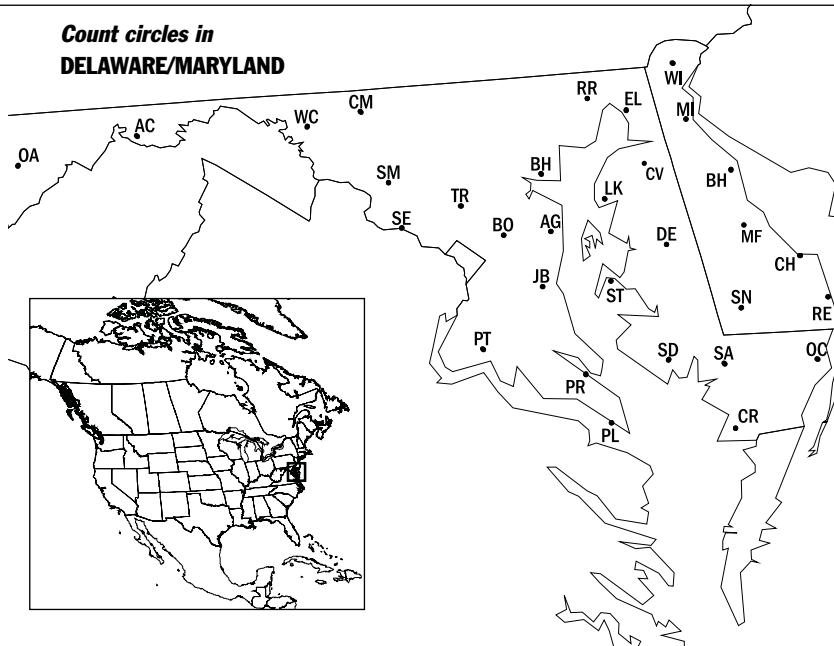
warm daytime temperatures. True winter cold did not set in until well after the end of the Christmas Bird Count season. Regionwide, this season's counts showed a notable invasion of Pine Siskins, along with many new highs set for Bald Eagles and Cooper's Hawks.

Beginning with the Allegheny Plateau in far western Maryland, we have only one count, Oakland, which had unusual sightings of Greater White-fronted Goose, Herring Gull, and White-winged Crossbill, with new highs for Northern Pintail and White-throated Sparrow.

The Maryland Ridge and Valley section is represented by three counts. Allegany County added Cackling Goose and Snow Goose, along with new highs for Hooded Merganser, Rock Pigeon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Carolina Wren, and Eastern Towhee. Washington County set new highs for Cackling Goose, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Barn Owl, and Eastern Screech Owl. Catocin Mountain set a new high for Eastern Bluebirds but missed American Tree Sparrow for the first time in 60 years.

The Piedmont Plateau is covered by four counts. Rock Run had their first Long-tailed Ducks in many years, with new highs for Canada Goose, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Pileated Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Yellow-rumped warbler. Sugarloaf Mountain had an unusual Common Redpoll, accompanied by new highs for Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Common Merganser,

**Count circles in
DELAWARE/MARYLAND**



Bald Eagle, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch. Seneca had unusual sightings of Rough-legged Hawk, Common Raven, Lapland Longspur, and White-winged Crossbill. New high counts were set for Bufflehead, Black Vulture, and Bald Eagle, accompanied by a new low for American Robin. Triadelphia Reservoir noted high counts for Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, and Short-eared Owl.

Maryland's Western Shore and Upper Chesapeake sections of the Coastal Plain are represented by 10 counts: Elkton, Chesterville, Lower Kent County, Baltimore Harbor, Bowie, Annapolis-Gibson Island, Jug Bay, Port Tobacco, Patuxent River, and Point Lookout. Late-stayers here included Brown Pelican, Great Egret, Osprey, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. Two sightings of Trumpeter Swan, from Bowie and Lower Kent, were added to the growing list of sightings around the Chesapeake Bay. These were removed from the CBC data until such time as the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee has an opportunity to rule on the admissibility of this species.

The Middle and Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland are represented by six counts. Interesting highs were American Robin in Denton; Ring-necked Pheasant in St. Michaels; Golden Eagle and American Pipit in Southern Dorchester County; Lincoln's Sparrow in Salisbury; Merlin, Iceland Gull, and Lark Sparrow in Crisfield; and Wild Turkey in Ocean City. Ocean City also recorded Thayer's Gull, Dovekie, Razorbill, and a well-documented Ash-throated Flycatcher.

The Upper Eastern Shore and Coastal Plain is represented by the seven Delaware tallies. Bombay Hook recorded Spotted Sandpiper, Rufous Hummingbird, and Clay-colored Sparrow as new or unusual species. Cape Henlopen-Prime Hook recorded its first Lincoln's Sparrow, along with new high counts for Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Milford tallied first records for Golden Eagle and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, along with numerous new high counts. The Middletown count ran a boat survey for the second year in a row as state phragmites control programs continue to improve habitat. That count tallied new highs for Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Brown Thrasher, and White-throated Sparrow. The Rehobeth count added Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Lincoln's Sparrow, as well as

tallying new highs for Ring-necked Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Carolina Wren. Seaford-Nanticoke had their first Blue-winged Teal as well as continued good counts for waterfowl, but Northern Bobwhite and Eastern Meadowlark continue to be absent here. Finally, the Wilmington count saw highs of Cackling Goose, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Carolina Wren, and Eastern Bluebird.

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While much of the country, especially to the north of this region, experienced horrifying weather during the 109th Christmas Bird Count, this area somehow escaped the onslaught of snow, ice, and raging winds. Many counts were actually conducted in weather that was somewhat warmer than usual. With those mild conditions prevailing, it seemed possible that a great array of exotic species would wander into the area to escape the harshness of Alberta clippers and heavy snows, but that was not the case. A few unexpected species stopped by, but many counts recorded no unusual species or high counts. However, there were some exceptions to that dreary outlook, and a couple of circles in the western part of the region garnered some real surprises.

A new circle was established this year when birders set up the Buchanan County count in the far-western part of Virginia. Careful inclusion of some important habitats within the circle will likely produce some interesting species in the future. After a long hiatus, two counts resumed submission of their count results to the Audubon database—Lynchburg, after 16 years, and Danville, after 11 years. That brings the number of counts in the region to 45.

Unlike last year, there were no changes in established compilers in the 2008–09 season. Rexanne Bruno comes in as head of the Lynchburg count, and Laura Meder will continue as compiler at Danville. We are sad to report the loss of Max Carpenter, who died last summer. Max served as the compiler for the Rockingham County count for 42 consecutive years, stepping down in 1997 when Chuck Auckerman took up the reins.

Temperatures for all counts in the state were amazingly consistent. Often the range of temperatures in the past has been from as low as 0 degrees Fahrenheit to highs of 75 degrees or more. This year the lowest recorded was 18 degrees at Lexington, and the high was 69 degrees at Brooke. For the most part, winds were not above 25 mile per hour, except at Little Creek where gusts blustered up to 57 mile per hour during much of the day. No appreciable snow on the ground was reported anywhere in the state, and both moving and still waters were open in most areas.

Three spectacular species highlighted the season. A Calliope Hummingbird, banded and photographed at Lynchburg, was a first CBC record of that species in the region. In fact, Lynchburg has been the arena for quite an array of hummingbirds the past few years. A Black-chinned was recorded there last year, and Rufous Hummingbirds are regularly reported. Some have speculated as to why so many exotic hummers would favor this Piedmont city sitting at the foothills of

the Blue Ridge Mountains. Many birders attribute it to a weekly newspaper column written by Thelma Dalmas, one of the most active birders in the state. Through her column, Thelma has made backyard birdwatchers aware that late-occurring hummingbirds are something special that should be reported. Consequently, readers have responded in a big way, contacting Dalmas when unusual-looking hummers visit their feeders. If this sort of publicity occurred in other areas, we might discover that these exotic little birds are visiting in much greater numbers and variety than we ever imagined.

Another CBC first for the region was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Augusta County. This appears to be the third December record for the state and the first December record for the Mountains and Valleys region.

The other highly noteworthy find was a Long-billed Curlew during count week in the Breaks Interstate Park circle. It is the first known occurrence of that species in the Mountains and Valleys region of Virginia, and superb photographs leave no doubt to its identity.

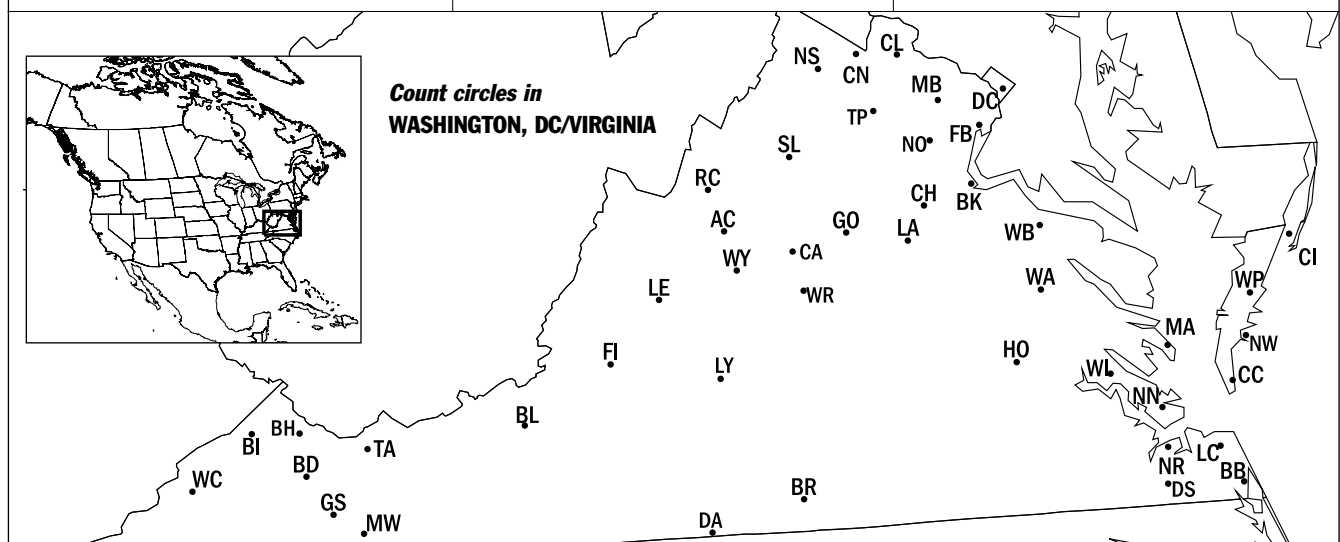
An amazing find was a White-winged Scoter at Tazewell. Tucked away in the mountainous area of the western part of the state near the West Virginia border, it is not a place one would expect to see this species. It is the only occurrence of a White-winged Scoter on any CBC in that section of the state in the 104-year history of Virginia counts. Observers

even managed to get a rather good picture of the bird.

Other good finds were a Northern Parula at Nansemond River, a Yellow-throated Warbler (photographed) at Fort Belvoir, and two Yellow Warblers—one at Washington, DC, and another at Manassas-Bull Run. Nice photographs from around the state were also received of Glaucous Gulls, an Iceland Gull, and Baltimore Orioles.

Even though not many counts recorded overall high numbers of individual birds, we still had a number of all-time-high state records. Species that have been showing a steady increase over the past few years—Cackling Geese, Black Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Common Ravens, and Chipping Sparrows—all occurred in record numbers. Aggregate totals of other species that rarely show much fluctuation ballooned to all-time highs: a total of six Eurasian Wigeon on four different counts; Orange-crowned Warblers (30) and White-eyed Vireos (8), topping previous highs, were more numerous than usual, even in Dismal Swamp where most were recorded; Red-bellied Woodpeckers broke the state record by 280 birds; and there were almost 900 more Ring-necked Ducks than in 1961 when the previous record high was set.

Brown-headed Nuthatches were the greatest surprise, with a quantum leap in total numbers of 443 individuals. This more than doubled numbers found



during the past three decades and surpassed the previous peak count of 428 birds set way back in 1975. Even though Tree Swallows did not show record highs, this was the second year in a row that they have been present in the thousands. The coastal counts are the predominant domain of this species. They are almost never found any further west than the James River at Williamsburg.

Although Purple Finches did not occur in record-breaking numbers, they have returned to the region for the past two years in greater numbers than in many years. Red Crossbill numbers also spiked to 22, thanks to 16 that were present at Blackford. Even though that number is higher than usual, it does not begin to approach the numbers in the early 1970s, when it was not unusual for the state total to top 100 birds.

This report would not be complete without mention of a significant invasion of Pine Siskins. Found in minuscule numbers around the state for the past 18 years, this year's 2500 surpassed all yearly totals except those set in 1987 and 1989. Spread over the entire region, almost every count recorded siskins, many in record numbers.

NORTH CAROLINA

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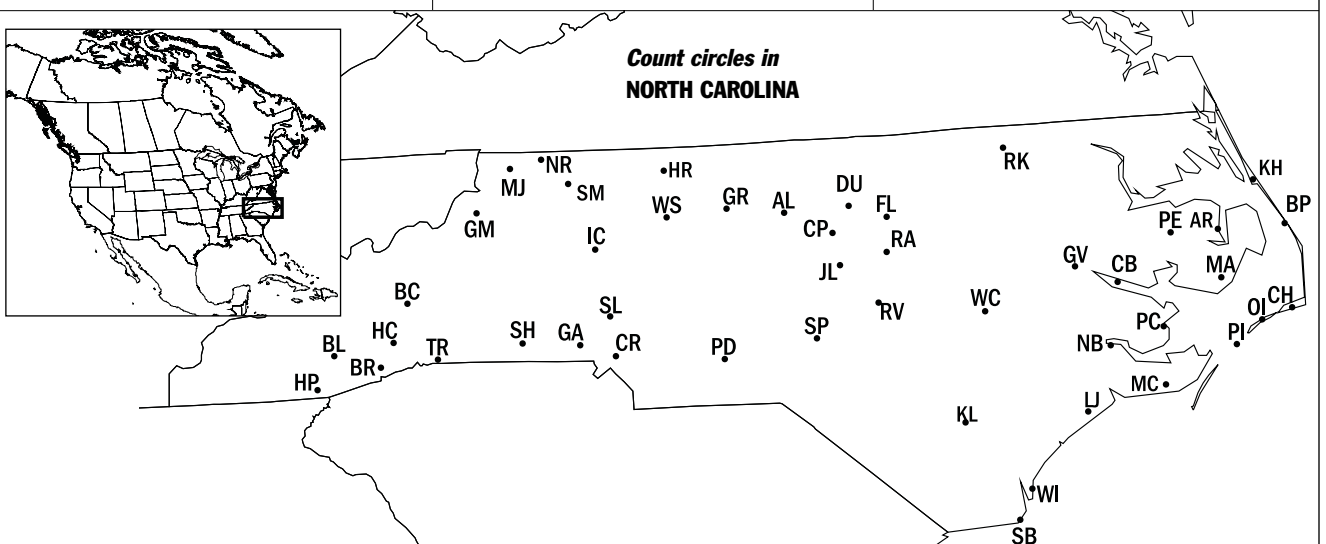
The 109th CBC in North Carolina consisted of 46 counts this year. Two

were not run (Cumberland County and Rocky Mount), but we had a new one—Hanging Rock State Park. Temperatures this season were close to average, but precipitation and fog caused trouble on many counts. Wind hampered a handful of counts, with those at 50 miles per hour at Ocracoke the most notable. During this year's count, 227 species (considerably down from last year's 238) plus three forms were reported. Participants recorded 1,727,188 individuals, up from last year's total. Top coastal species totals included Morehead City's record 177, Southport's 165, Wilmington's 160, and Bodie-Pea Islands' 147. Tidewater counts included an impressive 156 at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, 125 at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, and 113 at New Bern. Coastal Plain counts were led by Wayne County with 108. Leading Piedmont counts included totals of 97 at Southern Lake Norman and Jordan Lake, and 96 at Southern Pines. Mountain counts were led by Henderson County's 86, Balsam's 77, and Buncombe County's 72.

Counters made one addition to the cumulative species list this season—a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at New Bern. This adult male had been present at a feeder there since the early fall season. That count had four species of hummingbird identified on count day!

Waterfowl highlights included new all-time high totals of Snow Goose (more than 107,000!) and Tundra Swan

(almost 89,000), six Ross's Geese (including one at Brevard), and three **Cackling Geese** at Brevard (2) and Mattamuskeet (1). Puddle duck numbers were more or less average across the state, but American Wigeon and Northern Pintail were way down. The best was another "Common" Green-winged Teal at Mattamuskeet, where it is probably annual. The most interesting diving ducks were the Common Eider at Wilmington, inland count week White-winged Scoters at Falls Lake, and Common Mergansers at Morehead City (2) and Wayne County (1). Diving duck numbers were down considerably with the exception of Ring-necked Duck. The Kerr Lake **Pacific Loon** was noted for the fourth winter in a row. The Cape Hatteras count again got boat coverage, and a **Sooty Shearwater** provided a first count day CBC record; one was found during count week at Wilmington in December 1996. Long-legged wader highlights included another **Reddish Egret**, with a dark-phase individual at Portsmouth, providing the fifth North Carolina CBC record. A Green Heron was a good find on the Kitty Hawk count; that species is rarely noted along the northern coast in winter. Hawk highlights included Alligator River's two **Swainson's Hawks**, providing the second CBC record for North Carolina (one at Alligator River in 2006), and a Rough-legged Hawk on the New River count being very rare in the mountains. American Coot numbers were way



down across the state. Sandhill Cranes were good finds at Mattamuskeet (1) and Pettigrew State Park (1). Sandpiper numbers seemed to be low on average, with Marbled Godwit and Red Knot numbers down the most from the previous season. Easily the best sandpipers were the **Spotted Sandpiper** on the Falls Lake count and Red Phalarope on the Durham count. The **Red Phalarope** provided the first inland North Carolina CBC record for the species. Gulls were highlighted by three Black-headed Gulls at Mattamuskeet (2) and Kitty Hawk (1), and two Iceland Gulls at Mattamuskeet (1) and Bodie-Pea Islands (1). A Caspian Tern was unusual on the Cape Hatteras count, and a Black Skimmer was totally unexpected on the Pettigrew State Park count. Razorbill was the only alcid noted this season, with 13 found at Wilmington (6), Southport (4), and Kitty Hawk (3).

A **Chuck-will's-widow** was a complete surprise on the Ocracoke count, providing only the sixth CBC report for the state. This bird was observed flying across the main highway at mid-day, possibly driven out from a roosting site by the 50 miles per hour winds! Hummingbird numbers were up this season, with the best birds being the previously mentioned **Broad-billed** at New Bern, **Black-chinneds** at Raleigh (1) and New Bern (1), and a **Calliope** at Tryon. Counters noted two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** this year, with singles at New Bern and Alligator River. This species has become annual in the state the last five years or so. Common Ravens continued to be found outside of the mountains, with single birds being noted on the Alamance County and Southern Lake Norman counts. The best swallow was the **Northern Rough-winged** at Morehead City, which was only the sixth ever on a North Carolina CBC. With only 50 individuals noted on 18 counts, Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were way down from last year's irruption (377 on 40 counts). Numbers of the other nuthatches, all the wrens, both kinglets, all the thrushes, and the mimic thrushes were up this year when

compared to last season. Warbler highlights included Orange-crowned Warblers at Gastonia (1) and Southern Pines (1), a **Nashville Warbler** at Mattamuskeet, **Northern Parulas** at Mattamuskeet (2) and Cape Hatteras (1), **Yellow Warblers** at Mattamuskeet (2) and Kitty Hawk (1), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at Morehead City. Sparrow numbers were about average, but Vesper Sparrow continued to decline as a wintering bird; this season only 10 were found (Southport 9, Southern Lake Norman 1). Noteworthy sparrows included three Bachman's Sparrows (Camp LeJeune 1, Southport 1, Southern Pines 1), a **Lark Sparrow** at Pettigrew, two Le Conte's Sparrows at Bodie-Pea Islands, and seven Lincoln's Sparrows (Southport 3, Greenville 2, Morehead City 1, Alligator River 1). The secretive Grasshopper Sparrow was reported on three counts, with singles at Morehead City and New Bern and two at Greensboro; the Greensboro birds were reported with marginal, unconvincing details. The details mentioned the habitat, and body shape and size, but did not mention behavior or plumage field marks, or indicate how other birds were ruled out. Compilers need to make observers aware of how important *full* descriptions are when other evidence (photos) is not available. Editors really dislike having to delete birds from the CBC database because of poor details! Painted Bunting numbers were down somewhat, but still eight were on five coastal counts. Red-winged Blackbird and Boat-tailed Grackle numbers were way up from last year, while Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird numbers were substantially down. Rusty Blackbird numbers were down from last year also, but still several good counts were noted (Pettigrew 525, Southern Pines 319, Wilmington 225, and Southport 160). Finch numbers were way up this winter, especially Purple Finch with 252 from 30 CBCs, Pine Siskin with 3031 from 39 CBCs, and American Goldfinches. The siskin flight was one of the biggest on record (598 on the Jordan Lake count), especially when

compared to the last several decades. And for the second year in a row, not a single Evening Grosbeak was reported during the counts! The next Evening Grosbeaks reported on any future CBC will require full convincing details!

SOUTH CAROLINA

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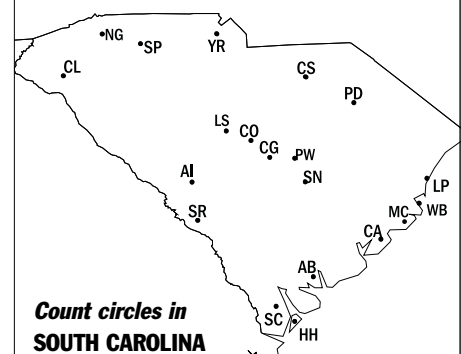
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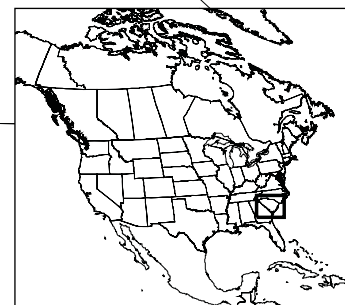
The summary is dedicated to the memory of Robin M. Carter (1945–2008). The 109th Christmas Bird Count in South Carolina was characterized by clement weather, except for four counts hampered by dense fog and one that was impeded by high waters in the Congaree Swamp. Pine Siskin was the only irruptive species seen, occurring on 75 percent of all counts.

Nineteen counts that completed all data entry forms were conducted this year. Hilton Head Island had the most participants (154) followed by Sun City-Okatie (95). Most count had 12 or fewer participants. We need more participants on South Carolina CBCs.

The top coastal count, with 160 species each, was a tie between Litchfield-Pawleys



Count circles in SOUTH CAROLINA



and Winyah Bay. Santee National Wildlife Refuge with 126 species was the top in the Inner Coastal Plains, followed by the Pinewood Count (101). The top count in the Piedmont and Fall Line region was the Lower Saluda (92) followed by Clemson (89).

The ACE Basin had nine new record counts including Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Mottled Duck, species that continue to increase in coastal South Carolina. Aiken had two new species: American Green-winged Teal and Common Ground-Dove. Charleston had record counts of Rock Pigeons and Pine Siskins—both uncommon species in the count circle.

Congaree Swamp had its first Bald Eagle, second Painted Bunting, and a record count for six species. Clemson had a Common Merganser and a record number of Wild Turkey. Columbia had a single Evening Grosbeak. The Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. had record numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy and Pileated woodpeckers, and an Eastern Kingbird—a species that requires extraordinary details in winter.

Hilton Head Island had a number of exclusive species including Redhead, Eared Grebe, Reddish Egret, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, and Summer Tanager.

The Litchfield-Pawley's Island count had a number of good finds for the coast including Horned Lark, and Le Conte's and Lincoln sparrows. Lower Saluda had a number of new species such as Red-breasted Merganser and Wilson's Snipe, plus the returning Allen's Hummingbird. North Greenville noted a record number of Wild Turkeys. Pee Dee had its first Wilson's Snipe.

In its second year, Pinewood had 11 new species; most remarkable were the counts of 1.5 million Red-winged Blackbirds and 1 million Common Grackles! Sun City-Okatie had a Barn Swallow, a remarkable 143 Little Blue Herons, and 543 (any double counting?) Carolina Chickadees. Santee N.W.R. had a White-winged Scoter and a hybrid White-fronted x Canada

Goose. Spartanburg also had a hybrid White-fronted x Canada Goose, plus a Merlin and Orange-crowned Warbler—the latter two uncommon in the Piedmont—and a returning Rufous Hummingbird. Savannah River Site had the state's only Short-eared Owl.

Winyah Bay had an excellent count, with 11 new species that included Eurasian Wigeon, Great Cormorant, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, and White-rumped Sandpiper. Most remarkable of all was a well-described Least Flycatcher. A count of 375 American Avocets was extraordinary. York had a record number of House Sparrows, but other species were lower than normal.

GEORGIA

Giff Beaton

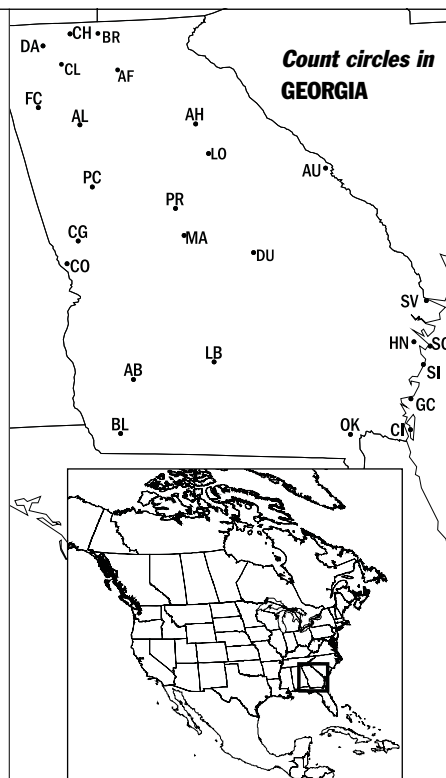
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Georgia had 26 Christmas Bird Counts this season, with an above-average state total of 214 accepted species. The 599 participants drove 6609 miles and walked 578 miles. Weather was good for most counts.

Waterfowl were generally present in good numbers, with new high state CBC counts for Mottled Duck (97) and Ring-necked Duck (12,612). Several other species had very high counts, including 142 Northern Pintails (third highest in the last 30 years), 48 Canvasbacks (highest in 10 years, including 24 at Macon), 52 Redheads (second-highest ever, including 21 at Cumberland Island), and 2606 Ruddy Ducks (also second-highest ever). Additionally, the first-ever Georgia CBC records of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Harlequin Duck were at Savannah and Harris Neck. On the negative side, the total of 975 Lesser Scaup was the lowest total in almost 20 years. A Ross's Goose on the Blue Ridge count was Georgia's second CBC record. Several waders also set good numbers, including 2196 Snowy Egrets (highest ever), 975 Tricolored Herons (tied the highest count), and the second-highest counts



ever for White Ibis (2511) and Wood Stork (474). All four of these tallies were bolstered by big numbers from Savannah. Two Roseate Spoonbills furnished the second CBC records with one each at Savannah and Glynn County.

The 1495 Black Vultures counted were the second-highest ever, and the 95 Bald Eagles were the highest ever, continuing the increasing trend for that species. A Yellow Rail at St. Catherines was the first CBC record for Georgia, and the 608 Common Moorhens was the second-highest total (403 at Savannah). Several shorebirds were also counted in high numbers, with new high state CBC counts of 2888 Killdeer, 21,557 Dunlin (including 7460 from Sapelo), 3851 Short-billed Dowitchers (2482 at Saint Catherines) and 33 Red Phalaropes off Saint Catherines for the second state CBC record. Other high counts included 5664 Semipalmated Plovers (second highest, with 2408 at Cumberland Island), 184 American Oystercatchers (fourth highest), 386 Greater Yellowlegs (second highest, including 244 at Savannah and 32 at Dublin for a high inland total), and 269 Long-billed Dowitchers (third highest). Four Black-necked Stilts at Savannah

provided the second CBC record as well as a new high count. Good gull counts included a new high count of 13,778 Ring-Billeds (including 5316 at Savannah) and a much higher than average count of 1341 Herrings. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to increase with a new high count of 879, led by the 338 at Glynn County. Mourning Doves were high on several counts for a new high state total of 6467, and the 93 Common Ground-Doves provided the third-highest total (Dublin had 29). With only five previous CBC records of singletons, the four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds also set a high total.

Like many corvids hit by West Nile virus, Fish Crow numbers were down at 1201, although, paradoxically, the species continues to expand into north Georgia. The 128 Winter Wrens was the third highest total, and Pileated Woodpeckers set a new high with 559. Sedge Wrens had the second highest total ever with 74 (43 at Cumberland Island), and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers also set the second highest total with 133. Harris Neck had 31 and Glynn County had 25, both new high counts for individual CBCs. Eastern Bluebirds came in at 3084, a new high count. American Pipits and Cedar Waxwings also had new high counts with 1703 and 9742, both led by Athens, with 379 and 1683, respectively. Saint Catherines had the third CBC Tennessee Warbler record, and new high totals were set with 48 Yellow-throated Warblers (including 21 at Saint Catherines), 842 Palm Warblers (186 at Lake Blackshear), and 87 Black-and-white Warblers. The fifth state CBC Clay-colored Sparrow was at Piedmont-Rum Creek, and a photographed Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Carter's Lake may be the first North American inland winter record. A new high count of Seaside Sparrows was 1027. The 1414 Rusty Blackbirds was the second-highest total in 10 years for this beleaguered species, led by 806 at Piedmont-Rum Creek. The total of 28 Red Crossbills is a new high count, with 15 at Chattahoochee National Forest and 13

at Blue Ridge. Finally, in a big invasion year, Pine Siskins more than doubled the previous high total with 2326, including 1242 at Blue Ridge and 336 at Chattahoochee.

FLORIDA

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For the fourth consecutive season, participants conducted a record number of Christmas Bird Counts, 68, in Florida. The count at Dry Tortugas National Park resumed after a one-year absence, and a count debuted in Flagler County. Florida's CBCs accounted for 8471 accepted observations of 349 taxonomic forms and 2,166,432 individuals. The forms comprise 281 native species, the reintroduced Whooping Crane, 12 of Florida's 13 countable exotics (White-winged Parakeet was missed), 25 non-countable exotics, six subspecies or morphs, one hybrid, and 23 species-groups.

Ten CBCs, including two inland (*), exceeded 149 species: West Pasco (175), Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (174), *Zellwood-Mount Dora (173), Cocoa (166), St. Petersburg (163), Jacksonville (161), Sarasota (160), *Gainesville (159), South Brevard (153), and Alafia Banks (150). Seven CBCs, including a majority inland (*), tallied more than 50,000 individuals: Cocoa (578,682, with 500,000 of these Lesser Scaup), *STA5-Clewiston (92,849), *Econlockhatchee (76,044), *Lakeland (70,800), West Pasco (53,559), Merritt Island N.W.R. (53,501), and *Gainesville (51,979). Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher, and Palm Warbler were reported on all 68 counts. In contrast, 36 other native species were seen on only one CBC each, with 21 of these representing single individuals. The eight species that exceeded 50,000 individuals each were Lesser Scaup (569,602), Tree Swallow (148,372), American Coot (91,075), Ring-billed Gull (88,517), Laughing Gull (76,592), American Robin (75,270), Yellow-

rumped Warbler (62,002), and Red-winged Blackbird (59,588).

This summary excludes undocumented rarities. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks numbered 3369 individuals on 21 counts, while 97 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were reported on five counts. Egyptian Geese, becoming an exotic to watch, totaled 54 birds on six counts, with 37 at Dade County. The sole Ross's Goose graced Merritt Island N.W.R., while the only two Brant were far south at Coot Bay-Everglades National Park. A Canada Goose of one of the small races at Kendall Area furnished the second report for Florida. There were 3425 Muscovy Ducks on 48 counts, and 4052 mostly feral Mallards on 49 counts. A total of 203 hybrid Mallard x Mottled Ducks was reported on four CBCs, including 120 at St. Petersburg and 80 at Aripeka-Bayport. Two drake Eurasian Wigeon enlivened STA5-Clewiston. The southernmost of nine American Black Ducks were two at Jacksonville. Cocoa produced the sole Long-tailed Duck. Triple-digit totals of Buffleheads came from eight CBCs, among these Choctawhatchee Bay (640), Pensacola (380), and Melrose (360).

Jacksonville provided the state's only Red-throated Loon, while Pensacola furnished the sole Pacific Loon (count week). Of the state's 1465 Common Loons, 695 at Choctawhatchee Bay, 167 at Pensacola, and 140 at North Pinellas were the only triple-digit totals. Dry Tortugas National Park tallied the state's only Cory's Shearwater, along with 47 Masked Boobies and 40 Brown Boobies. There were 11,255 American White Pelicans on 43 counts, and 18,336 Brown Pelicans on 48 counts, including 36 inland at Lakeland. Among Florida's 123,766 wading birds were 204 "Great White" Herons, 11 "Wurdemann's" Herons, 191 Reddish Egrets, 46,976 White Ibises, 6175 Glossy Ibises, 1111 Roseate Spoonbills, and 4740 Wood Storks. Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. tallied two presumably wild American Flamingoes, while 210 flamingoes at Dade County represented the feral flock at Hialeah Park.

Ospreys totaled 4157 individuals on 65 CBCs, and 1323 Bald Eagles were tallied on 62. Lake Placid and STA5-Clewiston produced one and two White-tailed Kites, respectively, with another count week at Long Pine Key, while 72 Snail Kites were found on eight counts. *Accipiter* tallies were 189 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 57 counts and 356 Cooper's Hawks on 62. Counters reported 57 Short-tailed Hawks on 17 counts, with singles north to West Pasco and Merritt Island. Crested Caracaras numbered 41 on 13 CBCs, with 15 at STA5-Clewiston furnishing the only double-digit total. Statewide falcon totals were 2272 American Kestrels, 93 Merlins, and 51 Peregrine Falcons.

No Black or Yellow rails were found. STA5-Clewiston supplied all 33 Purple Swampheens, likely to become Florida's next established exotic now that the state-sponsored eradication plan has been discontinued. Of 205 Purple Gallinules found statewide, 116 were at Lakeland. About 14,679 Sandhill Cranes were tallied, with 8000 at Gainesville providing the sole four-digit total. There were 21 Whooping Cranes found, 7 at Aripeka-Bayport, 12 at Kissimmee Valley, and 2 at Lake Wales. Snowy Plovers numbered 97 on six counts, while only 66 Piping Plovers were found on 10 counts. There were 1954 Red Knots on 19 counts. Key Largo-Plantation Key again produced one Semipalmated Sandpiper.

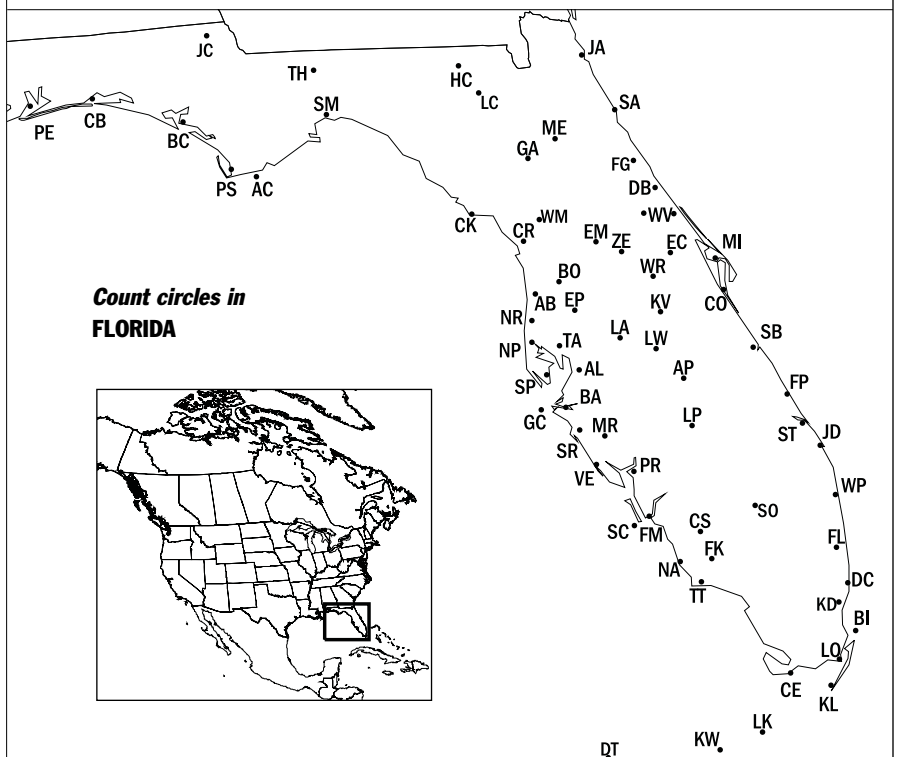
Tallies of black-backed gulls were 473 Lessers on 18 counts and 309 Greats on 15. One-hundred Sooty Terns were tallied at Dry Tortugas National Park, while Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. furnished the state's eight Gull-billed Terns. Single Common Terns were detailed at Dry Tortugas N.P. and Zellwood-Mount Dora. Black Skimmers totaled 12,935 individuals on 36 CBCs, including 3900 at Jacksonville, 2000 at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P., and 1440 at St. Augustine. Merritt Island N.W.R. furnished all 13 Pomarine Jaegers and 29 Parasitic Jaegers, with another Parasitic at Jacksonville.

Participants noted 9273 Eurasian Collared-Doves on 63 counts (totals exceeded 11,000 the previous three CBC seasons), while White-winged Doves numbered 857 on 40. Fifteen species of psittacids were tallied, mostly at Dade County, with only four species at Fort Lauderdale. Monk Parakeets continue to decline, with only 1097 found on 21 counts. Black-hooded

Parakeets numbered 707 on 10 counts, including 5 recently colonized at Tampa. Budgerigars persist, with 15 at Aripeka-Bayport and 10 at West Pasco. My heard-only Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Avon Park Air Force Range furnished the only report. Considerable pre-dawn effort allowed St. Petersburg to reset the continental record of **218** Eastern Screech-Owls. Burrowing Owls numbered 318



House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), St. Petersburg, Florida. Photo/Don Margeson



on 10 counts, with 275 (86 percent!) at Fort Myers. Lesser Nighthawks were again limited to the extreme southern peninsula, with two at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P., three at Kendall Area, and count week at Long Pine Key. Florida's 198 hummingbirds were divided into 117 Ruby-throated, nine Rufous, three (!) Calliope, two Buff-bellied, one Black-chinned, and 66 not identified. Thirty-two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found on 7 counts, while 56 Hairy Woodpeckers were reported on 18.

Zellwood-Mount Dora produced 406 tyrannids: 16 Least Flycatchers (the state total!), 350 Eastern Phoebes, the sole Say's Phoebe (a returnee), eight Ash-throated Flycatchers, one Great Crested Flycatcher, one Brown-crested Flycatcher, 29 Western Kingbirds, and count week Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. A Vermilion Flycatcher brightened Choctawhatchee Bay, with another count week at Lake City. Kendall Area furnished a Tropical Kingbird, while a Cassin's Kingbird returned to STA5-Clewiston. Loggerhead Shrikes numbered 2161 on 61 CBCs, with 257 at Fort Myers and 205 at Peace River. Yellow-throated Vireos were north to Choctawhatchee Bay and Cocoa. Florida Scrub-Jays totaled 366 on 20 counts. Jackson County again produced all 14 of the state's Horned Larks, raising the question of whether they may be breeding locally (there is no Florida breeding report). Surprisingly, all Barn Swallows were far north, with six at Choctawhatchee Bay and one at St. Augustine. Tallahassee again monopolized the state's White-breasted Nuthatches, with 19. Jackson County produced three Brown Creepers, with another count week at Choctawhatchee Bay.

Four Red-whiskered Bulbuls were tallied at Kendall Area. It was a good winter for Golden-crowned Kinglets, with 138 on 12 counts and birds south to West Pasco (three) and St. Petersburg (one). There were 36 Common Mynas on five CBCs, all of them in southeastern Florida, while Kendall Area produced all 23 Hill Mynas. Apalachicola Bay-St.



Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), St. Petersburg, Florida. Photo/Don Margeson

Vincent N.W.R. again furnished both Sprague's Pipits. Cedar Waxwings had a good year, with 3749 on 36 CBCs, including 800 at Pensacola and 765 at Jackson County.

Twenty-three warbler species were accepted, with unique reports of Nashville at Cocoa, Black-throated Gray at Venice-Englewood, and "Audubon's" at Zellwood-Mount Dora. Three Prothonotary Warblers were at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P. As always, the two most numerous species were Yellow-rumped (62,002) and Palm (23,296), the latter occurring on every count, and the former on every count except Key Largo-Plantation Key. Thirteen Summer Tanagers were observed on 11 counts, all singles except at Dade County and Kendall Area. Pensacola produced the only Lark Sparrow, while Gainesville furnished 19 of the state's 23 Henslow's Sparrows. The two most abundant sparrows were Chipping (8545 on 62 counts) and Savannah (4987 on 48 counts). The sharp-tailed sparrows were divided between 105 Nelson's on 13 CBCs, 63 Saltmarsh on four counts, and two not identified specifically. A Harris's Sparrow was a highlight at Gainesville. Jackson County produced six Dark-eyed Juncos, with another far south to East Pasco. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found count week at Coot Bay-Everglades N.P., with a *Pheucticus* species at Kendall Area.

There were 330 Painted Buntings on 34 counts, including 71 at Cocoa, 36 at West Palm Beach, and 29 at Stuart. Duos of Yellow-headed Blackbirds brightened St. Augustine and Zellwood-Mount Dora. There were 24 Rusty Blackbirds on five CBCs south to Lake City; no Brewer's Blackbirds were found. Kendall Area furnished the sole Shiny Cowbird, while Bronzed Cowbirds were found at Alafia Banks (one), Dade County (five), and Kendall Area (four). Spot-breasted Orioles numbered four at West Palm Beach and three at Fort Lauderdale, with none on CBCs in Miami-Dade County. Six Purple Finches brightened Choctawhatchee Bay, while House Finches totaled 1063 individuals on 33 CBCs. There were 2420 House Sparrows on 54 counts, and 52 Nutmeg Mannikins—another exotic to watch—at Pensacola.

Bruce Anderson of Winter Park reviewed this season's 246 rare-bird documentation forms, for which I am most grateful. I deleted 55 reports submitted with little or no documentation, and I appended with the "DD" (Details Desired) annotation 43 other reports. The number of deletions remains steady at around 0.5 percent of all reports submitted, an amount that seems impossible to improve upon. Dates and locations for all Florida CBCs, along with my letter of instruction to compilers, are posted to the website of the Florida Ornithological Society (<http://fosbirds.org>).

Correction: In my summary for the 108th season (*American Birds* 62: 67–69), I failed to note that the Sarasota CBC attained 161 species.

OHIO/WEST VIRGINIA/KENTUCKY

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Unlike the climatic adventures of the previous year, the weather for the 109th Christmas Bird Count in Ohio did not provide trauma for participants. Ohio's 1700 field participants found open water, little precipitation, and reasonable

temperatures on the days that they covered their respective count areas. Although several counts reported low temperatures in the single digits, this was the exception; several areas recorded daily high temperatures in the seventies.

A number of unusual observations were made this season, highlighted by a male Painted Bunting found on the O'Shaughnessy CBC north of Columbus. This bird was photographed, seen by many, and, at the point of this writing, there has been no evidence of it being an escapee. Other extremely unusual observations included a Dickcissel in Columbus and a Bobolink lingering in the Toledo area. To add to the unusual sightings this season were reports of a Harris's Sparrow and an Orange-crowned Warbler in Cincinnati, and a count week Rufous Hummingbird in Columbus. The Lake Erie Island CBC came up with its own rarities, including a lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, and a count week Purple Sandpiper. A few rare species get reported nearly every season, and Blue-winged Teal, Osprey, and Broad-winged Hawk were all submitted from single locations this season.

One of the unique aspects of this particular year has to be the incursion of

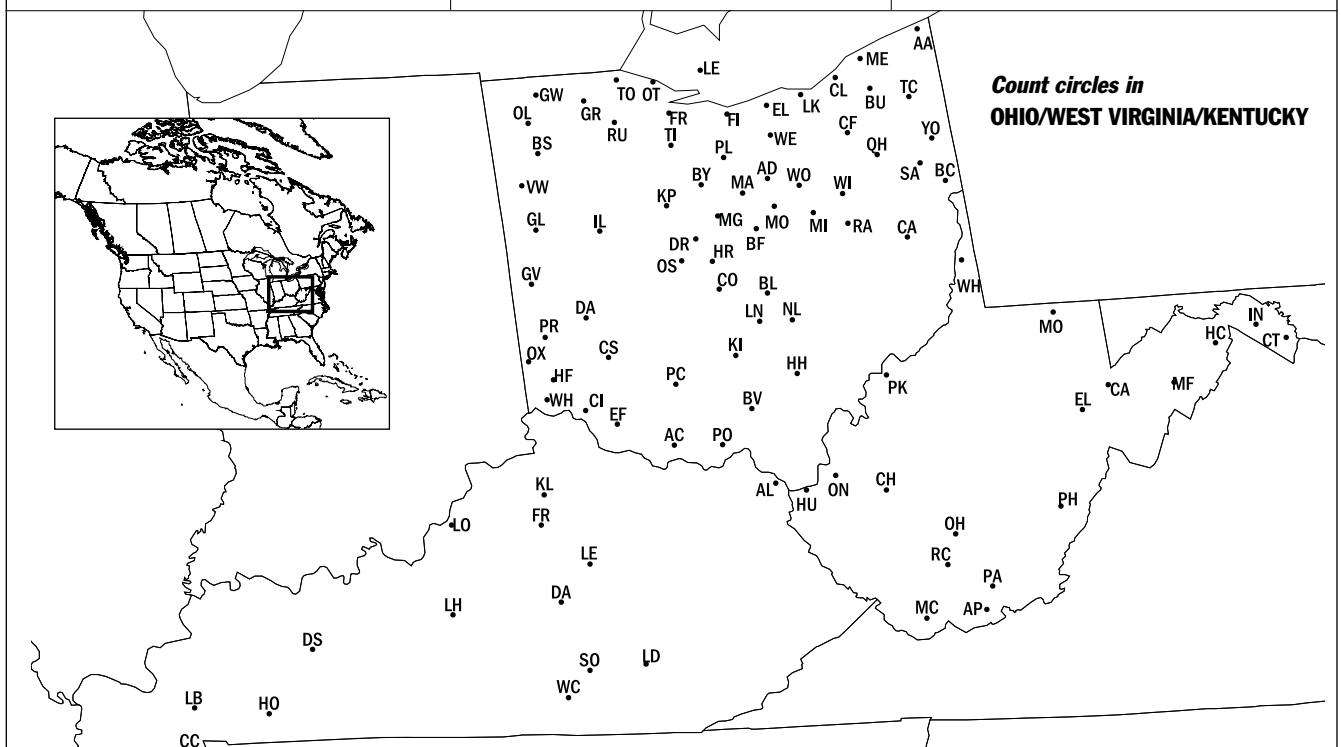
White-winged Crossbills. There are many years that this species is not recorded; however, many were found during the 109th CBC in Ohio and neighboring West Virginia. Ohio observers located nearly 300 White-wingeds on an unprecedented 11 Ohio counts. In contrast, only a lone Red Crossbill was found statewide, on the Grand Rapids-Waterville CBC. Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, and House Finch were found universally, but Ohio's lone report of a single Evening Grosbeak came from Buckeye Lake. Unprecedented observations of Northern Shrike were reported, found on more than a fourth of Ohio's 58 reporting areas. Owl numbers were also impressive. Ohio counters annually tally large numbers of Great Horned, Eastern Screech, and Barred owls, but this season included observations of 17 Long-eared Owls at 8 locations, 31 Short-eared Owls at 12, eight Northern Saw-whet Owls from 4 Ohio counts, and 10 Barn Owls in 5 different locales. The only other owl of note was the state's sole report of a Snowy Owl, which came from the census at Rudolph.

Gulls were located in good numbers, with Cleveland reporting Black-headed, Thayer's, Iceland, and Lesser Black-

backed gulls. Little Gulls were found in Toledo and Mentor, while Toledo observers tallied 17 Lesser Black-backs. Nine Glaucous Gulls were found in Ohio this season from four separate Lake Erie locations. The most remarkable report was that of a Common Tern from the Toledo area.

Waterfowl were found easily and in good numbers. Thirty-four species of ducks, swans, and geese were recorded. Greater White-fronted Geese were located in four count areas plus two count week reports. Ross's Geese were observed at O'Shaughnessy and Firelands, while the state's only report of Brant came from Beaver Creek. Cackling Geese were located on nine Ohio CBCs, and a wayward exotic, a Whooper Swan, was recorded in Trumbull County. Ohio Trumpeter Swan reports continue to increase with 147 reports this season. All three scoter species were located this season, with 40 birds reported from five Lake Erie locations. Long-tailed Duck was found easily along the shores of Lake Erie, with one noteworthy observation inland at Wilmot.

Ruffed Grouse and Northern Bobwhite continue to struggle in Ohio; counters reported grouse on only three CBCs and bobwhites on four, the latter



a small increase from recent years. On the other hand, Wild Turkeys are everywhere. CBCs in the 1970s and '80s would produce a scattered report or two from southeast Ohio, compared to this year's observation of Wild Turkeys from 48 of the 58 Ohio reporting areas. Black-crowned Night-Herons are found in the state each year, with the most regular reports coming from Toledo. This season, observers tallied no night-herons in Toledo, but 30 individuals were observed on three counts elsewhere in the state. Red-throated Loon is rarely reported during this season, but a lone individual was found at Caesar Creek during count week.

Raptors were found in near-normal numbers statewide. Historic reports from the mid-1970s of a handful of Bald Eagle in northeastern Ohio have grown to the impressive numbers we find today, with Bald Eagle recorded on 45 of Ohio's 58 counts. Even an obliging Golden Eagle put in an appearance at Grand Rapids. Twenty Merlins and nine Peregrines were reported statewide from 13 and 8 locations, respectively. The near-annual Virginia Rails were not tallied this season in Millersburg; however, Sandhill Cranes were widely found with approximately 500 individuals across the state. Half-hardy species such as Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Pine Warbler were found this year on eight, two, seven, six, and three Ohio CBCs, respectively. As they begin their march into the Midwest, Eurasian Collared-Doves were found at Grand Lake-Saint Marys.

A few scattered noteworthy observations include a count week White-eyed Vireo in Cleveland, plus a Marsh Wren at Wilmot and one found count week in Lakewood. American Pipits were found on five counts statewide in their normal manner—either single birds or flocks of 20 plus. Other notable reports include a Palm Warbler at Ragersville, two Common Yellowthroat at Millersburg, a Lincoln's Sparrow in Toledo, and Brewer's Blackbirds in Dayton and Tiffin. Snow Buntings and Lapland

Longspurs were easily located in the northern portions of the state, while Common Redpolls were found sparingly on four CBCs.

With each putting more than 100 observers in the field, Cincinnati, Cuyahoga Falls, and Millersburg took the prize for organization. Cincinnati's 992 party hours led the state effort this season.

In West Virginia, inclement weather was not a factor this year like it was in the previous year. All count areas reported some open water, and temperatures were moderate, with all of West Virginia's counts recording temperatures above or well-above freezing. In total West Virginia had more than 300 participants in the field on a total of 18 CBCs, recording 785 hours in the field and more than 5000 miles traveled during this season's census.

The open water and moderate temperatures produced healthy numbers of waterfowl, including 27 species of ducks, swans, and geese. Notable reports included two Greater White-fronted Geese at Parkersburg. The Charleston CBC reported several Snow Geese and three Cackling Geese, which were photographed. Swan records included two Mute Swans at Hampshire County and two Tundra Swans at Morgantown. Morgantown also had a number of unusual waterfowl during count week, including Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, and Greater Scaup. A Surf Scoter was located during count week at Ona. Only lone individuals of American Wigeon and Northern Shoveler were located statewide during the count period.

Small numbers of Ruffed Grouse (10) were found on five counts. Wild Turkeys were plentiful, with a total of more than 200 individuals noted on 15 counts. A Common Loon was found on count day at Charleston, and a remarkable report of Red-necked Grebe was submitted from Wheeling. Small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were located this season on several counts. Turkey Vultures (886) were present on 17 of



**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*),
O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, Ohio.
Photo/Rick Selzer**

West Virginia's 18 reporting areas, while Black Vultures (334) were recorded from 13 counts. Ospreys are often misreported during this season, but this year an Osprey lingered at Charles Town where it remained for an extended period. Thirty-five Bald Eagles were found statewide on 10 counts with 23 adults, 10 immatures, and 2 un-aged individuals reported. Two immature and two adult Golden Eagles were also located from three separate areas. A Northern Goshawk was found at Canaan, and scattered reports of Rough-legged Hawk and Merlin were also noted. Peregrine Falcons were easily found this season with six individuals recorded on five CBCs.

Two lonely Virginia Rails were located in Charles Town. Gull reports were particularly sparse this year, with small numbers of Herring Gulls and only four Ring-bills located statewide. Six species of owls were found this season in West Virginia, notably including a Barn Owl at Moorefield and Long-eared Owls at Huntington and Charles Town. Several Short-eared Owls were reported from Inwood. It was noteworthy that two Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, single birds from Charles Town and Moorefield.

One of the more unusual reports came from Parkersburg, where a Blue-headed Vireo was identified. Fish Crows were again reported from Charles Town, but with a report from Kentucky this season was the first time that they were recorded elsewhere in the region. Most

notable for the 109th CBC was the large numbers of crossbills that were reported: Red Crossbills were found on two West Virginia CBCs, with most coming from Pocahontas County; and White-winged Crossbill records included 31 found on five different West Virginia counts. A number of stray passerines lingered in the state, with a quick summary as follows: Gray Catbird at Moorefield, Palm Warbler at Ona, Common Yellowthroat and Savannah Sparrow at Inwood, Lincoln's Sparrow at Huntington, and Pine Warblers at Huntington and Ona.

Charles Town again led the state with a total of 80 species tallied. Hampshire County provided the best turnout with 37 field observers and a total of 88 party hours in the West Virginia countryside.

In Kentucky this season, Land Between the Lakes observers tallied a noteworthy 97 species, followed closely by Louisville with 93. Louisville provided the most field participants and party hours with 40 and 75.75, respectively. This was a mild season, with all 14 CBCs recording temperatures above freezing. Only three count areas recorded low temperature below freezing. No precipitation was reported from more than half of the count areas, with the remaining indicating some light rain. All of Kentucky's CBCs reported mostly open water.

Kentucky observers recorded 26 species of waterfowl this season, plus two exotics. Most noteworthy in this group were two Greater-White-fronted Geese photographed at Danville, a lone Ross's Goose at Louisville, a wayward Trumpeter Swan in Wayne County, and Blue-winged Teal and Long-tailed Duck at Land Between the Lakes (LBL).

Northern Bobwhites were again located in very small numbers at Hopkinsville and in Wayne County. Wild Turkeys were reported nearly universally with 369 individuals located statewide. Pelicans again wandered the waters of LBL, with three White Pelicans and a lone Brown Pelican located, the latter observation supported with photos. Louisville observers again relocated their

traditional Black-crowned Night-Herons, the only ones tallied in the state. Fifty-five Bald Eagles were observed, including 28 adults, 23 immatures, and four un-aged individuals. A lone adult Golden Eagle was also identified at Land Between the Lakes. Single Merlin and Rough-legged Hawk reports were submitted from Louisville and Danville, respectively. Kentucky's three reported Peregrine Falcon records came from Louisville. Sandhill Crane observations were made at LBL and Wayne County, while count week appearances came from Louisville and Frankfort.

Out-of-season shorebird observations all came from Land Between the Lakes, with four Black-bellied Plovers, five Western Sandpipers, and 32 Least Sandpipers located. The only unusual gull observations also came from this count, with individual Thayer's and Lesser Black-backed gulls found.

Forster's Tern again was located on the LBL count, but Calloway County also reported this species. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue their advance in Kentucky with 36 individuals located on four counts. Surprisingly, only four species of owl were located this season, with the only noteworthy report being a lone Barn Owl in Calloway County. Kentucky's only observation of Loggerhead Shrike was reported from Wayne County. A remarkable submission was made from Calloway County, where two individual Fish Crows were reported. This region gets regular reports from eastern West Virginia of Fish Crow, but this is the first CBC record of this species from such an inland location during my 25-year tenure as regional editor. The state's lone observation of House Wren came from Hopkinsville. Pine Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow (both single individuals) were located at Wayne County and Somerset, respectively. Palm Warblers were found in small numbers at three separate Kentucky locations. American Tree Sparrows were particularly sparse this season, with only three individuals located statewide. The only other obser-

vation of note was the report of several Brewer's Blackbirds in Calloway County. Kentucky did not appear to share in the count season invasion of crossbills that occurred in Ohio and West Virginia, but Pine Siskins were located in excellent numbers.

More than 200 hardy individuals participated in this season's Christmas Bird Counts in Kentucky, logging nearly 4000 party miles on foot and in vehicles.

TENNESSEE

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Data from 30 Tennessee CBCs were submitted for the 109th Christmas Bird Count season, tying last year's record count total. During these counts, 153 countable species were observed, as well as one species not yet countable—Whooping Crane. In addition, two species were present as count week only species. Consequently, data for 156 avian taxa were obtained, with 25 species being recorded on just one CBC (including the count week only species) and with 28 species appearing on all counts.

Reelfoot Lake once again accumulated the state's highest species total—119, an all-time record—but Savannah came close while achieving its highest species total ever—116—and Knoxville once again entered the 100-species zone with 102.

Four species were found on Tennessee CBCs for the first time: Laughing Gull (two each at Reelfoot Lake and Savannah), Black-legged Kittiwake (one at Kingsport), Clay-colored Sparrow (count week at Crossville), and Chestnut-collared Longspur (one at Reelfoot Lake).

All-time high counts for an individual CBC conducted in Tennessee were accumulated for the following species: Gadwall—16,132 (Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge); Black Vulture—689 (Clarksville); Merlin—3, a tie (Savannah); Whooping Crane, not yet a countable species—8 (White County);

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—1, a tie (Knoxville); Eastern Phoebe—37 (Savannah); Hermit Thrush—105 (White County); Orange-crowned Warbler—6, a tie (Memphis); Prairie Warbler—1, a tie (Chattanooga); and Lapland Longspur—8550 (Reelfoot Lake). A fine crop of soft mast probably accounted for the high counts of phoebe, thrush, and warbler.

Weather was mostly conducive to counting birds; no count experienced snowfall on count day, eight counts experienced light rain part or all day, and one (Chattanooga) had heavy rain part of the day and light rain the rest. Temperatures were mostly moderate, but Shady Valley-Mountain City began its count at 8 degrees Fahrenheit, White County at 10 degrees, and Franklin-Coffee County at 12 degrees, the first of these January 1 and the others December 22. The highest temperature experienced—72 degrees on December 27 (Buffalo River)—fell squarely between these cold spells.

Claims of Cackling Geese on two counts were unsupported by sufficient documentation, leaving Reelfoot Lake with two photographed individuals as the state's sole count listing this recently erected species.

Unusual ducks included a Blue-winged Teal at Knoxville, Greater Scaup (most well documented) on eight counts, a Surf Scoter at Savannah, two White-winged Scoters at Hickory-Priest, and Common Mergansers at Nickajack Lake and Knoxville.

The plight of the foundering Northern Bobwhite population in Tennessee is dramatically revealed by CBC data collected during the past three decades. This season bobwhites were up slightly at 64 individuals on 10 counts, compared to 48 individuals on 9 counts during the 108th CBC. However, the species' decrease from nearly 30 years ago, when, for example, 693 were counted on 14 CBCs during the 81st CBC, is more than a little disheartening. This decrease speaks to the vastly changed concept of (largely unplanned) landscape "management" in rural Tennessee taking place during that interval.

A Red-throated Loon at Knoxville, three Eared Grebes at Bristol, and two American White Pelicans at Reelfoot Lake were the only representatives of these rarish species.

Merlins on nine counts plus another during count week, the most ever, revealed continuation of the increasing trend in this fine raptor's winter population in the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove did not undergo further expansion during the past year, if the CBC data are an accurate indication of its population dynamics, but this status is likely to change soon.

The three common owls appear to be maintaining stable populations in the state, if CBC data are any indication of their status. Barn Owl was represented by a single individual at Reelfoot Lake and Short-eared Owl by two there and five at Savannah.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was recorded on a Tennessee CBC for just the third time when one stayed into the CBC period in Knoxville. Single Rufous Hummingbirds at Cookeville and Norris were the only ones counted, the poorest showing since the 99th CBC.

A versatile permanent resident adapting well to human modifications of the forested landscape, Red-bellied Woodpecker was tabulated in second-highest numbers per party hour of effort ever (0.987), just shy of the equivalent figure (1.012) from the 107th CBC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a winter resident throughout most of the state, was also

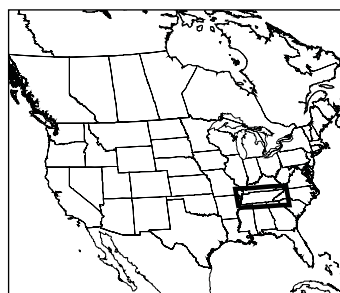
present in second-highest numbers per party hour of effort ever (0.353), just shy of the equivalent datum (0.36) from the 104th CBC. The state's remaining woodpeckers were present in about "normal" numbers, based on past CBC efforts.

Forty-eight Loggerhead Shrikes were noted on 14 counts this season, up slightly from 44 on 13 counts during the 108th CBC, but most shrikes were counted on just two CBCs—Buffalo River (16) and Reelfoot Lake (14)—and even the numbers of shrikes on these counts have fallen considerably over the past two decades. Shrikes are barely holding their own at their lowest known population level in bird-counting history, so a considerable change in current standards of landscape management will be needed if they are going to make a recovery.

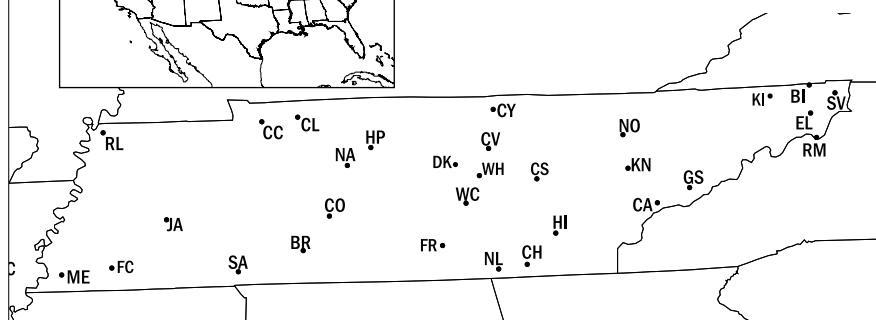
Brown-headed Nuthatches were found on eight counts, the most ever; counts with first-ever observations of this nuthatch included Bristol, indicating a serious push eastward from the



White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Warren County, Tennessee.
Photo/Carol Williams



Count circles in TENNESSEE



expanding population in east Tennessee, and Cades Cove.

Bluebirds, robins, waxwings, and warblers were tallied in good numbers this season, another manifestation of the high quality and quantity of the soft mast crop available across most of the state.

Rusty Blackbird, a decreasing breeder of the boreal forest, appeared on 13 counts, with Memphis (833) accumulating well over half the state total (1394).

The winter's irruption of Pine Siskins was the best in two decades: 22 counts registered siskins, with Great Smoky Mountains National Park accounting for 367 of the state total (2190), the highest since the 88th CBC

Many thanks are due to all CBC compilers and especially to the cohort of 300-plus field observers who collectively make the annual CBCs happen.

MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA

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Once again 28 Christmas Bird Counts were conducted in the region this year, with 17 in Mississippi and 11 in Alabama; Alabama lost Fort Morgan but regained Tuscaloosa after a one-year absence. Counters recorded a total of 211 species in the two-state region, with Alabama having 198 and Mississippi 187. About 1,200,000 total birds were recorded, with about 510,000 from Mississippi and 720,000 from Alabama. These numbers are all near the 20-year averages for the region.

Jackson County had the highest number of species, coming in at 144, followed by Gulf Shores at 142 and Southern Hancock County at 141. The greatest inland total was from Eufaula at 124. More counts than usual (17) broke the 100-species barrier. Gulf Shores had the highest totals in the region for 39

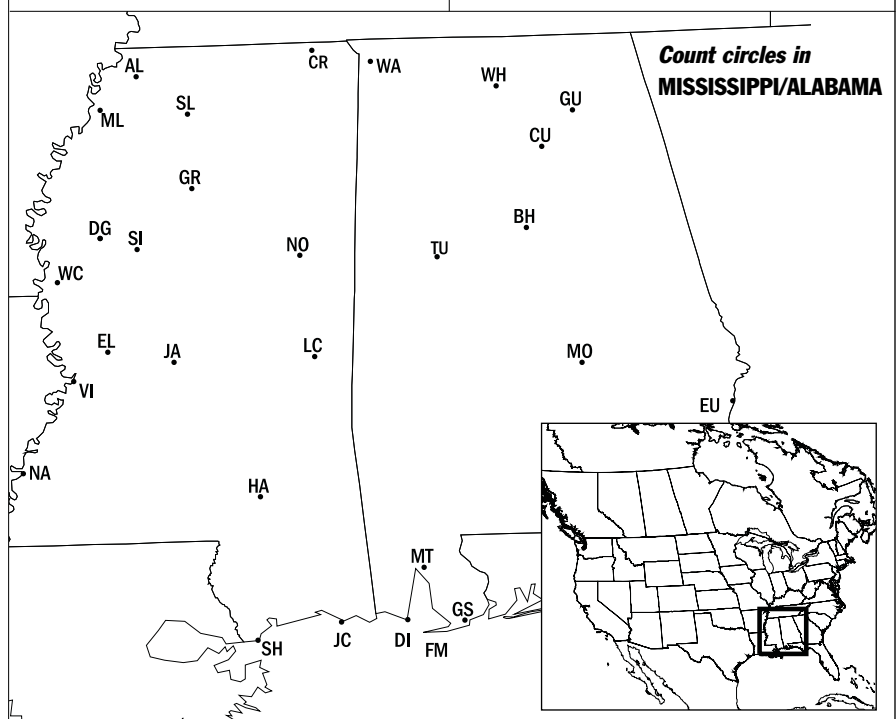
species, followed by Wheeler with 25, Guntersville with 22, and Dauphin Island with 21. Dauphin Island had the most species (4) not found on any other count, followed by Gulf Shores (3). Birmingham had the most birds at 266,000, though 250,000 of those were reported as blackbird sp. Jackson had the next highest single species count with 128,000 Red-winged Blackbirds. The weather was generally mild, with many counts having high temperatures in the seventies. Some counts near the beginning and end of the count window experienced rain, but most were dry.

Noxubee had a count week Cackling Goose. The only Surf Scoter reported was inland at Sardis Lake. Gulf Shores had five Black Scoters and another 12 unidentified scoters. Southern Hancock had 2 Long-tailed Ducks. Northern Bobwhites were up slightly in the region with 45 reported on eight counts. Single Pacific Loons were recorded at Gulf Shores and Guntersville. Wheeler and Gulf Shores each had a count week Red-throated Loon. Hattiesburg and Dauphin Island each reported an Eared Grebe. American White Pelicans were well distributed throughout the region with 4946 found on 13 counts, half from Sardis Lake. Brown Pelicans, almost unknown inland, visited both state

capitals (Jackson and Montgomery). Anhingas (101) were reported on nine counts with an impressive 52 of those coming from Eagle Lake.

This was a good year for herons and egrets. Southern Hancock and Eufaula each had single American Bitterns; Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons, and Cattle Egrets were found coastally in normal numbers. Inland numbers were above average with a Snowy Egret at Dahomey, a Little Blue at Eufaula, and single Cattle Egrets at Dahomey and Sidon plus eight at Eufaula. Dauphin Island reported a Reddish Egret, Tuscaloosa and Gulf Shores had Green Herons, and Birmingham had a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Ibis were scattered along the coast and Mississippi River with 209 White Ibis found on nine counts. Additionally Gulf Shores had eight Glossies and Washington County had five. Four Roseate Spoonbills, very unusual inland, were at Natchez.

Washington County reported two Harlan's Hawks. Merlins were present in good numbers with Gulf Shores having four, and five inland counts each reporting singles. Dauphin Island reported an impressive seven Peregrine Falcons, with singles also from Gulf Shores and Natchez. The five coastal counts together found 42 Soras. Additional inland





**Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*),
Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Alabama.
Photo/Terry Hartley**

birds were found at Montgomery (1), Grenada (2), and Washington County (1). Wheeler reported Whooping Cranes for the second year in a row (3).

Observers found a good collection of shorebirds, mostly along the coast, with Dauphin Island turning in an impressive list. Dauphin Island had six Snowy Plovers, Gulf Shores had three, and Jackson County had a count week bird. Dauphin Island had eight Piping Plovers and Southern Hancock two. The only American Avocet was one at Mobile-Tensaw. Sixteen Spotted Sandpipers were along the coast with additional inland birds at Hattiesburg (1), Jackson (1), and Natchez (2). Dauphin Island had the only Marbled Godwit and also 46 Red Knots. Mobile-Tensaw had an unusual Stilt Sandpiper. A very impressive list of gulls was found, including a Little Gull at Waterloo (Alabama's CBC first) and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Guntersville. Nearly as impressive were single Glaucous Gulls at Gulf Shores and Dauphin Island. A rare inland find was a Laughing Gull at Sardis Lake.

Eurasian Collared-Doves have thoroughly colonized the region with over 1300 reported on 24 of the 28 counts. White-winged Doves were found on all the coastal counts with a very high number of 370 at Gulf Shores. An additional 30 were inland at Lauderdale County. Natchez had Inca Doves (3) for the third

year in a row. Jackson County reported a Groove-billed Ani. Three Short-eared Owls were found on the Guntersville count. Wheeler had a very unusual count week Northern Saw-whet Owl. Hattiesburg reported a well-documented Buff-bellied Hummingbird. A count week Rufous was at Montgomery and an unidentified hummingbird was reported from Mobile-Tensaw.

Count week Western Kingbirds were at Southern Hancock and Dauphin Island. An Eastern Kingbird was reported from Cullman. White-eyed Vireos (18) were reported along the coast where they are expected, but the six more reported from five inland counts were unusual. Blue-headed Vireos were well represented, with 83 reported on 20 counts. Noxubee had a count week Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and a Barn Swallow was found at Gulf Shores. Single Bewick's Wrens were found at Dahomey and Grenada. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were not only along the coast, but also inland (10 on 6 counts). Likewise, Gray Catbirds were common along the coast and scattered inland (5 on 4 counts).

Unusual Warblers included Northern Parula and Black-and-white Warbler at Montgomery, Yellow Warbler at Sidon, and Yellow-throated Warbler at Gulf Shores. Dauphin Island reported a Western Tanager, Alabama's CBC first. Dauphin Island also had one Lark Sparrow and Wheeler had another. Lincoln's Sparrows were found at Wheeler (3), Vicksburg (2), and Southern Hancock (1). A Harris's Sparrow was found at Dahomey. Lapland Longspurs (248) were found on five counts in the northern part of the region where they are uncommon but expected. More unusual were 20 along the coast at Gulf Shores. More than 1000 Rusty Blackbirds were found on 17 counts, and almost 3000 Brewer's Blackbirds were on 8 counts. These numbers are all well above average. Finally, Vicksburg had a Baltimore Oriole, and Montgomery had two during count week.

A total of 479 participants were in the field this year with an additional 24 feederwatchers. Thanks to all who participated; see you next year.

MICHIGAN

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Michigan hosted 65 Christmas Bird Counts this season, setting another record high for number of counts reporting. A total of 144 species (plus one count week species) and just shy of 650,000 individual birds were tallied across the state. Field observers numbered 1062 in 508 parties, plus 351 feeder counters. There were 3054 party hours reported, with observers traveling a total of 22,923 miles. Forty counts reported nocturnal surveys for a total of 156 hours. The Rockwood CBC led the species total for the state at 93, while the Monroe CBC had the greatest number of individual birds counted at 95,144 (more than 56,000 of which were starlings). One new species was added to Michigan's cumulative CBC list this season, an Orange-crowned Warbler found on the Marquette CBC.

Snow cover averaged 4 to 8 inches in the Southern Lower Peninsula, 10 to 16 inches in the Northern Lower Peninsula, and 8 to 19 inches in the Upper Peninsula. Only one count, Lapeer, reported no snow on the ground at all. Temperatures were generally in the teens and twenties across the state through the period, with notable warm exceptions on December 14 and again on December 27. Twenty counts reported snowfall on count day (5 reported it as heavy) and 16 reported rain on count day. Sixteen counts reported winds in excess of 20 miles per hour. Still water was predominantly frozen statewide this year, and moving water was mostly open to partly open.

While there were several unusual species found this season, the story of this year's Michigan CBC was unquestionably the amazing invasion of



Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*), Monroe, Michigan. Photo/Jerry Jourdan

White-winged Crossbills, found on 42 counts. Besides the Orange-crowned Warbler previously mentioned, a Pine Warbler found at AuTrain was also a very good find. The continuing persistence of Eurasian Collared-Dove at Traverse City for several years is also notable. While Vesper Sparrow was historically regular on Michigan CBCs prior to 1990, it has recently only been found once every three to five years; this

year's bird at Anchor Bay was therefore noteworthy. A lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Traverse City and a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Anchor Bay were also great finds.

Waterfowl results were mixed this season, with scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Goldeneye at relatively high numbers, and American Wigeon, Greater and Lesser scaup, and American Black Duck present in low numbers. Ross's Goose was the single count week species this year. Common and Red-throated loon, Pied-billed Grebe, and Red-necked Grebes were found in abnormally low numbers. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were high again this year. Great Egret (15) and Turkey Vulture (92) set new record highs this season. Black-crowned Night-Herons also fared well this year. Bald Eagle set a new record high at 525, with 202 of those birds found on the Monroe CBC. American Coot (361) and Wilson's Snipe (2) were both present in very low numbers. Most woodpecker species were present in high numbers this season.

A whopping 34 Tree Swallows were found at Rockwood this season, shatter-

ing Michigan's all-time CBC record of 15 set in 2005–2006 in the same area.

Bohemian Waxwings were scarce on this CBC, but Cedar Waxwings were present at normal levels. Both White-throated Sparrows and Snow Buntings were found at double their average numbers. While Pine Siskins (4155) and White-winged Crossbills (1774) were undoubtedly irrupting with new record highs set this season, other winter finches were in near-average numbers.

INDIANA

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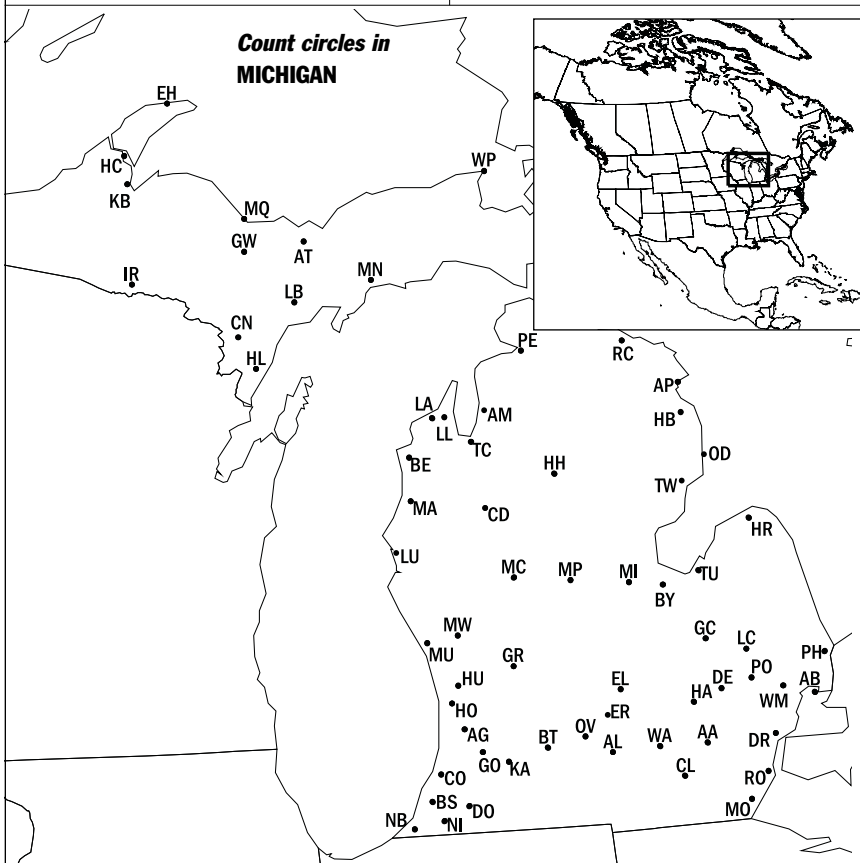
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The 109th Christmas Bird Count in Indiana offered everything Hoosier birders have come to expect—nasty weather, challenging birding conditions, and surprising discoveries. Though this season's count failed to add any new species to the state's CBC total, Indiana counters did compile a nice list of rarities. Highlights included Ross's Goose, Red-necked Grebe, Osprey, Prairie Falcon, Wood Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Indigo Bunting, White-winged Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak.

Indiana's 38 counts included 703 observers in the field and an additional 108 feederwatchers. A total of 1662 party hours were spent afield, including 199 hours at feeders and 87 hours of nocturnal birding, counting 141 species of birds—a slight drop from last year's total of 145. Goose Pond had the highest species total with 105, followed by 102 from Lake Monroe.

Though still high overall, goose numbers were down from the past couple seasons. Posey County's count record 3165 Snow Geese provided the bulk of this year's total (3330). Ross's Geese are becoming regular, with CBC records for five of the past eight seasons, including two this year from Eagle Creek.

Swan numbers were one of the year's bigger stories. Sadly, a record number of Mute Swans were counted; the state total (766) more than doubled since last



year. Four circles reported “uncountable” Trumpeter Swans, including Lafayette (1), Oakland City (1), Pokagon (2), and Gibson (3). More significant was a record high total of 124 Tundra Swans, due primarily to large counts by Posey County (66) and Muscatatuck (54).

The duck diversity was excellent across Indiana, with 23 total species reported, including all three scoters and Long-tailed Duck. Surf Scoters were compliments of the Dunes (1) and Lake Monroe (2). The Indiana Dunes count had the only White-winged Scoters (3) and completed the scoter sweep with five Black Scoters. Even more impressive was an inland Black Scoter at Goose Pond. The three Long-tailed Ducks consisted of a pair from Indianapolis, and a single from the Dunes.

A single Ruffed Grouse from Lake Monroe was only the second CBC record over the past five seasons. Only two Red-throated Loons were tallied

this year on the Dunes count—probably a result of their poor count day weather. Surprisingly, Indiana has had a Red-necked Grebe five of the last six CBC seasons, including one this year from Hamilton County. The Double-crested Cormorant population continues to explode; this season’s record total of 202 nearly doubled the previous high (115). Goose Pond once again added an American Bittern—for the third straight year.

Raptor highlights included an Osprey from the Ohio River circle, only the state’s fifth in the past 14 CBCs. Eagles are thriving across the region. The season’s Bald Eagle total (162) surpassed last year’s record high; and Golden Eagles tied the record total with eight. The falcon numbers were noteworthy. Merlins were elusive, with only 6 counted in comparison to last year’s 12. The Peregrine Falcon total was a record high of eight. For the third straight year, Goose Pond provided a Prairie Falcon.

Another “uncountable,” yet still noteworthy species on the 109th count was Whooping Crane; Gibson had eight and Goose Pond had six of these impressive birds. The only gull highlights included a rare inland Great Black-backed at Lake Monroe, and another six Great Black-backed and a count week Thayer’s Gull from the Indiana Dunes.

A count record 51 Eurasian Collared-Doves in Sullivan County was the major contributor to a new state high (56). It was a fine season for Long-eared Owls; Willow Slough’s six, a new count high, led the way to the highest total (9) in 22 years. Goose Pond had their usual impressive Short-eared Owl total (62). There were six Northern Saw-whet Owls counted this season.

The 95 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers tallied was the third-highest total ever. Goose Pond provided three of the season’s eight Northern Shrikes, but, unfortunately, Loggerhead Shrike was not reported. Despite not being a “flight year,” Red-breasted Nuthatches came in with a respectable 81 birds.

A Wood Thrush, discovered in a flock of Hermit Thrushes at Lake Monroe,

was only the state’s second CBC record. It was a record season for Cedar Waxwings. Their new high total of 2956 was led by Big Oaks’ count high of 559 birds. The lone warbler of note was a lingering Orange-crowned from Gibson.

Sparrow highlights included Goose Pond’s pair of Vesper Sparrows, and a single Le Conte’s Sparrow. Gibson added two more Le Conte’s, and Evansville provided the lone Lincoln’s Sparrow. A record 1085 Swamp Sparrows were due, in no small part, to Goose Pond’s incredible 722. Lake Monroe and Terre Haute each contributed an Indigo Bunting—Indiana’s tenth and eleventh CBC records.

What turned out to be a preview of an amazing invasion across much of the United States, Pokagon counters found seven White-winged Crossbills—the state’s first CBC record in nine seasons, and only the third in the past 31 years. The only Common Redpolls were the 55 discovered in Elkhart County. The Pine Siskin total (243) was above average for a non-flight year. Rounding out the winter finches was the surprising report of three count week Evening Grosbeaks at Muscatatuck N.W.R.

Many thanks go out to compilers and observers for doing another nice job of providing the essential documentation of rarities mentioned in this season’s summary.

WISCONSIN

Carl Schroeder

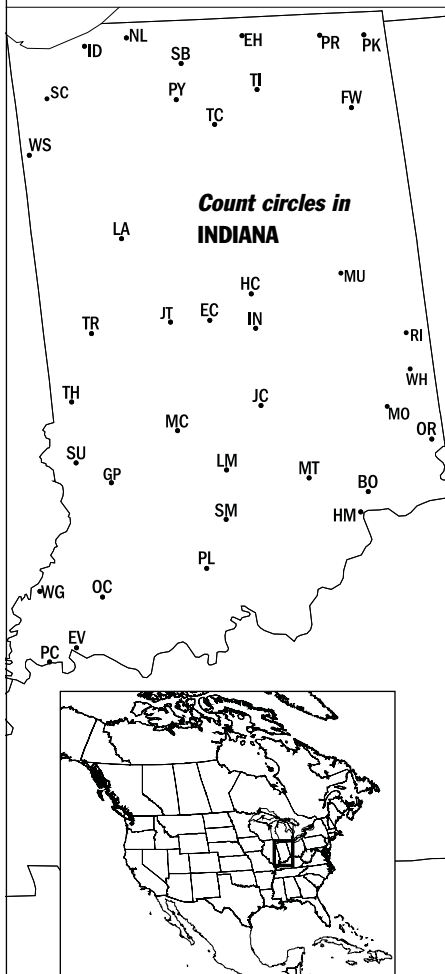
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The Wisconsin Birding Network was buzzing in early winter with reports of White-winged Crossbills. Day by day, the excitement built as they spread widely across the entire state. So it was no surprise that this year the second-highest number of White-winged Crossbills was tallied in Wisconsin CBC history. The 898 recorded from 18 counts has only been exceeded once before, in 1989.

This was a banner year for many finches. The 102 Red Crossbills was the ninth-highest total ever recorded. At



3151, the Pine Siskin total was the fourth-highest total ever and the highest in 20 years. Common Redpolls (2283) surged across the state. American Goldfinch soared to an all-time high of 12,198. The only counter to this trend was the abysmal tally of Evening Crossbill. Once reliably one of the most common winter finches, with counts in the thousands each year from the 1970s and 1980s, the Evening Grosbeak has been in a steady 20-year decline; this year the species hit a new low at 18 birds, the fewest since 1956.

Sparrows were up across the state. Record numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos (19,691) and Chipping Sparrows (31) were noted. The Chipping Sparrow count blows away the previous high of nine. Three Lincoln's Sparrows is the second-highest total on record. American Tree Sparrows were abundant (9247). Bridgeport found the only four Field Sparrows. Typical numbers were found of Fox (11), Song (186), Swamp (28), White-throated (98), and White-crowned (19) sparrows.

Early freezing temperatures in November closed up most ponds and lakes before CBCs were conducted. Consequently, many open-water birds were forced south of the border to more moderate climates and were notably depressed in number. Canada Goose (10,794) was much below the 20-year average of about 70,000. Only 16 Tundra Swans were found and surprisingly were outdone by 35 Trumpeter Swans found in six central Wisconsin CBCs. Madison reported the only Cackling Geese (54) in the state. Racine found one Snow Goose in count week.

Ducks too were down, generally the lowest numbers of ducks in 20 years. Mallard (10,402) were fewest since 1975. Gadwall (48) and American Wigeon (0) were at their lowest since 1985, and Ring-necked Duck (4) the lowest since 1989. The single Canvasback was found by the La Crosse birders. Canvasback hasn't been so scarce since 1937. La Crosse also found a solitary Northern Pintail.

Not every duck was down; American Black Duck, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, and Lesser Scaup were in the norm. Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye, though not restricted to Wisconsin's east coast, fared better in the open waters of Lake Michigan than more inland species. Seven White-winged Scoters in Madison and Milwaukee set the 20-year high mark for this species. No other scoters were seen. Milwaukee found the only Long-tailed Duck (16) on count day.

Gulls continued this pattern. The hardy Herring Gull (3669) hit a 10-year low. Ring-billed Gull (889) was the lowest since 1976. Green Bay and Milwaukee had the only two Thayer's Gull. Milwaukee also picked up one each Iceland and Lesser Black-backed gulls. And as usual a few Glaucous (8) and Great Black-backed (5) gulls were found on Lake Michigan by Kewaunee, Milwaukee, and Racine.

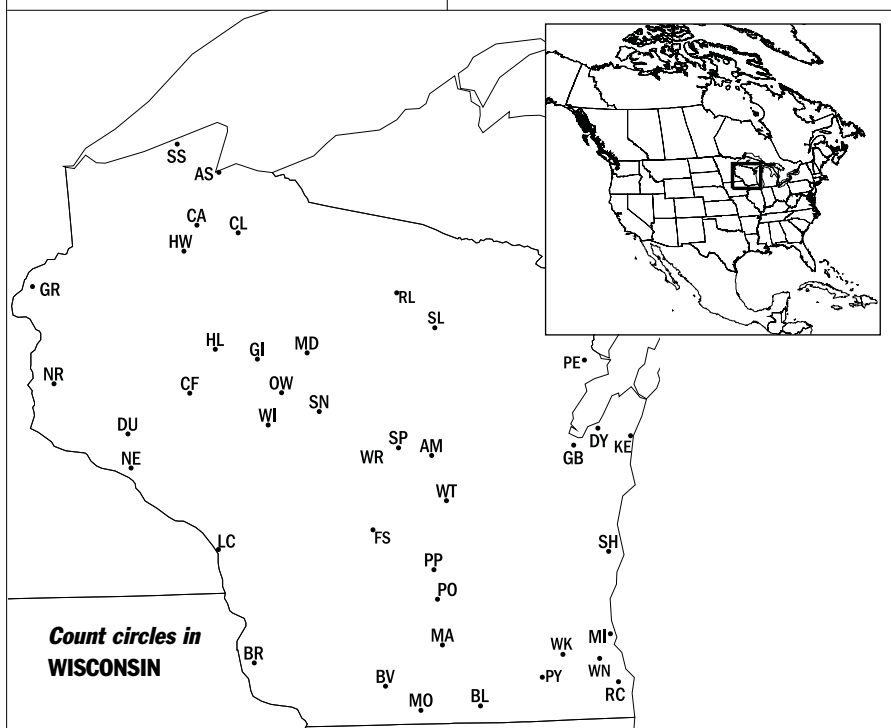
Putting an exclamation point on the bleak winter for waterbirds was American Coot, of which only 34 were found, never so scarce since 1954. Pardeeville had the only Pied-billed Grebe and Milwaukee a Horned Grebe.

Nearly the entire state was snow-covered for the month of December,

with depths on count days typically 6 to 12 inches, but one-third of the circles exceeded that, with Wautoma topping out at 30 inches. In many parts of the state the snowfall in December exceeded the record-setting snow of 2007. Only a few counts saw partial open ground at all. Storm conditions impeded or outright postponed many counts.

These conditions probably account for the decrease of certain open-country raptors this winter. Northern Harriers (19) were far below the 10-year average. American Kestrels (126) were at a 30-year low point. Likewise, Rough-legged Hawks (171) were less common. Bald Eagles (410) were down from the five-year level. Countering this trend was the record-setting Golden Eagle: 15 were observed in four central Wisconsin circles, topping the previous high of 9. Typically, woodland hawks maintained stronger numbers in the range of recent count years: Sharp-shinned (33), Coopers (129), Northern Goshawk (8), Red-shouldered (5), and Red-tailed (889).

In what was otherwise a good year for Snowy Owls, only two were found on count days, by Milwaukee and Green Bay. Eastern Screech Owls (53) were at a 20-year low and Barred Owl (24) a 10-year low. The one Long-eared Owl in Milwaukee ties a 20-year low. From





White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), La Crosse, Wisconsin.
Photo/Dan Jackson

1950 to 1975 this owl was much more common, with CBC numbers averaging in the 20s and as high as 68, but in the mid-1970s this owl began a decline and today is rarely seen.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker total (1064) was the second-highest ever. This continues the trend started in 2001 when their number jumped nearly 40 percent over the previous high, and numbers have continued to grow since. Eastern Bluebird (232) was the third-highest total. In 2005 the bluebird count jumped from historical levels below 100 to a high of 288, and similar numbers have been sustained now for four years straight.

Wisconsin's most uncommon sightings this year included four American White Pelicans seen in Green Bay, continuing a string of sightings of winter resident birds started this decade. In Poyette a King Rail represented only the seventh CBC sighting. One Boreal Chickadee was pushed into view in Cable. A Gray Catbird in Madison, Mockingbird in Pardeeville, Pine Warbler in Green Bay, Eastern Towhee and meadowlark (sp.) in Bridgeport, and four Black-backed Woodpeckers in Clam Lake were special finds. And the Grantsburg birders made everyone jealous with their report of 52 Bohemian Waxwings.

Led by Madison (83), Milwaukee (76), and Poyette (64), there were 41 counts and 133 species seen in total across the state.

ILLINOIS

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This year was a study in contrasts. Five counts reported high temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, while 14

reported highs of at least 50 degrees, including several counts in the northern part of the state. Windy conditions were common—29 counts reported peak winds of more than 20 miles per hour, while 6 reported winds of at least 20 miles per hour.

A total of 63 counts were reported in Illinois this year, totaling 166 species, with three more reported during the count period. Four counts exceeded 100 species; Rend Lake tied last year's state record with 114. In all, 1050 field observers put in 3150 party hours, covering 19,048 miles. All of these numbers were down somewhat from last year. The 255 feeder observers contributed an additional 412 hours. Fermilab again had the most field observers with 96, and Waukegan had the most feeder observers with 68.

No species were added to the state's CBC list this year. There were, however, a number of notable observations. Several lingering fall migrants put in an appearance, winter finches were present in reasonable numbers, and gulls, while nowhere near last year's display, were still worth mentioning.

Trumpeter Swans continue to increase. This year they were found on 10 counts, with a high of 10 at Rushville. Tundra Swans were reported on four counts. One Blue-winged Teal was seen at Evanston-North Shore. One Harlequin Duck was reported count week at Calumet-Sand Ridge, while Calumet and Collinsville reported count week Surf Scoters. White-winged Scoters were reported on four counts, with Waukegan the only lakefront count to report them. A lone Black Scoter at Waukegan was the only one seen on count day; Calumet had a count week bird. Long-tailed Ducks showed a surprising pattern—seven counts reported them, with the count week bird at Calumet the only one on Lake Michigan. All 16 Long-tails reported on count days were downstate, with an impressive 8 at Rend Lake. The 10,681 Common Goldeneye at Rend Lake were a new state high.

Ring-necked Pheasants were reported on 26 counts, just as last year, but only

258 were reported, significantly below last year's 417. Wild Turkeys were also down somewhat, with 1617 reported on 39 counts. An impressive 77 Greater Prairie Chickens were at Newton. Northern Bobwhite was reported on 18 counts, and Gray Partridge went completely unreported this year.

Rend Lake had the only Red-throated Loon, as well as two of the year's three Common Loons—the other one was at Baldwin Lake. Horned and Pied-billed grebes were present in typical numbers, but only three counts reported American White Pelicans. Double-crested Cormorants were only reported on 10 counts, although in typical numbers. Springfield reported the only Great Egret, and Black-crowned Night-Herons were found on four counts, three of them in Northern Illinois.

Black and Turkey vultures were both reported in reduced numbers; in fact, Black Vultures were at their lowest level in 15 years. Bald Eagles were reported on a record 51 counts this year, with an all-time high state total of 1663. *Accipiters* were present in typical numbers, with Clinton Lake reporting the region's only Northern Goshawk. After a banner fall season at Illinois's two hawk watches, Golden Eagles put in a notable appearance, with six seen on five counts. Merlin (12) were seen on 10 counts, and Peregrine Falcons (12) were seen on a record 11 counts. A Prairie Falcon was at Arklands—only the eighth time that species has been reported on Illinois CBCs.

Four Virginia Rails were seen on three counts, with two at Union County. Union County also had the only Sora. Nine Sandhill Cranes were seen on three counts, including one at Carlyle, well away from the usual migration route for cranes in Illinois.

Three species of shorebirds were reported in Illinois this year, with five Least Sandpipers on three counts the only notable finds. Ten species of gulls were reported this year, with a Glaucous-winged Gull at Collinsville the most notable. A Laughing Gull was at Rend Lake. Thayer's Gulls (16) were

reported on five counts, and three Iceland Gulls were reported on two counts, including one at Shelbyville. Glaucous Gulls were reported on four counts, including a lone bird at Decatur. Great Black-backed Gulls were only found on two counts, but the 18 at Calumet was a new state high by 10 birds. Finally, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on a record 10 counts.

Eurasian Collared-Dove was seen on 26 counts, a new record. Joliet only reported one Ringed Turtle-Dove this year. Only 69 Monk Parakeets were reported, from three counts. No Barn Owls were reported in the state. Counters reported three Snowy Owls—one at Calumet, one at Starved Rock, and a count week bird at Chicago Urban. Only 45 Short-eared Owls were seen, perhaps unsurprising given the windy conditions. Six Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported on five counts.

Eastern Phoebes (45) were reported on a record 10 counts, with 12 at Horseshoe Lake and 13 at Union County. Five counts reported a total of

nine Loggerhead Shrikes, the lowest since 1950. In contrast, 40 Northern Shrikes were reported on 18 counts, with a notable 9 at Fermilab. American Crow numbers appear to be recovering, with more than 211,000 reported, including 162,000 at Middlefork. Only 271 Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported, after 635 last year. Nine House Wrens were reported on a record five counts, while Sedge Wrens were reported at Newton and Baldwin Lake. The 11 Marsh Wrens reported included one at Baldwin Lake, four at Rend Lake, and a state record of six at Union County.

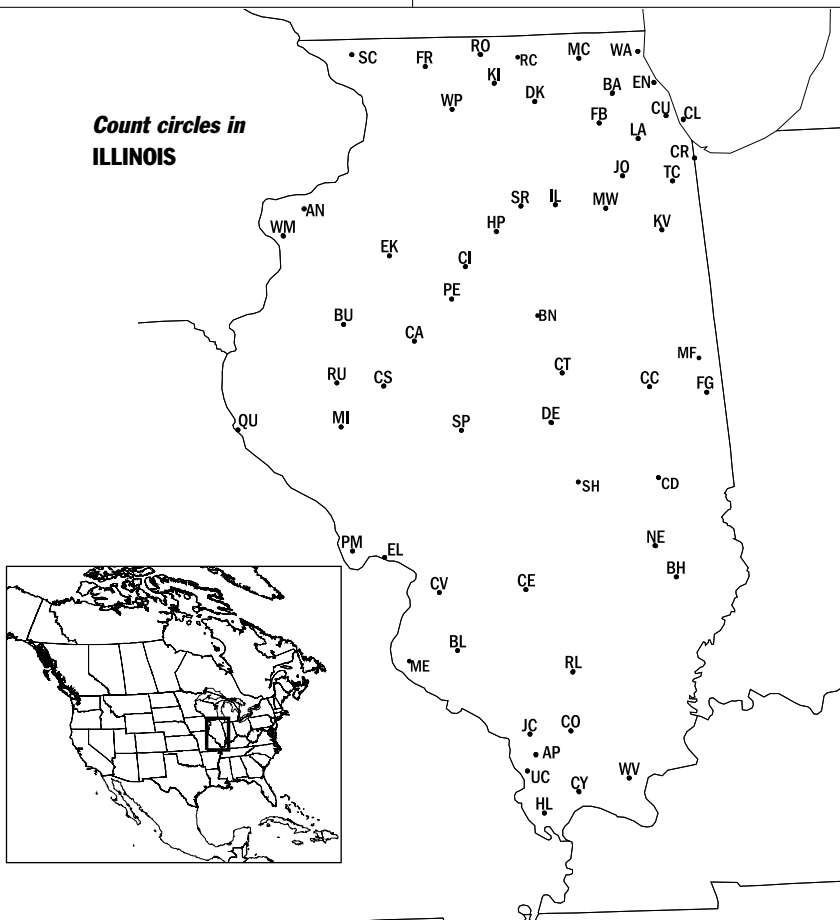
Hermit Thrushes were back in their normal numbers, with 233 on 35 counts. Three Gray Catbirds were reported, as were 36 Brown Thrashers. Forest Glen had seven well-described Bohemian Waxwings. Collinsville had an Orange-crowned Warbler, and Meredosia had a Common Yellowthroat. Six Pine Warblers were reported on three counts, while five Palm Warblers were reported on three counts. Finally, Horseshoe Lake had a

state record of 387 Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Only one Spotted Towhee was reported, from Collinsville. Thirteen Chipping Sparrows were reported from 13 counts. One well-written documentation for Chipping Sparrow clearly described American Tree Sparrows—this continues to be an issue. Lone Vesper Sparrows were at Baldwin Lake and Lisle Arboretum. Union County had a Lincoln's Sparrow, while a count week Lincoln's was at Chicago Urban. Lone Harris's Sparrows were at Quincy, Monroe County, and Champaign. The 3194 Lapland Longspurs at Newton were a new state high, while the Smith's Longspur photographed at Newton marks only the sixth time the species has been reported on an Illinois CBC. Lone Dickcissels were at Carlyle and Champaign.

The total of 806 House Finches at Rockford was a new state high. Winter Finches were present in decent numbers. Purple Finches (760) were counted in 51 circles. Five counts reported Red Crossbills, while three counts had White-winged Crossbills. Common Redpolls were only reported at Chicago Urban and Freeport. Pine Siskin was reported on 46 counts, while Evening Grosbeaks were at Rushville and Forest Glen. Finally, Eurasian Tree Sparrows were reported on 14 counts.

Count circles in ILLINOIS



MINNESOTA

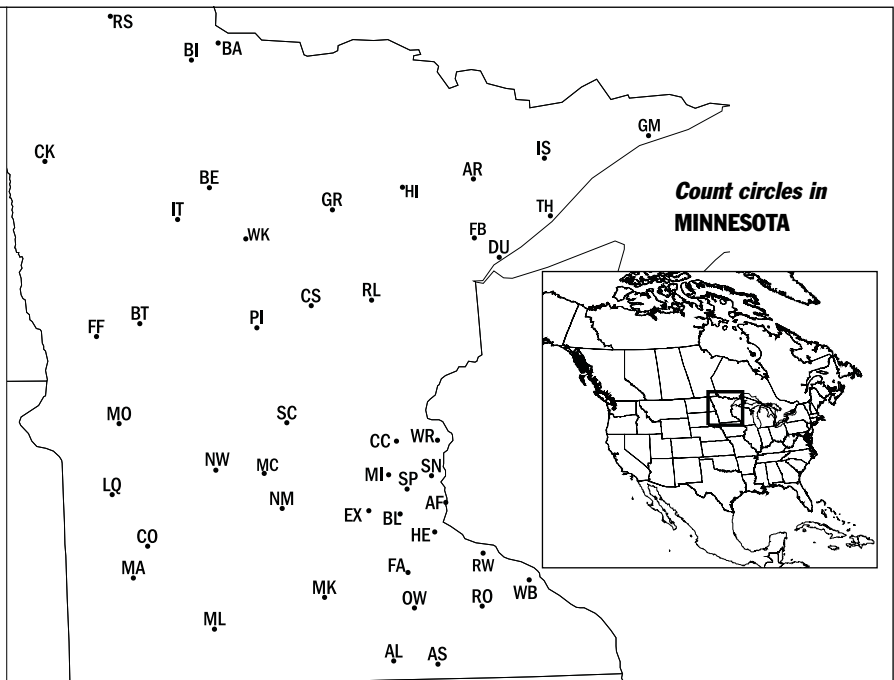
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It wasn't the coldest or the snowiest Minnesota Christmas Bird Count on record, but the weather nonetheless played a significant role. The timing and severity of the storms had a strong influence on this year's results. Beginning with an opening-weekend blizzard, the weather reduced participation, diminished visibility, and forced the cancellation of several counts. Several circles called it quits early; others valiantly pushed on through blowing snow and subzero temperatures. The net result was

our lowest total number of birds in several years, 224,303; last year's total was 257,615. Forty-six counts were performed during the survey period, down from 49 the year before. Participation also decreased from 939 participants contributing 2660 party hours last year to 801 participants contributing 2256 party hours this year. The species tally did not follow the trend set by the total count; 133 full species were recorded, which is up from 129 in 2007–08.

Although our composite list did not expand, several unusual species made an appearance. Perhaps the best of the best was the Golden-crowned Sparrow that spent the winter in Duluth. Interestingly, the only other Golden-crowned Sparrow observed on the Minnesota CBC was also in Duluth in 1989. A Pine Warbler was photographed at a feeder in Rochester. This species has been recorded twice before on the Minnesota CBC, once in Duluth in 2006 and once in Austin in 1985. Excelsior recorded our fourth Virginia Rail as a count week bird. In addition, the following species that were not observed last year were recorded: White-winged Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, American White Pelican, Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Field Sparrow, Hoary Redpoll, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Missing this year from last year's list were Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Pied-billed Grebe, and Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker.

Open water was a challenge to find anywhere in the state. For this reason alone it was no surprise that waterfowl counts decreased. Interesting exceptions were Trumpeter Swans (2481, up from 2105) and more than six times as many Common Mergansers this year than last year (19,033, up from 3014). The rest of the waterfowl were either decreased, essentially the same, or in such small numbers as to make year-to-year comparisons difficult. It should be noted, however, that 14 Long-tailed Ducks were tallied, as were 11 Bufflehead.



With the exception of the Greater Prairie-Chicken, all other gallinaceous birds were down in numbers. Raptors also fared poorly compared to last year. There were two Golden Eagles observed compared to last year's one, and six Peregrine Falcons were noted each year. Aside from those two species, numbers of all other falcons, hawks, and eagles were decreased. Gulls were interesting; an almost complete absence of Ring-billed Gulls (3), a species that in some years runs in the thousands, was contrasted by appearances of Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull (2), Glaucous Gull (4), and Thayer's Gull (4). Like Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls also were greatly reduced. A typical Minnesota CBC averages more than a thousand Herring Gulls, but this year only 366 were tallied. You would have to go back to 1996 to find Herring Gull counts this low.

Owls were a mixed bag, with numbers of the northern owls (especially Northern Hawk Owl) increased over last year, while those of Barred, Great Horned, Eastern Screech, and Long-eared owls were decreased. Most of the woodpeckers were down except for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker, which were slightly up. However, last year was a record year for most of the woodpeckers, so their slight

decrease is understandable. The exception is the Red-headed Woodpecker, which decreased from 35 last year to 6 this year. Corvids were slightly decreased to essentially the same as last year. Two Carolina Wrens and three Winter Wrens were counted.

Minnesota had a good Thrush year. Eastern Bluebirds (154), American Robins (7610), and Varied Thrush (4) were all at least three times last year's count. There were also six Hermit Thrushes, a Townsend's Solitaire, and a Brown Thrasher. Bohemian Waxwings were down, but Cedar Waxwings up. Participants counted two species of warbler—Yellow-rumped and Pine.

Another interesting group was the sparrows. Despite decreases in our common sparrows (American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco) the following were noted: Chipping (5), Field (cw), Fox (9), Song (12), Swamp (2), White-throated (16), White-crowned (4), Harris's (1), and Golden-crowned (1). Snow Bunting numbers were up. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed in the St. Paul Northeast Suburban circle. Blackbird numbers were all down except for the Brown-headed Cowbird, which was up over last year and twice its 20-year average.

Finally, the most dramatic group of this year's CBC was the finches. Pine

Grosbeak numbers were only approximately a third of last year's numbers (446 versus 1375) and Evening Grosbeak continues to decline (181 versus 291). This is the lowest number of Evening Grosbeaks counted since 1951–52 and is significantly less than the record of 3030 counted in 1981–82. The finch family also had several members that remained essentially unchanged in numbers from last year, including House Finch, Red Crossbill, and American Goldfinch. The rest of the finches had significant increases: Purple Finch (558 = 3.3 times last year), White-winged Crossbill (1574 = 10.0 times last year), Common Redpoll (5160 = 2.6 times last year), and Pine Siskin (4134 = 6.4 times last year).

IOWA

Chris Caster

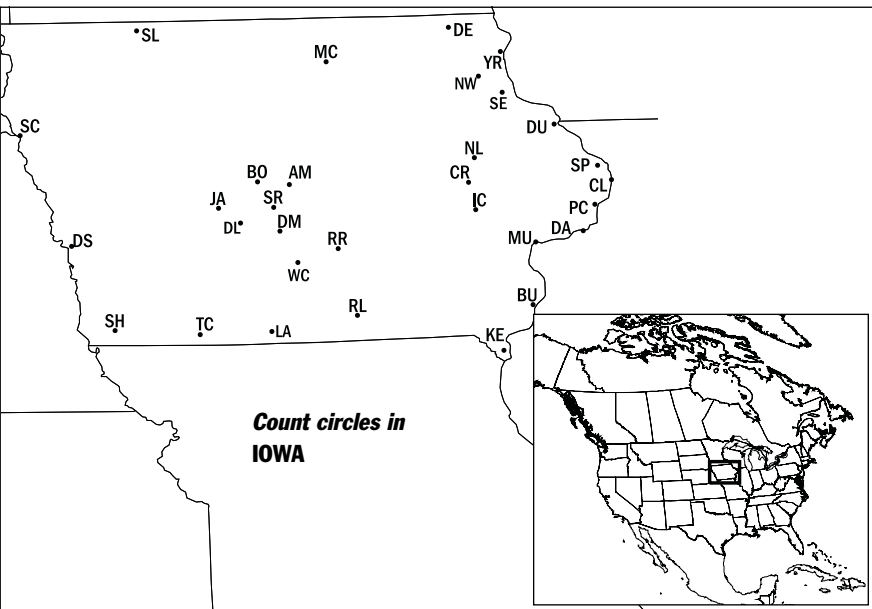
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The 2008–2009 Christmas Bird Count included 33 counts from Iowa. As usual, Keokuk (90) led the way with the highest tally. Other high counts included Saylorville (76), Rathbun (75), Davenport (74), and Red Rock (70). Like last season, winter came early and often, so there wasn't much open water during the count period. Precipitation events occurred nearly every other day, making conditions difficult. Nearly all counts had snow cover, and in the northeast it was significant. Amazingly, the species total was 136, slightly above the 10-year average.

Participants noted many good birds this year, including three species new to the count. Strong southerly winds on December 14th brought record late Tree Swallows to the Iowa City and Rathbun counts. Always a great bird in Iowa, a record late Cinnamon Teal was at Sioux City. Maybe most amazing was an Indigo Bunting, found across the border in Missouri on the Keokuk count December 15th. Eight Bohemian Waxwings in Ames were the most since 1986–87. Other very good birds includ-



ed a Turkey Vulture at Iowa City, an American Pipit at Clinton, and Prairie Falcons at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge and Lamoni. The most notable miss was surely Greater White-fronted Goose, as it had been reported on each of the last 10 counts.

Predictably, waterfowl numbers were greatly reduced. Canada Geese barely rebounded from last season's seven-year low. Snow Geese were below 30 birds for the second straight year. Trumpeter Swans were found in good numbers, but only two Tundra Swans were reported. Mallards were found at less than half their average, and American Black Ducks were quite scarce. Divers fared generally better than puddle ducks. Canvasbacks were the most numerous waterfowl, and more than 98 percent of them were at Keokuk. Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers were the next most plentiful, although in somewhat below-average numbers. Six Long-tailed Ducks were on three counts, but the only scoter was a Surf Scoter at Keokuk.

Tougher to find than last season, Gray Partridge were reported from just four counts. Ring-necked Pheasant numbers were down somewhat. Three Ruffed Grouse were at Decorah. American White Pelicans were at another record high and reported from six counts. Bald Eagles were found in large numbers. Single Northern Goshawks and Golden

Eagles were reported from four and three counts, respectively. American Kestrels numbers were the second lowest in 20 years. It was a good year for Merlins as they were reported on 10 counts, but only one Peregrine Falcon was found, at Burlington. It was a tough winter for any species requiring water, and Wilson's Snipes were no exception. Gull numbers were also below average. Two Thayer's, one Lesser Black-backed, and five Glaucous gulls were reported. Short-eared Owls had another good count, but all other owls were found in average or lower numbers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers flew off the chart this season, and Northern Flickers also set a new record high. It was a good count for Northern Shrikes, although well short of last season's record. Horned Larks posted their best count in eight years, but Black-capped Chickadees had their lowest count in 20 years, and Tufted Titmice weren't far behind. Red-breasted Nuthatches fell off substantially from last year's irruption. Due to an exceptional berry crop in 2008, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, and Yellow-rumped Warbler were all found in record numbers. Twenty Northern Mockingbirds was unprecedented, with an amazing 10 at Lamoni. A Brown Thrasher was at Decorah, but no Gray Catbirds were reported. Sparrows performed fairly well, although Swamp Sparrows had the lowest

count in 18 years. Six Eastern Towhees and six Spotted Towhees were reported. A remarkable 12 Lincoln's Sparrows were at Boone. Dark-eyed Juncos, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were abundant. Icterids were plentiful, with Brown-headed Cowbirds counted in record numbers. It was also a good count for finches. It was the highest Common Redpoll total in nine years. Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches made a good showing. Although this winter's invasion hadn't yet occurred, three White-winged Crossbills were reported. House Sparrows were at their lowest numbers in more than 20 years. They have been in steady decline since setting a high in 1989-90. Eurasian Tree Sparrows numbers reached a new high, with Princeton being the most northerly count.

MISSOURI

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Missouri's 26 Christmas Bird Counts netted 147 species this season, one less than the record set last year. Three counts were done in windy conditions, two others in rain or sleet. Squaw Creek and St. Joseph in the northwest had some snow on the ground.

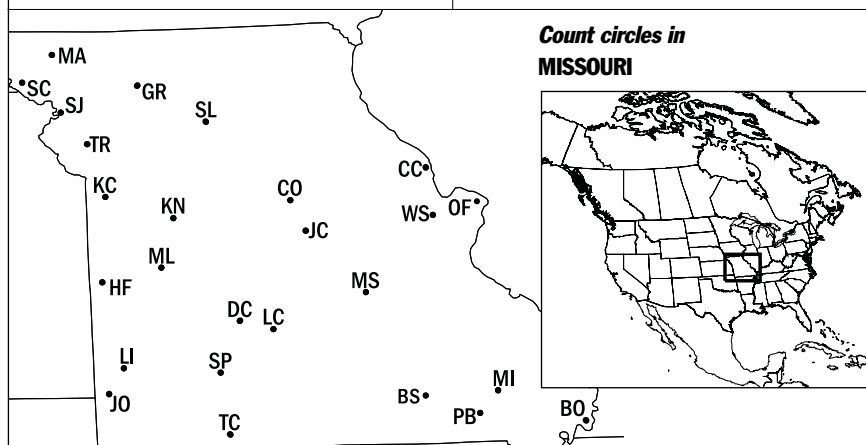
New this year was that the Orchard Farm count of 48 years was discontinued. The count circle "moved" 11.6 miles to the east-southeast so as to include the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and to avoid overlaps with two long-running Illinois counts, Elsah and Pere Marquette.

About half of the new Confluence CBC is land with little birding potential in the urban and suburban portions of northern St. Louis city and county. The remaining portion, however, contains 12 percent water and much more public land than does Orchard Farm, some with great potential, e.g., Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Jones Confluence State Park, and Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Another difference is that 15 percent of the new circle lies in Illinois and was included in the count, whereas 27 percent of the Orchard Farm circle lies in Illinois and has never been included in the count.

Species that occurred in high numbers on Missouri counts include 374 Trumpeter Swans on 8 counts (337 at Confluence), 1875 Common Mergansers on 12 counts (1260 at Montrose Lake), 326 Horned Grebes (322 at Swan Lake), three Golden Eagles on 3 counts, 15 Merlins on 8 counts, 464 Bonaparte's Gulls on 3 counts, 22,600 Ring-billed Gulls on 20 counts (19,200 at Confluence, a state record), 46 Eastern Phoebes on 9 counts, five Northern Shrikes on 4 counts, 13 Sedge Wrens on 4 counts, four Common Yellowthroats on 3 counts, 100 Eastern Towhees on 23 counts, 55 Le Conte's Sparrows on 6 counts, 7000 Lapland Longspurs on 11 counts (400 at Liberal), and 206 Pine Siskins on 12 counts (116 at Columbia). Unusual species include three Great Egrets (Mingo), two Osprey (Clarence Cannon, Taney County), one Northern Goshawk (Squaw Creek), one Sora (Columbia), one Barn Owl (Big Oak Tree), three House Wrens (Mingo), one

Gray Catbird (Poplar Bluff), two Pine Warblers (Mingo), two Indigo Buntings (Confluence, Mingo), two Dickcissels (Big Oak Tree, Clarence Cannon), and one Common Redpoll (Squaw Creek). Bald Eagles were seen on all 26 counts. The new Confluence count added species not usually seen on Missouri CBCs: two Tundra Swans, one Laughing Gull, one Thayer's Gull, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and one Glaucous Gull. A count week Lesser Black-backed Gull was also seen at Trimble. Species occurring in low numbers include Greater White-fronted Goose (only 199 birds, but on a record 10 counts), Ring-necked Duck (630), Northern Bobwhite (63), Red-breasted Nuthatch (7), Snow Bunting (5), and Eurasian Tree Sparrow (101, largely due to absence of the Orchard Farm count). Species not seen this year include Blue-winged Teal, Least Sandpiper, Greater Roadrunner, and Greater Prairie-Chicken.

Documentation of Brewer's Blackbirds continues to be a problem. The Missouri Bird Records Committee requires that all reports of Brewer's Blackbirds on CBCs be documented because the species is rare in winter in Missouri and it is difficult to distinguish from the somewhat more probable Rusty Blackbird. Brewer's Blackbirds were reported on eight CBCs this year (182 birds) but documented on only two (42 birds). I'm obliged to delete the report for species that require documentation but for which none is provided. The unfortunate ramification is that if the identification really was in error, then the birds observed were probably Rusty Blackbirds, a species that is showing one of the fastest declines in CBC data throughout the continent. (Eight counts reported a total of 1365 Rusties.)



ARKANSAS

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As far as weather went for the 109th Christmas Bird Count in Arkansas, three counts had winds exceeding 15 miles per

hour, two counts had light rain, and two had heavy rain. One count had fog.

Heavy weather caused a rescheduling of several counts, resulting in days with fewer observers. The second weekend's close proximity to Christmas caused a reshuffling of many counts, with few occurring the second weekend.

Numbers of parties and miles set 35-year lows, but number of observers and hours remained normal. Number of individuals (938,571) dropped 85 percent. Overall number of species, 166, was a 35-year record. A total of 21 counts participated, with 12 counts exceeding 90 species; Holla Bend N.W.R. had the high species count at 120. Three counts set new highs: Crooked Creek Valley (77), Conway (112), and Lake Georgia Pacific-Felsenthal N.W.R. (98). Crooked Creek Valley had the most new species (6) and Holla Bend N.W.R. had the most new highs (8).

When discussing the region's bird highlights, numbers are "normalized" by party hours. Broad groups: geese were 253 percent above the 35-year average, dabblers were 100 percent, divers were 51 percent, shorebirds were 36 percent, and gulls were 68 percent. Semi-hardy lingerers were the highest in five years, and grassland species and upland game-

birds were the highest in eight years. Irruptives were 35 percent below the 35-year average and blackbirds were 91 percent below that average. Semi-hardy waterbirds were lowest in five years, raptors were lowest in 10 years, westerners were lowest in 12 years, and frugivores were lowest in 15 years.

Turning to individual species, the only "missed" regular-occurring bird was American Black Duck. Setting new 35-year highs were Greater White-fronted Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Northern Shoveler, Pied-billed Grebe, Snowy Egret, Sandhill Crane, Dunlin, Laughing Gull, Eastern Phoebe, House and Sedge wrens, Gray Catbird, Palm Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Dickcissel, and (alarming) Brown-headed Cowbird. In contrast, 35-year lows were set by Little Blue Heron, Eastern Screech Owl and Brewer's Blackbird (both for the second year in a row), European Starling, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Sparrow.

Regarding species of concern, Loggerhead Shrike has had three of its lowest tallies in 35 years within the last five seasons. Rusty Blackbird had four of its nine highest years within the last four seasons. Eurasian Collared-Dove rapidly increased between 1998 and 2002 but has had a more gradual increase to present.

Species showing up on only one count each included Trumpeter and Tundra swans, "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk, Thayer's Gull, and "Oregon" Junco, all at Holla Bend N.W.R.; Blue-winged Teal and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Little Rock; Common Merganser and Sora at Fort Smith-Moffett; Pacific Loon and Nashville Warbler at Arkadelphia; Eared Grebe, Cattle Egret (cw), Black-legged Kittiwake (cw), and Dickcissel at Pine Bluff; Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, and Great-tailed Grackle at Texarkana; Green Heron and Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Lake Georgia Pacific-Felsenthal N.W.R.; "Kridler's" Red-tailed Hawk at Bayou DeView; Sandhill Crane at Wapanocca N.W.R.; Lesser Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitcher at Lonoke; Baltimore Oriole at Hot Springs Village; and Common Redpoll at Crooked Creek Valley.



Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Arkadelphia, Arkansas.
Photo/Kelly Chitwood

The birds-of-the-year for the state's 109th count season are the first Arkansas CBC reports of Glaucous Gull at both Conway and Little Rock, and the second state record Broad-billed Hummingbird at Conway.

To the compilers and volunteers, you deserve a "thank you" for all your hard work.

LOUISIANA

David P. Muth

Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve

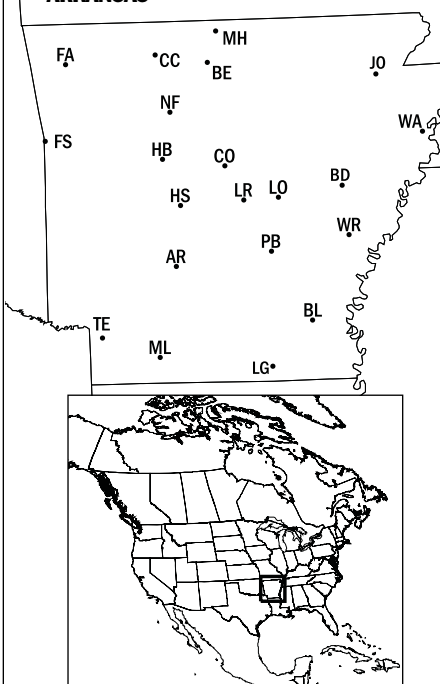
419 Decatur Street

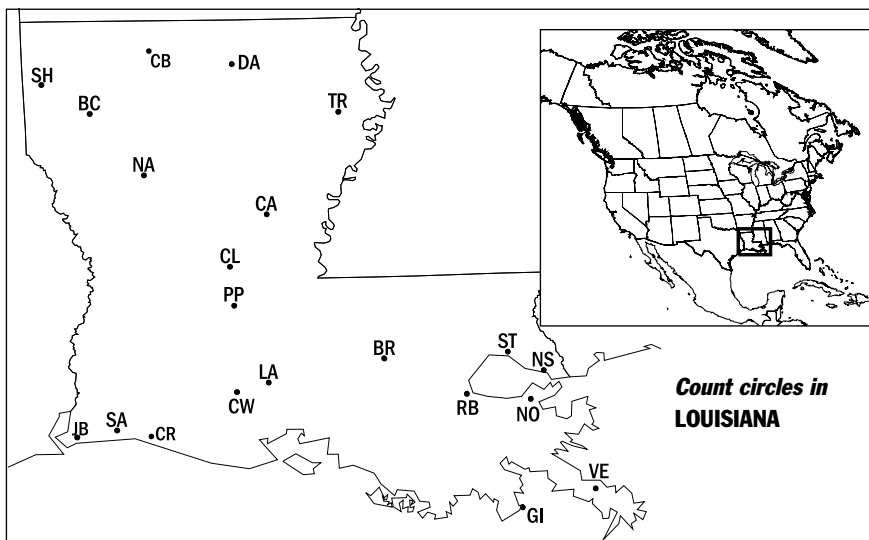
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For the first time in memory, a non-tidewater count recorded the most species seen on a Louisiana Christmas Bird Count. Top honors went to Crowley with 150 species. Lafayette, also lacking tidewater, came in a respectable second, at 146 species. Those two counts, sampling the rich rice-growing prairie region, are always productive, but the change is really a reflection of the diminishing fortunes of our southwest coastal counts. The state's bell-weather count for most of the last 50 years has been Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in coastal Cameron Parish, our only count to break 200 species. Hurricane Rita devastated the circle in 2005, and in 2008 Hurricane Ike's 10- to 15-foot surge swept the circle clean of much of the vegetation that had recovered since Rita. The numbers for Sabine (141), as well as nearby Johnson Bayou (100) and Creole (110), reflect that devastation, as well as the difficulty of recruiting participants to travel to count birds in a barren landscape.

Count circles in ARKANSAS





Just 21 counts statewide accounted for 1348 party hours and 243 cumulative species, plus the usual Monk Parakeets in New Orleans and three additional count week species: a Greater Roadrunner east at D'Arbonne, a **Bell's Vireo** at Reserve (again), and a very unusual **Western Tanager** in New Orleans. Bossier-Caddo-Bienville recovered first place for north Louisiana counts with 128 species. St. Tammany tied Sabine for coastal honors with 141.

The bad news for Northern Bobwhite continues, with only a single count, Lafayette, reporting 11. But we tallied 350 Anhingas on 17 counts, amazing for a species that was rare here in winter until quite recently. Or what about 95 Inca Doves on 13 counts and 1080 White-winged Doves on 12 counts? The White-wings just edged out the 1066 Eurasian Collared-Doves on 17 counts.

No stunning vagrant turned up this year. Those that deserve top billing include three **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** for Crowley, a **Swainson's Hawk** in Lafayette, two **Whimbrels** at Grand Isle, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Sabine, a **Franklin's Gull** way north at Shreveport, **Least Flycatcher** at Venice, lingering **Say's Phoebes** at Catahoula and Crowley, a **Wood Thrush** along with an "**Audubon's Warbler**" at Grand Isle, a **Magnolia Warbler** also at Crowley, **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Venice, one **Pheuticus** sp. and a **Blue Grosbeak** at Crowley, an unusual inland **Painted Bunting** in Lafayette, five **Yellow-headed**

Blackbirds up at Cheneyville, an **Orchard Oriole** at Reserve, and a **Bullock's Oriole** at Creole.

Seven species of flycatcher was pretty good, but 12 species of warbler somewhat lackluster. Crested Caracaras, another species intent on becoming routine, were somewhat surprising on the immediate coast at Creole and Johnson Bayou. Four Broad-winged Hawks, one each at Grand Isle and Sabine, and two at Venice, continue recent trends. Thirteen piping Plovers at Grand Isle made a good showing, but most of our wintering population is missed by the count circles. Eight Wilson's Plovers made a good count at Sabine, though not unexpected. The best ducks were seven Surf Scoters on three coastal counts, and two Long-tailed Ducks at New Orleans. Common Ground-Doves were all inland. Only Venice recorded Groove-billed Ani and Chuck-will's-widow, where most expected. Grand Isle tallied the only Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Other warblers included **Prairie** at Venice and count week at New Orleans, **American Redstart** at Johnson Bayou, and **Ovenbirds** for Grand Isle and Venice. St. Tammany tallied a Summer Tanager, as did Baton Rouge count week. Eighteen Harris's Sparrows at Bossier, the only ones tallied statewide, made for a good count. It was gratifying to see the 11 Smith's Longspurs at Shreveport make the CBC tally. There was a lone **Dickcissel**, but it was new for Baton Rouge. Three Baltimore Orioles

or Baltimore/Bullock's made a good showing. Purple Finches staged a small incursion with seven on four counts, but Pine Siskins made a bolder statement, with 286 on nine counts.

NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA/ NEBRASKA/KANSAS/OKLAHOMA

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The winter weather was definitely a major negative factor in this season's Christmas Bird Counts—at least in the Northern Plains. In the Dakotas, frigid, snow-bound conditions were responsible for the cancellation or rescheduling of many of the counts, especially in North Dakota. Ron Martin, for example, postponed and rescheduled the Garrison Dam count *five* times. Many compilers used the word "blizzard" to describe conditions encountered on count days. Also in North Dakota, J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. participants were treated to temperatures ranging from -33 degrees Fahrenheit to -4 degrees, and Icelandic S.P. lived up to its name with temperatures ranging from a low of -15 to a "high" of -10! In the Southern Plains, however, the weather was seasonal, and there were few cancellations and only a handful of postponements.

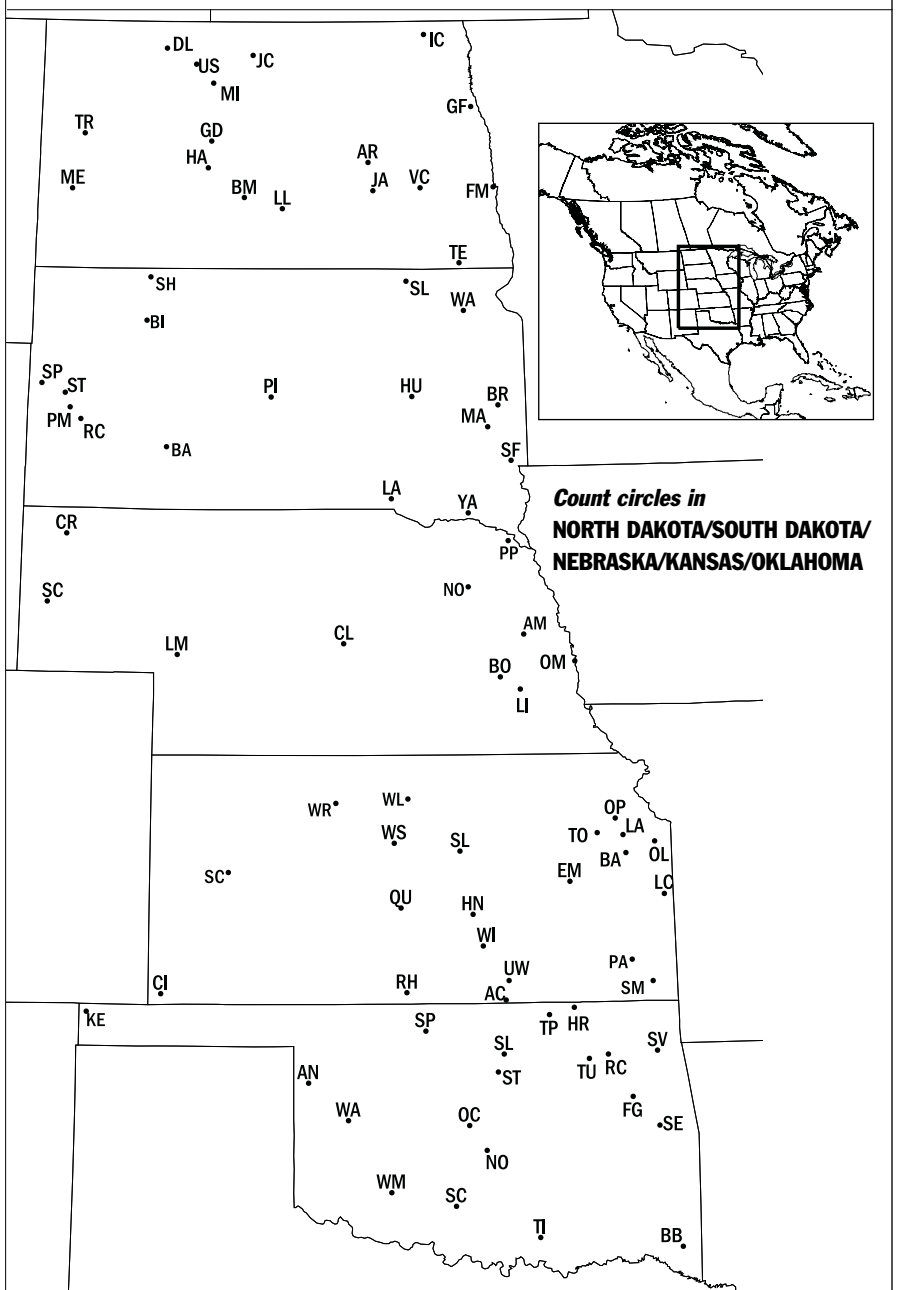
North Dakotans completed 17 counts this year. Garrison Dam and Minot tied for top species honors this year, with both counts tallying 45 species; Bismarck-Mandan and Jamestown were not far behind with 44 each. Many compilers noted that in addition to the harsh counting conditions presented by the weather, deep snows limited access to many parts of many count circles. One compiler lamented that "we were limited to what we could see from our car or living room windows." This was a good year for Purple Finches and Pine Siskins, and there were a few Hoary Redpolls reported around the state as well. There was, however, only a moderate invasion of Snowy Owls, with birds reported from Arrowwood (2), Des Lacs N.W.R.

(2), Grand Forks-East Grand Forks (cw), Hazen (cw), J. Clark Salyer, and Long Lake. In spite of the nasty early-season weather conditions, there were a few lingering waterfowl species of note, including Fargo-Moorhead's Bufflehead (cw), Canvasback, Common Merganser (cw), and Northern Pintail. Garrison Dam reported Gadwall and Long-tailed Duck, while Grand Forks also reported a count week Bufflehead, and Jamestown counters spotted Canvasback, Gadwall, and Northern Shoveler. Finally, the Varied Thrush from Icelandic; the White-winged Crossbill (cw) from Jamestown; the (overdue) Common Raven, Pine Grosbeak, and *both* crossbills at Minot; and the tardy Brown Thrasher found at Upper Souris rounded out the more interesting finds reported statewide this season.

Sixteen counts were completed in South Dakota this year; Pierre far outdistanced the competition with 71 reported species. As in North Dakota, this was a great season for Purple Finches and Pine Siskins in South Dakota, with both species being recorded statewide; Purple Finches were found on 9 of the 16 counts, and siskins on 12. Common Redpolls, however, were only reported from Bison, Brookings, Huron, Sioux Falls (cw), Shadehill, Sand Lake N.W.R., Spearfish, and Waubay N.W.R.; Hoaries were absent. A statewide survey of some of the more interesting birds includes Northern Saw-whet Owl from Bison, Northern Goshawk (cw) from Brookings, Chestnut-collared Longspur at Lake Andes. Pierre birders found 14 species of waterfowl, seven gull species, count week Sandhill Crane, plus Northern Goshawk and count week Northern Saw-whet Owl. Elsewhere, counters at Piedmont had the local specialty species such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Canyon Wren, plus Bohemian Waxwing and Red Crossbill. Rapid City reported 13 waterfowl species and Varied Thrush in addition to the local specialty Lewis's Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Canyon Wren. Sioux Falls tallied



Leucistic Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), Fort Gibson Reservoir, Oklahoma.
Photo/Jeri McMahon



Northern Goshawk (cw) and Red Crossbill, and Shadehill birders found Sandhill Crane and the only Gyrfalcon on this season's counts. Rounding out the remaining counts, Sand Lake N.W.R. participants found Snowy Owl (cw); Spearfish reported Lewis's Woodpecker, American Dipper, and Bohemian Waxwing; Sturgis also reported Lewis's Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, and the state's only Evening Grosbeaks; Waubay N.W.R. birders found Snowy Owl and Red Crossbill; and Yankton participants reported a very late Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Ten counts were completed in Nebraska this past season. Steve Dinsmore's Lake McConaughy count had 97 species this year, while Lincoln had 63. The Lake McConaughy count, as has become the custom, also had a nice assortment of great birds. The following were all seen on count day: American White Pelican; Trumpeter Swan; a good selection of waterfowl; eight species of gull, including Iceland, and Lesser, and Great Black-backed; Northern Saw-whet Owl; Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch; and Red Crossbill. Calamus-Loup birders also found Trumpeter Swans, and Pygmy Nuthatches were seen on both the Crawford and Scottsbluff (cw) counts. Finally, Purple Finches were located on 8 of the 10 counts this year, and Pine Siskins were reported from all 10 counts.

Kansas birders participated on 21 counts this year. Arkansas City had the



**Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*),
Wichita, Kansas. Photo/Mike Heaney**

most species recorded on count day with 98. Without question, the blue ribbon, hands-down winner in the rare bird category in the plains states this year was the subadult male **Blue Grosbeak** found by Cheryl Miller on the Wichita count. The species is unexpected on any CBC in the United States, and last season three individuals were reported on counts, one each from Arizona, Louisiana, and Texas. The bird was photographed and seen by several CBC participants. Wow! Elsewhere in Kansas birders found the following interesting birds: Arkansas City participants found a Neotropic Cormorant, always a good bird in mid-winter in the central states, and a late American White Pelican; Cimarron National Grassland counters found local southwest specialties Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, White-winged Dove, Chihuahuan Raven, as well as McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. In eastern Kansas, Emporia recorded a late Turkey Vulture, as well as Smith's Longspur, Lawrence reported the only Common Redpoll from the state, while Linn County counters found a Common Yellowthroat, and the Olathe count hosted Trumpeter Swan. Oskaloosa-Perry Lake participants also tallied a late American White Pelican and two Surf Scoters. In central Kansas, Quivira N.W.R. birders had count week Tundra and Trumpeter swans, White-faced Ibis, and Sandhill Cranes, while just to the south on the Red Hills count, Sandhill Cranes lingered as well. The Salina count reported an out-of-range and out-of-season Pinyon Jay, and an even more out-of-season oriole sp. Rounding out the more interesting birds, Topeka birders reported the state's only Long-tailed Duck this year as well as Trumpeter Swan; Udall-Winfield had Smith's Longspur; and Wichita had Trumpeter Swan, White-winged Dove (cw), a Pine Warbler attending a feeder, the state's only Red Crossbill flock, and oh, yes, that Blue Grosbeak! A *Spizella* sparrow that looked for all the world like a Clay-colored was seen well at Webster

Reservoir, and Purple Finches were scattered around the state and recorded on 8 of 21 counts, while Pine Siskins were present on 15 of the state's counts.

Oklahoma birders completed 19 counts in the 109th CBC. This year, eight counts passed the century mark, with John Shackford's Oklahoma City leading the pack with 125 species, and Tishomingo N.W.R. taking a close second with 124. Around the state, counters noted many good birds. A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was the highlight of the Broken Bow count, while Fort Gibson reported a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In far-western Cimarron County, Kenton birders found a Green-tailed Towhee and Lesser Goldfinch, while Norman had a White-winged Crossbill that stayed long enough for many observers to enjoy and add to their state lists. In Oklahoma City, both Yellow-billed and Pacific (cw) loons provided excitement, as did a wayward Lesser Goldfinch, and the Long-tailed Duck (one also at Tulsa); the Northern Goshawk and the California Gull just added to the thrill. Birders on the Stephens County CBC were treated to a Neotropic Cormorant, while Spavinaw observers found Long-billed Dowitcher. Tishomingo N.W.R. birders had to "settle" for dowitcher sp. The White-tailed Kite on the Wichita Mountains count stayed for quite some time, much to the delight of all who were able to see the bird.

Besides the dowitchers, a few other good waders were found this season, with Greater Yellowlegs reported on 10 counts and Lessers on 2. Spotted Sandpipers were found at Broken Bow and at Norman, a flock of 10 Western Sandpipers was reported on the Salt Plains N.W.R. count, and a flock of six American Avocets was found at Tishomingo.

As has become my custom, let me conclude by expressing my appreciation to all the compilers who check and recheck their individual count's raw data. This ensures data accuracy and controls the continued excellent quality of the Christmas Bird Counts. Thank you for your continuing efforts!

TEXAS

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Masked Duck at La Sal Vieja, **Kelp Gull** at Freeport and San Bernard, **Mew Gull** at Dallas, **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Freeport and McNary, **Gray Vireo** at Comstock, and **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** and **Blue Bunting** at Weslaco, as well as **Magnificent Hummingbird** at Freeport during count week were the headliners of a quality list of birds during a very dry and weathered Christmas Bird Count season in Texas. In all, 2603 birders at 103 CBCs produced 380 species and 14 additional infraspecific forms while spending 5 percent more effort than last year. Eight reported species were dropped because of lack of suitable documentation, and 94 species that were reported at least once over the last seven CBC seasons were missed.

Matagorda County was number one in the nation again with 233 species, and Guadalupe River Delta was second with 217. Freeport had 199, San Bernard 187, Aransas and Weslaco 175, Laguna Atascosa 174, Port Aransas 173, and Corpus Christi 172 species. Species tallies were mixed across Texas, with some CBCs reporting record tallies while others were below normal.

The **Masked Duck** is an irruptive-like visitor to Texas. It can be found at several locations for a number of years and then it will disappear for a while. Five were reported this year on the La Sal Vieja CBC by Jane Miller's team. The **Kelp Gull** is an accidental visitor to Texas, and one has been reported in the Freeport area for months. The same bird whose identity is under review was reported from the Freeport and San Bernard CBCs by Paula Kennedy, Mike Austin, and many birders. The **Black-legged Kittiwake** is a regular winter resident of the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico and is always a species for which to search on the coast. The report by David Sarkozi of one off the jetties at

Freeport was very good, but the photographs of one in West Texas by Barry Zimmer at McNary were extraordinary. **Gray Vireo** is a rare winterer in the Trans Pecos, and the photograph of one at Comstock was spectacular. The **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** is a casual visitor to the Lower Rio Grande Valley (The Valley), and the finding of one at Weslaco by Pat Dewenter was special. The Blue Bunting is a very rare winter visitor to The Valley. This winter six **Blue Buntings** were documented (Tim Brush pers. comm.), but only one on a CBC, Weslaco (Pat Dewenter and Susan Clark). One other CBC reported a Blue Bunting but did not follow through with adequate details.

The season was very warm, with 35 counts having temperatures exceeding 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and 28 CBCs with winds over 25 miles per hour. These conditions fueled a very dry November to December period, the driest in Texas for the last 38 years. Such weather patterns resulted in Texas experiencing some drought over 97 percent of the state, with extreme drought throughout the central part of the state and near the coast. The Panhandle caught timely rains to fill wetlands during the fall. Texas was also hit by two hurricanes in 2008. Hurricane Dolly as a Category 1 storm added much needed rainfall to The Valley; it dumped as much as 16 inches in a normally very dry region, resulting in above-average reports of waterbirds for CBCs there. Hurricane Ike roared across Southeastern Texas as a Category 2 storm with a 14-foot tidal surge. It left extensive wind, wave, and saltwater damage in its path. The edge of the central Texas coast caught a much needed 8-inch rain event in November, which filled all managed and natural freshwater wetlands that mostly would have been bone dry without this rain. These climatic and weather patterns molded birding conditions during the season and made it very complex to analyze at a statewide basis. Did drought conditions cause above-average mortality, or did it just disperse migratory

birds to regions with better habitat conditions? Did a 5 percent increase in birder participation offset changes due to climatic conditions, or were they all masked by very windy conditions that made birding difficult at the CBCs with the traditional highest participation and results? A review of what was reported follows.

As a general rule waterbirds were reported in above-average numbers. This included Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, most grebes, pelicans, Roseate Spoonbill, American Oystercatcher, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, herring-type gulls, and Royal Tern. These increases were offset by below-average numbers in geese, six species of ducks, Snowy Plover, Red Knot, Bonaparte's Gull, and Forster's Tern. Northern Bobwhite, a species of high conservation concern, occurred in lower than expected numbers. Vulture and Crested Caracara numbers continued to increase near poultry and aquaculture facilities. Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon occurred in above-average numbers, but Harris's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Prairie Falcon occurred in below-average numbers. Doves as a group continue to do well, with major increases in Eurasian Collared-Doves and White-tipped Doves, but Incas occurred in below-average numbers. This was a good season for parrots and parakeets. Grove-billed Anis occurred in high numbers. Hummingbird diversity was relatively low. Buff-bellieds occurred in above-average numbers, but no Calliopes were reported. Allen's occurred in below-average numbers. This is the second year in a row with low numbers of Black-chinned and Rufous hummingbirds, bringing up the question as to what is happening at the source populations of these species. There were mixed reports for woodpeckers: Red-bellied and Pileated occurred in above-average numbers, and Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, and

Red-shafted Flicker numbers were below average. Texas is a major state for wintering flycatchers, but with only 17 species reported, overall diversity was low. Eastern Wood-Pewee, Gray Flycatcher, and Rose-throated Becard were great finds, but not much else exciting was reported. Great Kiskadee and Tropical and Couch's kingbirds were reported in above-average numbers. Birders did report Gray and Philadelphia vireos, which are extremely rare, but vireos as a whole occurred in expected numbers with absences of Yellow-throated and Red-eyed being obvious.

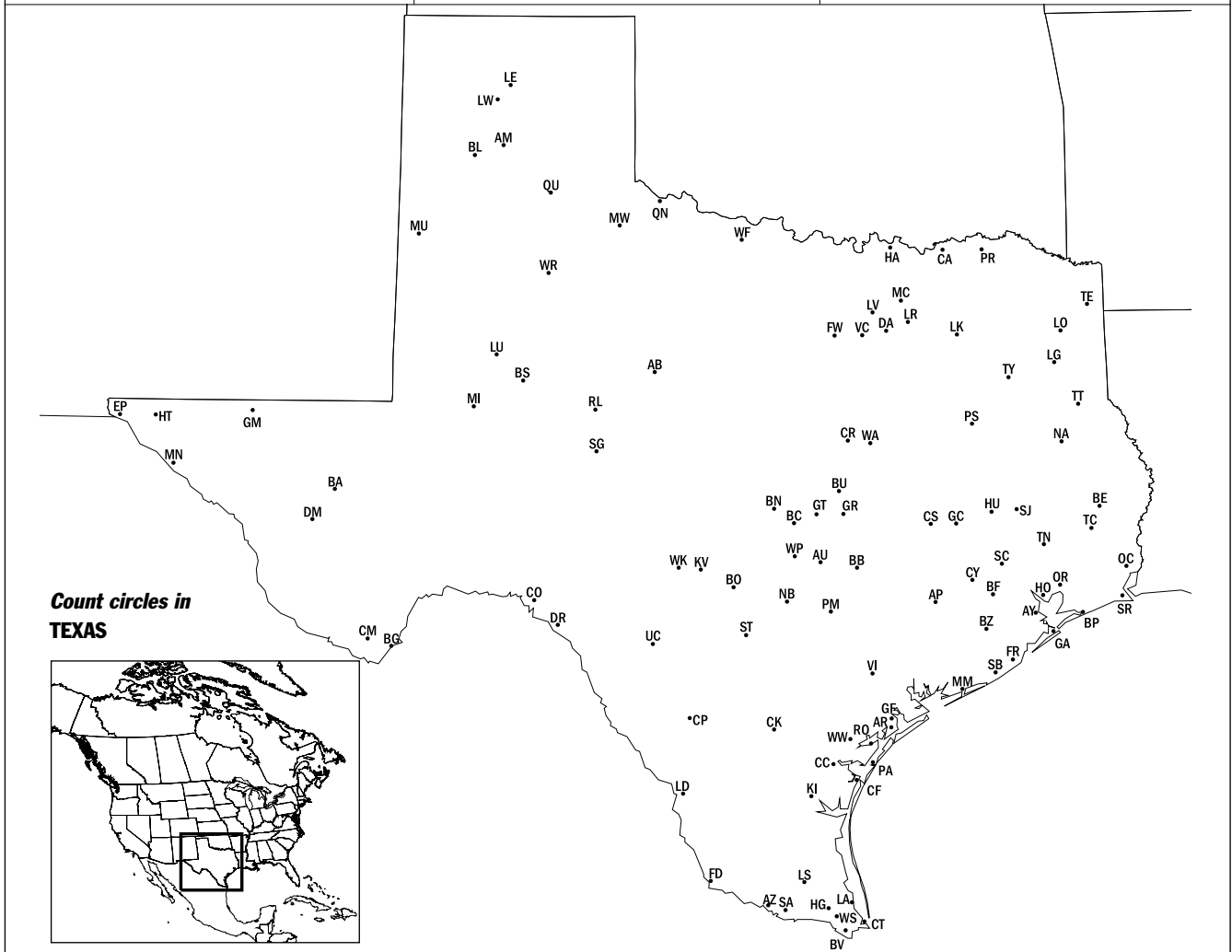
The biggest indicators of the impacts of the drought will likely occur with resident species and grassland specialists because residents have to stay and endure it, and livestock that are common throughout Texas can devastate grasslands during droughts. Steller's Jays and Western Scrub-Jays, American and Fish crows, Mountain Chickadee, Juniper

and Tufted titmice, Verdin, Bushtit, and Cassin's, Clay-colored and Grasshopper sparrows all occurred in numbers much below average. This may be a sign of worse conditions to come. To add complexity to the picture, Winter Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Sage Thrasher, American Pipit, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and Lesser Goldfinch all occurred in above-average numbers. However, warbler diversity as a whole was low, and only 20 species were reported; 24 species is the norm for Texas. It was very noticeable at the Guadalupe River Delta—which led Texas with only 12 species of warblers—that most birds were very close to water in riparian areas near the Bay. Forested areas away from water had few birds.

Hurricane Ike's damage to the human and natural landscapes of southeastern

Texas dominated the international news during September 2008. Category 2 winds and 14-foot tidal surges did major damage to forests and coastal herbaceous communities. Lack of rain in this region added to problems because many low-lying wetlands were inundated by salt water, and most plant communities near the coast were coated with salt and needed heavy rains to restore themselves. This did not happen. Natural Resource Conservation Service soil surveys following the hurricane showed most sites inundated by the tidal surge contain extremely high salt concentrations.

I did a quick numerical comparison of seven CBCs for the last two seasons under the path of Ike. The 108th season had about 5 percent more party hours than the 109th. As expected there were some obvious major changes in bird numbers between seasons, but there were groups of species that seemed to be not affected yet. Puddle ducks, herons





**Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*),
Anzalduas-Bentsen, Texas.
Photo/Amy Farrell**

through spoonbills, diurnal raptors, shorebirds, and flycatchers thru pipits all appeared to have major declines after Ike within these CBC circles (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of Species with Higher Tallies

Species Group	Before Ike	After Ike
Geese	1	3
Puddle ducks	11	1
Diving ducks	4	8
Loons and Grebes	4	0
Pelicans	3	3
Hérons thru Spoonbills	11	3
Diurnal raptors	11	3
Rails	7	4
Shorebirds	19	10
Gulls and Terns	6	5
Woodpeckers	1	2
Flycatchers thru pipits	22	4
Warblers	2	1
Sparrows	6	6
Blackbirds to end	4	6

One exciting aspect of participating on CBCs is finding the only species for a count and maybe for the state. There were many such “exclusives” this season. Sea Rim had the only Black Scoter from the coast. Attwater’s made special efforts to locate the only Attwater’s Greater Prairie-Chicken. Matagorda County reported the only Least Bittern, Glossy Ibis, and Purple Gallinule. Its close competitor, Guadalupe River Delta, had the only nighthawk, Whip-poor-wills, and Bell’s Vireo. Old River reported one Pectoral Sandpiper. San Bernard had one Western/Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Blue Grosbeak. Brazos Bend had the only Philadelphia Vireo. The Valley always supports many unique species, and there

is a special aura about birding in this region. Anzalduas led the area with exclusives on Hook-billed Kite, Allen’s Hummingbird, Prairie Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Weslaco contributed Rose-throated Becard, Tropical Parula, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, and Blue Bunting (Wow!). Falcon Dam added seven Red-billed Pigeons, and Laguna Atascosa two Northern Parulas, to the mix. There are few mountains in Texas, so the CBCs in mountainous ranges have opportunities to find unique species. The Davis Mountains count had Texas exclusives with five Montezuma Quail, one each Western Screech-Owl and Williamson’s Sapsucker, and three Steller’s Jay. Chisos Mountains had the only Mexican Jay, and Guadalupe Mountains had the only Juniper Titmouse. Elsewhere counters noted 16 Mountain Plovers at Granger, six Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Spring Creek, a Gray Flycatcher at Big Spring, one Gray Vireo at Comstock, a Plumbeous Vireo at McNary, two White-collared Seedeaters at Laredo, and one Scott’s Oriole at Boerne.

Aside from the exclusives, other interesting sightings were Long-tailed Ducks at Guadalupe River Delta and Corpus Christi-Flour Bluff. Wood Storks occasionally linger in The Valley, so nine at Brownsville was somewhat anticipated, but the straggler at Matagorda County was the only the third CBC record for the site. Swainson’s Hawk reports are probably the most scrutinized for a species in Texas because the hawk rarely winters outside of The Valley and is easy to confuse with similar-looking White-tailed Hawk and other buteos. This year one was photographed at Cypress Creek and another was reported at Guadalupe River Delta. Zone-tailed Hawk used to be an extremely rare winterer, where one bird might be the only report for the nation, but the species has been reported relatively frequently in recent years. This season eight were reported from six CBCs. The Mountain Plover, American Oystercatcher, Long-billed Curlew, and Red Knot are national species of conservation concern. Mountain Plovers

regularly winter in four areas of extensive agricultural production land south of Temple. However, it takes special effort to search thousands of acres of “ag” land to locate the species, and this year we tip our hat to Granger for finding 16. An aerial survey for American Oystercatchers along the entire Texas coast was conducted in 2003 and only 316 were reported. The 202 reported from 12 CBCs this season was amazing, and so the CBC might be a useful survey to monitor this species in Texas. The Long-billed Curlew is another difficult to monitor species because it is well camouflaged and tends to spread out across the landscape in ag fields and wetlands. The total of 2720 reported this season is about normal. Red Knot is a species whose population has crashed in recent years; this season’s tally of 10 is the lowest in my database for Texas. Franklin’s Gulls migrated through relatively late, and 29 birds were reported from four CBCs. Birders are getting better at identifying unusual gulls, and the 11 Lesser Black-backed from seven CBCs are most in my database. Three Glaucous Gulls reported were surprising, and two were supported with photographs. The Wood Thrush is another rare lingerer and was reported at Matagorda County and Victoria. Another CBC oddity is the Black-headed Grosbeak. It is the most widely reported species where one individual will likely be the most reported by a CBC in the country. This season eight were reported, including three reports of single birds from Texas.

What about the rare species we expected to find but missed this season? Twenty-seven species that are typically reported on 75 percent of the seasons were missed this year. Some of these big misses were Muscovy Duck, Elf Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Northern Shrike, Pygmy Nuthatch, Painted Bunting, Dickcissel, and Bullock’s Oriole. Locating half of the 27 would have made for a great season!

This was not an irruptive year for seedeaters. More Mountain Bluebird

and Sage Thrasher were reported than normal. American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins were more abundant in southern counties, but at a statewide level it was pretty boring.

Switching now from the rare to the most common, which species were the most widespread? Mourning Dove and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were reported from every CBC. Coastal Twp was the only CBC to not report a Red-tailed Hawk, and Chisos Mountains the only to miss American Kestrel. As a comparison, House Sparrow was “missed” (or should we say not reported?) on five CBCs.

With the count period starting on Sunday, resulting in some shuffling from traditional days, preferred survey dates were awkward this season. The most popular day to run CBCs was, as in the past, on Saturdays, with 21 counts on the 20th, 19 on the 3rd, 12 on the 27th and 7 on the 14th. January 1st was popular, with eight counts. Monday the 15th had six counts, as did Sunday the 21st. December 22nd to 25th and the 31st were the only days without CBCs. The Saturday after Christmas is usually very popular, but its use declined this season. A couple of days appear wasted prior to Christmas, but participation increased by 5 percent in Texas anyway.

Here is wishing for a wetter year, and good birding.

MONTANA

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Unlike the “late fall–early winter” count periods of recent years, a major arctic cold front roared into Montana the second week of December, accompanied by snow. The *average* temperature range for Montana counts was -4 degrees Fahrenheit to 9 degrees, with a low of -26 at Eureka. Eleven circles failed to break zero degrees for their daily high, and all 32 circles had snow cover, with average depths of 5 to 16 inches. The frigid temperatures and

deep snow limited observer efforts, and several compilers mentioned difficulties with dense fog forming over rapidly cooling waters, which limited waterfowl counts. A few counts were postponed, and one (Musselshell Valley) was canceled altogether.

In spite of these weather challenges, 138 species were seen statewide, three more than last year. An **Iceland Gull** at Kalispell was the second CBC and third state record, and the CBC-first **Pine Warbler** at Eureka was the eighth state record during any season. Its addition brings the cumulative CBC list to 207 species. Eureka also had a count-first **Dunlin**; among many other (overdue?) individual count firsts were a Canvasback at Missoula, a Redhead at Bozeman, Great Blue Heron at Lewistown, Wilson’s Snipe at Billings, Barred Owl at Hamilton, a Rusty Blackbird at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge, and three Common Grackles at Stevensville. Eurasian Collared-Doves were new to 8 counts, with new highs at an additional 14 counts and statewide. Only 10 of this year’s 32 counts have not yet recorded this species.

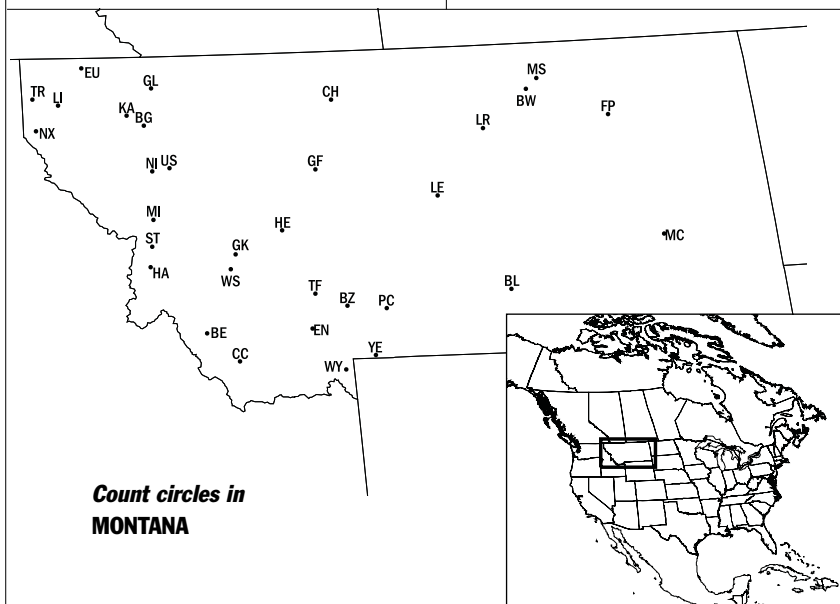
In spite of some closed roads, the well-organized count at Great Falls had a new high species total (69). Montana’s longest-running count at Bozeman had 58 species, one off their highest ever. The usual two-horse race for species honors went to Stevensville (82), as



Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), Kalispell, Montana. Photo/Daniel Casey

Bigfork (76) had fewer than 80 species for just the fifth time in 20 years. The top counts were followed closely by Missoula and Kalispell (74 each), and by Ninepipe N.W.R. (73). Mallards (38,104) comprised nearly 21 percent of all birds counted statewide; adding in Canada Goose, Bohemian Waxwing, and House Sparrow accounted for nearly 53 percent of the total. European Starling, House Finch, Rock Pigeon, Horned Lark, Black-billed Magpie, and Common Goldeneye rounded out the top 10 (in order), which comprised more than three-quarters of all the individual birds on this year’s counts.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** photographed at the Lee Metcalf N.W.R. (Stevensville) were the first on a Montana count in more than 20 years. Although one can only speculate on past records of “small form” Canada Geese, this year’s total of 325 Cackling Geese (at Fort Peck) was the highest count since the species split. The Trumpeter



Swan appears to be showing declines in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, as numbers (49 on six counts) were the lowest since 2000, and well below the 10-year mean (213). Seasonally rare ducks included a Long-tailed Duck and a single Blue-winged Teal (reported without details) at Great Falls, and two of the latter at Hamilton.

Five Chukars on the Clark Canyon count may have been from the established population in Idaho, just 24.8 miles away, although the species is still released regularly by dog trainers. The burgeoning California Quail population in the Bitterroot Valley (Hamilton, 272; Stevensville, 197) still begs for an analysis of continued releases and overwinter survival, and the species is not yet on the state list. The 478 Red-tailed Hawks on 20 counts was just shy of the all-time high from three years earlier, with nearly 6 percent reported as "Harlan's." New high count totals were set at 10 of the 24 counts reporting Rough-legged Hawks, with the state total of 1038 also surpassing the previous high for the species by 45 percent. The only **Gyr Falcon** was at Bigfork.

The well-documented **Iceland Gull** at Kalispell eventually overwintered and was seen by many; it was joined on count day (at the Flathead County landfill) by two **Glaucous Gulls** and one **Thayer's Gull**. The latter two species have become annual at this location in recent years. Eureka's **Dunlin** was only the second for Montana counts.

Six Black-backed Woodpeckers at West Yellowstone was the third-highest single count in Montana CBC history. Billings doubled their previous high with 20 "Yellow-shafted" Flickers. A testament to increased knowledge of their haunts, three Canyon Wrens were reported (from Ninepipe and Stevensville), for the third consecutive year. Before 2006, there were only 14 previous Montana CBC records. Billings again hosted the only Yellow-rumped Warblers (3), but they were upstaged by Montana's first winter record of a **Pine Warbler** at Eureka, seen for the last time on count day (20

December) after surviving at least seven nights with temperatures dipping to -29 degrees! The well-described **Vesper Sparrow** at Gardiner (Yellowstone N.P.) was only the second recent CBC and winter record for the state. The state total of 444 Lapland Longspurs more than tripled the previous high, boosted by counts at Fort Peck (140) and Warm Springs (260). Well below historic highs, the 169 Pine Grosbeaks on 13 counts only hinted at the large-scale winter influx to come, whereas the 275 White-winged Crossbills on five counts was the highest total in more than 20 years.

I truly appreciate the efforts of all our compilers in dealing with the challenges dealt by this year's rather brutal weather. Many had to make do with fewer than usual observers. Special thanks to John Parker for filling in at Ennis in addition to his own Bozeman count duties, and to Billie Hicks at Billings for her perseverance. Richard Mousel did a great job of organizing the Great Falls count.

IDAHO

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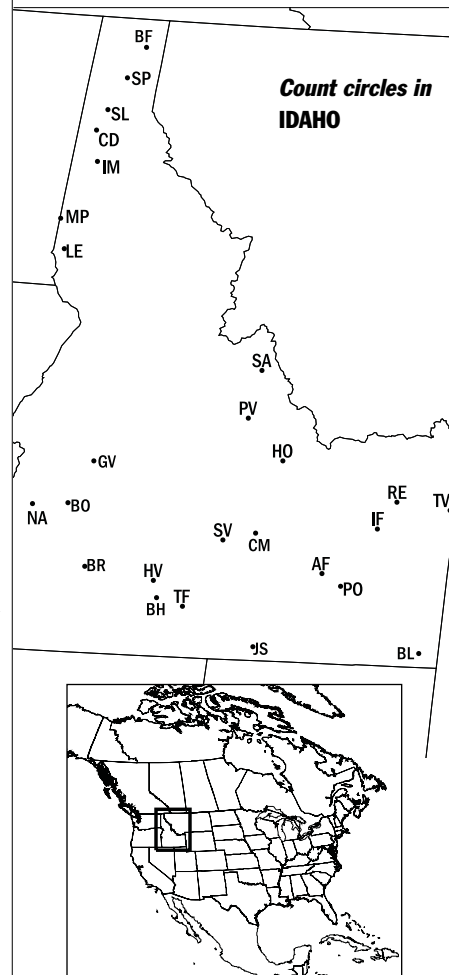
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After a generally long and mild fall, Idaho Christmas Bird Counts experienced winter weather in abundance. Many counts recorded cold temperatures, most had snow by count day, and some had wintery weather on count day. Despite these challenging conditions, party hours declined only slightly from the previous year. Weather may have contributed to a decline in total individual birds of more than 160,000, much of which is accounted for by a decrease of almost 100,000 in number of Mallards. A respectable cumulative total of 167 species was recorded, with the highlights being a long-staying **Whooper Swan** in the Hagerman Valley and similarly long-staying **Green Heron** at Nampa. Both are new to the cumulative Idaho CBC list, and the Whooper Swan will be new to the state list if accepted by the Idaho Bird Records Committee.

Only Mallard and Common Raven were recorded on all counts, with Mallard, European Starling, and Canada Goose having the highest counts statewide.

There were again 26 counts conducted in Idaho with one new count (Garden Valley) and one discontinued count (Rupert). High species totals were at Nampa (93) and Hagerman Valley (90), and three other counts (Boise, Bruneau, Lewiston-Clarkston) had 80 or more species. Stalwart counters in the high desert at Craters of the Moon recorded an even 20 species.

Waterfowl were represented by a respectable 30 species, including Mute Swan, which may be in the process of becoming established locally in the Snake River plain. Mallards declined by almost 100,000 (mostly at Nampa) after last period's high count. Grebes, especially Red-necked, were greatly reduced compared to recent years, very probably due to a lack of open water on the large northern Idaho lakes.





**Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*),
Bruneau, Idaho. Photo/Denise Hughes**

Diurnal raptors declined slightly across the board, perhaps due to difficult counting conditions. The exception was Rough-legged Hawks, which have increased markedly in the past two counts. American Kestrels declined fairly dramatically (by about 360), which warrants watching. Rare gulls were well represented with two Mew and a **Lesser Black-backed** at Hagerman Valley and **nine** Thayer's plus Glaucous-winged, and Glaucous at Nampa. A total of 16 Thayer's Gulls statewide was most certainly a record, with almost all reported in first basic plumage.

Two White-headed Woodpeckers were on the new Garden Valley count where they are resident. Montane species and Blue Jays were reported in normal numbers for a non-irruption winter statewide. Ten Western and 22 Mountain Bluebirds were at Bruneau, good counts of these locally wintering species in southern Idaho. A **Northern Mockingbird**, rarely reported at any season, was a good find in Pocatello. Bohemian Waxwings were in short supply throughout most of the state, and this situation extended through most of the winter.

Finches made a good showing, but some were too late to be detected on the CBC. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were in good number with **2000** at Bear Lake Valley and 600 at Sun Valley, which also had 10 Black Rosy-finches. A tally of **47** Pine Grosbeaks at Indian Mountain was a record there and a harbinger of an impending irruption into the lowlands of northern Idaho. The White-winged Crossbill irruption unfortunately came too late to be detected by the CBC.

Common Redpolls were restricted to the far northern and eastern parts of the state.

Many thanks to the compilers and participants of the new, old, and continuing counts for their efforts to document trends in Idaho's early winter avifauna. A few more counts strategically placed in several higher elevation locales around the state would help complete the picture—please let me know if you are interested. As usual this summary would not be complete without a request for continued help with documentation of rare species and for timely data entry. Good birding and good counting!

WYOMING/UTAH

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Wow, 109 years of camaraderie and excitement resulting in an invaluable database! For the 109th Christmas Bird Count, I summarized 20 Wyoming and 22 Utah circles (down one from the 43 circles last year). The distribution of count circles in Utah continues to improve, thanks to last year's addition of Bluff (UTBF) to fill in a southeast Utah gap and this year's reactivation of Heber Valley (UTHV) to fill in another Utah gap. Many compilers reported mild temperatures, open water, and late migrations up to the week before the count period. Then, freezing temperatures and blizzard-like conditions resulted in counts being canceled or run with fewer participants. The timing of the cold weather was unfortunate, but the counts may have better represented average CBC conditions. However, change is occurring. The 40 years of CBC data analyzed during National Audubon's recent study of birds and climate change showed a northern shift in wintering populations of 177 of the 305 species analyzed. On a different note, one of the compilers reminded me that I was moving into a new decade as a regional editor; I can't believe this is the eleventh report I've prepared. Thanks to



**Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), Fish
Springs N.W.R., Utah. Photo/Terry Sadler**

all participants for their patience and hard work.

In Wyoming, 119 species were recorded (126 last year) with 45 being the average number of species per circle. First impression indicated higher numbers of Gadwall this year. With 196 Gadwall reported from six circles compared to the five-year average of 78, the impression was true. Greater Sage-Grouse numbers remain strong with 487 counted (6 circles) and with the five-year average of 464 individuals. Pinyon Jay numbers seemed high at 219 individuals on five circles. This number is higher than the five-year average of 142; however, the five-year average is lowered by the extreme low numbers on the 107th (none) and 108th (65) CBCs, so I will report that Pinyon Jays are back. Brown Creeper numbers were down in both Wyoming and Utah. For the 109th count, Wyoming counted 13 individuals compared to a five-year average of 35. Utah only counted 11, with a five-year average of 72. A couple of compilers reported a scarcity of American Tree Sparrows. The data confirmed this low; the sparrows were reported on nearly every count (18 of 20), but totaled only 577 individuals, and the five-year average is 907. I challenge the readers to explain American Tree Sparrow numbers in Wyoming. For the 10 years from the 99th through 108th counts, the five odd-numbered counts averaged 576 individuals and the five even-numbered counts averaged 938 individuals. This was an odd-numbered count, so the trend continues.

A few interesting Wyoming sightings include a Wood Duck at Jackson Hole

(WYJH), a White-winged Scoter and a Sora at Crowhart (WYCR), a Canyon Wren and an American Pipit at Lander (WYLA), two Western Wood-Pewees at Gillette (WYGI), a Vesper Sparrow at Evanston (WYEV), and a Savannah Sparrow as well as a Gyrfalcon (cw) at Casper (WYCA). The Eurasian Collared-Dove occupation of Wyoming is now complete with 1777 individuals reported on 18 of the 20 counts. As a reminder, the first seven Eurasian Collared-Doves reported on a CBC in Wyoming were on the 103rd count. The invasive nature of this species was interesting as it rapidly expanded its range across Europe (from a historic range in the Eastern Mediterranean area) during the 1930s to 1950s and now across the United States. The first Eurasian Collared-Doves on a CBC occurred in Florida during the 87th count when 106 were noted on two counts. Last season (the 108th count) tallied 40,292 on 626 counts in the United States.

In Utah, 188 species were recorded (189 last year) with an average number of species per circle at approximately 68. Three counts topped the 100-species mark. St. George recorded the high number with 109, and, as Marilyn said, "109 on CBC-109, birders are the *best*." Tundra Swan numbers were impressive

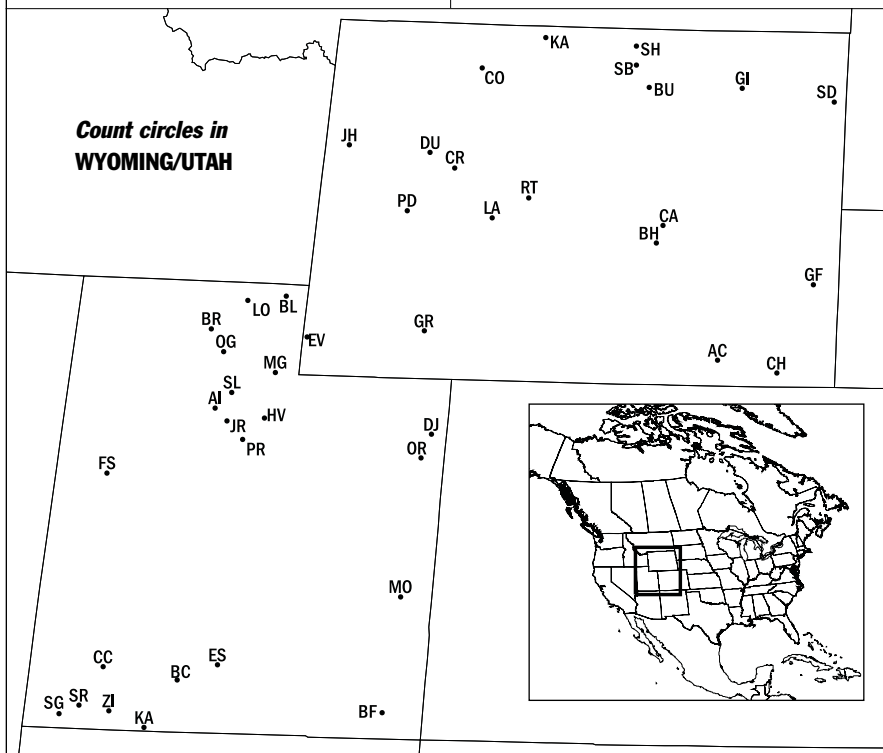
this year with 13,718 individuals reported from six circles. This compares to a five-year average of 4822 individuals. I didn't find information in the Audubon report on climate change about the Sandhill Crane, but Utah numbers indicate cranes are moving their wintering range northward into Utah. Prior to the 103rd count only a small number of Sandhill Cranes were reported from the northeast corner of the state; numbers began increasing after that season. The five-year average from the 104th to 108th count was 445 individuals per year reported from one or two circles in the Uinta Basin (Vernal area). This season 1656 individual cranes were counted on seven circles (plus one count week) throughout the state. After reading about the devastating decline in Yellow-billed Magpie numbers due to West Nile virus, I was curious about our Black-billed Magpie. I compared the 109th tally of 2568 on 19 circles to the five-year average of 2944 on 17 circles. Although this is a 13 percent decline, it appears within historic variability. In addition, the American Crow numbers this season were 4371; the five-year average is 4195. Several circles reported large influxes of American Robin, with the most noticeable irruption being in

Morgan (UTMG). Observers this season recorded 10,636 individual American Robins; the five-year average is only 4393. Spotted Towhee numbers were also up with 639 counted; the five-year average is 308. The Audubon report indicated that Pine Siskin were moving their wintering range north; however, the Utah 109th CBC tally of 1819 individuals is the highest recorded since 4166 were reported 19 years ago. The five-year average (104th through 108th counts) is 727. The Lesser Goldfinch continues to move north and was recorded for the first time in Logan (UTLO).

In addition to 31 waterfowl, six gull, and seven wren species, some interesting Utah records were as follows: Lewis's Woodpecker at Morgan (UTMG), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Bluff (UTBF), Rusty Blackbird at Fish Springs (UTFS), Swamp Sparrow at Salt Lake City (UTSL), and Golden-crowned Sparrow at St. George (UTSG). The Antelope Island (UTAI) count included the most surprises with 13 new-to-the-count species and the only Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Ruff, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, and Lapland Longspur in Utah.

House Sparrows are declining across their native Europe and were placed on the "red list" in Britain (2002) and added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list in 2004. However, I believe the gene pool is still intact. In Utah this season, observers recorded 10,076 individual House Sparrows on 20 counts; nationwide, more than 500,000 are recorded on approximately 1500 circles each year.

Count circles in WYOMING/UTAH



COLORADO

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Forty-two counts were held in Colorado this year, the same number as last year. It was cold during the first part of the season and warmer at the end of the season. The counts held on the first day of the count period had to deal with

snow, fog, and very cold temperatures. The first full weekend of the counts had cold temperatures again, though most didn't have to deal with the snow. It was much nicer and warmer toward the end of the season; however, several counts had to deal with winds all day. The Boulder count, completed on the first day of the period, wins the coldest temperature honors this year with a low of -5 degrees Fahrenheit and a high of only 10 degrees. The Barr Lake count, held on January 3rd, was the warmest count, with a low of 35 degrees and high of 69 degrees. The snowy and windy weather on some counts may have made those totals lower than normal. Some mountain bird totals were much lower than last year. However, more snow cover in the mountains might have helped totals for rosy-finches. There was little to no snow cover on the eastern plains, which certainly helped the Snow Goose wintering population.

A total of 833,137 birds were counted this year, which was up from 688,598 last year. Colorado had a total of 186 species plus four count week species, down from 202 species last year. Pueblo Reservoir had the most species again (121), followed by Penrose (114), John Martin Reservoir (108), and Boulder (100). John Martin Reservoir counted the most birds this year with 158,988 (63,000 were "white" geese). The 16,322 Canada Geese at Rawhide Energy Station made up for 77 percent of the birds counted on that count.

It seemed like a slow year for major rarities. The best was a first-year **Iceland Gull** (a first for a Colorado CBC) at Pueblo Reservoir, found two days before count day and remaining through late January. Other highlights were **Brant** at Denver (urban); Surf Scoter at Boulder (count week); Turkey Vulture at Loveland (ND); Peregrine Falcon at Pueblo Reservoir; Greater Yellowlegs at Crook; Dunlin at Denver; Inca Dove at Rocky Ford; five **Mew Gulls** (three counts); five **Great Black-backed Gulls** (four counts); Gray Catbird at Loveland; Sage Thrasher at Penrose; Bohemian

Waxwing at Steamboat Springs; **Pine Warbler** at Rocky Mountain N.P.; Savannah and Fox Sparrow at Bonny Reservoir; Slate-colored Fox Sparrow at Montrose (ND); **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Penrose; Snow Bunting at Bonny Reservoir; Bullock's Oriole at Grand Junction; and White-winged Crossbill at Steamboat Springs (count week, ND).

Some of the other unexpected finds (total number found/number of counts found) included Tundra Swan (2/2); Mute Swan (feral birds 2/2); Blue-winged Teal (5/3); Long-tailed Duck (5/2); Clark's Grebe (4/2); American White Pelican (4/4); Sora (4/2); Spotted Sandpiper (8/3); Glaucous Gull (5/3); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (6/5); Red-naped Sapsucker (5/3); Black Phoebe (3/3); Winter Wren (3/2); Brown Thrasher (2/2); Chipping Sparrow (3/3); Swamp Sparrow (6/5); Northern Cardinal (9/2); Yellow-headed Blackbird (6/3); Rusty Blackbird (5/4).

Some of the totals for some of the uncommon species in the state in winter include Greater White-fronted Goose (59/11); Greater Scaup (28/6); Black-crowned Night-Heron (17/2); Thayer's Gull (12/3); Lesser Black-backed Gull (14/4); White-winged Dove (168/10); Long-eared Owl (83/9); Say's Phoebe (12/5); Chihuahuan Raven (40/6), (if identified correctly); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

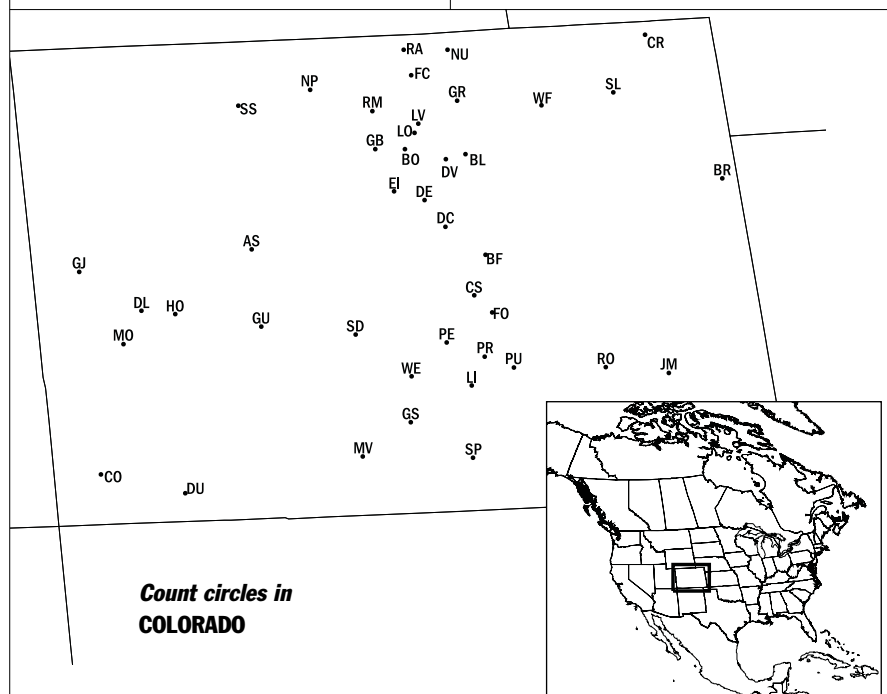


Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado.
Photo/Brandon Percival

(12/2); Hermit Thrush (11/9); Northern Mockingbird (10/7); Lincoln's Sparrow (14/5); White-throated Sparrow (11/8); Harris's Sparrow (10/8); Common Grackle (98/12); Great-tailed Grackle (1405/12); Brown-headed Cowbird (12/5); and Lesser Goldfinch (54/8).

A lot more geese were counted this year (261,128) and last year (146,836). I am wondering if Cackling Geese are being identified correctly on some counts. Some counts on the eastern plains didn't have any, while others had a lot. I hope all observers will learn the differences between (Lesser) Canada and (Richardson's) Cackling Goose. Pretty much all of Colorado's wintering Cackling Geese are the Richardson's subspecies. If you can't identify which species you are looking at, please call them Canada/Cackling Goose.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were up again this year, 8655 counted on 38 counts, up



from 5988 last year. They were seen for the first time at Aspen and Evergreen-Idaho Springs.

Black-billed Magpie was the only species found on all 42 counts this year, with a total of 4774 which is 178 less than last year.

Totals this year for all three species of nuthatch were down from last year, with 492 fewer Red-breasted, 380 fewer White-breasted, and 743 fewer Pygmy.

Rosy-finch numbers were up this year (2408) and last year (1203). However, there were only six Black Rosy-Finches this year, all at Gunnison.

Pine Siskins were much more common than last year, with 5500 more counted this year and a total of 7737.

Unfortunately, I had to excise a few species that were reported on this year's counts with unconvincing or no details. When you fill out a rare bird form, please include a description of the bird and how you eliminated the species from other more likely species. Photos or drawings are always very helpful.

All and all, it was another interesting CBC season in Colorado.

NEW MEXICO

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New Mexico counters worked 33 Christmas Bird Count circles in the state this year, a net gain of one. We lost the Raton circle for lack of observers, but we added two new circles: Clovis on the east side of the state, and Ladder Ranch, a fascinating site in the foothills of the Black Range west of Caballo Reservoir.

The total number of species seen in the state was quite low—221 compared to last year's 235 and the all-time high of 244. No new species were added to the cumulative state checklist, which remains at 327. Circles with high counts of species were led by Caballo with 127, La Luz-Otero with 122, Las Cruces with 117, Roswell with 112, and Albuquerque with 104. At the other extreme, heavy snow limited the Chaco circle to a mere nine species for five counters.

The statewide total of individual birds was about 385,000, better than last year's 330,000. Roswell reported about 94,000 of these, followed by Bosque del Apache with around 70,000, Las Cruces with 42,000, and Farmington with 30,000.

Looking at range expansions and boom years, Eurasian Collared-Doves have now been seen in every recent circle with two exceptions: Chaco and Ladder Ranch. By contrast, eight circles have never reported another range-expanding columbid, the native White-winged Dove. Lincoln's Sparrow records were widely dispersed, reaching Zuni, Las Vegas, and Roswell.

Among lingering and northerly species, four Black-necked Stilts were notable in Las Cruces, and Greater Yellowlegs persisted in Albuquerque and Espanola. A Belted Kingfisher remained in Santa Fe, and Clayton reported a northerly Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler. Only a total of three species of warblers were reported, including one Common Yellowthroat in Las Cruces and Orange-Crowned Warblers in three circles in the south. Lesser Goldfinches persisted as far north as Las Vegas and Cimarron.

After having been a resident or nesting species in the middle and lower Rio

Grande Valley, not a single Neotropical Cormorant was reported in the state, where the species has been in decline recently. Bald Eagle numbers were down generally. Lewis's Woodpeckers went unreported in the Espanola circle for only the fourth time in 55 years. Western Scrub-Jay reports were down statewide; the Caballo counters missed this species for the second straight year, only the second miss in the count's 25-year history. Black-billed Magpie and Mountain Chickadee numbers were also low.

Only one clear pattern of invasion emerged: Pine Siskins were numerous in the lowlands.

Interesting rarities were rather few this year: a Common Ground-Dove photographed in Eunice, a count week Varied Thrush in Zuni, a Brown Thrasher in Clayton, and a Harris's Sparrow in Eunice.

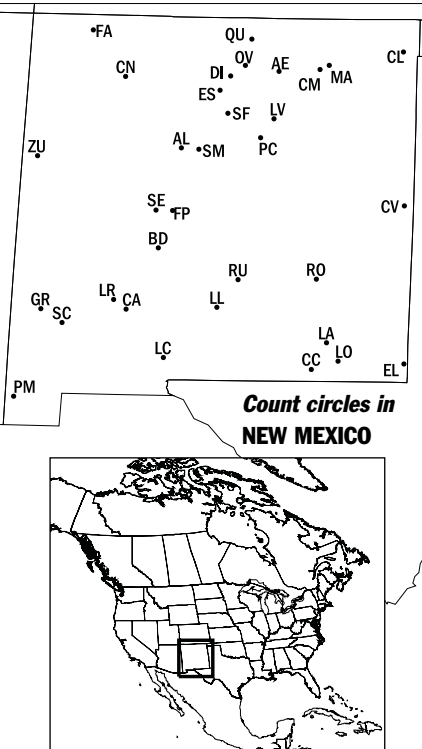
Starting next year, because there are a number of unresolved questions about recent range expansions, we are requesting details for all reports of Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal, Yellow-shafted Flicker, any *Empidonax* flycatcher, either gnatcatcher species outside of their strongholds in the south and southeast, Bendire's Thrasher, and Common Grackle. A more complete explanation is available on the state CBC compiler resource page: <http://www.nmt.edu/~shipman/z/cbc/nmcbc.html>.

Because I have been less active in the field the last few years, I rely heavily on our state's professional ornithologists and many active field birders. I would like to give particular thanks to Sandy Williams, Christopher Rustay, John Hubbard, John Parmeter, and Jerry Oldenettel, among many others who have provided invaluable advice.

NEVADA/ARIZONA

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An even dozen counts were held in Nevada during the 109th Christmas Bird Count season. Two counts broke the 100-species barrier: Truckee Meadows



with 106 species, and, hot on its heels, Henderson with 105 species. Four counts did quite well with more than 80 species: Carson City (85), Desert Game (84), Pyramid Lake (also 84), and Ash Meadows (81). The other six counts ranged between 20 and 74 species.

Among Truckee Meadows' 106 species was the second state record for Lesser Black-backed Gull. The bird was found before the count and was well documented with photos. They also recorded a Northern Saw-whet Owl (photo) and a Glaucous-winged Gull. Two birds that just missed the count week have been new for the count, Yellow-billed Loon and Glaucous Gull. With 12 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Henderson had the only swallows on a CBC; Henderson also had a Cassin's Kingbird. Carson City had the only unusual warbler, a Northern Parula (photo), a great find especially that far north. Desert Game had two Costa's Hummingbirds, also a new species for that count. Pyramid Lake had four Sanderlings, a Barrow's Goldeneye, and a Red-shouldered Hawk.

Ash Meadows had an outstanding count this year, setting a new all-time high for species with 81, which was 4 over the previous high of 77. Among the highlights was a Yellow-billed Loon (photo). It was a good year in that Ash Meadows also had 10 count week birds. Fallon had some cold and windy weather but still managed 74 species, including a Red-shouldered Hawk and three Dunlin. Muddy River had 66 species, including a Sage Thrasher, Ross's Goose, and a Bald Eagle. Elko had a Varied Thrush among its 51 species, and Snake Valley was able to add a new species to its count (two Bohemian Waxwings) plus the state's only Harris's Sparrow. Ruby Lake recorded two Wilson's Snipe and a (blue) Snow Goose. Jarbige is always a challenge with the weather, and they recorded the only Northern Shrike, while Red-tailed Hawk was actually new for their count.

All of Nevada's counts were well done; no species had to be removed because of

lack of documentation. All compilers and participants did a great job.

In Arizona 35 counts were held this season; 22 of those counts tallied more than 100 species, and of those 10 counts went over 130 species. Most years, Ramsey Canyon leads the way with the most species in the state, but this year Green Valley-Madera Canyon took the top spot with 155 species (4 more than Ramsey Canyon's 151). Patagonia was third with 147 species, but they had a special honor this year. It is not very often that you can add a new species to the U.S. bird list, but this year Patagonia was able to add the **Sinaloa Wren** to the cumulative list. The bird had been present for some time before the count and stayed long after, but as is typical with this species they can be very hard to see, and it ended up as a frustrating count week bird!

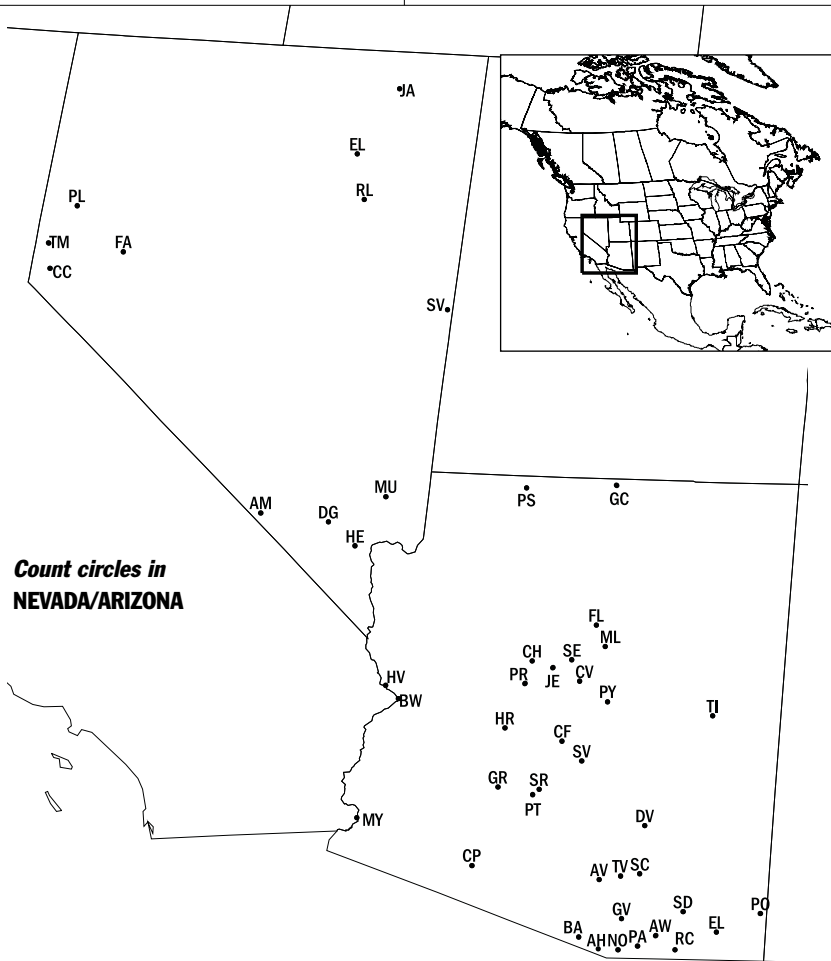
Most counts had good weather and good numbers of participants. Mormon Lake probably had the most extreme conditions with a 4 degree Fahrenheit start and only an 18 degree high.

Quite a few highlights were among this year's counts. Eurasian Wigeon have been hard to find the last few years, but there were two this year, one in Sedona and one on the Glen Canyon Count.

Glen Canyon also had the only Long-tailed Duck. This was a good year for Montezuma Quail, with 446 seen on eight counts—the Atascosa Highlands accounted for more than half. Yellow-billed Loon is getting to be almost regular on the Colorado River with one on the Bill Williams count this year.

White-tailed Kites have been up and down in numbers over the years, and only one was found this year on Madera-Green Valley. Ruddy Ground-Doves are starting to increase again, with seven seen. Williamson's Sapsuckers were found at lower-than-usual elevation and on eight counts. Black-capped Gnatcatchers are still increasing, with 11 spread over three counts.

Warblers were a big highlight this season, with 20 species found, a nice variety including several eastern species that are



not often found in Arizona at any time of year. Not bad results for the desert with no coastal habitat! There was a Blackburnian (AZTV), two Chestnut-sided Warblers (AZSR, AZJE), one Black-throated Green Warbler (AZPO), one Kentucky Warbler, three Rufous-capped Warblers (AZGV), two Louisiana Waterthrush (AZNO, AZRC), and three Northern Parula (AZPT, AZSV, AZPO). Even the species that we normally get were found in higher than usual numbers—8 Wilson's Warblers, 68 Black-throated Gray Warblers, and 84 Townsends Warblers!

Overall, sparrows were a little down in numbers this year, but there were a few good finds. It has been a while since we have had a Five-striped Sparrow, and one was counted at Atascosa Highlands. Golden-crowned Sparrows put on a good show with six birds found on six different counts.

There were no real irruptive species invasions this season. Only four Lawrence's Goldfinches were counted, and 31 of the 35 counts had Eurasian Collared-Doves. Will next year be 100 percent for these invading doves?

Thanks to all of the compilers and participants for their time and effort. For next year, I urge you to bring a digital camera along on your count—it sure helps to have a photo, even a bad one!

WASHINGTON/OREGON

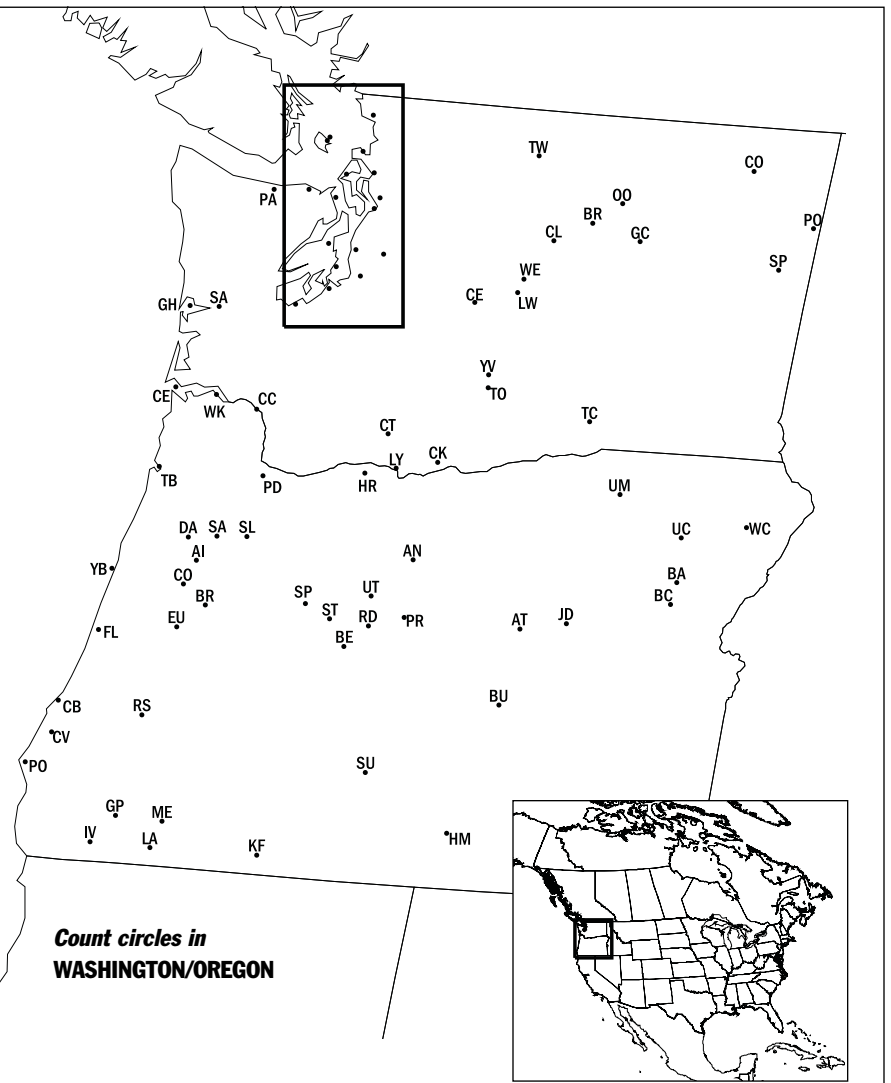
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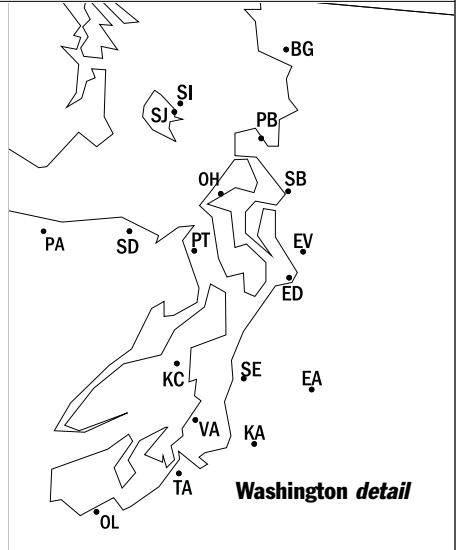
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A very cold arctic air mass moved into the region late in the afternoon of the first day of the 109th Christmas Bird Count period, and it didn't really move out until the end of the count period. The system brought up to 15 inches of snow to parts of a region that rarely sees more than a light dusting. The sudden change in the weather caught most communities by surprise. Roads were closed and travel to out-of-the-way counts became nearly impossible. As a result, several counts



were forced to cancel or reschedule, and many that were able to run did so with many fewer participants than usual.

The most interesting report of the season was of a Jack Snipe in Eugene, OR, seen by a very reliable observer. The bird was described as “notably smaller [with] long, yellowish stripes on the back [that] were especially contrasting... wings were rounded, which made it fly in a more fluttery manner than Wilson's Snipe. [It flew in a] low straight course and dropped into the grass, short of 50 ft. away.” There are two accepted records for **Jack Snipe** in Oregon, both were birds shot by hunters. Jack Snipe are notoriously difficult to find even within their expected range, so it is not surprising that subsequent effort to relocate this bird failed. The current report is under review by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.



A Slaty-backed Gull was reported from Everett, WA. It was seen by several observers and was photographed. This species has become nearly annual in the region, but reports are rare before mid-January, missing the Christmas Bird



**Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*),
Corvallis, Oregon. Photo/Barbara Combs**

Count window. An increase in observer skill and awareness may account for recent trends in the occurrence of the species.

A reported Pyrrhuloxia from Peoria in the Corvallis, OR, count circle was first observed in early November and continued to be seen at least into February. Its provenance has been hotly and often acrimoniously debated. Photographs of the bird indicated that it was a hatch-year bird and showed no signs of cage wear, toe-clippings, or other marks of past captivity. On the minus side, there does not appear to be any concrete pattern of vagrancy to the south for this species and plenty of human-assisted scenarios for a bird that is, by some accounts, easily purchased in Mexico. This report is also now in the hands of the records committee.

Record numbers of Brown Pelicans remained late into the season. The high numbers were attributed to a milder than average autumn and higher than average runs of bait fish. Thousands stayed along the coast through the end of December, most of them concentrated at Oregon coastal counts, with highest count coming from Coos Bay, OR, where 2712 were reported. Inland reports of Brown Pelican, unusual in any season, came from Wahkiakum, WA (30 miles inland), and Cowlitz-Columbia, WA, (50 miles inland), both along the Columbia River. By the first of January most had moved south, but not before filling local rehab centers with sick and injured birds. Most of the injuries involved high-wind related broken bones and frostbitten feet.

Numbers of overwintering warblers were just about average. Expected num-

bers of Orange-crowned Warblers and Common Yellowthroats were reported. Palm Warblers were reported in lower than average numbers. Wilson's Warblers were seen at Coos Bay, OR, and Portland, OR. The most unusual reports this season were Black-throated Gray Warblers reported from Columbia Estuary, OR, and Florence, OR.

Observers noted significant irruptions of Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks this season. Fifteen counts in Washington and six in Oregon reported Bohemian Waxwings, the birds were reported in Skagit and Everett in Washington but were only observed east of the Cascades in Oregon. Most Pine Grosbeak reports came from eastern Washington, with only two from extreme northeastern Oregon. Other winter finch numbers were at or below average for the region.

Counts that were able to field enough observers in spite of the weather did well, while less fortunate counts performed below average or were canceled. Coos Bay, OR, once again had the high count for the region at 154, followed by Coquille Valley, OR, at 148, Grays Harbor, WA, with 142 and a tie between Everett, WA, and Sequim-Dungeness, WA, both with 140. East of the Cascades, Tri-Cities, WA, recorded 109 species and Klamath Falls, OR, found 108.

There are still several counts reporting "small form" and "large form" Canada Geese, rather than making the change to Cackling Geese and Canada Geese. I reassigned numbers in those cases where I felt I could confidently make a change. Compilers were once again very good about providing details for those species that required them, and the few exceptions have been marked as having no details. If anything, folks are sending in more details than required by including species that may be locally unusual but are not flagged regionally.

I'd like to thank Alan Contreras, David Bailey, David Irons, Steve Mlodinow, Dennis Paulson, and Dennis Vroman for helping in the evaluation of details of rare and unusual species

reported on counts. Their assistance in evaluating rare bird documentation is always appreciated.

CALIFORNIA

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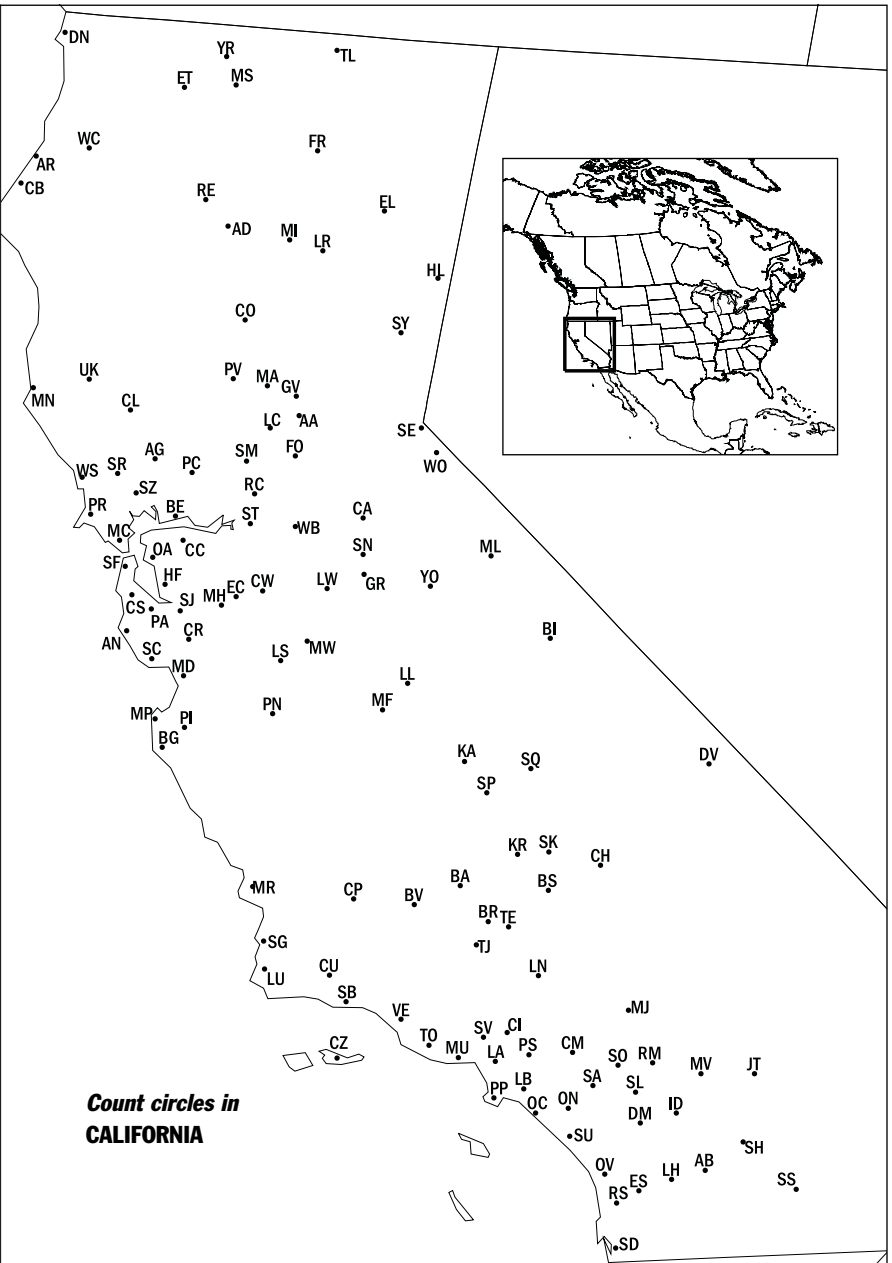
California conducted 120 counts during the 2008–09 Christmas Bird Count season, 3 more than last year. Eleven counts suffered rain all day, but, truer to our drought, dry skies prevailed for the majority (94) of counts. The lowest low temperature was -18 degrees Fahrenheit at Sierra Valley, which also recorded the lowest high of just 14 degrees. Santa Barbara showed the least temperature change throughout the day with only a one degree shift from low to high; Sequoia enjoyed the greatest shift, warming to 65 degrees after starting out at just 4 degrees. The warmest counts took place at San Juan Capistrano and Cachuma, where temperatures hit 80 degrees or above. Three counts posted species totals above the 200 mark: Orange County Coastal, San Diego, and Santa Barbara. Finally, Tejon Ranch is welcomed as the lone new count this year. When species are on the California Bird Records Committee review list we place "CBRC" in parenthesis to indicate that a final decision will come from that body.

The California count season began on a very sad note when Dr. Onik Arian, an emergency room physician and avid birder, was swept off a jetty and killed while counting birds for the Del Norte count. This loss has been deeply felt in the California birding community and beyond. The highlights to follow of California's 109th count are dedicated to his memory.

Almost a dozen southern area counts reported small numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese. Nineteen southern counts reported one or two Ross's

Geese, including one blue morph at China Lake. Two blue morph Ross's were reported on the Rio Cosumnes count as well. The Los Angeles count added Brant to their list for the first time. For the Eurasian Wigeon, 160 were reported (slightly more than has been reported each season over the last eight years) including five northerly counts posting numbers in the teens. More than one-third of California's counts reported this species this year. Clear Lake and Palo Alto documented Eurasian Green-winged Teal; three other counts reported this bird but details were not forthcoming. Thirteen Harlequin Ducks on six counts, the southernmost again in Monterey, is about average. Fourteen Long-tailed Ducks were reported on 12 counts, the southernmost being a photographed bird at Thousand Oaks; an inland record on the Bishop count is also noteworthy. Surf Scoters were found inland at Marysville and Salton Sea South. White-winged Scoters were reported on both the north and south Salton Sea counts. Two Black Scoters were recorded on the Los Angeles count. Several hybrid duck combinations were photographed this year, including Mallard x Northern Pintail, Gadwall x Northern Shoveler, Barrow's Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead x Goldeneye sp., Barrows x Common Goldeneye, and American x Eurasian Wigeon. Unexpected loons were found inland at Stockton (Red-throated) and Eagle Lake (Pacific). Mount Hamilton memorialized its first recording of Horned Grebe with a nice sketch of the bird. Red-necked Grebes from Ventura (photographed) and Santa Barbara (several observers) were the only reports from southern area counts. The editors are not sure what to make of a report of three Red-necked Grebes at Tehachapi. The documentation describes at least one bird adequately, but the fact that not more was made of three being found inland on one body of water is unsettling.

Just three counts reported Northern Fulmar: Arcata (4), Monterey (1), and



Big Sur (1). Unusual shearwaters were reported from Orange County Coastal and San Juan Capistrano (Pink-footed), Arcata, Monterey and Thousand Oaks (Sooty), and lastly, at Año Nuevo, Arcata, and Monterey (Short-tailed). Finally, a Brown Booby strayed into the Rancho Santa Fe circle, likely from its post on the nearby Los Coronados Islands.

Least Bittern was reported on eight counts: multiples at Los Angeles (8), Oceanside (7), and Salton Sea South (2), and singles at Rio Cosumnes, Santa Barbara, San Juan Capistrano, Rancho Santa Fe, and Salton Sea North. Little Blue Heron was added to the Rancho Santa Fe count for the first time, and

three were reported where they are regularly seen on the San Diego count. Five Reddish Egrets were found, two at Orange County Coastal and singles at Oceanside, Thousand Oaks, and Long Beach. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, two adults and a juvenile, continued on the San Diego count as did the Wood Stork at Escondido. Seventeen California Condors were recorded this year, more than double what has been recorded in any of the past six years.

A single Swainson's Hawk, unaccompanied by details, was the only Swainson's reported this year. Three Zone-tailed Hawks were recorded, one in Oceanside-Vista and two in places we

have become accustomed to hearing about them, Escondido and Ventura. Five Harlan's Hawks were reported, two of which are supported with photographic evidence. No details were submitted for the others. Rough-legged Hawks made it as far south as Tejon Ranch, where photographed. Three were reported from Carrizo Plains; unfortunately, no accompanying details were provided. A Crested Caracara (CBRC) was reported from Del Norte, and the editors presume this report pertains to a bird that has been present in this general region; however, as of this writing no details have been forwarded to the editors or the CBRC.

Just five Black Rails on two counts (Auburn and Benecia) were reported—fewer than any season during the past 20 years. Sandhill Cranes were found in unusual places at Fall River Mills (2), Rancho Santa Fe, and Thousand Oaks. Six counts recorded 12 Pacific Golden-Plovers: Long Beach (4), San Diego (3), Santa Maria-Guadalupe (2), Sacramento, Rancho Santa Fe, and Point Reyes. Arcata (2), Centerville Beach to King Salmon, and Salton Sea North were unusual places to record Mountain Plover. An American Oystercatcher was photographed on the San Diego count. Eight Rock Sandpipers were found on three counts: Arcata (5), Del Norte (2), and Santa Cruz (1). An astonishing 134 Stilt Sandpipers were counted on the Salton Sea South count. A Ruff, which was photographed, was a nice find for the Point Reyes count. Moss Landing produced a well-documented Wilson's Phalarope.

Two Laughing Gulls were reported from the Salton Sea North count, and a Franklin's Gull that has been present for some time was recorded in Del Norte. Salton Sea South also recorded two Heermann's Gulls. Centerville Beach to King Salmon provided good details (and a sketch) of a Heermann's Gull. Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls (CBRC) on four counts are supported with excellent details and/or photographic evidence: Buena Vista, Clear Lake, San Jacinto

Lake, and Salton Sea South. A Yellow-footed Gull was photographed on the Salton Sea South count. Glaucous-winged Gulls were recorded in higher than usual numbers on many southern California and inland counts. Thirteen Glaucous Gulls were reported on 10 counts, all coastal except Folsom. In addition to the higher numbers found at Arcata (28) and Centerville Beach to King Salmon (10), Black-legged Kittiwakes were found in smaller numbers at Point Reyes (4), Monterey (2), and Western Sonoma (1). A Thick-billed Murre (CBRC) was reported from Point Reyes and is only the third year this species has ever been recorded on a California count.

Only two Spotted Doves were reported this year, one at Mojave River Valley and another during count week at Orange County North. With 479 counted this year, Anza-Borrego continues to be a stronghold for White-winged Dove; nearby Salton Sea counts, North (5) and South (2), added a few as well. Farther from known areas, Santa Barbara added two photographed birds to the total. Inca Doves were reported only from Salton Sea counts, with both the North (9) and the South (23) accounting for the entire state's total. Just three Vaux's Swifts were seen this year, one each at Marin, Oceanside-Vista, and Sacramento.

A Williamson's Sapsucker was photographed in Ventura where not expected. Eleven Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported on eight counts, all single birds except for Los Angeles, which reported three well-documented birds.

Four Hammond's Flycatchers were found, one each at Long Beach, Orange County North, Point Reyes, and San Diego. Gray Flycatchers were found at Anza-Borrego (3), Pasadena-San Gabriel (2), San Bernardino Valley (2), Orange County Coastal (2), Santa Barbara, Santa Ana, and Claremont. An experienced observer found a Dusky Flycatcher at Big Sur. Western (presumed Pacific Slope) Flycatchers were found at Long Beach, Pasadena, Monterey Peninsula, and Rancho Santa

Fe. Five Eastern Phoebes were substantiated on as many counts: Orange County Coastal, Point Reyes, San Jose, Salton Sea South, and Long Beach added a count week bird. Eighteen Vermilion Flycatchers were recorded this winter, including a few farther from where they are becoming expected at Ventura (2), Orange County North, San Bernardino, Buena Vista, and China Lake. Ash-throated Flycatchers were recorded at Orange County Coastal and Long Beach. Tropical Kingbirds were found on four counts: Crystal Springs, Orange County Coastal, Santa Barbara, and Salton Sea South. A Thick-billed Kingbird was photographed on the Palos Verde Peninsula count.

Thirteen Northern Shrikes were found on eight northern counts, about average. Orange County Coastal was able to find the long-present Yellow-throated Vireo on count day. Fifteen Plumbeous Vireos on 12 counts, and eight Cassin's Vireos on seven counts, is close to the average tally for these species. Barn Swallows continue to be more numerous than they were a decade ago, with 328 tallied on 25 counts. Additionally, 64 Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen on 13 counts.

A Gray Catbird on the Monterey Peninsula count, a photographed Brown Thrasher on the Año Nuevo count, and a count-first Bendire's Thrasher on the Salton Sea South count were all exciting discoveries. Other more expected mimids found on counts include four Crissal Thrashers on the Salton Sea North count and Le Conte's Thrashers at Carrizo Plains (2), Anza-Borrego, and Lancaster. Five Sprague's Pipits were reported from the Salton Sea South count, where they are regular in winter.

A gratifying variety of warblers was found throughout the state this count season. A Tennessee Warbler on the Santa Barbara count, 24 Nashville Warblers on 14 counts, and a well-described Lucy's Warbler on the San Diego count round out the unexpected *Vermivora* that were found. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was photographed in San



**Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*),
Santa Barbara, California.
Photo/Alexander R. Abela**

Diego and a second bird was reported from elsewhere, but no details were shared. Long Beach recorded (and photographed) a Magnolia Warbler. A count week Cape May Warbler was reported from Santa Cruz, and likely pertains to a bird that was present for some time during the winter, though no details on this were included. Likewise, no details were provided for a Black-throated Green Warbler known to be present for some time at Redlands-Mill Creek. Grace's Warblers (CBRC) were found at Rancho Santa Fe and Santa Barbara. Pine Warblers (CBRC) were photographed and well documented at Orange County Coastal, Pasadena, and San Diego. Twenty-four Palm Warblers were found on 13 counts, all coastal except a bird on the Salton Sea North count. Black-and-white Warblers were found at Oceanside-Vista (3), Santa Barbara, Mendocino, Palos Verde Peninsula, and Santa Clarita. Four American Redstarts statewide included two adult males at San Diego and single birds at Santa Barbara and San Juan Capistrano. Four Worm-eating Warblers (CBRC) is more than has ever been recorded on California CBCs. Single birds were found at Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego, San Francisco, and Ventura. Northern Waterthrushes were found on the Arcata, Palo Alto, and Santa Barbara counts. Two MacGillivray's Warblers were present for some time and well documented on the Orange County Coastal count. A Painted Redstart was reported from Claremont; this is presumed to be a bird that many have seen, but no details corroborate this notion.

San Diego remarkably recorded all four North American tanager species.

Stake-out Hepatic and Scarlet Tanagers helped to make this a reality. The Scarlet Tanager was new to the San Diego count and only the third ever recorded in winter in California—the other two records also pertain to San Diego area birds. Sixteen Summer Tanagers is about average and includes four in San Diego, two in Santa Barbara, two in San Juan Capistrano, two in Oceanside-Vista, and singles at Palos Verde Peninsula, Orange County Coastal, Santa Cruz, and a new count bird at Bakersfield. Twenty-three counts recorded Western Tanagers, most notably 17 in San Diego, which is a 25-year high. Orange County North (14) and Los Angeles (12) also reported higher than usual numbers of this species. A state total of 74 is above average for Western Tanager, and it was recorded on quite a few northerly counts, including Rio Cosumnes, San Francisco, Palo Alto, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Sonoma Valley, Santa Rosa, Putah Creek, and Caswell Westley.

Green-tailed Towhees were recorded at San Diego, Morongo Valley, and San Bernardino. Clay-colored Sparrows were well described for the Escondido and San Jose counts. A Black-chinned Sparrow, exceedingly rare in winter, was well described by an experienced observer on the Orange County North count. Three Grasshopper Sparrows were recorded this winter, two at Salton Sea South and one at Thousand Oaks. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow wouldn't show on count day for San Diego but was photographed during the count week period. A McCown's Longspur was well described for the Honey Lake count. Lapland Longspurs were found in small numbers on seven counts, including six at Arcata, four at Honey Lake, two at Centerville Beach to King Salmon and Anderson River, and one heard-only bird at Salton Sea South. Salton Sea South counted the largest share of Chestnut-collared Longspurs with 45, but the species was also recorded at Lincoln (10), Rio Cosumnes (2), Anderson River Park, and Cachuma. Eleven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks is

almost twice the average number recorded annually; birds were recorded at San Diego (2), Morro Bay (2), Monterey Peninsula, Orange County North, Los Angeles, Pasadena-San Gabriel, Santa Cruz, Tejon Ranch, and Salton Sea North. Only two Black-headed Grosbeaks were recorded—a photographed bird in Oakland and a feeder bird at Ukiah. Additionally, two others were recorded during count week—one at Crystal Springs and another at Santa Barbara.

Rusty Blackbirds (CBRC) provided a nice surprise on the Oceanside-Vista and Salton Sea South counts, as did a Common Grackle (CBRC) on the Anza-Borrego count where a Bronzed Cowbird was also found. Five Orchard Orioles, four of which were on the San Diego count, is about average over the past five seasons. The fifth bird, photographed on the Del Norte count, could not have been much farther north. Hooded Orioles were recorded in San Diego (4), Santa Barbara, Centerville Beach to King Salmon, Palo Alto, and a count week bird in Bakersfield. Three Baltimore Orioles, two in Los Angeles and a photographed bird in Monterey Peninsula, were about average. Scott's Orioles were recorded on two counts: Morongo Valley (13) and Anza-Borrego (3). Finally, a single Pine Grosbeak was found at Woodfords.

Several birds were removed from the database this year, including Iceland Gull, Black-chinned Hummingbird, four Cliff Swallows, and three MacGillivray's Warblers. All were reported without any supporting documentation or explanation.

We are grateful for all of the excellent documentation, sketches, and photographs that were sent our way this year. California's counts are some of the best to be found because we have so many dedicated and diligent birders willing to give of their knowledge and time. We also have a long list of compilers who take extra effort and care in compiling details and summaries and passing those on in a timely manner. You make our job easier, and you make us look forward to next year.

HAWAII/PACIFIC ISLANDS

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The 109th Christmas Bird Count for Hawaii and the Northwest Islands region included 10 count circles this year: Midway Atoll, Laysan Atoll, French Frigate Shoals, Waimea and Kapaa on Kauai Island, Waipio and Honolulu on Oahu Island, Kualapuu on Molokai Island, and North Kona and Volcano on Hawaii Island. Overall participation in the main Hawaiian Islands was low once again.

This year's counts of Laysan and Black-footed albatross were the highest recorded from Midway Atoll—722,000 and 43,600 birds, respectively—but this was due to sampling differences rather than a greater number of birds nesting. Another Short-tailed Albatross turned up on Midway this year, as did one on Laysan Island. Bonin Petrel counts on Midway continue to soar, presumably in response to the eradication of rats in the 1990s, with a high of 11,170 petrels reported this year. The Laysan count reported a new high of 5000 Bonin Petrels. The 31 Tristram's Storm-Petrel on the French Frigate Shoals count was the most ever. This year's seabird rarity was a Brewster's Brown Booby on Laysan, thousands of miles from its usual haunts along the Pacific coast of Central America.

The three native Hawaiian waterfowl were all newsworthy this year. The growing Nene population on Kauai was reflected in a high count of 213 on the Kapaa Circle, where there was also a staggering 552 Hawaiian Duck recorded. The introduced Laysan Duck population on Midway tallied to 226 birds, an encouraging sign that a significant proportion of the population survived a botulism event. There were few highlights among the reports of migratory waterfowl: four Blue-winged Teal on the Honolulu circle, and a high count of 62 Northern Pintail and a Canvasback on the Molokai circle.

Numerous shorebird rarities showed up among the regular overwintering migrants. On the Molokai circle a straggler Whimbrel of the North American race was spotted among five Bristle-thighed Curlews. A Curlew Sandpiper turned up at the Waiawa Unit of the Pearl Harbor N.W.R. on the Waipio count circle. Two Ruffs appeared on Laysan Island, as did two Red-necked Phalaropes. A Red Phalarope was reported during count week on the Midway Circle. A Black-legged Kittiwake was documented as a new species for the Midway circle during count week.

Among the land birds, the most notable sightings included a massive count of 96 Red-crowned Amazons for the Waipio Circle and another 42 on the Honolulu Circle. Rose-ringed Parakeets

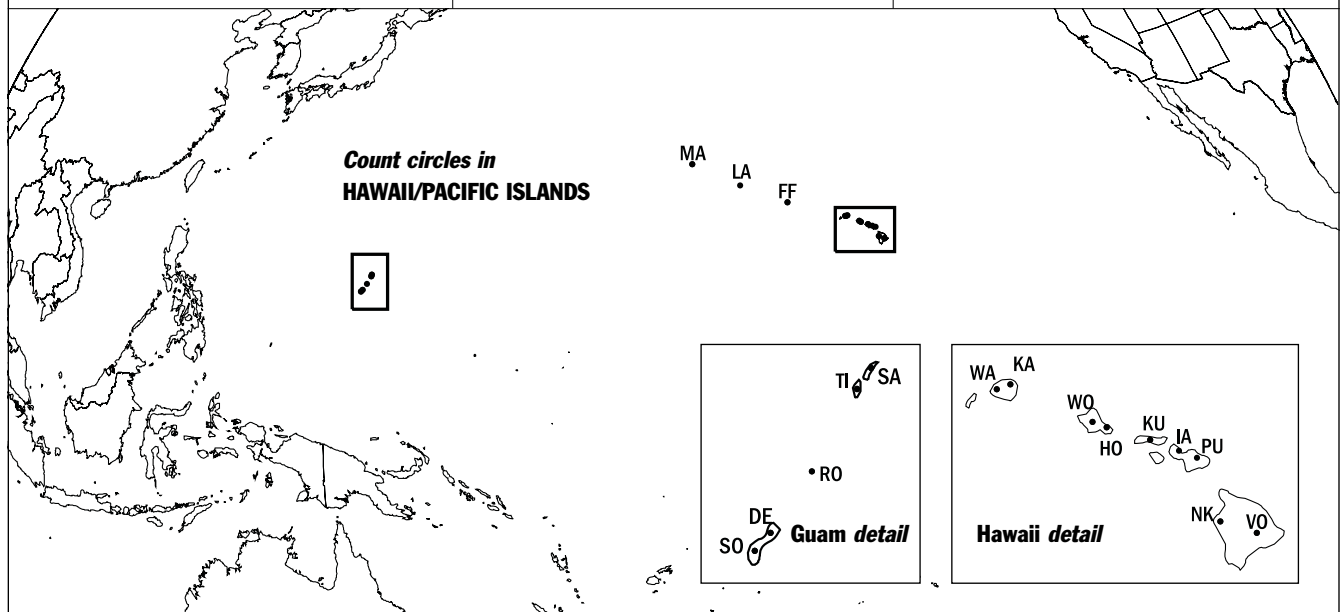


Brewster's Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster brewsteri*), Laysan Island, Hawaii.
Photo/USFWS via Thane Pratt

appeared on both circles in more modest numbers, with three and six birds, respectively. Two Mariana Swiftlets were reported from the Honolulu Circle, near where they breed in a single cave.

Participants on Hawaiian CBCs rarely have an opportunity to include rare native forest birds in their tallies. Four endangered Oahu Elepaio were tallied on the Waipio circle. On the Waimea circle, counters detected three Akikiki and two Akekee, two species petitioned to be listed as endangered species. On the Volcano circle, six Akiapolaau and one Hawaii Creeper, both listed endangered species, were seen.

For the Pacific region, five count circles in the Mariana Islands reported—Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Dededo Guam, and Southern Guam. Coverage was good again this year. Pacific Reef-Egrets throughout the Mariana Islands were counted either at or above record numbers. Could the record five Black-naped Terns on Saipan and nine on the



Southern Guam Circle indicate that this species is poised to establish itself in the archipelago? The Black-backed Wagtail on Saipan was new not just for the count circle but for the region as well. Other unusual vagrants included a Common Redshank on the Southern Guam circle, a Black-tailed Godwit on the Dededo Guam circle, and a Long-billed Dowitcher on Saipan. Several resident land birds showed high numbers: four Micronesian Megapodes on Saipan, 13 Mariana Crows and 33 Rota White-eyes on Rota, and high counts of Micronesian Honeyeater and Micronesian Startling throughout the Northern Marianas. The Orange-cheeked Waxbill population on Saipan continues to explode, and 111 were counted there.

MEXICO/BELIZE

Claudia Macias Caballero

Subdirección de Conservación

Pronatura Sur

Oficina Tuxtla Gutiérrez

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cmacias@pronatura-sur.org

The 109th Christmas Bird Count season was great because we “rescued” two of the richer circles (based on the number of bird species and the number

of participants) from the Mexico and Belize region—Belmopan and Belize City. The information from these counts has been missing for at least the past five years, but this year a couple of enthusiastic birders from Belize facilitated getting the information entered into the CBC database, and we hope we can continue working with them in future seasons.

Two more circles from Belize were again included, Gallon Jug and Punta Gorda. In Mexico, two new circles were added: Barranca Rancho La Liebre in Sinaloa, and Madera in Chihuahua. Additionally, 20 other circles were conducted in Mexico, totaling 22 circles out of the 30 currently active.

During the 109th CBC we had 381 birders participating in the region. The counts with the highest number of participants were Laguna de Chapala (37 observers), Gallon Jug (35), and Belmopan (30). As expected, the four circles from Belize were the ones that had the highest diversity of bird species: Belize City (251 species), Punta Gorda (239), Belmopan (233), and Gallon Jug (201). In Mexico the circles with the most bird species recorded were Coast of Central Veracruz at 175, followed by Ensenada Baja California at 168, San

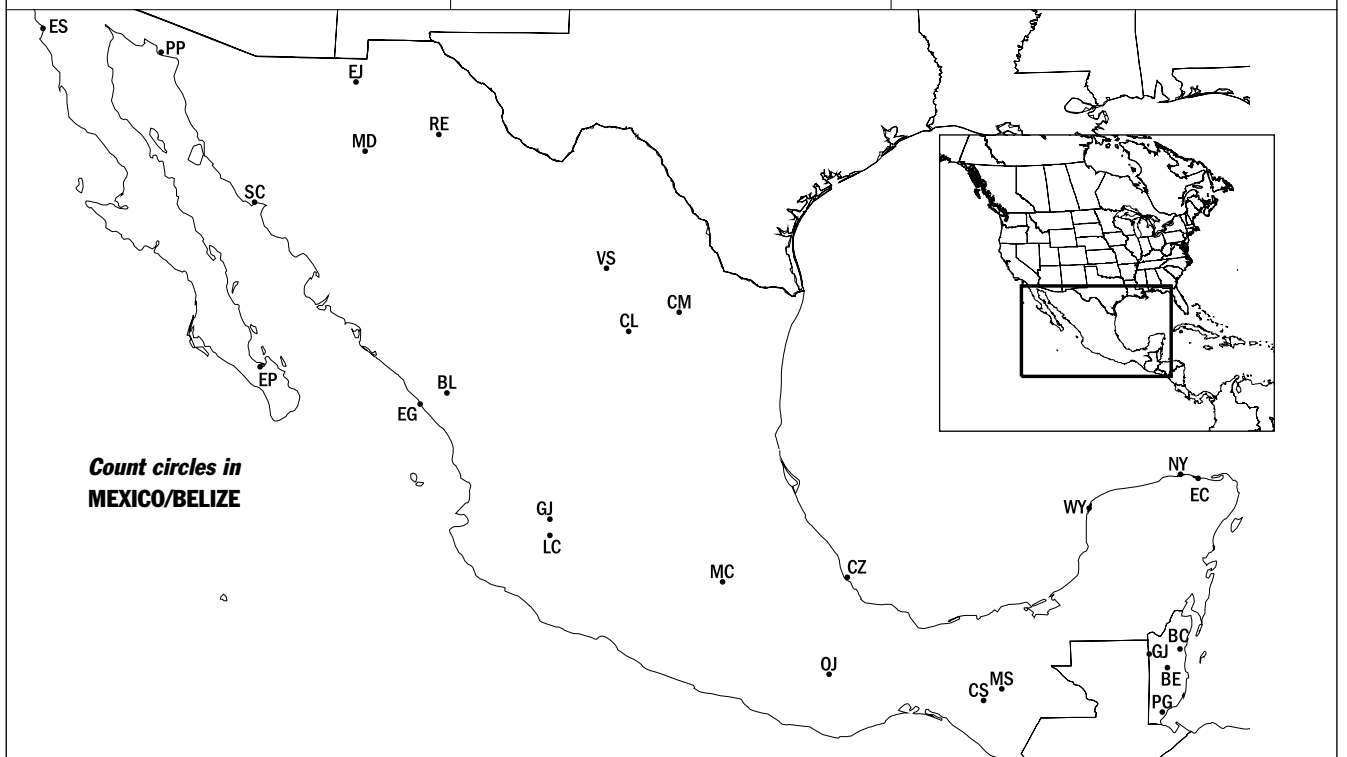


Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Cumbres de Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Photo/Rene Valdes

Carlos Sonora at 147, and El Cuyo Yucatan at 146. In all, 127,104 birds were tallied during the 109th CBC in the Mexico/Belize region. The circles that registered the highest numbers of individual birds were Ensenada (18,399), San Carlos (12,801), Guadajajara Jalisco (12,727), and Puerto Peñasco Sonora (12,408).

Remarkable records and comments from the Mexico/Belize region follow.

Belize: Punta Gorda (Lee Jones)—Rain early in the morning affected the number of forest species recorded. Along with weather, low participation this year resulted in our second-lowest species total. Nevertheless, we recorded five species new to the count—American Wigeon, Least Grebe, Lovely



Cotinga, American White Pelican, and Band-backed Wren. Belize City had two new species (Blue Grosbeak and Giant Cowbird), while Belmopan had seven new birds (Black-cowled Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Stripe-throated Hermit, Long-billed Hermit, Common Pauraque, and Muscovy Duck).

Mexico: El Cuyo, Yucatan (Melgar Tabasco)—In previous years we have observed higher numbers of birds. Last year we didn't have enough rain in the region, and this year the lagoons didn't have enough water. However, we still had nine new species for the circle—Ring-necked Duck, Least Bittern, Purple Gallinule, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Caspian Tern, and Mangrove Cuckoo.

Puerto Peñasco, Sonora (Steve Ganley)—Our species count was 118, a little low, but we did have 12 count week birds, which would have given us 130. We were low because we did not have enough people to cover all of the areas on count day. Counters added four species to our checklist: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Phoebe, Ruddy Ground-Dove, and Bronzed Cowbird. We also had our third Rusty Blackbird for the count, very rare for Mexico. The expansion of the town and the loss of vegetation within the count circle has caused us to lose most of our small passerines. Sparrows and desert birds are getting hard to find.

Ensenada, Baja California, had four unusual records: Lesser Yellowlegs, Gray Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Oaxaca de Juarez had three new records: Magnolia Warbler, Monk Parakeet, and Sora. Northeastern Coast of the Yucatan Peninsula had four new records: Red-breasted Merganser, Singing Quail, Gray-headed Kite, and Long-billed Dowitcher.

San Carlos, Sonora (Terry Brownell)—Land birds were sparse. Most of the big pelagic species were present in large numbers. Pacific Loons have recovered from low points while Eared Grebes remain low. New records were Prairie Falcon and Pine Siskin.

We extend many thanks to all, both compilers and birders, for their enthusiasm and commitment to the CBC initiative. All your hard work is well worthwhile.

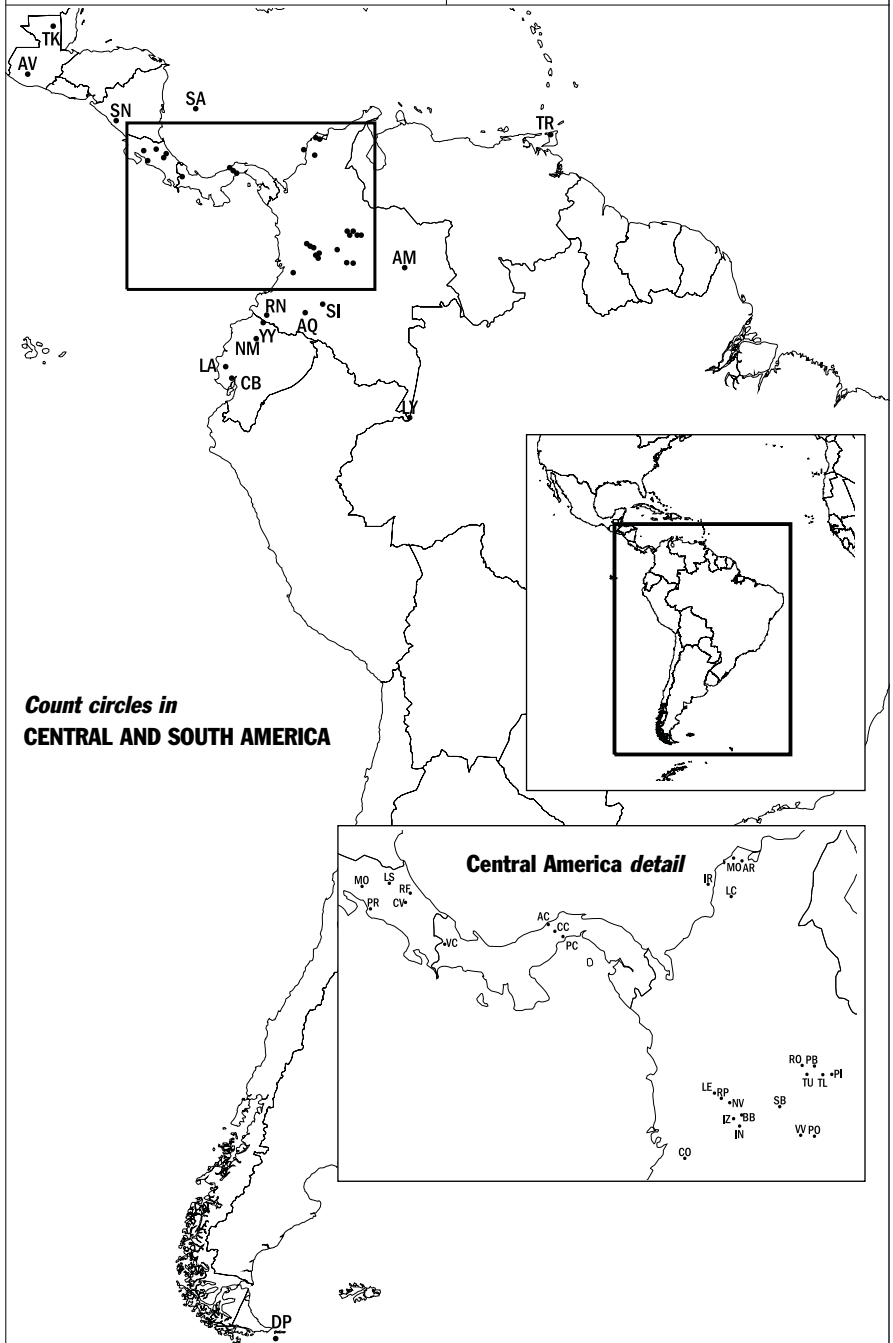
CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, and Trinidad

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A total of 43 counts from Latin America continues an increase in

counts, but many in Brazil and Amazonia are absent again. The increase is largely due to the effort in Colombia, where 25 counts were submitted. In Ecuador, Mindo was just short of its previous all-time high with 420 instead of 425. Compiler Lani Miller worried about some declines in otherwise common birds: Bronze-winged Parrot dropped from 121 to 24; Red-eyed Vireo from 121 to 24; the noisy and conspicuous Pale-legged Hornero went from 79 last year to 26 this year; and the ubiquitous Tropical Kingbird went from 159 to 109. Many hummingbird numbers





Adelie Penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), Cape Crozier, Antarctica. Photo/Noah Strycker

have dropped, even though the feeders that helped them multiply exponentially are still there. On the Cerro Blanco-Puerto Hondo Estuary count in Ecuador several Tumbesian specialties were no-shows, although they usually are seen regularly in Cerro Blanco. Seabirders in the South Atlantic Ocean, Drake Passage, recorded 21 species overall, with an outstanding total of 3633 Black-browed Albatross.

Central America hosted 12 counts again: two in Guatemala, one in Nicaragua, five in Costa Rica, and the usual four in Panama. High species total for Central America went to the excellent Rain Forest Aerial Tram count in Costa Rica, with 398. La Selva-Lower Braulio Carillo was second with 375 (last year's high species count for Central America). Atitlan Volcano, Guatemala, compiled by Knut Eisermann, included the participation of several local guides, children, and teenagers building their birding skills. Excellent work! The Endangered Horned Guan and Azure-rumped Tanager were counted again, this being the second year of the count. Two Yellow-green Vireos were noteworthy (winters in South America), as were 24 Cave Swallows that have been recorded several times along the Guatemalan Pacific slope mountains more recently. At Tikal, Guatemala, Swallow-tailed Kite, Philadelphia Vireo, Black Catbird, and Swainson's Warbler were nice finds. The Atlantic Panama Canal count suffered an unusually low species count (254) due to poor participant turnout. As a consequence, the Pacific Canal count was tops with 268. Even the Central Canal count that is usually far

behind the Atlantic was a close to overtaking the more species-rich Atlantic circle. Streak-chested Antpitta and Yellow-throated Warbler were good additions to this year's Pacific count.

WEST INDIES/BERMUDA

Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

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The region had 15 Christmas Bird Counts this season, including 14 Antillean counts and the venerable Bermuda CBC. This year I saw a tremendous effort put forward; high count honors went to Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, with 133 species, followed by Arecibo, PR, and New Providence, Bahamas, tied at 111 species. Fajardo, PR, had the highest participation in the Antilles with 48 observers, followed by Arecibo with 41. The Bahamas had four counts reporting this year, Puerto Rico had three counts, and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands combined had five circles (U.S. 3 and British 2). The eight CBCs from Cabo Rojo, PR, to Anegada, BVI, represent a terrific transect for assessing migrant versus resident species winter population trends. The four CBCs in the Bahamas, although clustered in the northern islands, could also provide some interesting trend data. Bermuda's effort is always outstanding; 19 observers put in 73.5 hours, the highest party hour effort of all counts,

and they reported a very high tally of 96 species including a Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and a Brown Booby.

Some of the rarities reported seem to have also clustered as well. Single Antillean Nighthawks and Chuck-will's-widows were reported from three sites on Puerto Rico. Both species were noted at Arecibo; Chuck-will's widow at Cabo Rojo, and Antillean Nighthawk from Fajardo, for an unusual circumstance of these two caprimulgids overlapping geographically and temporally. Least Terns lingered on the Puerto Rico Bank, one at Cabo Rojo and the other at Tortola. A Gull-billed Tern was seen during the Salinas-Bani, Dominican Republic, count. It seemed like a gull's winter in the northern part of the region this year, with seven species recorded at Bermuda and five in the Bahamas. Lincoln's Sparrows were found as widely dispersed as Abaco, Bahamas, in the north, and Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, in the south.

I recommend using the interactive data search engine provided by National Audubon to assess general trends of species over time for single or multiple counts. For example, I looked at three species—two migrant warblers and a resident cuculid (Smooth-billed Ani)—that I was fairly confident would be counted on most CBCs throughout the Caribbean/Bermuda region. Northern Parula is fairly common in the West Indies during the winter. Cape May Warbler is also found in winter in the region, but its abundance is not as robust as the parula (Pashley, D.N., &



Partial albino Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), New Providence Island, Bahamas. Photo/Neil McKinney

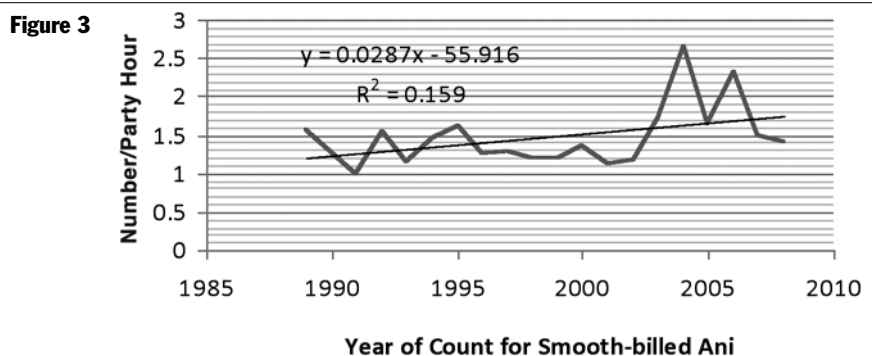
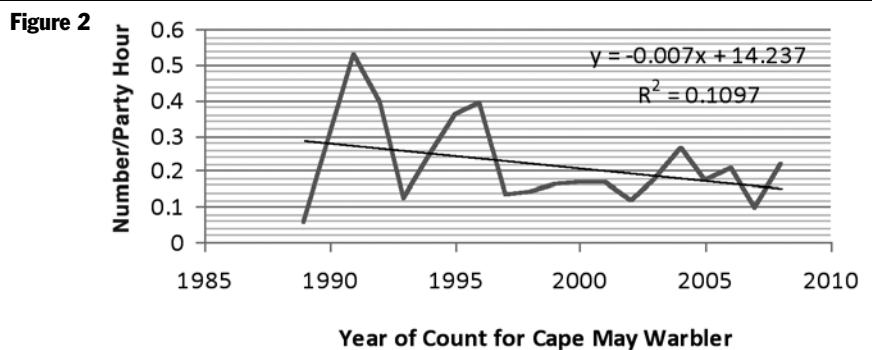
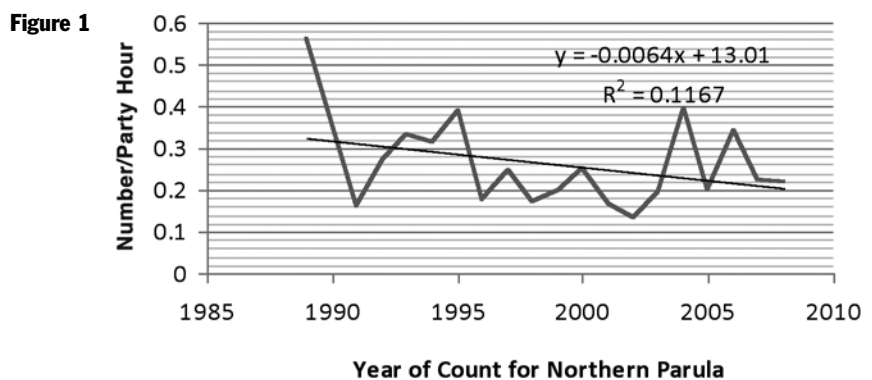
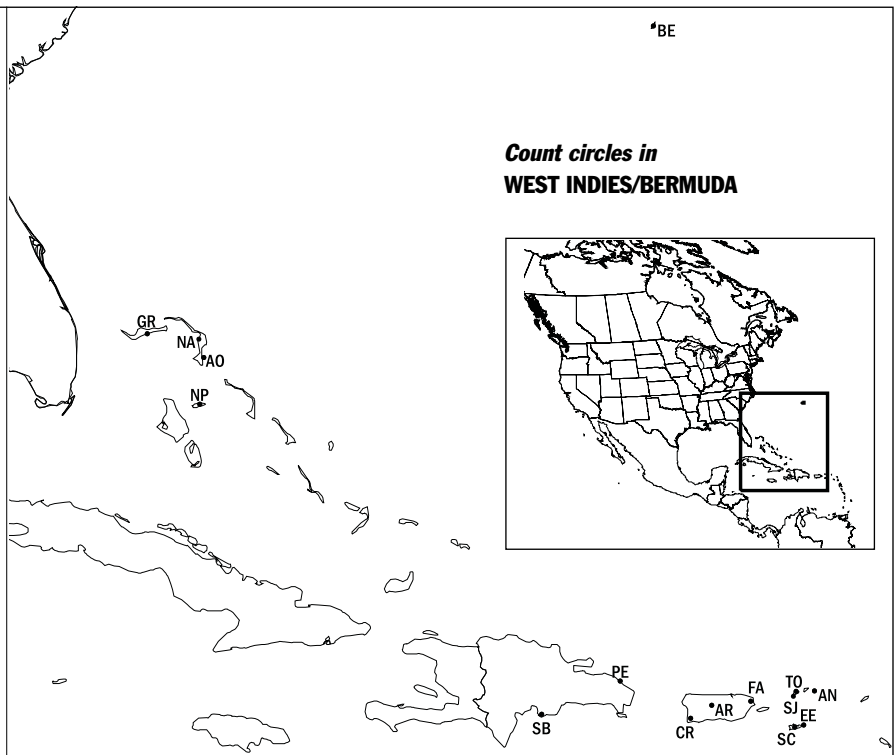
R.P. Martin. 1988. The contribution of Christmas Bird Counts to knowledge of the winter distribution of migratory warblers in the neotropics. *American Birds* 42: 1164-1176). The parula was reported on 7.95 counts during the 20-year period, Cape May was reported on 6.36 counts, and the ani on 9.5 counts during the period. The migrant warblers (Figures 1 and 2) seem to be trending lower in recent years, while the Smooth-billed Ani seems to be holding on (Figure 3). These trends may be indicators of climate change in some subtle and yet poorly understood way. The quality of home territories for warblers in North America, for example, has been under stress from air pollution and insect infestations, to name two potential causes. As for the resident ani, which tends to adjust favorably to disturbed habitats and insect blooms, habitat stress, and infestations, the species would appear to be maintaining their populations in the region.

The rewards of CBCs may be as varied as the number of people who volunteer their time each year to do them. And every once in awhile there is a report of a bird that seems to make it all worthwhile. One of the more spectacular finds, in my opinion, was the Golden Swallow reported from the Puerto Escondido, DR, count. This swallow is perhaps one of the most endangered species in the Greater Antilles. This two-island endemic, Jamaica and Hispaniola, is so infrequently reported it warrants mention here. It would be most important to do a CBC-type count in the same area during the bird's presumed breeding season to verify its status.

Figure 1. General winter population trend for Northern Parula in the West Indies using CBC data from 1989 to 2008.

Figure 2. General winter population trend for Cape May Warbler in the West Indies using CBC data from 1989 to 2008.

Figure 3. General winter population trend for Smooth-billed Ani in the West Indies using CBC data from 1989 to 2008.



Reminder

The Christmas Bird Count is always held December 14 through January 5.

To find out the date of a specific count, go to the CBC home page <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc> and click "Get Involved," or contact your local Audubon chapter or center.



Calling All Counters!



We're always looking for images to use in *American Birds*, such as photographs of birds seen during the Christmas Bird Count or participants in the field. If you would like your pictures considered for publication, please go to the CBC page on the Audubon website, <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>, and click on the link for online photo submittal.



Christmas Bird Count Editorial Codes and Database Flags

Two-letter codes are often used by regional editors to better explain or question a given record. Database flags can be set by compilers and regional editors to indicate an unusual species, high count, or low count. This list will aid you in deciphering the keys when reading accounts in the summaries and on the web site.

Code	Comment	Code	Comment
AB	albino	NC	new to count
AD	adult	ND	no details
AF	at feeder	NF	not Forster's
AM	adult male	NH	call not heard
AP	alternate plumage	NU	not unusual?
AQ	adequate details	OU	origin unknown
BD	banded	PD	poor details
DD	details desired	PH	photo
DM	dark morph	PS	present for some time
DW	dark winged	QN	questionable number
ED	excellent details	QU	?
EO	experienced observer	RA	radio collared
ES	estimated number	RC	record count
EX	exotic	RI	recent introduction
FC	first CBC record	RN	remarkable number
FE	feral	RP	reintroduced population
FP	female-plumaged	RR	remarkable record
FS	first state record	RT	responded to tape
FW	first winter	RW	regular in winter
GD	good details	SK	sketch
HE	high elevation	SP	specimen
HH	hand held	SW	second winter
HO	heard only	UD	unconvincing details
HY	hypothetical	UE	uncountable exotic
IJ	injured	UR	under review
IM	immature	VP	viable population?
IV	ID by voice	VT	videotaped
LO	low	WM	white morph
MD	marginal details	WR	winter state record
ML	migrant lingering	YM	immature male
MO	many observers		

Database flags

US = Unusual species
 HC = Unusually high count
 LC = Low count

Count Circles, Codes, and Compilers in the 108th Count

Our sincere thanks go to each and every Christmas Bird Count compiler, whose field and organizational skills make the CBC happen each season. To contact your local compiler, or the compiler of a count in an area you will be visiting during the holiday season, please go to the CBC home page at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc and click on the "Get Involved" link.

CANADA

ALBERTA (AB)

ABBC	Banff-Canmore	Mike McIvor
ABBE	Bergthal	Bryan Isaac
ABBR	Brule	Beth MacCallum
ABBV	Beaverlodge	Joan E. Kerr
ABCA	Calgary	Phillip Cram Donna Wieckowski
ABCK	Cold Lake	Ted Hindmarch
ABCM	Camrose	Glen Hvenegaard
ABCO	Cochrane	Frank Hennessey
ABDC	Devon-Calmar	Ian Tichowsky
ABDI	Dinosaur P.P.	Yousif Attia
ABED	Edmonton	Kim Blomme
ABEI	Elk Island N.P.	Gwynne Hayward
ABFM	Fort McMurray	Cathy Mountain Robert Grey
ABFS	Fort Saskatchewan	Art Hughes
ABGP	Grande Prairie	Joan E. Kerr
ABHC	Horseshoe Canyon	Michael Harrison
ABHI	Hinton	Beth MacCallum
ABJA	Jasper	Gordon Ruddy
ABLB	Lac La Biche	Jennifer Okrainec
ABMH	Medicine Hat	Bob Frew Marty Drut
ABNA	Nanton	Laurie Messner Mike Truch
ABOP	Opal	Gerald Romanchuk
ABRD	Red Deer	Judy Boyd
ABRM	Rocky Mountain House	Chiarastella Feder
ABSA	St. Albert	Alan Hingston
ABSH	Sheep River	Doug Collister
ABSL	Slave Lake	Patti Campsall
ABSP	St. Paul	Paul E. Boisvert
ABSR	Strathcona	Jim Goodwin
ABST	Stettler	Wayne Kinsella
ABSV	Spruce View	Judy Boyd
ABTO	Tofield	Joyce Kelly-Sinclair
ABTS	Snake's Head	Doug Collister
ABVE	Vermilion	I. Davies
ABWA	Wainwright	Shane Mascarin
ABWL	Wabamun Lake	John Follinsbee
ABWR	Cochrane Wildlife Reserve	Jamey Podlubny Suzanne Visser

BRITISH COLUMBIA (BC)

BCAC	Ashcroft-Cache Creek	Al Nickull
BCAH	Apex-Hedley	Eva Durance
BCAM	Abbotsford-Mission	Lynn Miller
BCBA	Bamfield	Anne Stewart
BCBK	Bridge Lake	Wendy Marshall
BCBL	Burns Lake-Francois Lake	Judith Kleger
BCBR	Broughton Strait	Bob Waldon
BCBV	Bridesville	Doug Brown
BCCA	Cawston	Doug Brown
BCCB	Cranbrook	Greg Ross
BCCG	Castlegar	Peter McIvor
BCCH	Chilliwack	Denis Knopp
BCCI	Cortes Island	Nancy Kendel
BCCR	Campbell River	Ed Silkens
BCCD	Creston Valley	Sharon Laughlin
BCDA	D'arcy-Birken	R. Dan Cumming
BCDC	Dawson Creek	Mark Phinney
BCDU	Duncan	Derrick Marven
BCFA	Fauquier	Ruth Bumpus
BCFE	Fernie	Bob Livsey
BCFS	Fort St. James	Joanne Vinnedge
BCGF	Grand Forks	Jenny Coleshill
BCGO	Golden	Ellen Zimmerman
BCGS	Galiano-North Saltspring	Michael Hoebel
BCHC	Hat Creek	Ken Wright
BCHR	Harrison River	Denis Knopp
BCHS	Lower Howe Sound	Loys Maingon

BCKA	Kamloops	Rick Howie
BCKB	Kimberley	Greg Ross
BCKE	Kelowna	Chris Charlesworth
BCKF	Kingfisher	Janice Lacko
BCKI	Kitimat	April Macleod
BCKO	Kaslo	Dirk Rinehart Pidcock
BCLA	Ladner	Jude Grass
BCLC	Lake Country	Trevor Forder Pam Laing
BCLK	Logan Lake	Bert Parke Karl Ricker Ken Wright
BCLL	Lillooet	
BCLP	Little River-Powell River Ferry	Guy L. Monty
BCLQ	Lasqueti Island	Sheila Ray
BCLR	Lardeau	Gail Spittler
BCMA	Greater Masset	Peter Hamel Margo Hearne
BCMC	McBride	Elsie Stanley
BCME	Merritt	Wayne Weber Alan Burger David Lambie
BCMK	Mackenzie	
BCNB	Nanoose Bay	Rhys Harrison
BCNK	Nakusp	Gary Davidson
BCNN	Nanaimo	Carlo Pavan
BCNS	Nelson	Elaine Moore
BCOO	Oliver-Osoyoos	Doug Brown
BCPA	Port Alberni	Sandy McRuer
BCPB	Pemberton-Mt. Currie	Hugh Naylor
BCPE	Pentiction	Richard Cannings
BCPG	Prince George	Cathy Antoniazzi
BCPH	Pender Harbour	Tony Greenfield
BCPI	Pender Islands	Gerald McKeating Patricia Crossley Peter Hamel Margo Hearne
BCPM	Pitt Meadows	Michael Buckingham Michael Griffin Heather Harbord
BCPO	Powell River	
BCPQ	Parksville-Qualicum Beach	Sandra Gray
BCPT	Princeton	Madelon Schouten
BCRE	Revelstoke	Michael Morris
BCRS	Rose Spit	Peter Hamel
BCRW	Rossland-Warfield	Linda Szymkowiak Arnold By Ted Hillary
BCSA	Salmon Arm	
BCSC	Sunshine Coast	Tony Greenfield
BCSH	Stewart-Hyder	Bob Schonewille
BCSI	Skidegate Inlet	Peter Hamel Brian Eccles
BCSL	Shuswap Lake P.P.	Rick Howie
BCSM	Smithers	Jane Hoek
BCSQ	Squamish	Grant & Marcia Danielson
BCSS	Sidney-South Saltspring	Jean Brouard Ann Nightingale
BCTE	Terrace	Diane Weismiller
BCTL	Tlell	Peter Hamel Barb Small Arnold By Werner Heitmann
BCTR	Trail-Beaver Valley	
BCVA	Vancouver	Danny Tyson
BCVE	Vernon	Erin Nelson
BCVI	Victoria	Ann Nightingale
BCVL	Vaseux Lake	Richard Cannings
BCVT	Valemount	Delores Moore
BCWH	Whistler	James Hallisey
BCWL	Williams Lake	Phil Ranson
BCYA	Yalakom Valley	Toby Mueller

MANITOBA (MB)

MBBA	Balmoral	Jim Duncan
MBBR	Brandon	Cal Cuthbert
MBCR	Cypress River-Spruce Woods	Ken DeSmet
MBDA	Dauphin	William Walley
MBDM	Delta Marsh	Robert Jones

MBGI	Gimli	Bonnie Chartier
MBGS	Glenboro-Spruce Woods	Lorelie Mitchell
MBLY	Lyleton	A.J. Greenley
MBMI	Minnedosa	Ian Thorleifson
MBOH	Oak Hammock Marsh	Paula Griefe
MBPL	Pinawa-Lac du Bonnet	Peter Taylor
MBPP	Portage la Prairie	Carrie Braden
MBRM	Riding Mountain N.P.	Thuraya Weedon
MBSE	Selkirk	Gerald Machnee
MBTH	Thompson	Dave McDonald
MBWI	Winnipeg	Rudolf Koes

NEW BRUNSWICK (NB)

NBCT	Cape Tormentine	Allan D. Smith
NBED	Edmundston	Roy LaPointe
NBFR	Fredericton	Don Gibson
NBGM	Grand Manan Island	Brian Dalzell Durlan Ingersoll
NBMO	Moncton	Roger Leblanc
NBRA	Riverside-Albert	David Christie
NBSL	St. Leonard	Roy LaPointe
NBSS	St. Stephen	Bill Nelson
NBST	Stanley	Julie Singleton
NBSV	Sackville	Sean Blaney

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR (NL)

NLBB	Bonne Bay	Morgan Anderson
NLCB	Corner Brook	Lois Bateman
NLCL	Clareville	Eric Watton
NLCR	Cape Race	John Wells
NLCS	Cape St. Mary's	John Wells
NLFL	Ferryland	Bruce Mactavish
NLGA	Gander	J. Kevin Butler
NLGB	Happy Valley-Goose Bay	Tony Chubbs
NLSC	St. Paul's-Cow Head	Morgan Anderson
NLSJ	St. Johns	Paul Linegar
NLWL	Wabush-Labrador City	Gordon Parsons

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (NT)

NTFS	Fort Simpson	Douglas Tate
NTFT	Fort Smith	Dawn Andrews
NTHR	Hay River	Gary Vizniowski
NTIN	Inuvik	Craig Dockrill
NTNW	Norman Wells	Richard Popko
NTYE	Yellowknife	Robert Bromley

NOVA SCOTIA (NS)

NSAM	Amherst	Becky Stewart
NSAN	Antigonish	Randy Lauff
NSAR	Apple River	Kathleen Spicer Cynthia Spicer
NSBC	Broad Cove	Sylvia Fullerton
NSBI	Brier Island	Eric Mills
NSBS	Bedford-Sackville	Richard Peckham
NSCS	Cape Sable Island	Joan Czapalay Murray Newell
NSGB	Glace Bay	Catherine Murrant
NSHD	Halifax-Dartmouth	Angela Thibodeau
NSKI	Kingston	Wayne Neily
NSLO	Louisbourg	Ken Donovan
NSLU	Lunenburg	James Hirtle
NSPI	Pictou Harbour	Kenny McKenna
NSSC	Strait of Canso	David Johnston
NSSY	The Sydneys	David McCorquodale
NSWH	West Hants	Patrick Kelly
NSWO	Wolfville	Alison Bogan Jim Wolford Eric Ruff Barbara Ruff
NSYA	Yarmouth	

NUNAVUT (NU)

NUAB	Arctic Bay	Clare Kines
NUAR	Arviat	Lynne Rollin
NURI	Rankin Inlet	Brian Zawadski

ONTARIO (ON)			ONPM Pembroke	Manson Fleguel	ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON (FR)	
ONAI Amherst Island	Janet Scott		ONPN Elliot Lake (Penokean Hills)	Joan MacGillivray	FRIS Ile St.-Pierre	Roger Etcheberry
ONAL Algonquin P.P.	Ron Tozer		ONPO Port Hope-Cobourg	Roger Frost	FRPM Saint-Pierre et Miquelon Islands	Roger Etcheberry
ONAM Alfred-Montebello	Jacques Bouvier		ONPP Point Pelee	Sarah Rupert		
ONAT Atikokan	Dave Elder		ONPQ Presqu'île P.P.	David Bree		
ONBA Barrie	Alex Mills		ONPT Peterborough	Tony Bigg		
ONBE Beaverton	Matt Holder		ONPV Port Burwell-Vienna	Ron Allensen		
ONBL Blenheim	Keith Burk			Adrian Juurlink		
ONBN Bancroft	Bruce Collins		ONRE Renfrew	Jim Ferguson	SASKATCHEWAN (SK)	
ONBP Bruce Peninsula N.P.	John Haselmayer		ONRF Rideau Ferry	Judy Buehler	SKBI Biggar	Guy Wapple
ONBR Brockville Area	Daniel Clifflen		ONRH Richmond Hill	Natalie Helferty	SKCC Clark's Crossing	Michael Williams
ONBV Belleville	John Blaney		ONRL Red Lake	Everett Hanna	SKCL Candle Lake	Don Weidl
ONBW Bradford-West Gwillimbury	Mike van den Tillaart		ONSC St. Catharines	Marcie Jacklin	SKCR Creighton	Brenda Schmidt
			ONSD Sudbury	Dieter Schoenefeld	SKEA Eastend	Robert Gebhardt
ONCA Cambridge	Ron Fleming		ONSF Stratford	Gail King	SKES Estevan	Guy Wapple
ONCC Cedar Creek	Ted Cheskey		ONSG Sturgeon Lake	Chris Ellingwood	SKGD Gardiner Dam	Guy Wapple
ONCD Caledon	Paul Pratt		ONSL St. Clair N.W.A.	Allen Woodliffe	SKHA Harris	Guy Wapple
ONCH Chapleau	Chris Punnett		ONSR Saugeen Shores	Cindy Cartwright	SKKI Kinloch	Don Forbes
ONCP Carleton Place	Sue Burk		ONSS Sault Ste. Marie	Ken McIlwrack	SKKU Kutawagan Lake	Sheila Lamont
ONCV Carden Alvar	Iain Wilkes		ONST St. Thomas	Diane Dobson	SKLM Last Mountain Lake W.M.U.	Sheila Lamont
ONDB Dunrobin-Breckenridge	Bob Bowles		ONSU Sutton	Paul Harpley	SKPA Prince Albert N.P.	Fiona Moreland
ONDE Delta	Bruce Di Labio		ONSY Strathroy	Dave Skinner	SKPL Pike Lake	J. Frank Roy
ONDR Deep River	Stephen Seiffert		ONTB Thunder Bay	Nick Escott		
ONDY Dryden	James Ungrin		ONTI Thousand Islands	Chris Bellemore	SKPR Prince Albert	Hilda A. Noton
ONEG Eganville	Darlene Salter		ONTO Toronto	Glenn Coady	SKOD Qu'Appelle Valley Dam	Carman Dodge
ONER Eagle River	Chris Michener		ONUX Uxbridge	Derek Connelly	SKRA Raymore	Michael Williams
ONFF Fort Frances	Carolle Eady		ONVK Vankleek Hill	Christine Brunet	SKRE Regina	Sheila Lamont
ONFL La Foret Larose	Ilka Milne			Jacques Bouvier	SKSA Saskatoon	Michael Williams
ONFV Fisherville	Jacques Bouvier		ONWE Westport	Wendy Briggs-Jude	SKSR Squaw Rapids	Sheila Lamont
ONGA Gameland	Linda Thrower		ONWG West Elgin	George Prieksaitis	SKSW Swift Current	Ron Jensen
ONGB Gravenhurst-Bracebridge	Mark Johnson		ONWI Wiarton	Joseph Johnson	SKYO Yorkton	Geoffrey Rushowick
ONGI Georgian Bay Islands N.P.	Al Sinclair		ONWL Wallaceburg	Steve Charbonneau		
ONGU Guelph	Tim Sweeting		ONWM Wye Marsh	Dave Schandlen	YUKON TERRITORY (YT)	
ONHA Hamilton	Mike Cadman		ONWO Woodhouse Township	David Okines	YTCA Carcross	Dan Kemble
ONHB Holiday Beach	Thomas Thomas		ONWS Woodstock	Jeff Skevington	YTHJ Haines Junction	Julie Bauer
ONHH Halton Hills	Betty Learmouth			Richard Skevington	YTJC Johnson's Crossing	Ben Schonewille
ONHV Huntsville	William McIvreen		ONWW Wawa	Carol Dersch	YTKL Kluane N.P.	Todd Heakes
ONHW Hanover-Walkerton	Ron Tozer				YTMA Mayo	Mark O'Donoghue
ONIF Iroquois Falls	Dorothy Kings		PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (PEI)		YTML Marsh Lake-Yukon River	Clive Osborne
ONIG Ignace	Derrick Romain		PEIH Hillsborough	Dan McAskill	YTTE Teslin	Ben Schonewille
ONIN Ingersoll	Allan Harris		PEIPE Prince Edward Island N.P.	Dan McAskill	YTWH Whitehorse	Jim Hawkings
	Dave Martin				YTWL Watson Lake	Ted Murphy-Kelly
	Ross Snider					
ONKC Kincardine	Ralph Knowles		QUEBEC (QC)		ANTARCTICA	
ONKE Kenora	Leo Heyens		QCAH Laval-Ahuntsic	Benoit Dorion	ANTARCTICA (AQ)	
ONKG Kingston	Leo Heyens		QCBL Brome Lake	Tom Moore	AQCC Cape Crozier, Antarctica	Noah Strycker
ONKI Killarney P.P.	Ron D. Weir		QCBS Beauce Sud	Alain Beauchamp		
ONKL Kleinburg	Chuck Miller		QCCE Contrecoeur	Paul Messier	CARIBBEAN	
ONKP Kettle Point	Chuck Miller		QCCJ Chicoutimi-Jonquiere	Jacques Ibarzabal	BAHAMAS (BA)	
ONKT Kitchener	Bob Noble		QCCS Cap-Saint-Ignace	Marc Lecompte	BAAO Abaco Island, Bahamas	Elwood Bracey
ONKW Kawartha	Alf Rider		QCCV Cowansville	Bertrand Hamel	BAGR Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas	Tony White
ONLH Lanark Highlands	Mike Burrell		QCDC Drummondville	Martine Lemieux	BANA North Abaco, Bahamas	Elwood Bracey
ONLI Linwood	Peter Read		QCFO Forillon N.P.	Denise Gagne	BANP New Providence Island, Bahamas	Neil McKinney
ONLO London	Ron Ridout			Serge Brodeur		
ONLP Long Point	William Climie		QCGE Georgeville	Angela Losito	BERMUDA (BE)	
ONMA Marathon	Lynne Richardson		QCGR Granby	Ginette Boyer	BEBE Bermuda	Andrew Dobson
ONME Meaford	Christopher Bell		QCHE Hemmingford	Andre Messier		
ONMI Manitoulin Island	Angela Martin		QCHS Havre-St-Pierre	Stephanie Cloutier	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (RD)	
ONMK Mashkinonje-North Monetville	Christopher Bell		QCHU Hudson	Alison Bentley	RDPE Puerto Escondido, Dominican Republic	Kate Wallace
ONMM Mindemoya	Dennis Barry		QCIC Ile-du-Grand-Calumet	Johanne Fregeau	RDSB Salinas-Bani, Dominican Republic	Kate Wallace
ONMN Minden	Mark Johnson		QCLA Lascelles	Christian Detellier		
ONMR Morson	Keith Dillabough		QCLE Lennoxville	Camille Lessard	PUERTO RICO (PR)	
ONMT Mattawa	Michael Werner			Gladys Beattie	PRAR Arecibo	Jose A. Salguero
ONMU Mountain Chutes	Tammie Hache		QCLO Longueuil	Francois Garipey	PRCR Cabo Rojo	Jose A. Salguero
ONMW Manitouwadge	Erwin Meissner		QCLT La Tuque	Gordon Kelly		Jose A. Colon-Lopez
ONMY Massey	Anne Brown			Ted Murphy-Kelly		Manuel Cruz
ONNA Napanee	Brent Turcotte		QCMI Mirabel	Yves Payette	PRFA Fajardo	Joseph Wunderle
ONNB North Bay	Kayo Roy		QCMO Montreal	Jeff Harrison		
ONNF Niagara Falls	Rob Swainson		QCMP Matapedia	Christianne Pitre	VIRGIN ISLANDS (VI)	
ONNI Nipigon-Red Rock	Paul Pratt		QCNR New-Richmond	Bernard Arsenaute	VIAN Anegada, British VI	Nancy Woodfield Pascoe
ONNS North Shore	Bernie Ladouceur		QCOP Otterburn Park	Samuel Denault	VIEE East End, St. Croix, USVI	Sheelagh Fromer
ONOH Ottawa-Gatineau	Ray Kiff		OCPE Perce	Pierre Poulin	VISC St. Croix, USVI	Sheelagh Fromer
ONOR Orillia	Freeman Boyd		QCQU Quebec	Pierre Lamothe	VISJ St. John, USVI	Edward Wilson
ONOS Owen Sound	Rayfield Pye		QCSJ St-Jean-sur-le-Richelieu	Sylvain Mathieu		Laurel Brannick
ONOW Oshawa	Michael Runtz		QCSL St-Anne-du-Lac	Marc-Antoine Montpetit		C.J. Wilson
ONPA Pakenham-Arnrior	Drew Campbell			Gilles Normandin	VITO Tortola, British VI	Nancy Woodfield Pascoe
ONPC Port Colborne	Joel Ellis		QCSP Chute-St-Phillipe	Marc-Antoine Montpetit		
ONPE Prince Edward Point	Tony Bigg		QCST Sorel-Tracy	Paul Messier	LATIN AMERICA	
ONPG Petroglyphs	Mark Cranford		QCTA Tadoussac	Gilles Chapdelaine	BELIZE (BL)	
ONPH Peel-Halton Counties	Glenda Jones		QCVL Val-des-Monts	Cecilia Lougheed	BLBC Belize City, Belize	Mick Craig
ONPI Pickering	Tim McKillop			Lynn Lougheed		Dirk Francisco
ONPL Pickle Lake						

AZSE	Sedona	Dottie Hook	CAGV	Grass Valley	Rudy Darling	CASM	Sacramento	Mark Cudney
AZSR	Superior	Cynthia Donald	CAHF	Hayward-Fremont	Phil & Pat Gordon			Andrea Salmi
AZSV	Salt Verde River	Kurt Radamaker	CAHL	Honey Lake	Tim Manolis	CASN	Sonora	Steven Umland
		Cindy Radamaker	CAID	Idyllwild	Steve Adkison	CASO	San Bernardino Valley	Dorothy Myers
AZTI	Timber Mesa	Jimmy Videle	CAJT	Joshua Tree N.P.	Joe Zarki	CASP	Springville	Gary Lindquist
AZTV	Tucson Valley	Larry Liese			Bill Truesdell	CASQ	Sequoia	Rachel Mazur
			CAKA	Kaweah	Rob Hansen	CASR	Santa Rosa	Ruth Rudesill
					John Lockhart	CASS	Salton Sea (south)	Oscar Johnson
ARKANSAS (AR)			CAKR	Kern River Valley	Alison Sheehy	CAST	Stockton	Jim Rowth
ARAR	Arkadelphia	Charles Mills	CALA	Los Angeles	Dan Cooper	CASU	San Juan Capistrano	Stephan Lorenz
		Dolores Harrington	CALB	Long Beach-el Dorado	Rich Sonnenberg	CASV	San Fernando Valley	Arthur Langton
ARBD	Bayou DeView	Steve Osborne	CALC	Lincoln	Edward Pandolfino	CASY	Sierra Valley	Colin Dillingham
ARBE	Buffalo National River (east)	Mark Robinson	CALH	Lake Henshaw	Gretchen Cummings	CASZ	Sonoma Valley	Tom Rusert
ARBL	Big Lake N.W.R.	Allen Reams	CALL	Lost Lake-Fresno	Kevin Enns-Rempel			Darren Peterie
ARCC	Crooked Creek Valley	SallyJo Gibson	CALN	Lancaster	Nick Freeman	CATE	Tehachapi	Jean Moore
ARCO	Conway	Martha Johnson			Mary Freeman	CATJ	Tejon Ranch	Michael White
ARFA	Fayetteville	Joseph C. Neal	CALR	Lake Almanor	Ryan Burnett	CATL	Tule Lake	Michael Robbins
ARFS	Fort Smith-Moffett	Bill Beall	CALS	Los Baños	Harold Reeve	CATO	Thousand Oaks	David Pereksta
ARHB	Holla Bend N.W.R.	Leif Anderson	CALU	La Purisima	Alexander Abela	CAUK	Ukiah	Cheryl Watson
ARHS	Hot Springs Village	Lynn Sackett	CALW	LaGrange-Waterford	Harold Reeve	CAVE	Ventura	Karl Krause
ARJO	Jonesboro	Jim Bednarz	CAMA	Marysville	Tim Manolis	CAWB	Wallace-Bellota	Stephen Stocking
ARLG	Lake Georgia-Pacific/Felsenthal N.W.R.	Leif Anderson	CAMC	Marin County (southern)	Harrison Karr	CAWC	Willow Creek	Gary Lester
ARLO	Lonoke	Daniel Scheiman			Dianne Sierra	CAWO	Woodfords	Tim Fitzer
ARLR	Little Rock	Daniel Scheiman	CAMD	Moss Landing	Bob Ramer			Dan Brown
ARMH	Mountain Home	Philip Hyatt			Bernadette Ramer	CAWS	Western Sonoma County	Veronica Bowers
ARML	Magnolia-Lake Columbia	Sterling Lacy, Jr.	CAMF	Milburn-Fresno	John Warriner	CAYO	Yosemite N.P.	Sarah Stock
		Loice Lacy	CAMH	Mount Hamilton	Bob Hirt	CAYR	Yreka	Michael Robbins
ARNF	North Fork, Illinois Bayou	Dwayne Rambo	CAMI	Mineral	Michael Magnuson			
ARPB	Pine Bluff	Robert Doster	CAMJ	Mojave River Valley	Stephen Myers	COLORADO (CO)		
ARTE	Texarkana	Don Kyle	CAML	Mono Lake	Kristie Nelson	COAS	Aspen	Lindsay Stinnett
ARWA	Wapanocca N.W.R.	Dick Preston	CAMN	Mendocino Coast	Art Morley	COBF	Black Forest	Hugh Kingery
		Van Harris			David Jensen			Judy von Ahlefeldt
ARWR	White River N.W.R.	Keith Sutton	CAMP	Monterey Peninsula	Sheila Baldrige	COBL	Barr Lake	William Kaempfer
					Chris Tenney	COBO	Boulder	Bill Schmoker
			CAMR	Morro Bay	Thomas Edell	COBR	Bonny Reservoir	Glenn Walbek
			CAMS	Mount Shasta	Joey Russell	COCO	Cortez	Carolyn Gunn
			CAMU	Malibu	Larry Allen	COCR	Crook	Steve Larson
			CAMV	Morongo Valley	Margaret Hoggan	COCB	Colorado Springs	Ben Sorensen
			CAMW	Merced N.W.R.	Larry Parmeter	CODC	Douglas County	Nancy Crews
			CAOA	Oakland	Bob Lewis			Cindy Livingston
					David Quady	CODE	Denver	Dick Schottler
			CAOC	Orange County (coastal)	Curtis Johnson			Patricia Echelmeyer
					Steve Alter	CODL	Delta	Jacob Cooper
			CAON	Orange County (northeastern)	Curtis Johnson	CODU	Durango	Susan Allerton
					Steve Alter	CODV	Denver (urban)	Hugh Kingery
			CAOV	Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad	Terry Hunefeld	COEI	Evergreen-Idaho Springs	Brad Andres
			CAPA	Palo Alto	Alan M. Eisner	COFC	Fort Collins	Nick Komar
			CAPC	Putah Creek	Steve Hampton			Sue Riffe
			CAPI	Pinnacles N.M.	Russell Scaif	COFO	Fountain Creek	Brandon Percival
			CAPN	Panoche Valley	Clay Kempf	COGB	Granby	Doreen Sumerlin
			CAPP	Palos Verdes Peninsula	Ross Landry			Brock McCormick
					David Moody	COGJ	Grand Junction	Paul Didier
			CAPR	Point Reyes Peninsula	John Longstreth	COGR	Greeley	Paul Lightsey
					Tom Gaman	COGS	Great Sand Dunes N.P.	Phyllis Pineda Bovin
			CAPS	Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley	Jon Fisher	COGU	Gunnison	Arden Anderson
			CAPV	Peace Valley	Peter Sands	COHO	Hotchkiss	Jason Beason
					Bruce Deuel	COJM	John Martin Reservoir	Duane Nelson
			CARC	Rio Cosumnes	Andrew Engilis			Janeal Thompson
			CARE	Redding	Bill Oliver	COLI	Lake Isabel	David Silverman
					George Horn	COLO	Longmont	Ron Harden
			CARM	Redlands (Mill Creek)	Eugene Cardiff	COLV	Loveland	Connie Kogler
			CARS	Rancho Santa Fe	Robert Patton	COMO	Montrose	Melissa Siders
			CASA	Santa Ana River Valley	Larry LaPre			David Sinton
			CASB	Santa Barbara	Joan Lentz	COMV	Monte Vista N.W.R.	Lisa Clements
					Dave Compton	CONP	North Park	Deborah McLachlan
					Rebecca Pollock	CONU	Nunn	James Sedgwick
			CASC	Santa Cruz County	David Suddjian	COPE	Penrose	Mark Peterson
			CASD	San Diego	Philip Unitt	COPR	Pueblo Reservoir	Mark Yaeger
			CASE	South Lake Tahoe	Will Richardson	COPU	Pueblo	Michael Ketchen
			CASF	San Francisco	Dan Murphy	CORA	Rawhide Energy Station	Ronald Ryder
					Alan Hopkins	CORM	Rocky Mountain N.P.	Scott Roederer
			CASG	Santa Maria-Guadalupe	Alexander Abela	CORO	Rocky Ford	Stanley Oswald
			CASH	Salton Sea (north)	Chet McGaugh	COSD	Salida	Sherrie York
					John Green	COSL	Sterling	Gary Matthews
			CASJ	San Jose	Kirsten Holmquist	COSP	Spanish Peaks	David Silverman
			CASK	South Fork Valley	Denise LaBerteaux	COSS	Steamboat Springs	Thomas Litteral
			CASL	San Jacinto Lake	Anthony Metcalf	COWE	Westcliffe	Jane Pedersen
					Tom Benson	COWF	Weldon-Fort Morgan	Bruce Bosley
						CONNECTICUT (CT)		
						CTBA	Barkhamsted	David Tripp Jr
						CTEW	Edwin Way Teale Trail Wood	Susan Harrington

CTGS	Greenwich-Stamford	Brian O'Toole Gary Palmer	FLNP North Pinellas FLNR West Pasco (New Port Richey)	Merle Hubbard Bill Pranty	IDBH Buhl IDBL Bear Lake Valley	Miriam Austin Dennis Austin	
CTHA	Hartford	Jay Kaplan Stephen Davis	FLPE Pensacola FLPI Ponce Inlet	Bill Bremser Donald Picard	IDBO Boise	R.L. Rowland Jay Carlisle	
CTLH	Litchfield Hills	Raymond Belding	FLPR Peace River	Richard Domroski	IDBR Bruneau	Larry Ridenhour	
CTLS	Lakeville-Sharon	Robert Moeller	FLPS Port St. Joe	Anthony Licata	IDCD Coeur d'Alene	Shirley Sturts	
CTNH	New Haven	Christopher Loscalzo	FLSA St. Augustine	Robert K. (Bob) Henderson James Wheat	IDCM Craters of the Moon	Mike Munts	
CTNL	New London	Robert Dewire	FLSB South Brevard County	Roy Book	IDGV Garden Valley	Gary Worthington	
CTOL	Old Lyme-Saybrook	Barbara Barron	FLSC Sanibel-Captiva	Elaine Jacobson	IDHO Howe	Kit Struthers	
CTOX	Oxford	Roy Harvey	FLSM St. Marks	Katy NeSmith	IDHV Hagerman Valley	Sarah Harris	
CTOV	Quinnipiac Valley	Wilhelmina Smith	FLSO STA5-Clewiston	Margaret England	IDIF Idaho Falls	Mark Delwiche	
CTSM	Stratford-Milford	Steve Mayo	FLSP St. Petersburg	Dave Goodwin	IDIM Indian Mountain	Donald Heikkila Lisa Hardy	
CTSR	Salmon River	David Titus	FLSR Sarasota	Ron Smith	IDJS Jim Sage Mountains	Shirley Sturts	
CTST	Storrs	Steven Rogers	FLST Stuart	Elizabeth Hailman	IDLE Lewiston-Clarkston	Zeke Watkins	
CTWE	Westport	James Hunter	FLTA Tampa	David Bowman	IDMP Moscow-Pullman	David Holick	
CTWR	Woodbury-Roxbury	Chris Wood	FLTH Tallahassee	Grayal Farr	IDNA Nampa	Tom Weber Fred Hill	
DELAWARE (DE)			FLTT Ten Thousand Islands	Larry Richardson	IDPO Pocatello	Rusty Taylor Chuck Trost	
DEBH	Bombay Hook N.W.R.	Andrew Ednie	FLVE Venice-Englewood	Rett Oren	IDPV Pahsimeroi Valley	Dave Mead Anna Means	
DECH	Cape Henlopen-Prime Hook	Frank Rohrbacher	FLWM West Marion County	Norman Lantz	IDRE Rexburg	Darren Clark	
DEMF	Milford	Chris Bennett	FLWP West Palm Beach	Charles Weber	IDSA Salmon	Hadley Roberts	
DEMI	Middletown	Bruce Lantz	FLWR Wekiva River	Jay Exum	IDSL Spirit Lake	Shirley Sturts	
DERE	Rehoboth	Jeff Gordon Liz Gordon	FLWV West Volusia County	David Stock	IDSP Sandpoint	Rich Del Carlo	
DESN	Seaford-Nanticoke	Glen Lovelace III	FLZE Zellwood-Mount Dora	Wes Biggs	IDSV Sun Valley	Brian Sturges	
DEWI	Wilmington	James White	GEORGIA (GA)			IDTF Twin Falls	Jeff Ruprecht
FLORIDA (FL)			GAAB Albany	Alan Ashley	IDTV Teton Valley	Susan Patla	
FLAB	Aripeka-Bayport	Bill Pranty	GAAF Amicalola Falls	Georgann Schmalz	ILLINOIS (IL)		
FLAC	Apalachicola Bay-St. Vincent N.W.R.	Alan Knothe	GAAH Athens	Theresa Hartz	ILAN Andalusia	Kelly McKay	
FLAL	Alafia Banks	David Bowman	GAAL Atlanta	Eugenia Thompson	ILAP Arklands Pyramid	Joseph Merkelbach	
FLAP	Avon Park A.F. Range	Troy Hershberger	GAAU Augusta	Mary Case	ILBA Barrington	Duane Heaton	
FLBA	Bradenton	David Williamson	GABL Bainbridge-Lake Seminole	Bob Zarembo	ILBH Bird Haven Sanctuary, Olney	Frank Storment	
FLBC	Bay County	Lisa Keppner	GABR Blue Ridge	Anne Waters	ILBL Baldwin Lake-Kaskaskia River Valley	Tim Dever	
FLBI	Biscayne N.P.	Howard Tritt	GACG Callaway Gardens	Calvin Zippler	ILBN Bloomington-Normal	Dale Birkenholz	
FLBO	Brooksville	Clay Black	GACH Chattahoochee National Forest	Oscar Dewberry	ILBU Bushnell	Larry L. Hood	
FLCB	Choctawhatchee Bay	Donald Ware	GACI Cumberland Island	Robert Kimsey	ILCA Chautauqua N.W.R.	Robert Montgomery	
FLCE	Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.	Brian Rapoza	GACL Carter's Lake	Cory Croft	ILCC Champaign County	Richard Bjorklund	
FLCK	Cedar Key	Ronald Christen	GACO Columbus	Johnny Parks	ILCD Coles-Cumberland	Helen Parker	
FLCO	Cocoa	David Freeland	GADA Dalton	Sheila Willis	ILCE Carlyle Lake	Laurence Thorsen	
		Dee Fairbanks Simpson	GADU Dublin	Joshua Spence	ILCI Chillicothe	Danny Kassebaum	
FLCR	Crystal River	Keith Douglas	GAFD Floyd County	Sam Pate	ILCL Chicago Lakefront	Tracy Meints Fox	
FLCS	Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary	Sally Stein	GAGC Glynn County	Phil Riner	ILCO Crab Orchard N.W.R.	Joel Greenberg	
FLDB	Daytona Beach	David Hartgrove	GAGH Harris Neck N.W.R.	Robert Sargent	ILCR Calumet City-Sand Ridge	Vicki Lang	
FLDC	Dade County	Brian Rapoza	GALB Lake Blackshear	Owen Kinney	ILCS Crane Lake-Sangamon	Caroyn Marsh	
FLDT	Dry Tortugas National Park	Oron Bass	GALO Lake Oconee	Mike Chapman	ILCT Clinton Lake	Robert Randall	
FLFC	Econlockhatchee	Lorne Malo	GAMA Macon	Steve Calver	ILCU Chicago (urban)	Rhettia Jack	
FLFE	Emeralda-Sunnyhill	Peg Lindsay	GAOK Okefenokee N.W.R.	Terry Johnson	ILCV Collinsville	Jeffrey Sanders	
		John Stenberg	GAPC Peachtree City	Steve Calver	ILCY Cypress Creek	Frank Holmes	
FLEP	East Pasco	Bill Pranty	GAPR Piedmont N.W.R.-Rum Creek W.M.A.	Terry Johnson	ILDE Decatur	Jeffrey Hoover	
FLFG	Flagler	Walter Mahler	GASC St. Catherine's Island	Emil K. Urban	ILDK Dekalb	Norm Jensen	
FLFK	Fakahatchee	Larry Richardson	GASI Sapelo Island	William Dopson		Mike Andrews	
FLFL	Fort Lauderdale	Bryant Roberts	GASV Savannah, GA-SC	Steve Calver	ILEK Eastern Knox County	Kristen Andrews	
FLFM	Fort Myers	Dan Davis	HAWAII (HI)			ILEL Elsay	Jim Mountjoy
FLFP	Fort Pierce	Dotty Hull	HIFF French Frigate Shoals	Cynthia Rehkemper	ILEN Evanston (north shore)	Mary Jane Hoff	
		Allie Comer	HIHO O'ahu: Honolulu	Pete Leary	ILFB Fermilab-Batavia	Tim Wallace	
FLGA	Gainesville	Howard Adams	HIKA Kaua'i: Kapa'a	Arlene Buchholz	ILFG Forest Glen Preserve	Jeff Chapman	
FLGC	Gulf Circle, Manatee County	David Williamson	HIKU Moloka'i: Kualapu'u	Shayna Carney	ILFR Freeport	James Smith	
FLHC	Hamilton County	Frank Sedmera	HILA Laysan Island	Arleone Dibben-Young	ILHL Horseshoe Lake	Marilyn Campbell	
FLJA	Jacksonville	Peggy Powell Anne Turner	HIMA Midway Atoll	Cynthia Rehkemper	ILHP Hennepin	Anne Straight	
		Andy Bankert	HINK Hawai'i: North Kona	Jennifer Chastant	ILHL Horseshoe Lake	Vernon Kleen	
FLJC	Jackson County	Peter Quincy	HIVO Hawai'i: Volcano	Cynthia Rehkemper	ILHJ Hennepin	John McKee	
FLJD	Jonathan Dickinson S.P.	Bill Boeringer	HIWA Kaua'i: Waimea	Elizabeth Flint	ILIL Illini S.P.	Jim Hampson	
FLKD	Kendall Area	Peter Frezza	HIWO O'ahu: Waipi'o	Arlene Buchholz	ILJC Jackson County	Rhonda S. (Monroe) Rothrock	
FLKL	Key Largo-Plantation Key	Peggy Cholley	IDAHO (ID)			ILJO Joliet	Gregory Bluhm
FLKV	Kissimmee Valley	Mark Hedden	IDAF American Falls Reservoir	Chuck Trost	ILKI Kishwaukee	Barbara Williams	
FLKW	Key West	Paul Fellers	IDBF Bonners Ferry	Jan Rose	ILKV Kankakee Valley	Jed Hertz	
FLLA	Lakeland	Charles Geanangel		Allen Rose		Slaby Mark	
		Mark Hedden				Bronson Ratcliff	
FLLC	Lake City	Virlyn Willis				Doug Stotz	
FLLK	Lower Keys	Mark Hedden				Geoffrey Williamson	
FLLO	Long Pine Key	Robin Diaz				Rob Gough	
FLLP	Lake Placid	Jon Greenlaw				Dwight Dalton	
		Helen Obenchain				Carl Daubach	
FLLW	Lake Wales	Donald Van Deman				Steven Bailey	
FLME	Melrose	Bill Bolte Jan Bolte				Tony Ward	
		Ned Steel				William Morris	
FLMI	Merritt Island N.W.R.	Jim Pedersen					
FLMR	Myakka River S.P.	Kenneth Alvarez					
FLNA	Naples	Phil Allman					

ILNE	Newton	Jeff Walk	IAMC	Mason City	Rita Goranson	LARB	Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway	Melvin Weber
ILPE	Peoria	Thad Edmonds	IAMU	Muscatine	Kelly McKay	LASA	Sabine N.W.R.	R. Martin Guidry
ILPM	Pere Marquette Park	Jerry Ingles	IANL	North Linn	Weir Nelson	LASH	Shreveport	Charles Lyon
ILQU	Quincy	Ken Heinze	IANW	Northwest Clayton County	Danny Akers	LAST	St. Tammany Parish	Linda Beall
LRCQ	Rock Cut S.P.	Eddie Callaway	IAPC	Princeton-Camanche	Kelly McKay	LATR	Tensas River N.W.R.	Dan Twedt
ILRL	Rend Lake	Keith McMullen	IARL	Rathbun Lake	Mike Stephens	LAVE	Venice	Robert Purrington
ILRO	Rockford	Dan Williams			Raymond Cummins			
ILRU	Rushville	Harold Hedden	IARR	Red Rock Lake	Aaron Brees	MAINE (ME)		
ILSC	Schapville	Terrence N. Ingram	IASC	Sioux City	Jerry Probst	MEAU	Augusta	Jay Adams
ILSH	Shelbyville Reservoir	Travis Mahan	IASE	Southeast Clayton County	Danny Akers	MEBB	Bangor-Bucksport	Jerry A. Smith
ILSP	Springfield	H. David Bohlen	IASH	Shenandoah	Keith Dyche	MEBF	North Penobscot Bay	Seth Benz
ILSR	Starved Rock S.P.	John McKee	IASL	Spirit Lake	Lee Schoenewe	MEBH	Blue Hill	Clark Moseley
ILTC	Thorn Creek-Park Forest	Al Thomas	IASP	Green Island - Lost Mound	Dan Wenny			Leda Beth Gray
ILUC	Union County	Vernon Kleen	IASR	Saylorville Reservoir	Stephen J. Dinsmore	MEBK	Biddeford-Kennebunkport	Marie Jordan
ILWA	Waukegan	Joel Greenberg	IATC	Taylor County	Kelly Norris	MEBL	Bunker Hill	John Weinrich
ILWM	Western Mercer County	Kelly McKay	IAWC	Walnut Creek N.W.R.	Karen Viste-Sparkman	MEBP	Bath-Phippsburg-Georgetown	Don Hudson
ILWP	White Pines S.P.	Eric Walters	IAYR	Yellow River Forest	Darwin Koenig	MECA	Calais	Maurice Mills
ILWV	Warbluff Valley Sanctuary	Andrea Douglas				MEDF	Dover-Foxcroft	Charles Dorchester
			KANSAS (KS)			MEDI	Deer Isle	Clark Moseley
INDIANA (IN)			KSAC	Arkansas City	Eugene Young			Ken Crowell
INBO	Big Oaks N.W.R.	Joseph Robb	KSBA	Baldwin	Roger Boyd	MEEA	Eastport	Maurice Mills
INEC	Eagle Creek Valley	Karen La Mere	KSCI	Cimarron National Grassland	Sebastian Patti	MEFA	Farmington	Trevor Persons
INEH	Elkhart County	Ronda DeCaire	KSEM	Emporia	Jean Schulerberg	MELA	Lewiston-Auburn	Stan DeOrsey
INEV	Evansville	Carol Pettys	KSHN	Halstead-Newton	Dwight Platt	MEMA	Matinicus	Jeffrey Wells
INFW	Fort Wayne	James Haw	KSLA	Lawrence	Galen Pittman	MEMB	Machias Bay	Gayle Kraus
INGP	Goose Pond	Lee Sterrenburg	KSLC	Linn County	Roger Boyd	MEMD	Mount Desert Island	Michael Good
INHCH	Hamilton County	Art Jeffries	KSOL	Olathe	Don Weiss	MEMJ	Moose Island-Jonesport	Patti Reilly
INHMH	Hanover-Madison	Dan Webster	KSOP	Oskaloosa-Perry Lake	Bunnie Watkins	MEMT	Misery Township	Wendy Howes
		Richard Davis	KSPA	Parsons	Rick Tucker	MEOO	Orono-Old Town	Paul Markson
INID	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore	Brad Bumgardner	KSQU	Quivira N.W.R.	Mike Rader	MEPA	Greater Portland	William Hancock
ININ	Indianapolis	John Schaut	KSRH	Red Hills	Pete Janzen	MEPD	Pemaquid-Damariscotta	Joseph Gray
INJC	Johnson County	Jack McNutt	KSSC	Scott Lake	Sara Shane	MEPI	Presque Isle	Bill Sheehan
INJT	Jamestown	Roger Hedge	KSSL	Salina	Harold Lear	MERG	Rangeley	Jennifer Perry
INLA	Lafayette	Ed Hopkins			Kat Haight	MESP	Schoodic Point	William Townsend
INLM	Lake Monroe	Donald Whitehead			Michael Roy	MESW	Sweden	Jean Preis
INMC	McCormick's Creek S.P.	Sandy Belth			Marjorie Streckfus			Sue Black
INMO	Michaela Farm-Oldenburg	Wayne Wauligman	KSSM	Southeast Kansas Minedland	Steven Ford	METR	Thomaston-Rockland	Don Reimer
INMT	Muscatauck N.W.R.	Donna Stanley	KSTO	Topeka	Gary Haden	MEUN	Unity	Dave Potter
INMU	Muncie	Bill Grummer	KSUW	Udall-Winfield	Max Thompson	MEWA	Waterville	Bets Brown
INNL	Northeast LaPorte County	Dennis Richardson	KSWI	Wichita	Kevin Groeneweg	MEYC	York County	Patricia Moynahan
INOC	Oakland City	Dan Collins	KSWL	Waconda Lake	Mike Rader			
INOR	Ohio River	Paul Wharton			Henry Armknecht	MARYLAND (MD)		
INPC	Posey County	Carol Pettys	KSWR	Webster Reservoir	Mike Rader	MDAC	Allegany County	John Churchill
INPK	Pokagon	Fred Wooley	KSWs	Wilson Reservoir	Mike Rader	MDAG	Annapolis-Gibson Island	Hal Wierenga
INPL	Patoka Lake	John Castrale						Lynn Davidson
INPR	Pigeon River State Fish & Wildlife Area	Gary Tieben	KENTUCKY (KY)					Sue Ricciardi
INPY	Plymouth	Matthew Enos	KYAL	Ashland, Boyd County	Ronald Canterbury	MDBH	Baltimore Harbor	Peter Webb
		Michael Hooker	KYCC	Calloway County	Happy Chambers	MDBO	Bowie	Frederick Fallon
INRI	Richmond	Jim Seaney	KYDA	Danville	Neil Eklund	MDCM	Catoctin Mountain	Michael Welch
INSB	South Bend	Victor Riemenschneider	KYDS	Daviess County South	Mike Henshaw	MDCR	Crisfield	Paul Bystrak
INSC	Southern Lake County	Barb Dodge	KYFR	Frankfort	Peggy Gould	MDCV	Chesterville	Maren Gimpel
		Chris Salberg	KYHO	Hopkinsville	James Chiles			Jim Gruber
INSM	Spring Mill S.P.	John Castrale	KYKL	Kleber W.M.A.	Peggy Gould			Dan Small
INSU	Sullivan County	Michael Brown	KYLB	Land Between the Lakes	Aviva Yasgur	MDDE	Denton	Steve Westre
INTC	Tri-County, Rochester	Thomas Leggett	KYLD	London	Granville Cox	MDEL	Elkton	Laura Balascio
INTH	Terre Haute	Peter Scott			Gay Hodges Allen	MDJB	Jug Bay	Sam Droegge
		Dan Weber			Rosanna Denton	MDLK	Lower Kent County	Nancy Martin
INTI	Tippecanoe	David Hicks	KYLE	Lexington	Betty Maxson			Walter Ellison
INTR	Turkey Run S.P.	Alan Bruner	KYLH	Lincolns Birthplace-Hodgenville				Connie Skipper
INWG	Western Gibson County	Charles Mills		Count LaRue County	Sandy Brue	MDOA	Oakland	Jay Sheppard
INWH	Whitewater S.P.	Jim Seaney	KYLO	Louisville	Pat Bell	MDOC	Ocean City	Bob Boxwell
INWS	Willow Slough-Iroquois Preserves	Ed Hopkins	KYSO	Somerset	Roseanna Denton	MDPL	Point Lookout	Andrew Brown
			KYWC	Wayne County	Roseanna Denton	MDPR	Patuxent River	Gwen Brewer
IOWA (IA)						MDPT	Port Tobacco	Jean Wheeler
IAAM	Ames	Shane Patterson	LOUISIANA (LA)			MDRR	Rock Run	Samuel Dyke
IABO	Boone County	Mark Widrechner	LABC	Bossier-Caddo-Bienville	Paul Dickson	MDSA	Salisbury	Mike Walsh
IABU	Burlington	Chuck Fuller	LABR	Baton Rouge	Kevin Morgan			Chandler Robbins
IACL	Clinton	Kelly McKay	LACA	Catahoula N.W.R.	Marty Floyd	MDSD	Southern Dorchester County	Mark England
IACR	Cedar Rapids	James Durbin	LACB	Claiborne	Nancy Menasco	MDSE	Seneca	Janet Millenson
IADA	Davenport	Kelly McKay	LACL	Cheneyville-Lecompte	Marty Floyd	MDSM	Sugarloaf Mountain	Helen Horrocks
IADAE	Decorah	Darwin Koenig	LACR	Creole	Justin Bosler			Wayne Bell
IADL	Dallas County	Tom Lawson	LACW	Crowley	Marty Floyd	MDST	St. Michaels	Jay Jones
		Bob Myers	LADA	D'Arbonne	Joan Brown	MDTR	Triadelphia Reservoir	Dave Weesner
IADM	Des Moines	Dennis Thompson	LAGI	Grand Isle	Chris Brantley			
IADS	DeSoto N.W.R.	Jerry Toll	LAJB	Johnsons Bayou	Ken Sztraky	MASSACHUSETTS (MA)		
IADU	Dubuque	Charlie Winterwood	LALA	Lafayette	Judith O'Neale	MAAN	Andover	Lou Wagner
IAIC	Iowa City	Chris Edwards			Dave Patton	MAAT	Athol	David Small
		Bob Dick	LANA	Natchitoches	Charles Lyon	MABB	Buzzards Bay	Jeremiah Trimble
IAJA	Jamaica	Raymond Cummins	LANO	New Orleans	David Muth			Peter Trimble
IAKE	Keokuk	Robert Cecil	LANS	Northshore-Slidell	Linda Beall	MACA	Cape Ann	Barbara Volkle
IALA	Lamoni	Jeffrey Livingston	LAPP	Pine Prairie	Marty Floyd	MACB	Central Berkshire	Thomas Collins

MACC Cape Cod	Blair Nikula	MILB Little Bay de Noc	Charles Lindquist	MNWB Wabasha	Jonathan Peterson
MACM Cobble Mountain	Seth Kellogg	MILC Lapeer County	Maureen Lemons	MNWK Walker	Laurie Bauerly
MACO Concord	Henry Norwood	MILL Lake Leelanau	Bob Carstens	MNWR Wild River	Joe Sausen
	Peter Alden	MILU Ludington	David Dister		Tom Anderson
MAGB Greater Boston	Robert Stymeist	MIMA Manistee	Tim Granger		Sue Leaf
MAGO Groton-Oxbow N.W.R.	Julie Lisk		Brian Allen		
	Peter Alden		Don Kogut		
MAGR Greenfield	Mark Fairbrother	MIMC Mecosta County	Stephen Ross	MISSISSIPPI (MS)	Van Harris
MAMA Marshfield	Susan MacCallum	MIMI Midland	Eugene Beckham	MSAL Arkabutla Lake	Steve Icardi
MAMC Mid-Cape Cod	Peter Trimble	MIMN Manistique	Helen Williamson	MSCR Corinth	Mark Bonta
	Jeremiah Trimble		Ronald Annelin	MSDG Dahomey-Great River Road	Bruce Reid
MAMI Millis	Elissa Landre	MIMO Monroe	Jerome Jourdan	MSEL Eagle Lake	Gene Knight
MAMV Martha's Vineyard	Robert Culbert	MIMP Mount Pleasant	Stan Lilley	MSGR Grenada	John Smith
	Penny Uhlendorf	MIMQ Marquette	Greg Cleary	MSHA Hattiesburg	Mary Stevens
	Susan B. Whiting	MIMW Muskegon	Feller DeWitt	MSJA Jackson	JoRee Pease
MANA Nantucket	Kenneth Blackshaw	MIMW Muskegon Wastewater	Brian Johnson	MSJC Jackson County	Millie Johnson
	Edie Ray	MINB New Buffalo	Kip Miller		Nancy Donald
MANB Northern Berkshire	Pamela Weatherbee	MINI Niles	Wendy Jones	MSLC Lauderdale County	Dick Preston
MANE Newburyport	Tom Young	MIOD Oscoda	Cory Gildersleeve	MSML Moon Lake (Lula)	William McGehee
MANF New Bedford	Michael Boucher	MIOV Olivet	Michael Sanders	MSNA Natchez	Terence Schiefer
MANO Northampton	Mary Alice Wilson	MIPB Petoskey	Ed Pike	MSNO Noxubee N.W.R.	Ned Boyajian
	Jan Ortiz	MIPH Port Huron	Janet Fox	MSSH Southern Hancock County	Philip Barbour
MAPL Plymouth	Trevor Lloyd-Evans	MIPQ Pontiac	Nancy E. Tar	MSSI Sidon	Gene Knight
MAQB Quabbin	Scott Sumner	MIRC Rogers City	William Grigg	MSSL Sardis Lake	Daniel Iwedt
MAQU Quincy	Glenn d'Entremont	MIRO Rockwood	Thomas Carpenter	MSVI Vicksburg	Paul Hamel
MASB Stellwagen Bank	Simon Perkins	MITC Traverse City	Edward Moehle	MSWC Washington County (south)	
MASO Southern Berkshire	Rene Laubach	MITU Tuscola U.F.A.	Jerry Hall		
MASP Springfield	George Kingston	MITW Tawas	Larry VanWagoner	MISSOURI (MO)	
MAST Sturbridge	Mark Lynch		Cory Gildersleeve	MOBO Big Oak Tree S.P.	Bill Eddleman
MATI Tuckernuck Islands	Richard Veit	MIWA Waterloo State Recreation Area	Don Henise	MOBS Big Spring	Bryan Culpepper
MATM Taunton-Middleboro	Jim Sweeney		Robyn Henise		Kim Houf
MATR Truro	Thomas Lipsky	MIWM Western Macomb County	Barbara Baldinger	MOCC Clarence Cannon N.W.R.	Bruce Schuette
MAUX Uxbridge	Strickland Wheelock		Tom Heatley	MOCF Confluence	Randy Korotev
MAWE Westminster	Charles Caron	MIWP Whitefish Point	Greg Cleary	MOCO Columbia	Jim Gast
MAWO Worcester	John Liller			MODC Dallas County	David Blevins
				MOGR Grand River	Terry McNeely
				MOHF Horton-Four Rivers	Mark Robbins
MICHIGAN (MI)		MINNESOTA (MN)		MOJC Jefferson City	Julie Lundsted
MIAA Ann Arbor	Jacco Gelderloos	MNAF Afton	Joseph Merchak	MOJO Joplin	Lawrence Herbert
MIAB Anchor Bay	Fred Charbonneau	MNAL Albert Lea	Allen Batt	MOKC Kansas City	Mike Stoakes
	Martin Blagdurn	MNAR Aurora	Steven Falkowski	MOKN Knob Noster	Vernon Elsberry
	Dick Leasure	MNAS Austin	Terry Dorsey	MOLC Laclede county	Lester Pannell
MIAG Allegan State Game Area	Raymond Adams	MNBA Baudette	Martin Kehoe	MOLI Liberal	Lawrence Herbert
	John Brenneman	MNBE Bemidji	Kelly Larson	MOMA Maryville	David Easterla
MIAL Albion	Tamara Crupi	MNBI Beltrami Island	Martin Kehoe	MOMI Mingo N.W.R.	Bill Eddleman
MIAM Antrim-Old Mission	Robert Cartens	MNBL Bloomington	Mark Ochs	MOML Montrose Lake Wildlife Area	John Belshe
MIAP Alpena	Linda Klemens	MNBT Battle Lake	Dan & Sandy Thimgan		Rhonda Edmunds
MIAT Au Train	Mark Hubinger	MNCC Cedar Creek Bog	James Howitz	MOMS Maramec Spring	Mike Doyen
MIBE Beulah	John Ester	MNCK Crookston	Tom Feiro	MOPB Poplar Bluff	Bruce Beck
MIBS Berrien Springs	Kip Miller	MNCO Cottonwood	Paul Egeland	MOSC Squaw Creek N.W.R.	Mark Robbins
MIBT Battle Creek	John Brenneman	MNCS Crosby	Jo Blanich	MOSJ St. Joseph	Ival Lawhon
MIBY Bay City	Jeanne Henderson	MNDU Duluth	Jim Lind	MOSL Swan Lake N.W.R.	Steve Kinder
MICD Cadillac Area	Chris Schumacher	MNEX Excelsior	Howard Towle	MOSP Springfield	David Blevins
MICL Clinton	Darrin O'Brien	MNFA Faribault	Gene Bauer	MOTC Taney County	Charles Burwick
MICON Carney	Dale Leitzke		Dave Bartkey	MOTR Trimble	Kristi Mayo
MICOL Coloma	Charles Nelson	MNFB Fredenberg	Celeste Kawulok	MOWS Weldon Spring	Tom Parmeter
	Mindy Walker	MNFF Fergus Falls	Dan & Sandy Thimgan		
MIDE Detroit	Timothy Nowicki	MNGM Grand Marais	Jeremy Ridlbauer	MONTANA (MT)	
MIDO Dowagiac	John Brenneman	MNGR Grand Rapids	Kenneth Zimmer	MTBE Big Hole	Katharine Stone
	Ray Adams	MNHE Hastings-Etter	Roger Field	MTBG Bigfork	Daniel Casey
MIDR Detroit River	Jim Fowler	MNHI Hibbing	Christine Olson	MTBL Billings	Mrs. Leon Hicks
MIEH Eagle Harbor	Tom Auer	MNIS Isabella	Steve Wilson	MTBW Bowdoin N.W.R.	Dwain Prellwitz
MIEL East Lansing	Thomas Wheeker	MNIT Itasca S.P.	Douglas Johnson	MTBZ Bozeman	John Parker
MIER Eaton Rapids	Michael Sanders	MNLQ Lac qui Parle	Paul Egeland	MTCC Clark Canyon Dam	Jack Kirkley
MIGC Genesee County	Tim Gundlach	MNMA Marshall	Roger Schroeder	MTCH Chester	Dave Allen
MIGO Gobles	John Brenneman	MNMC Northern Meeker County	Milton Blomberg	MTEU Ennis	John Parker
MIGR Grand Rapids	Steven Mueller	MNMI Minneapolis (north)	Siah St. Clair	MTEU Eureka	Lewis Young
MIGW Gwinn	Brian Johnson	MNMK Mankato	Merrill Frydendall	MTFP Fort Peck	Charles Carlson
MIHA Hartland	Richard Wolinski	MNML Mountain Lake-Windom	Edna Gerber	MTGF Great Falls	Richard Mousel
MIHB Hubbard Lake	Linda Klemens	MNMO Morris	Donna Oglesby	MTGK Grant-Kohrs	Gary Swant
MIHC Houghton County	Nancy Auer	MNNM Northwest McLeod	Robert Schroeder	MTGL Glacier N.P.	Steve Gniadek
MIHH Higgins Lake-Houghton Lake	Michael Petrucha	MNNW Northern Wright County	Claudia Egelhoff		Susan Sindt
MIHL Hayward Lakes	Joan Campbell	MNOW Owatonna	Darryl Hill	MTHA Hamilton	John Ormiston
MIHO Holland	Robert Venner	MNPI Pillager	Michael North	MTHE Helena	Cedron Jones
MIHR Huron County	Monica Essenmacher	MNRL Rice Lake N.W.R.	Michelle McDowell	MTKA Kalispell	Daniel Casey
	Scott Jennex	MNRO Rochester	Clifford Hansen	MTLE Lewistown	Anne Tews
MIHU Hudsonville	Frederick Bevis	MNRS Roseau	Betty M. Johnson	MTLI Libby	Al Bratkovich
MIIR Iron River	David Tiller	MNRW Red Wing	Laura Coble	MTLR Little Rocky Mountains	Dwain Prellwitz
	Elizabeth Rogers	MNSC St. Cloud-Collegeville	Brian Jungels	MTMC Miles City	Jennifer Nagy
MIKA Kalamazoo	Russ Schipper	MNSN St. Paul (northeast suburban)	James Howitz		John Scheuring
MIKB Keweenaw Bay	Joe Kaplan	MNSP St. Paul (north)	Julian Sellers		Larry Weeks
MILA Lake County	Bonnie Stout	MNTH Two Harbors	Jim Lind		Dwain Prellwitz
	Janie Stout				

MTNI	Ninepipe N.W.R.	Jim Rogers	NJPI	Pinelands	Robert Confer	NYFR	Dunkirk-Fredonia	Joanne Goetz
MTNX	Noxon-Heron	Jim & Lark Greaves	NJPR	Princeton	Laurie Larson			Paul Farver
MTPC	Park County	Sally MacDonald			Louis Beck	NYGE	Geneva	Lisa Rouse
MTST	Stevensville	David Lockman	NJRA	Ramsey	John Brotherton	NYHE	Hamburg-East Aurora	Thomas O'Donnell
MTTF	Three Forks	Dennis Flath			Patricia Brotherton	NYHF	Hudson Falls	Linda White
MITR	Troy	Donald Jones			Stiles Thomas	NYHV	Pawling (Hidden Valley)	Carena Pooth
MTUS	Upper Swan Valley	Steve Lamar	NJRE	Raritan Estuary	Tom Ostrand			Angela Dimmitt
MTWS	Warm Springs	Gary Swant	NJSA	Salem	Jerry Haag	NYIT	Ithaca	Kevin McGowan
MTWY	West Yellowstone	John Heine	NJSH	Sandy Hook	Scott Barnes	NYJA	Jamestown	William Seleen
		Kirk Horn	NJSO	Somerset County	John Kee			Robert Sundell
MYE	Yellowstone N.P.	Terry McEaney			Chris Aquila	NYJG	Johnstown-Gloversville	Pamela Hunt
					Gil Wald	NYLS	Letchworth-Silver Lake	Douglas Bassett
NEBRASKA (NE)			NJSU	Sussex County	Alan Boyd	NMYC	Massena-Cornwall	Bruce Di Labio
NEAM	Ames	Don Paseka	NJTM	Trenton Marshes	Mary Doscher	NYMK	L.I.: Montauk	Hugh McGuinness
NEBO	Branched Oak-Seward	Joseph Gubanyi			Bradford Merritt			Angus Wilson
NECL	Calamus-Loup	David Heidt	NJWC	Warren County-Northampton County	Jane Bullis	NYML	Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir	Steve Chorvas
NECR	Crawford	Bruce Walgren	NJWW	Walnut Valley	Dennis Briede	NYMT	Monticello	Daniel Niven
NELI	Lincoln	Linda R. Brown				NYMZ	Montezuma	Carol Stokes-Cawley
NELM	Lake McConaughy	Stephen J. Dinsmore	NEW MEXICO (NM)					Jane Graves
NENO	Norfolk	Duane Wolff	NMAE	Angel Fire-Eagle Nest	Agnes Gibson	NYNN	L.I.: Northern Nassau County	Glenn Quinn
		David Heidt	NMAL	Albuquerque	Hart Schwarz	NYNW	New Woodstock-Southern	
NEOM	Omaha	Betty Grenon	NMBD	Bosque del Apache N.W.R.	Dave Hawksworth		Highlands	Matthew Young
NEPP	Ponca State Park	Bill Huser	NMCA	Caballo	John Douglas	NYOD	Oneida	Brenda Dougl
NESC	Scottsbluff	Alice Kenitz	NMCC	Carlsbad Caverns N.P.	Steve West	NYOO	Oak Orchard Swamp	Gail Seamans
			NMCL	Clayton	Christopher Rustay	NYOR	L.I.: Orient	Mary Laura Lamont
NEVADA (NV)			NMCM	Cimarron	Mary Jo Kelly	NYOS	Oswego-Fulton	Bill Purcell
NVAM	Ash Meadows N.W.R.	Carl Lundblad	NMCM	Chaco National Historical Site	Brad Shattuck			Margaret Rusk
NVCC	Carson City	Greg Scyphers	NMCM	Clovis	Grant Beauprez	NYOT	Oneonta	J. Robert Miller
NVDG	Desert Game Range	Hermi Hiatt	NMDI	Dixon	Robert Templeton	NYOW	Owego	Rita Pantle
NVEL	Elko	Lois Ports	NMEL	Eunice-Lea County	Pat McCasland	NYPC	Putnam County	Charles Roberto
NVFA	Fallon	Amy Leist	NMES	Espanola	Bernard Foy	NYPE	Peekskill	John Askildsen
NVHE	Henderson	Je Anne Branca	NMFA	Farmington	Alan Nelson	NYPL	Plattsburgh	Judith Heintz
NVJA	Jarbridge	Karl Ruprecht	NMFP	Five Points	Nancy Cox			Melanie McCormack
NVMU	Muddy River	Bruce Lund			Steven Cox	NYQU	L.I.: Queens	Robert Dieterich
NVPL	Pyramid Lake	Dennis Serdehely	NMGR	Gila River	Roland Shook	NYQW	L.I.: Quoogue-Watermill	Steven Biasetti
NVRL	Ruby Lake	Jeff Mackay	NMLA	Lakes Avalon-Brantley	Tom Hines	NYRC	Rockland County	Alan Wells
NVSV	Snake Valley	Melissa Renfro	NMLC	Las Cruces	David Griffin			Della Wells
NVTM	Truckee Meadows	David McNinch	NMLL	La Luz-Otero County	John Mangimeli	NYRH	Rochester	Robert Spahn
			NMLO	Loving	Craig C. Cranston	NYRM	Rome	Bruce Carpenter
NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH)			NMLR	Ladder Ranch	Bill West	NYSA	Salem	John Helft
NHBV	Baker Valley	Steve Rounds	NMLV	Las Vegas	Lea Knutson	NYSB	St. Bonaventure	Regina VanScoy
NHCF	AMC Crawford Notch	Craig Repasz			Deanna Einspahr	NYSG	L.I.: Sagaponack	Hugh McGuinness
NHCN	Concord	Robert Quinn	NMMA	Maxwell N.W.R.	Linda Mowbray	NYSH	Sherburne	Fred von Mechow
NHCS	Coastal New Hampshire	David Donsker	NMOV	Orilla Verde	Robert Weber	NYSI	Staten Island	Edward Johnson
NHEU	Errol-Umbagog	Chris Martin	NMPC	Pecos	George Blanchard	NYSK	Skaneateles	John Cashier
NHGB	Grafton-Bristol	Phred Benham	NMPM	Peloncillo Mountains	Tony Godfrey	NYSL	Saranac Lake	Larry Master
NHHN	Hanover-Norwich	Nancy Martin	NMOU	Questa	Robert Weber	NYSM	L.I.: Smithtown	Richard Gostic
		Dan Crook	NMRO	Roswell	Jeffrey Sanchez	NYSN	L.I.: Southern Nassau County	Patricia Lindsay
		Walter Ellison			Crystal Bechaver	NYSO	Scio	Doris Burton
NHKE	Keene	Lance Tanino	NMRU	Ruidoso	Anita Powell	NYSR	Southern Rensselaer County	Philip Whitney
NHLD	Lee-Durham	Stephen Mirick	NMSC	Silver City	Rinda Metz	NYSS	Saratoga Spa S.P.	Larry Rowland
NHLL	Laconia-New Hampton	Pamela Hunt			Karen Beckenbach	NYST	Schenectady	William Lee
NHLS	Lake Sunapee	Gary Stansfield	NMSE	Sevilleta N.W.R.	Steven Cox	NYSU	Southern Orange County	Herbert Stein
NHLT	Littleton	David Govatski	NMSF	Santa Fe	Deanna Einspahr	NYSY	Syracuse	Kevin McGann
NHMA	Manchester	Kevin Reid	NMSM	Sandia Mountains	Nick Vaughn	NYTR	Troy	Lawrence Alden
NHMH	Manchester	Richard Bielawski	NMZU	Zuni	John Trochet	NYWA	Watertown	David Prosser
NHNP	Peterborough-Hancock	Dave Rowell				NYWG	Watkins Glen	Jack Brubaker
NHPI	Pittsburg	David Govatski	NEW YORK (NY)			NYWL	Wilson-Lake Plains	Garner Light
NHSA	Sandwich	Tony Vazzano	NYAC	Albany County	Alan Mapes			
			NYBI	Binghamton	Gail Kirch	NORTH CAROLINA (NC)		
NEW JERSEY (NJ)			NYBL	Bolton Landing	Chris Krahlung	NCAL	Alamance County	Harry Shoffner
NJAS	Assunpink	Susan Phelon	NYBM	Beaver Meadow	Paul Fehringer	NCAR	Alligator River N.W.R.	Jeff Lewis
NJBA	Barnegat	Tom Bailey	NYBR	L.I.: Brooklyn	Paul Keim	NCBC	Buncombe County	Steve Semanchuk
NJBO	Boonton	Glenn Mahler	NYBU	Buffalo	William Bogacki	NCBL	Balsam	Robert Olthoff
NJBP	Belleplain	Paul Kosten	NYBW	Bronx-Westchester Region	Michael Bochnik	NCBP	Bodie-Pea Island	Paul Sykes
NJCC	Cumberland County	Michael Fritz	NYCA	L.I.: Captree	Shai Mitra	NCBR	Brevard	Norma Siebenheller
NJCM	Cape May	Louise Zemaitis			Patrica Lindsay			Mike Judd
NJEL	Elmer	Jerry Haag	NYCH	Conesus-Hemlock-Honeoye		NCCB	Central Beaufort County	Kevin O'Kane
NJES	Great Swamp-Watchung Ridges	Pete Axelrod		Lakes	Robert G. McKinney	NCCH	Cape Hatteras	Patricia Moore
NJHC	Hudson Canyon, Atlantic Ocean	Paul Guris	NYCL	Clinton	Matthew Perry	NCCP	Chapel Hill	Will Cook
NJHR	Hackensack-Ridgewood	David Hall	NYCM	Chatham	William Cook	NCCR	Charlotte	Ken Kneidel
NJLA	Lakehurst	Michael Casper	NYCR	Cortland	Matthew Young	NCDU	Durham	Michael Schultz
NJLB	Long Branch	Patrick Belardo	NYCS	L.I.: Central Suffolk County	Eileen Schwinn			Jeff Pippen
NJLH	Lower Hudson	Susan Elbin	NYCT	Catskill-Coxsackie	Richard Guthrie	NCFL	Falls Lake	Brian Bockhahn
		Dick Gershon			Larry Federman	NCGA	Gastonia	Steven Tracy
		Kirsten Klipp	NYDC	Dutchess County	William Case	NCGM	Grandfather Mountain	Curtis Smalling
NJMA	Marmora	Edgar Bristow	NYEL	Elmira	Bill Ostrander	NCGR	Greensboro	Herb Hendrickson
NJMO	Moorestown	Mark Pensiero	NYEO	Eastern Orange County	Robert Slechta	NCGV	Greenville	Dr. Veronica Pantelidis
NJNG	Northwestern Gloucester County	Ronald Kegel	NYEZ	Elizabethtown	Matthew Medler			John Wright
NJNH	Northwestern Hunterdon County	Peter Kwiatek			Charlotte Demers	NCHC	Henderson County	Wayne Forsythe
NJOC	Oceanville	Brian Moscatello	NYFP	Fort Plain	Bob Donnelly	NCHP	Highlands Plateau	Edwin Poole
		Edgar Bristow						

PAPL	Pleasantville	Russ States	TNBR	Buffalo River	Don Simbeck	TXFR	Freeport	Michael Austin
PAPM	Pocono Mountain	Brian Hardiman			Damien Simbeck			Ron Weeks
PAPS	Pittsburgh South Hills	Nancy Page	TNCA	Cades Cove,				Victor Emanuel
PAPV	Pennypack Valley	Peter Kurtz		Great Smoky Mountains N.P.	Susan Hoyle	TXFW	Fort Worth	David Powell
		Brian Schultz	TNCC	Cross Creeks N.W.R.	Sarah Welker	TXGA	Galveston	Dwight Peake
PARD	Reading	Ken Lebo	TNCH	Chattanooga	Kevin Calhoun	TXGC	Gibbons Creek	Darrell Vollert
PART	Rector	Leonard & Linda Hess	TNCL	Clarksville	Deborah Hamilton	TXGF	Guadalupe River	
PARY	Ryerson	Marjorie Howard	TNCO	Columbia	Tommy Edwards		Delta-McFaddin Family Ranches	Brent Ortego
PASB	Southeastern Bradford County	Trudy Gerlach	TNCS	Crossville	Edmund LeGrand	TXGM	Guadalupe Mountains	Fred Armstrong
PASC	State College	James Dunn			Joseph Mast	TXGR	Granger	Scott Yound
		Robert Fowles	TNCV	Cookeville	Stephen Stedman	TXGT	Georgetown-Andice	Edward Rozenburg
PASL	Southern Lancaster County	Robert Schutsky	TNCY	Clay County	Terry Campbell	TXHA	Hagerman N.W.R.	Wayne Meyer
PASR	Scranton	Paul Mundy	TNDK	DeKalb County	Carol D. Williams	TXHG	Harlingen	Mark Conway
PASW	Western Schuylkill County	Dave Kruel	TNEL	Elizabethton	Rick Knight	TXHO	Houston	David Sarkozi
PATH	Thompson	Stuart Slocum	TNFC	Fayette County	Kate Gooch	TXHT	Hueco Tanks	Richard Hermosillo
PATU	Tunkhannock	Rick Koval	TNFR	Franklin-Coffee County	LouAnn Partington	TXHU	Huntsville	Dan Jones
PAUB	Upper Bucks County	Bill Etter	TNGS	Great Smoky Mountains N.P.	David Trently	TXKI	Kingsville	Glenn Perrigo
PAWC	West Chester	Barry Blust	TNHI	Hiwassee	Kevin Calhoun			Thomas Langschied
PAWI	Williamsport	David Ferry	TNHP	Hickory-Priest	Chris Sloan	TXKV	Kerrville	Richard Redmond
PAWL	Wild Creek-Little Gap	Joshua Nemeth	TNJA	Jackson	Mark Greene	TXLA	Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.	Jody Mays
PAWM	White Mills	Barbara Leo	TNKI	Kingsport	William Grigsby	TXLD	Laredo	Susan Foster
PAWN	Western Chester County	Larry Lewis	TNKN	Knoxville	K. Dean Edwards	TXLE	Lake Meredith (east)	Susan Thompson
		Rick Robinson	TNME	Memphis	Margaret Jefferson	TXLG	Longview	David Brotherton
PAWR	Warren	Michael Toole	TNNA	Nashville	Jan Shaw	TXLK	Lake Tawakoni	Richard Kinney
PAWS	Washington	Thomas Contreras	TNNL	Nickajack Lake	David Spicer	TXLO	Lake O' the Pines	David Brotherton
PAWY	Wyncote	Andy Fayer	TNNO	Norris	Charles Nicholson	TXLR	Lake Ray Hubbard	Jack Hill
PAYO	York	Bill DelGrande	TNRL	Reelfoot Lake	Mark Greene	TXLS	La Sal Vieja	Martin Hagne
			TNRM	Roan Mountain	Rick Knight			Jennifer Owen-White
			TNSA	Savannah	Damien Simbeck	TXLU	Lubbock County	Anthony Hewetson
RHODE ISLAND (RI)			TNSV	Shady Valley-Mountain City	Robert Biller	TXLV	Lewisville	Keith Lockhart
RIBI	Block Island	Christopher Raithehl	TNSW	Warren County	Gregg Garrison	TXLW	Lake Meredith (west)	Michael Ryan
RINC	Newport County-Westport	Robert Emerson	TNWC	White County	Douglas Downs	TXMC	Mckinney	Roger Sanderson
RINT	Napatree, RI-CT-NY	Shai Mitra	TNWH			TXMI	Midland	Donna Kelly
RISK	South Kingstown	Scott Tsagarakis				TXMM	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh	Brent Ortego
			TEXAS (TX)					Marilyn Sitz
SOUTH CAROLINA (SC)			TXAB	Abilene	Laura Packer	TXMN	Mcrary	Barry Zimmer
SCAB	Ace Basin	Pete Laurie	TXAM	Amarillo	Thomas Johnson	TXMU	Muleshoe N.W.R.	Anthony Hewetson
SCAI	Aiken	Calvin Zippler	TXAP	Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R.	Sumita Prasad	TXMW	Matador Wildlife Management	Matthew Poole
SCCA	Charleston	Jeffrey Mollenhauer	TXAR	Aransas N.W.R.	Barbara Bruns	TXNA	Nacogdoches	David Wolf
		Paul Nolan	TXAU	Austin	Laurie Foss			Mimi Wolf
SCCG	Congaree Swamp	John Grego			Shelia Hargis	TXNB	New Braunfels	David Sarkozi
SCCL	Clemson	J. Drew Lanham	TXAY	Armand Bayou	Martha Hood	TXOC	Orange County	Ken Sztraky
		Margaret Ptacek			Mark Kramer	TXOR	Old River	Harry Elliott
SCCO	Columbia	Steve Dennis	TXAZ	Anzalduas-Bentsen	Joshua Rose	TXPA	Port Aransas	Joan Holt
		Caroline Eastman	TXBA	Balmorhea	Martha Hansen			Scott Holt
		Nancy Jordan			Kelly Bryan	TXPM	Palmetto S.P.	Dwayne Rogers
SCCS	Carolina Sandhills N.W.R.		TXBB	Bastrop-Buescher State Parks	David Mitchell	TXPR	Paris	Nancee Salzman
SCHH	Hilton Head Island	Nan Lloyd	TXBC	Balcones Canyonlands	John Kelly	TXPS	Palestine	Ann Huffstetter
SCLP	Litchfield-Pawleys Island	Chris Hill	TXBE	Beech Creek	John Whittle	TXON	Quanah	Steve Welborn
SCLS	Lower Saluda	Jason Giovannone			David Roemer	TXOQ	Quitaque	Joel Reese
SCMC	McClellanville	Nathan Dias	TXBF	Buffalo Bayou	Adam Wood	TXRL	Robert Lee	Rose Marie Stortz
SCNG	North Greenville	J.B. Hines			Michael Williams	TXRO	Rockport	Robert Edwards
SCPD	Pee Dee Area	David C. McLean Jr.	TXBG	Big Bend N.P. (east)	Bryan Hale	TXSA	Santa Ana N.W.R.	Michael Carlo
SCPW	Pinewood	Lex Glover	TXBL	Buffalo Lake N.W.R.	Joseph Cepeda	TXSB	San Bernard N.W.R.	Ron Weeks
SCSC	Sun City-Okatie	Helen Chatterton	TXBN	Burnet County	Elizabeth Knebel			Jennifer Wilson
SCSN	Santee N.W.R.	Dennis Forsythe	TXBO	Boerne	Sue Wiedenfeld	TXSC	Spring Creek	Albert Barr
SCSP	Spartanburg	Lyle Campbell			Patricia Beecher	TXSG	San Angelo	Russell Wilke
SCSR	Savannah River Site	Mark Vukovich	TXBP	Bolivar Peninsula	William Graber	TXSJ	San Jacinto Wilderness	David Henderson
SCWB	Winyah Bay	Lex Glover			Karen McCormick	TXSR	Sea Rim S.P.	John Whittle
SCYR	York-Rock Hill	Bill Hilton Jr.	TXBS	Big Spring	Sammy Hunnicutt	TXST	San Antonio	K. Sheridan Coffey
			TXBU	Bell County	Thomas Robbins	TXTC	Turkey Creek	John Whittle
			TXBV	Brownsville	Lee Zieger			David Roemer
SOUTH DAKOTA (SD)			TXBZ	Brazos Bend	Bill Godley	TXTE	Texarkana	Don Kyle
SDBA	Badlands N.P.	Eddie Childers	TXCA	Caddo National Grasslands	Doug Wood	TXTN	Trinity River	Stuart Marcus
SDBI	Bison	Meghan Dinkins	TXCC	Corpus Christi	Lawrence Jordan	TXTT	Tenaha-Timpson	David Brotherton
		Judith Dinkins	TXCF	Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff)	Lawrence Jordan	TXTY	Tyler	Peter Barnes
		Pat Dinkins	TXCK	Choke Canyon	Paul Sunby	TXUC	Uvalde County	Susan Cooper
SDBR	Brookings	Nelda Holden	TXCM	Chisos Mountains	Bryan Hale	TXVC	Village Creek Drying Beds	Jim Sipiora
SDHU	Huron	Bridgette Flanders-Wanner	TXCO	Comstock	Sue Wiedenfeld	TXVI	Victoria	Bill Farnsworth
SDLA	Lake Andes	Edward Rodriguez			Patricia Beecher	TXWA	Waco	E.G. White-Swift
SDMA	Madison	Jeffrey Palmer	TXCP	Chaparral W.M.A.	Dan Walker	TXWF	Wichita Falls	Debra McKee
SDPI	Pierre	Doug Backlund	TXCR	Crawford	Eric Haskell	TXWK	West Kerr County	Bill Lindemann
SDPM	Piedmont	Addison Ball	TXCS	College Station	Betty Vermeire	TXWP	Westcave Preserve	Dan Callaway
SDRC	Rapid City	Michael Melius	TXCT	Coastal Tip	Leo Gustafson			Ethel Kutac
SDSF	Sioux Falls	Robert Schenck	TXCY	Cypress Creek	Fred Collins	TXWR	White River	Anthony Hewetson
SDSH	Shadehill	Dan Svingen	TXDA	Dallas County	Gretchen & Jim Peterson	TXWS	Weslaco	Martin Hagne
SDSL	Sand Lake N.W.R.	William Schultze	TXDM	Davis Mountains	Martha Hansen			Jennifer Owen-White
SDSP	Spearfish	Daniel Bjerke			Kelly Bryan	TXWW	Welder Wildlife Refuge	Terry Blankenship
SDST	Sturgis	Victor Fondy			Karen Gleason			
SDWA	Waubay N.W.R.	Laura Hubers	TXEP	El Paso	Jim Paton	UTAH (UT)		
SDYA	Yankton	Roger Dietrich	TXFD	Falcon Dam and S.P.	Jim Hailey	UTAI	Antelope Island	John Bellmon
						UTBC	Bryce Canyon N.P.	Sarah Haas
TENNESEE (TN)								
TNBI	Bristol	Richard Lewis						

UTBF	Bluff	Luther Giddings	VANR	Nansemond River	Robert Ake	WISCONSIN (WI)	
UTBL	Bear Lake	Dennis Austin	VANS	Northern Shenandoah Valley	Rob Simpson	WIAM	Amherst Joe Passineau
UTBR	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge	John Bellmon			Charles Turner		Susan Anderson
UTCC	Cedar City	Keith Day	VANW	Nassawadox	Henry Armistead	WIAS	Ashland Dick Verch
UTDJ	Dinosaur N.M.-Jensen	Kathy Paulin	VARC	Rockingham County	Chuck Auckerman	WIBL	Beloit Brad Paulson
UTES	Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M.	Kathy Munthe	VASL	Shenandoah N.P.-Luray	Alan Williams	WIBR	Bridgeport Dennis Kirschbaum
UTFS	Fish Springs N.W.R.	Jay Banta	VATA	Tazewell	Sarah Cromer	WIBV	Blanchardville David Willard
UTHV	Heber Valley	Wendy Wilson	VATP	The Plains	Todd Day	WICA	Cable Cully Shelton
UTJR	Jordan River	Jeanne LeBer	VAWA	Walkerton	Frederick Atwood	WICF	Chippewa Falls Charles Kemper
UTKA	Kanab	Lisa Church	VAWB	Washington's Birthplace	William Portlock	WICL	Clam Lake Keith Merkel
UTLO	Logan	Bryan Dixon	VAWC	Wise County	Randy Stanley	WIDU	Durand Charles Kemper
UTMG	Morgan	John Bellmon	VAWI	Williamsburg	Bill Williams	WIDY	Dyckesville Ed Houston
UTMO	Moab	Marcy Hafner	VAWP	Wachapreague	Irvin Ailes	WIFS	Friendship Paul Hunter
UTOG	Ogden	John Bellmon	VAWR	Warren	Allen Hale		Jym Mooney
UTOR	Ouray N.W.R.	Diane Penttila	VAWY	Waynesboro	Crista Cabe	WIGB	Green Bay John Jacobs
UTPR	Provo	Merrill Webb				WIGI	Gilman Ken Luepke
UTSG	St. George	Marilyn Davis	WASHINGTON (WA)				Connie Decker
UTSL	Salt Lake City	Pomera Fronce	WABG	Bellingham	Joe Meche	WIGR	Grantsburg Dennis Allaman
UTSR	Silver Reef	Marilyn Davis	WABR	Bridgeport	Michael Schroeder	WIHL	Holcombe Charles Kemper
UTZI	Zion N.P.	Claire Crow	WACC	Cowlitz-Columbia	Bob Reistroffer	WIHW	Hayward Cully Shelton
			WACE	Cle Elum	Michael Hobbs	WIKE	Kewaunee William Mueller
VERMONT (VT)			WACK	Columbia Hills-Klickitat Valley	Stuart Johnston	WILC	La Crosse Dan Jackson
VTBA	Barnet	Charlie Browne	WACL	Chelan	Steve Easley	WIMA	Madison Aaron Stutz
VTBE	Bennington	Bonita Dundas	WACO	Colville	Barbara Harding	WIMD	Medford Susanne Adams
VTBR	Brattleboro	Alfred Merritt	WACT	Camas Prairie-Trout Lake	Stuart Johnston	WIMI	Milwaukee Jean Strelka
VTBU	Burlington	Eric Lazarus	WAEA	East Lake Washington	Hugh Jennings	WIMO	Monroe John Patterson
		Shirley Johnson	WAEJ	Edmonds	Jan van Niel	WINE	Nelson Charles Kemper
VTCS	Champlain Islands-St. Albans	Elizabeth Alton	WAEV	Everett	Scott Atkinson	WINR	New Richmond Joseph Merchak
VTFE	Ferrisburg	Mike Winslow			Mary Teesdale	WIOW	Owen Gayle Davis
VTHI	Hinesburg	Paul Wiczorek	WAGC	Grand Coulee	David St. George	WIPE	Peshigo Barbara Berez
VTIP	Island Pond	Jayson Benoit	WAGH	Grays Harbor	Dianna Moore	WIPO	Poynette Mark Martin
VTMA	Mount Abraham	Randy Durand	WAKA	Kent-Auburn	M. Freeland		Susan Foote-Martin
VTMB	Middlebury	James Andrews			Nancy Streiffert	WIPP	Pardeeville Paul Schwalbe
		Kris Andrews	WAKC	Kitsap County	Gene Bullock		Glenna Schwalbe
VTMR	Mad River Valley	Bridget Butler	WALW	Leavenworth	Karen Haire	WIPY	Palmyra Eric Howe
VTPL	Plainfield	Chip Darmstadt	WALY	Lyle	Bob Hansen	WIRC	Racine Eric Howe
VTRD	Randolph	Richard Enser	WAOL	Oak Harbor	Bob Klein	WIRL	Rhineland Vanessa Haese-Lehman
VTRU	Rutland	Roy Pilcher	WAOL	Olympia	George Walter		Joel Flory
VTSP	Springfield	Hugh Putnam	WAOO	Ormak-Okanogan	Gordon Kent	WISH	Sheboygan June Platz
		Mike Walsh	WAPA	Port Angeles	Barbara Blackie	WISL	Summit Lake Joel Flory
VTSR	Saxton's River	Donald Clark	WAPB	Padilla Bay	Robert C. Kuntz, II	WISN	Spencer Ken Luepke
VTWI	Winhall	Ruth Stewart	WAPQ	Pend Oreille	John P. Stuart		Connie Decker
VTWO	Woodstock	Sarah Laughlin	WAPT	Port Townsend	Richard Johnson	WISP	Stevens Point Nancy Stevenson
		Julie Nicholson	WASA	Satsop	Tom Schooley	WISS	South Shore Barbara Moldenhauer
			WASB	Skagit Bay	Arthur Campbell	WIWA	Washington Island Ursula Petersen
VIRGINIA (VA)			WASD	Sequim-Dungeness	Bob Boekelheide	WIVI	Willard Ken Luepke
VAAC	Augusta County	John Spahr	WASE	Seattle	Eugene Hunn		Connie Decker
VABB	Back Bay N.W.R.	Paul Sykes	WASI	Anacortes-Sidney	Joe Meche	WIKW	Waukesha Harlow Bielefeldt
		Dorie Stolley	WASJ	San Juan Islands Archipelago	Barbara Jensen	WIPW	Hales Corners, Wehr Nature Center Mark Verhagen
VABD	Blackford	Robert Riggs	WASP	Spokane	Alan McCoy	WIWT	Wautoma Chip Hutler
VABH	Buchanan	Michelle Talbott	WATA	Tacoma	Faye McAdams Hands		
		Tom Hunter	WATC	Tri-Cities	Dana Ward	WYOMING (WY)	
VABI	Breaks Interstate Park	Terry Owens	WATO	Toppenish N.W.R.	Andy Stepniewski	WYAC	Albany County Deb Paulson
VABL	Brooke	Odette James	WATW	Twisp	Ken Bevis	WYBH	Bates Hole Charles Scott
VABK	Blacksburg	Patricia Polentz	WAWA	Vashon	Sue Trevathan	WYBU	Buffalo Deane Bjerke
		Bruce Grimes	WAWP	Wenatchee	Daniel Stephens	WYCA	Casper Christian Michelson
VABR	Banister River W.M.A.	Jeffrey C. Blalock	WAWK	Wahkiakum	Andrew Emlen	WYCH	Cheyenne Greg Johnson
VACA	Charlottesville	Jennifer Gaden	WAWV	Yakima Valley	Denny Granstrand	WYCO	Cody Joyce Cicco
VACC	Cape Charles	Henry Armistead				WYCR	Crowheart Evelyn Wilkinson
VACH	Chancellorsville	Beverly J. Smith	WASHINGTON, DC (DC)			WYDU	Dubois Anna Moscicki
VACI	Chincoteague N.W.R.	Richard Roberts	DCDC	Washington	Larry Cartwright	WYEV	Evanston Tim Gorman
VACL	Central Loudon	Joseph Coleman				WYGF	Guernsey-Fort Laramie Jane Dorn
VACN	Calmes Neck	Margaret Wester	WEST VIRGINIA (WV)			WYGI	Gillette Mark Winland
VADA	Danville	Laura Meder	WVAP	Athens-Princeton Area	Ronald Canterbury	WYGR	Green River Rick Steenberg
VADS	Dismal Swamp	Donald Schwab	WVCA	Canaan	Ken Sturm	WYJH	Jackson Hole Susan Marsh
VAFB	Fort Belvoir	Kurt Gaskill	WVCH	Charleston	Marilyn Morton	WYKA	Kane Suzanne Morstad
VAFI	Fincastle	Barry Kinzie	WVCT	Charles Town	Bob Dean	WYLA	Lander Delbert Nelson
		Eunice Hudgins	WVEL	Elkins Area	Rob Tallman	WYPD	Pinedale Betty Boehm
VAGO	Gordonsville	Donald Ober	WVHC	Hampshire County	Vini Schoene	WYRT	Riverton Wanda Major
VAGS	Glade Spring	Ronald Harrington	WVHU	Huntington	Wendell Argabrite	WYSB	Story-Big Horn Jean Daly
VAHO	Hopewell	Arun Bose	WVIN	Inwood	Bob Dean		Roger Appell
VALA	Lake Anna	Michael Boatwright	WVMC	McDowell County	Allen Waldron	WYSD	Sundance Jennifer Adams
VALC	Little Creek	Paul Sykes	WVMF	Moorefield	Jane Whitaker	WYSH	Sheridan Helen Moriarty
VALE	Lexington	Dick Rowe			Rob Tallman		
VALY	Lynchburg	Rexanne Bruno	WVMO	Morgantown	LeJay Graffious		
VAMA	Mathews	John Bazuin Jr.	WVOH	Oak hill	Lloyd Lewis		
		Joyce McKelvey	WVON	Ona	Wendell Argabrite		
VAMB	Manassas-Bull Run	Robert Shipman	WVPA	Pipestem Area	Jim Phillips		
VAMW	Mount Rogers-White Top Mountain	Allen Boynton	WVPH	Pocahontas County	Rob Tallman		
VANN	Newport News	Clark White	WVPK	Parkersburg	Jeanette Esker		
		Marilyn White	WVRC	Raleigh County	Allen Waldron		
VANO	Nokesville	Kim Hosen	WVWH	Wheeling	Greg Park		



Four Hundred and Counting *continued from page 23*

Doug Pratt, Bob and Peter Pyle, Tom Quay, Frank (Pop) C. Richardson, Jim Richardson, Ann Rollo, Grace Russell, Will Russell, W. (Froggy) F. Rountrey, Bob Sargent, Don Schwab, Matt Sharp, Dot Silsby, Zelda Silverman, Charlie Smith, Don Snipes, Jared Sparks, Betsy Stephens, Dorie Stolley, Andy and Farimae Tate, John Terborgh, Elizabeth Thomas, Mike Tove, Bob and Dorothy Tripician, Thuy Tran, Tina Trice, Allen and Virginia Valpey, Jessica Waibel-Hou, Phil Warren, Peggy Rommen Waterfield, Romie Waterfield, Andy Webb, Bill Webster, Eddy Webster, Becky and Debbie White, Audrey Whitlock, Claudia Wilds, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, John Williamson, Ray Winstead, John Withrow, Chris Witt, Townley Wolfe, John Wright, Carl Yelverton, Lee Yoder, John Young, and Bob Zaremba.

Family and friends, most of whom are not birders, have kindly provided warm hospitality and a place to stay over my many years on the CBCs. I want to thank my parents Alberta and Paul Sykes (Norfolk); in-laws, Bill and Edythe James (Norfolk, later Currituck, North Carolina); dear aunts, Florence Carmine and Emly and Mary Gallup (Norfolk); sister and brother-in-law,

Lynette and John Corley (Virginia Beach); sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Marshall Winslow (Virginia Beach); Audrey Whitlock and husband Bobby Halstead (Nags Head, North Carolina); Charlie and Sharon Gambill (Nags Head); Brian and Joan Hope (Delray Beach, Florida), and Howard and Mable Langridge (Lantana, Florida). Deep appreciation is expressed to the following for hosting the compilations at their homes and providing delicious buffets over the years: Floy and Dick Burford, Cooper and Jeanne Barefield, Andy and Farimae Tate, Bob Ake and wife Joyce Neff, and David Clark. I thank Cape Henry Audubon Society for their support of the Back Bay NWR, Bodie-Pea Island, and Little Creek CBCs over the years, both financially (payment of participant fees, postage, and other expenses) and for the participation by its members. The manuscript has been much improved by reviews by Harry Armistead, Ned Brinkley, Connie Isbell, Cam Kepler, Geoff LeBaron, Bruce Peterjohn, Chan Robbins, Will Russell, and John Sauer, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude. I thank Bonnie Kepler for typing the manuscript through all revisions. I particularly wish to thank my dear wife, Joan, for her understanding, patience,

support, and encouragement over almost five decades of my nearly constant absence during the latter half of December each year as I succumbed to the siren call of birds waiting to be counted along the middle and south Atlantic coasts. 🐦

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One Hundred Years and Going Strong *continued from page 39*

be nearly as successful, especially with rarities that linger. The first mention of feeding stations was very early, but not recorded officially until the 1940s. Since the '50s, perhaps due to an upswing in disposable income, there has been a general increase in feeder folk. This is not to take away from the contributions of the bush thrashers, who risk life and limb to find stashes of wintering avifauna. These numbers too have generally increased over the years. The biggest jumps came in the mid-1970s and the numbers remain about the same each year now.

Looking Forward to the Next 100 Years

I envy the pluck and dedication of the earlier participants and to the conservation value of the first Christmas Bird Counts. The development of the CBC for avian protection purposes was initiated by intuitive nature lovers when it was noted there were vast populations of birds as well as other species being destroyed.

Unfortunately, the job of conservation is not yet done. The best way we can relate to our fore-birders is through an ardor for the CBC. Let's enjoy that it remains a great way to get together with other like-minded individuals to pursue an event that is truly fun, to garner knowledge, and to accomplish something worthwhile.

And so the London 100th CBC is in the books—quite an accomplishment for London and the McIlwraith Field Naturalist Club of London. That's 100 years of promoting bird conservation through the study of wintering birds. We can be proud. 🐦

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals for Canada

Richard J. Cannings

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Canadian counts reported 281 species on the 109th Christmas Bird Count, down eight from last year. Two species were added to the Canadian CBC list—a **Sage Thrasher** at Blenheim, ON, and a **Little Bunting** at Greater Massett, BC.

The latter species is new to the overall CBC list as well. The national list now stands at 411. British Columbia led the way as usual with 131 high counts, followed by Ontario with 89, and Nova Scotia with 35. Victoria, BC, had the highest number for a single count with 39, followed by Ladner, BC (26), Halifax-Dartmouth, NS (22), Penticton, BC (11), and St. John's, NL (10). Twenty-six of the high counts are all-time Canadian highs (numbers boldfaced below). Species in italics indicate those totals (55 species) that are highs for North America as well as Canada. Many of the latter are in predictable families known for their northern affiliations (e.g. 7 gulls, 4 alcids, 4 owls, 4 corvids), but some species with North American highs from Canada may come as a bit of a surprise: e.g. California Quail, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Spotted Towhee, and House Sparrow. A few high counts were flagged as having no details; these are labeled ND in the list below. None involved new high records for Canada. Exotic species are not included on this list.

Greater White-fronted Goose 19 (BC, Bamfield); Snow Goose 7019 (BC, Ladner); Snow Goose (blue form) 3 (ON, Port Burwell-Vienna); Brant (*nigricans*) 1136 (BC, Ladner); Brant (*hrota*) 12 (NB, Grand Manan Island); Cackling Goose 56 (BC, Abbotsford-Mission); Canada Goose 11,135 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Mute Swan 491 (ON, Presqu'île P.P.); Trumpeter Swan 496 (BC, Duncan); Tundra Swan 919 (ON, Long Point); Wood Duck 379 (BC, Chilliwack); Gadwall 398 (ON, Peel-Halton Counties); Eurasian Wigeon 89 (BC, Ladner); American

Wigeon 14,284 (BC, Ladner); American Black Duck 3525 (QC, Tadoussac); Mallard 11,336 (BC, Ladner); Northern Shoveler 91 (BC, Ladner); Northern Pintail 12,959 (BC, Ladner); American Green-winged Teal 1038 (BC, Vancouver); Eurasian Green-winged Teal 3 (NL, St. John's); Canvasback 119 (ON, Wallaceburg); Redhead 1857 (ON, Toronto); Ring-necked Duck 273 (BC, Port Alberni); **Tufted Duck 20** (NL, St. John's); Greater Scaup 11,359 (ON, Blenheim); Lesser Scaup 1537 (BC, Vancouver); King Eider 1 (NL, Cape St. Mary's; Ferryland; NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Common Eider 1852 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Harlequin Duck 209 (BC, Campbell River); *Surf Scoter 6433* (BC, Vancouver); White-winged Scoter 631 (BC, Ladner); Black Scoter 371 (NS, Broad Cove); Long-tailed Duck 4280 (ON, Toronto); Bufflehead 1267 (BC, Victoria); Common Goldeneye 3546 (AB, Calgary); *Barrow's Goldeneye 1065* (BC, Vancouver); Hooded Merganser 254 (BC, Victoria); Common Merganser 6381 (ON, Kingston); Red-breasted Merganser 2018 (NS, Pictou Harbour); Ruddy Duck 882 (ON, Hamilton).

Chukar 132 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); Gray Partridge 174 (AB, Nanton); Ring-necked Pheasant 245 (NS, Wolfville); Ruffed Grouse 53 (ON, Algonquin P.P.); Spruce Grouse 6 (NT, Fort Simpson); *Willow Ptarmigan 252* (NT, Yellowknife); *Dusky Grouse 7* (BC, Apex-Hedley); *Sooty Grouse 1* (BC, Pender Islands); Sharp-tailed Grouse 196 (MB, Lyleton); Wild Turkey 586 (ON, St. Thomas); *California Quail 2538* (BC, Penticton); Red-throated Loon 37 (BC, Ladner); Pacific Loon 260 (BC, Nanoose Bay); Common Loon 89 (NS, Lunenburg); *Yellow-billed Loon 9* (BC, Rose Spit); Pied-billed Grebe 49 (BC, Vancouver); Horned Grebe 90 (BC, Sidney-South Saltspring); Red-necked Grebe 227 (NB, Grand Manan Island); Eared Grebe 4

(BC, Victoria); Western Grebe 130 (BC, Skidegate Inlet); Northern Gannet 56 (NB, Grand Manan Island); Brandt's Cormorant 2061 (BC, Victoria); Double-crested Cormorant 566 (BC, Victoria); *Great Cormorant 181* (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Pelagic Cormorant 275 (BC, Skidegate Inlet); American Bittern **12** (BC, Ladner); Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 158 (BC, Ladner); Great Egret **2** (NS, Cape Sable Island); Black-crowned Night-Heron 16 (ON, Toronto); Black Vulture **1** (NS, Brier Island); Turkey Vulture 11 (NS, Brier Island).

Osprey 1 (BC, Powell River [ND]); Pender Islands [ND]; Bald Eagle 1180 (BC, Ladner); Northern Harrier 134 (BC, Ladner); Sharp-shinned Hawk 21 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); Cooper's Hawk 27 (BC, Victoria); *Northern Goshawk 9* (AB, Horseshoe Canyon); Red-shouldered Hawk 5 (ON, Cedar Creek); Broad-winged Hawk 1 (NB, Cape Tormentine; NS, Halifax-Dartmouth; Lunenburg; Yarmouth; ON, Hanover-Walkerton); Red-tailed Hawk 190 (ON, Fisherville); Harlan's Hawk 1 (BC, Penticton); Rough-legged Hawk 92 (ON, Linwood); Golden Eagle 7 (AB, Nanton; BC, Penticton); American Kestrel 25 (ON, Hamilton); Merlin 14 (AB, Edmonton); *Gyr Falcon 2* (BC, Ladner); *Peregrine Falcon 17* (BC, Ladner); Prairie Falcon 4 (AB, Nanton); Virginia Rail 5 (BC, Victoria); American Coot 1049 (BC, Penticton); Sandhill Crane 115 (ON, Long Point); Black-bellied Plover 152 (BC, Greater Massett); Killdeer 122 (BC, Parksville-Qualicum Beach); Black Oystercatcher 108 (BC, Nanaimo); Spotted Sandpiper 3 (BC, Victoria); Greater Yellowlegs 21 (BC, Ladner); Willet 1 (BC, Ladner); Lesser Yellowlegs 6 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Black Turnstone 342 (BC, Skidegate Inlet); *Surfbird 424* (BC, Nanaimo); Red Knot 2 (NS, Broad Cove); Sanderling 57 (BC, Vancouver); Western Sandpiper 2 (BC, Ladner; Vancouver); Least Sandpiper 7

(BC, Greater Masset); *White-rumped Sandpiper 1* (NL, Cape Race; Cape St. Mary's); Purple Sandpiper 414 (NL, Cape Race); Rock Sandpiper 26 (BC, Sunshine Coast); *Dunlin 42,413* (BC, Ladner); Long-billed Dowitcher 120 (BC, Pitt Meadows); Wilson's Snipe 34 (BC, Duncan); American Woodcock 1 (NS, West Hants).

Little Gull 1 (ON, Blenheim; Niagara Falls); *Black-headed Gull 121* (NL, St. John's); Bonaparte's Gull 9838 (ON, Blenheim); Mew Gull 1866 (BC, Little River-Powell River Ferry); Ring-billed Gull 4290 (ON, Toronto); California Gull 204 (BC, Penticton); Herring Gull 9077 (ON, Niagara Falls); *Yellow-legged Gull 1* (NL, St. John's); *Thayer's Gull 428* (BC, Victoria); *Iceland Gull 2115* (NL, St. John's); Lesser Black-backed Gull 8 (NL, St. John's); *Slaty-backed Gull 1* (BC, Abbotsford-Mission); Western Gull 6 (BC, Sidney-South Saltspring); *Glaucous-winged Gull 47,929* (BC, Ladner); *Glaucous Gull 817* (NL, St. John's); Great Black-backed Gull 2924 (NL, St. John's); Black-legged Kittiwake 304 (NB, Grand Manan Island); Forster's Tern 1 (NL, Cape Race); Pomarine Jaeger 1 (ON, Blenheim; St. Catharines); *Dovekie 242* (NL, St. John's); Common Murre 1701 (BC, Victoria); Thick-billed Murre 7 (NL, Ferryland); Razorbill 37 (NB, Grand Manan Island); *Black Guillemot 160* (NL, Cape Race); Pigeon Guillemot 124 (BC, Sidney-South Saltspring); Marbled Murrelet 78 (BC, Ladner); *Ancient Murrelet 483* (BC, Victoria); Cassin's Auklet 1 (BC, Rose Spit; Tlell); Rhinoceros Auklet 8 (BC, Bamfield); *Atlantic Puffin 1* (NL, Cape Race; NS, Halifax-Dartmouth; Lunenburg); Rock Pigeon 4683 (ON, Toronto); Band-tailed Pigeon 99 (BC, Vancouver); Eurasian Collared-Dove 108 (SK, Swift Current); Mourning Dove 2047 (ON, Cedar Creek); Barn Owl 11 (BC, Ladner); Western Screech-Owl 1 (BC, Penticton); Eastern Screech-Owl 57 (ON, Fisherville); Great Horned Owl 24 (ON, Fisherville; St. Clair N.W.A.); *Snowy Owl 14* (MB, Oak Hammock Marsh); Northern Hawk Owl 6 (AB, Snake's Head); *Northern Pygmy-Owl 11* (AB,

Cochrane Wildlife Reserve; BC, Bridesville); Barred Owl 6 (NS, Wolfville); *Great Gray Owl 12* (AB, Cochrane Wildlife Reserve); Long-eared Owl 17 (ON, Peel-Halton Counties); Short-eared Owl 27 (ON, Fisherville); *Boreal Owl 3* (ON, Amherst Island); Northern Saw-whet Owl 13 (NB, Grand Manan Island); Anna's Hummingbird 329 (BC, Victoria); Belted Kingfisher 30 (BC, Duncan); Lewis's Woodpecker 1 (BC, Penticton); Red-headed Woodpecker 3 (ON, Cedar Creek); Red-bellied Woodpecker 72 (ON, Fisherville); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2 (ON, London); *Red-breasted Sapsucker 101* (BC, Sunshine Coast); Downy Woodpecker 308 (ON, Hamilton); Hairy Woodpecker 133 (ON, Ottawa-Gatineau); *American Three-toed Woodpecker 8* (AB, Banff-Canmore); *Black-backed Woodpecker 14* (ON, Algonquin P.P.); Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker 418 (BC, Penticton); Northern (Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted) Flicker 2 (BC, Salmon Arm; Vancouver); Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 65 (ON, Cedar Creek); Pileated Woodpecker 48 (ON, Ottawa-Gatineau).

Eastern Phoebe 1 (ON, Blenheim; Holiday Beach; West Elgin; QC, Montreal); Say's Phoebe 2 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); Western Kingbird 1 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); *Northern Shrike 17* (QC, Quebec); White-eyed Vireo 1 (ON, Long Point); Hutton's Vireo 5 (BC, Lower Howe Sound); *Gray Jay 73* (AB, Sheep River); Steller's Jay 295 (BC, Victoria); *Blue Jay 1195* (NS, Wolfville); Clark's Nutcracker 52 (BC, Penticton); *Black-billed Magpie 1746* (AB, Edmonton); American Crow 50,138 (ON, St. Clair N.W.A.); *Northwestern Crow 16,295* (BC, Vancouver); Common Raven 1934 (YT, Whitehorse); *Sky Lark 30* (BC, Sidney-South Saltspring); Horned Lark 1063 (ON, Cedar Creek); Black-capped Chickadee 3738 (AB, Edmonton); Mountain Chickadee 355 (BC, Williams Lake); *Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1612* (BC, Victoria); Boreal Chickadee 112 (AB, Snake's Head); Tufted Titmouse 63 (ON, Wallaceburg); Bushtit 1000 (BC,

Vancouver); *Red-breasted Nuthatch 1016* (ON, Algonquin P.P.); White-breasted Nuthatch 291 (ON, Ottawa-Gatineau); Pygmy Nuthatch 223 (BC, Kelowna); Brown Creeper 109 (BC, Victoria).

Rock Wren 1 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); Canyon Wren 12 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); Carolina Wren 48 (ON, Cedar Creek); Bewick's Wren 159 (BC, Victoria); House Wren 2 (ON, Holiday Beach [ND]); *Winter Wren 329* (BC, Victoria); Marsh Wren 18 (BC, Vancouver); *American Dipper 67* (BC, Lillooet); Golden-crowned Kinglet 1210 (BC, Victoria); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 176 (BC, Victoria); Eastern Bluebird 91 (ON, Woodhouse Township); Western Bluebird 59 (BC, Penticton); Townsend's Solitaire 18 (BC, Vernon); Hermit Thrush 32 (BC, Victoria); American Robin 12,811 (BC, Victoria); Varied Thrush 641 (BC, Victoria); Gray Catbird 3 (ON, Fisherville [ND]); Northern Mockingbird 50 (ON, St. Catharines); **Sage Thrasher 1** (ON, Blenheim); Brown Thrasher 2 (ON, Cedar Creek); European Starling 29,977 (ON, Niagara Falls); American Pipit 57 (NL, Cape Race); Bohemian Waxwing 10,956 (AB, Edmonton); Cedar Waxwing 512 (NS, Louisbourg); Orange-crowned Warbler 7 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Nashville Warbler 1 (NS, Yarmouth); Black-throated Blue Warbler 2 (ON, Toronto); Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 4 (BC, Vancouver); Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 51 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Townsend's Warbler 1 (BC, Duncan; Nanaimo; Pitt Meadows; Skidegate Inlet; Sunshine Coast); Pine Warbler 6 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Palm Warbler 2 (NS, Cape Sable Island; Halifax-Dartmouth); Ovenbird 1 (NL, St. John's); Common Yellowthroat 2 (ON, Blenheim); Yellow-breasted Chat 12 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Summer Tanager 1 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth).

Spotted Towhee 968 (BC, Victoria); Eastern Towhee 8 (ON, Cedar Creek); American Tree Sparrow 1716 (ON, Long Point); Chipping Sparrow 12 (ON, West Elgin); Clay-colored Sparrow 1 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Field Sparrow 10 (ON, St. Thomas); Vesper Sparrow 1

(ON, Kingston); Lark Sparrow **1** (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth; Lunenburg); Savannah Sparrow 40 (BC, Ladner); Le Conte's Sparrow **1** (NS, Wolfville); Fox Sparrow **923** (BC, Victoria); Eastern Fox Sparrow 1 (ON, Port Hope-Cobourg [ND]); Song Sparrow 1461 (BC, Vancouver); Lincoln's Sparrow 42 (BC, Victoria); Swamp Sparrow 90 (ON, Long Point); White-throated Sparrow 380 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Harris's Sparrow 2 (AB, Jasper); White-crowned Sparrow 399 (BC, Ladner); Golden-crowned Sparrow 1331 (BC, Victoria); Dark-eyed Junco 1954 (ON, Hamilton); *Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco* 4167 (BC, Victoria); Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco 1 (QC, Hudson); Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 1790 (ON, Long Point); Lapland Longspur 300 (MB, Cypress River-Spruce Woods); **Little Bunting 1** (BC, Greater Masset); Snow Bunting 4934 (ON, Woodstock); Northern Cardinal **870** (ON, London); Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth; ON, Chapleau [ND]); Pakenham-Arnpryor [ND]; Georgian Bay Islands N.P.[ND]; *Black-headed Grosbeak 1* (BC, Chilliwack); Painted Bunting **1** (NB, Grand Manan Island; NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Dickcissel 2 (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth; Louisbourg; Strait of Canso); Red-winged Blackbird 1149 (BC, Vernon); Eastern Meadowlark 3 (ON, Woodhouse Township); Western Meadowlark 28 (BC, Victoria); Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 (BC, Kelowna); Rusty Blackbird 21 (ON, St. Thomas); Brewer's Blackbird 1072 (BC, Ladner); Common Grackle 305 (ON, Cedar Creek); Brown-headed Cowbird 3764 (ON, Wallaceburg); Baltimore Oriole **28** (NS, Halifax-Dartmouth); Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch 4 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); *Pine Grosbeak* 633 (ON, Marathon); Purple Finch 128 (BC, Victoria); Cassin's Finch 17 (BC, Logan Lake); House Finch 2082 (BC, Oliver-Osoyoos); Red Crossbill 167 (BC, Broughton Strait); *White-winged Crossbill* 2493 (ON, Hamilton); Common Redpoll 1654 (ON, Oshawa); Hoary Redpoll 44 (AB, St. Paul); Pine Siskin 1893 (BC, Duncan); American Goldfinch 1417 (ON, London); *Evening Grosbeak* 506 (ON, Dryden); *House Sparrow* 5720 (AB, Calgary).



Snowy conditions make counting skulking sparrows much easier; Victoria, BC, set new Canadian highs for both Spotted Towhee and Fox Sparrow. Photo/Ralph Hocken



Cold, snowy weather on the Pacific coast brought Red-breasted Sapsuckers out of the mountains and into count circles in high numbers; the Sunshine Coast, BC, count set a new Canadian high of 101 this year. Photo/Ralph Hocken

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BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals for the United States

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The 109th Christmas Bird Count was another classic season in the United States. Weather influenced results in various regions, causing shifts in results of affected states and individual counts, significantly improving some results and enabling them to show up on the national birding radars. Birders reported 658 species (fourth highest), 38 infraspecific forms, and 28 exotics. The **Jack Snipe** reported at Eugene, OR, was new for U.S. CBCs. **Sinaloa Wren** was also new, but it occurred only during count week. The **Brown (Brewster's) Booby** was reported as a new subspecies.

The ability/willingness of birders to locate small numbers of rare birds appears to be fairly similar from year to year. Last season I reported 22 percent of the highest counts were for 10 or fewer individuals of a species/form, and 56 of those were one-bird situations. This season 22 percent were for 10 or fewer, and 57 were one-bird situations. Coincidence?

All-time highs were reported for 45 species/infraspecific forms. The Chihuahuan Raven record stood for 57 years until 1009 were reported by Laredo, TX. Other longtime records broken were 2245 Bohemian Waxwing (42 years) at Anchorage, AK, 29 Parasitic Jaeger (41 years) at Merritt Island, FL, and 2 Western Wood-Pewee (41 years) at Gillette, WY.

At least one national high was obtained by 43 states and 322 CBCs. This was about 3 percent lower than last year. Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, TX, led the nation again for the eighth year in a row, with highest tallies for 20 species. San Diego, CA, was second with national highs for 15 species and one form; Waipi'o, HI, had highs for 15 species; Coot Bay-Everglades N.P., FL, 14 species and one form; Atascosa Highlands, AZ, 13 species and 1 form; Point Reyes Peninsula, CA, 12 species; Laysan Island, HI, 11 species and one form; Zellwood-Mount Dora, FL, and Anzalduas-Bentsen and Weslaco, TX, each had 10 species;

Midway Atoll and Waimea, HI, each had nine species; Portal, AZ, and Gainesville, FL, eight species and one form; and Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., TX, with eight species. All other CBCs had seven or fewer high counts.

California was number one again with highest counts for 124 species and 11 infraspecific forms. Rank of the other top states shifted more this year than normal. With 100 species and two forms Florida was number two for the first time since the 85th CBC. Texas fell to third with 96 species and two forms. Arizona jumped up to fourth with 76 species and two forms, and Hawaii fell to fifth with 69 species and five forms. Alaska had high counts for 31 species and two forms, Massachusetts 21 species, Washington 14 species and one form, and Louisiana 14 species.

Only counts for resident species, infraspecific forms, and exotics that do not have editorial comments questioning the validity of the results were accepted for this report. High counts for exotics without known established populations will be displayed but will not be added to results for the CBC or state. If I make a mistake, please let me know and I will include corrections next year at the end of the column.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 7762 (TX, Weslaco), Fulvous Whistling-Duck 75 (FL, STA5-Clewiston), Egyptian Goose 37 ex (FL, Dade Co.), Swan Goose 1 ex (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]; and FL, St. Petersburg), Greater White-fronted Goose 82,390 (KS, Quivira N.W.R.), Greylag Goose 4 ex (CA, Long Beach-el Dorado), Bar-headed Goose 1 ex (CA, Long Beach-el Dorado), Emperor Goose 1400 (AK, Unalaska Island), Snow Goose 165,745 (DE, Bombay Hook N.W.R.), Snow Goose (white form) 111,000 (KS, Quivira N.W.R.), Snow Goose (blue form) 29,300 (KS, Quivira N.W.R.), Ross's Goose 32,830 (CA, Merced N.W.R.), Ross's Goose (blue morph) 1 (CA, China Lake), Brant (*hrota*) 31,739 (NY,

L.I.: Southern Nassau Co.), Brant (*nigricans*) 9921 (CA, Centerville Beach to King Salmon), Barnacle Goose 1 (NJ, NW Hunterdon Co.; and NY, L.I.: Captree), Cackling Goose 40,463 (OR, Corvallis), Canada Goose 68,594 (MD, Lower Kent Co.), Canada Goose (Aleutian) 19 (CA, Hayward-Fremont), Hawaiian Goose 213 (HI, Kaua'i: Kapa'a), Mute Swan 2029 (MI, Rockwood), Black Swan 2 ex (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]), Trumpeter Swan 2550 (WA, Skagit Bay), Tundra Swan 53,366 (NC, Pettigrew S.P.), Whooper Swan 1 (ID, Hagerman Valley).

Muscovy Duck 440 (FL, Naples), Wood Duck 1357 (SC, Pinewood), Mandarin Duck 16 ex (CA, Sonoma Valley), Gadwall 16,132 (TN, Cross Creeks N.W.R.), Eur. Wigeon 112 (WA, Padilla Bay), Am. Wigeon 36,205 (CA, Peace Valley), Am. Black Duck 9720 (DE, Bombay Hook N.W.R.), Mallard 39,549 (ID, Nampa), Mallard (Mexican Duck) 33 (TX, El Paso), Mottled Duck 417 (TX, Corpus Christi [Flour Bluff]), Hawaiian Duck 552 (HI, Kaua'i: Kapa'a), Laysan Duck 345 (HI, Laysan Island), Blue-winged Teal 3811 (TX, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Cinnamon Teal 2836 (CA, Sacramento), N. Shoveler 29,151 (CA, Los Baños), N. Pintail 33,156 (CA, Marysville), Green-winged Teal (Am.) 62,527 (NC, Mattamuskeet N.W.R.), Green-winged Teal (Eur.) 60 (AK, Shemya Island).

Canvasback 38,900 (MI, Anchor Bay), Redhead 24,009 (TX, Corpus Christi [Flour Bluff]), Ring-necked Duck 15,036 (NC, Mattamuskeet N.W.R.), Tufted Duck 1 (AK, Unalaska Island), Greater Scaup 53,062 (NY, L.I.: Queens), Lesser Scaup 500,000 (FL, Cocoa), Steller's Eider 784 (AK, Izembek N.W.R.), King Eider 6 (NJ, Barnegat), Com. Eider 52,000 (MA, Martha's Vineyard), Harlequin Duck 860 (AK, Unalaska Island), Surf Scoter 5956 (CA, San Diego), White-winged Scoter 2415 (OR, Yaquina Bay), Black Scoter 27,100 (NY, L.I.: Captree),

Long-tailed Duck 275,185 (*MA*, Nantucket), Bufflehead 11,384 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Com. Goldeneye 10,681 (*IL*, Rend Lake), Barrow's Goldeneye 391 (*AK*, Haines), Hooded Merganser 1656 (*MS*, Sardis Lake), Com. Merganser 16,053 (*MN*, Red Wing), Red-breasted Merganser 11,061 (*OH*, Elyria-Lorain), Masked Duck 5 (*TX*, La Sal Vieja), Ruddy Duck 9634 (*CA*, Del Norte Co.).

Plain Chachalaca 79 (*TX*, Weslaco), Chukar 59 (*WY* Cody), Gray Francolin 8 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Black Francolin 5 (*HI*, Moloka'i: Kualapu'u), Erckel's Francolin 15 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Gray Partridge 207 (*ND*, Upper Souris N.W.R.), Red Junglefowl 87 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Kalij Pheasant 4 (*HI*, Hawai'i: Volcano), Ring-necked Pheasant 3114 (*SD*, Shadehill), Com. Peafowl 41 ex (*CA*, Orange Co. [NE]), Ruffed Grouse 77 (*VT*, Hinesburg), Greater Sage-Grouse 322 (*WY* Evanston), Spruce Grouse 6 (*AK*, Kenny Lake), Willow Ptarmigan 153 (*AK*, Izembek N.W.R.), Rock Ptarmigan 36 (*AK*, Kodiak), Dusky Grouse 6 (*WY* Casper), Sharp-tailed Grouse 531 (*ND*, Arrowwood N.W.R.), Greater Prairie-Chicken 111 (*SD*, Lake Andes), Greater Prairie-Chicken (Attwater's) 19 (*TX*, Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R.), Lesser Prairie-Chicken 13 (*KS*, Cimarron National Grassland), Wild Turkey 847 (*SD*, Sturgis), Mountain Quail 76 (*CA*, Yreka), Scaled Quail 327 (*CO*, Pueblo Reservoir), California Quail 2102 (*OR*, Burns), Gambel's Quail 1918 (*AZ*, Carefree), N. Bobwhite 276 (*TX*, Quanah), Montezuma Quail **268** (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands).

Red-throated Loon 3094 (*VA*, Cape Charles), Pacific Loon 946 (*CA*, Santa Cruz Co.), Com. Loon 695 (*FL*, Choctawhatchee Bay), Yellow-billed Loon 7 (*AK*, Seward), Least Grebe 153 (*TX*, La Sal Vieja), Pied-billed Grebe 1228 (*AL*, Guntersville), Horned Grebe 688 (*AL*, Guntersville), Red-necked Grebe 253 (*WA*, Tacoma), Eared Grebe 4907 (*CA*, Salton Sea [N]), W. Grebe 6200 (*CA*, Orange Co. [coastal]), Clark's Grebe 803 (*CA*, Moss Landing), Laysan Albatross 722,000 (*HI*, Midway Atoll), Black-footed Albatross 43,600

(*HI*, Midway Atoll), Short-tailed Albatross 1 (*HI*, Laysan Island and Midway Atoll), N. Fulmar 4 (*CA*, Arcata), Bonin Petrel **11,170** (*HI*, Midway Atoll), Cory's Shearwater **1** (*FL*, Dry Tortugas N.P.), Pink-footed Shearwater 1 (*CA*, Orange Co. [coastal]), Wedge-tailed Shearwater 3 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Sooty Shearwater 4 (*CA*, Thousand Oaks), Short-tailed Shearwater 2 (*CA*, Arcata), Black-vented Shearwater 6170 (*CA*, Thousand Oaks), Short-tailed Shearwater/Sooty Shearwater 12 (*CA*, Arcata), Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel 1 (*AK*, Ketchikan), Tristram's Storm-Petrel 31 (*HI*, French Frigate Shoals).

White-tailed Tropicbird 2 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Kapa'a and Midway Atoll), Red-tailed Tropicbird 20 (*HI*, Midway Atoll), Masked Booby 125 (*HI*, French Frigate Shoals), Brown Booby 47 (*HI*, Laysan Island), **Brown Booby (Brewster's) 1** (*HI*, Laysan Island), Red-footed Booby 1572 (*HI*, French Frigate Shoals), N. Gannet 12,000 (*NC*, Bodie-Pea Island), Am. White Pelican 6864 (*CA*, Salton Sea [N]), Brown Pelican 4958 (*CA*, Santa Barbara), Brandt's Cormorant 4260 (*CA*, San Diego), Neotropic Cormorant 828 (*TX*, Bolivar Pen.), Double-crested Cormorant 17,934 (*SC*, Santee N.W.R.), Great Cormorant 161 (*RI*, Block Island), Red-faced Cormorant 3 (*AK*, Kodiak), Pelagic Cormorant 534 (*AK*, Kodiak), Anhinga 635 (*FL*, Emerald-Sunnyhill), Magnificent Frigatebird 100 (*FL*, Dry Tortugas N.P.), Great Frigatebird 816 (*HI*, French Frigate Shoals).

Am. Bittern 63 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), Least Bittern 24 (*FL*, Long Pine Key), Great Blue Heron (blue form) 712 (*MS*, Sidon), Great Blue Heron (white form) 130 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Great Egret 1201 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Snowy Egret 3500 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Little Blue Heron 800 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Tricolored Heron 540 (*FL*, Merritt Island N.W.R.), Reddish Egret 63 (*TX*, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Cattle Egret 4350 (*FL*, Lakeland), Green Heron 47 (*FL*, STA5-Clewiston), Black-crowned Night-Heron 1452 (*CA*, Sacramento),

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 65 (*FL*, St. Petersburg), White Ibis 4643 (*LA*, Lafayette), Glossy Ibis 715 (*FL*, STA5-Clewiston), White-faced Ibis 16,076 (*LA*, Crowley), Roseate Spoonbill 984 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Wood Stork 615 (*FL*, Lakeland), Black Vulture 1800 (*FL*, Ponce Inlet), Turkey Vulture 3445 (*FL*, Lakeland), California Condor 12 (*CA*, Pinnacles N.M.), Am. Flamingo 2 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.) and 210 ex (*FL*, Dade Co.).

Osprey 358 (*FL*, Sanibel-Captiva), Hook-billed Kite 1 (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), White-tailed Kite 105 (*CA*, Sacramento), Snail Kite 33 (*FL*, Kissimmee Valley), Bald Eagle 1224 (*IA*, Burlington), N. Harrier 308 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Sharp-shinned Hawk 50 (*NJ*, Cape May), Cooper's Hawk 55 (*AZ*, Tucson Valley), N. Goshawk 5 (*AK*, Homer; and *MT*, Bozeman), Harris's Hawk 52 (*NM*, Loving), Red-shouldered Hawk 220 (*FL*, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary), Broad-winged Hawk 21 (*FL*, Lower Keys), Gray Hawk 4 (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Short-tailed Hawk 11 (*FL*, Key West), Swainson's Hawk 2 (*NC*, Alligator River N.W.R.; and *TX*, La Sal Vieja), White-tailed Hawk 52 (*TX*, La Sal Vieja), Zone-tailed Hawk 3 (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Hawaiian Hawk 4 (*HI*, Hawai'i: North Kona), Red-tailed Hawk 325 (*CA*, Rio Cosumnes), Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk 9 (*CO*, Boulder), Red-tailed (Krieger's) Hawk 3 (*LA*, Lafayette), Ferruginous Hawk 26 (*AZ*, Elfrida), Rough-legged Hawk 178 (*MT*, Ninepipe N.W.R.), Golden Eagle 44 (*CA*, Tejon Ranch), Crested Caracara 221 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Am. Kestrel 171 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Merlin 18 (*CA*, Arcata), Aplomado Falcon 3 (*TX*, Brownsville), Gyrfalcon 1 (*AK*, Nome; *MT*, Bigfork; *OR*, Eugene; *SD*, Shadehill; and *WA*, Tri-Cities), Peregrine Falcon 16 (*CA*, Centerville Beach to King Salmon and Point Reyes Pen.), Yellow Rail 20 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Black Rail 3 (*AZ*, Martinez Lake-Yuma; *CA*, Benicia; and *TX*, Corpus Christi), Clapper Rail 96 (*FL*, St. Augustine), Clapper Rail (Yuma) 3 (*AZ*, Bill Williams Delta and Havasu N.W.R.),

King Rail 45 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), Virginia Rail 84 (*CA*, Benicia), Sora 248 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), Purple Swamphen **33 ex** (*FL*, STA5-Clewiston), Purple Gallinule 116 (*FL*, Lakeland), Com. Moorhen 2800 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), Com. (Hawaiian) Moorhen **143** (*HI*, Kaua'i: Kapa'a), Hawaiian Coot 159 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Am. Coot 54,194 (*AL*, Guntersville), Limpkin 70 (*FL*, West Palm Beach), Sandhill Crane 33,000 (*TX*, Muleshoe N.W.R.), Whooping Crane 55 (*TX*, Aransas N.W.R.).

Black-bellied Plover 7581 (*CA*, Hayward-Fremont), Pacific Golden-Plover 553 (*HI*, O'ahu: Honolulu), Snowy Plover 293 (*CA*, Santa Barbara), Wilson's Plover 53 (*FL*, Key West), Semipalmated Plover 2408 (*GA*, Cumberland Island), Piping Plover 282 (*TX*, Port Aransas), Killdeer 4309 (*LA*, Crowley), Mountain Plover 39 (*CA*, Panoche Valley), Am. Oystercatcher 526 (*FL*, Cedar Key), Black Oystercatcher 583 (*AK*, Kodiak), Black-necked Stilt 2016 (*CA*, Long Beach-el Dorado), Hawaiian Stilt 181 (*HI*, O'ahu: Honolulu), Am. Avocet 4939 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), Spotted Sandpiper 116 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Solitary Sandpiper 7 (*TX*, La Sal Vieja), Wandering Tattler 112 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Greater Yellowlegs 289 (*LA*, Crowley; *TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Willet 4746 (*CA*, Palo Alto), Lesser Yellowlegs 755 (*FL*, STA5-Clewiston), Whimbrel 99 (*CA*, San Diego), Bristle-thighed Curlew 55 (*HI*, Midway Atoll), Long-billed Curlew 2468 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), Marbled Godwit 4045 (*CA*, Hayward-Fremont), Ruddy Turnstone 1523 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Black Turnstone 609 (*CA*, W. Sonoma Co.), Surf-bird 70 (*WA*, Seattle).

Red Knot 625 (*FL*, Jacksonville), Sanderling 2673 (*NJ*, Cape May), Semipalmated Sandpiper 1 (*FL*, Key Largo-Plantation Key), W. Sandpiper 11,000 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Least Sandpiper 6300 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), White-rumped Sandpiper 1 (*SC*, Winyah Bay), Baird's Sandpiper 2 (*UT*, Antelope Island), Pectoral Sandpiper 1 (*LA*, Sabine N.W.R.; and *TX*, Old River), Purple

Sandpiper 365 (*ME*, Bath-Phippsburg-Georgetown), Rock Sandpiper 508 (*AK*, Homer), Dunlin 42,189 (*WA*, Grays Harbor), Curlew Sandpiper **1** (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Stilt Sandpiper 175 (*FL*, STA5-Clewiston), Ruff 2 (*HI*, Laysan Island; and *UT*, Antelope Island), Short-billed Dowitcher 8000 (*FL*, St. Augustine), Long-billed Dowitcher 2769 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), **Jack Snipe 1** (*OR*, Eugene), Wilson's Snipe 1224 (*LA*, Bossier-Caddo-Bienville), Am. Woodcock 97 (*VA*, Cape Charles), Wilson's Phalarope 63 (*TX*, La Sal Vieja), Red-necked Phalarope 2 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Red Phalarope 33 (*GA*, St. Catherines Island).

Laughing Gull 15,000 (*FL*, Cocoa), Franklin's Gull 40 (*KS*, Oskaloosa-Perry Lake), Little Gull 2 (*MA*, Nantucket), Black-headed Gull 5 (*MA*, Mid-Cape Cod), Bonaparte's Gull 15,004 (*OH*, Firelands), Heermann's Gull 1952 (*CA*, Santa Barbara), Mew Gull 2267 (*WA*, Everett), Ring-billed Gull 34,397 (*OH*, Elyria-Lorain), California Gull **27,650** (*CA*, Folsom), Herring Gull 61,091 (*PA*, Southern Bucks Co.), Thayer's Gull 331 (*CA*, Sacramento), Iceland Gull 104 (*MA*, Nantucket), Kumlien's Gull 1 (*MA*, Quincy), Lesser Black-backed Gull 230 (*PA*, Central Bucks Co.), Slaty-backed Gull **1** (*WA*, Everett), Yellow-footed Gull 3 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), W. Gull 7408 (*CA*, San Francisco), Glaucous-winged Gull 2519 (*AK*, Mitkof Island), Glaucous Gull 10 (*MI*, Marquette), Great Black-backed Gull 4210 (*MA*, Cape Ann), Kelp Gull 1 (*TX*, Freeport and San Bernard N.W.R.), Black-legged Kittiwake 835 (*MA*, Truro).

Brown Noddy 1994 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Black Noddy 1686 (*HI*, French Frigate Shoals), White Tern 545 (*HI*, Midway Atoll), Sooty Tern 100 (*FL*, Dry Tortugas N.P.), Gray-backed Tern 10 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Least Tern 33 (*TX*, Coastal Tip), Gull-billed Tern 116 (*LA*, Crowley), Caspian Tern 199 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Black Tern 1 (*FL*, Gainesville), Com. Tern 56 (*TX*, Galveston), Forster's Tern 1250 (*FL*, Jacksonville), Royal Tern 815 (*FL*, Ten Thousand Islands), Sandwich Tern 555 (*FL*, Sanibel-Captiva), Black

Skimmer 3900 (*FL*, Jacksonville), Pomarine Jaeger 13 (*FL*, Merritt Island N.W.R.), Parasitic Jaeger **29** (*FL*, Merritt Island N.W.R.), Dovekie 75 (*NJ*, Hudson Canyon, Atlantic Ocean), Com. Murre 7882 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Thick-billed Murre 8 (*MA*, Cape Ann), Razorbill 1061 (*MA*, Cape Cod), Black Guillemot 42 (*ME*, Mount Desert Island), Pigeon Guillemot 500 (*WA*, Sequim-Dungeness), Marbled Murrelet 682 (*AK*, Mitkof Island), Xantus's Murrelet 2 (*CA*, Rancho Santa Fe), Ancient Murrelet 102 (*WA*, Sequim-Dungeness), Cassin's Auklet 119 (*CA*, Rancho Santa Fe), Crested Auklet 1 (*AK*, Unalaska Island), Rhinoceros Auklet 364 (*CA*, Moss Landing), Atlantic Puffin 1 (*MA*, Truro).

Rock Pigeon **16,604** (*OH*, Hamilton-Fairfield), White-crowned Pigeon 9 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Red-billed Pigeon 7 (*TX*, Falcon Dam and S.P.), Band-tailed Pigeon 1678 (*CA*, Sequoia), Ringed Turtle-Dove 4 ex (*KS*, Scott Lake), Eurasian Collared-Dove 1766 (*TX*, Lubbock Co.), Spotted Dove 302 (*HI*, O'ahu: Honolulu), Zebra Dove 1054 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), White-winged Dove 18,502 (*NM*, Las Cruces), Mourning Dove 7681 (*AZ*, Phoenix-Tres Rios), Inca Dove 204 (*TX*, Weslaco), Com. Ground-Dove 179 (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Ruddy Ground-Dove 4 (*AZ*, Nogales), White-tipped Dove 68 (*TX*, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Budgerigar 15 (*FL*, Aripuka-Bayport), Rose-ringed Parakeet 70 (*CA*, Bakersfield), Monk Parakeet 260 (*CT*, Stratford-Milford), Green Parakeet **819** (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Red-masked Parakeet 78 ex (*CA*, San Francisco), Mitred Parakeet 350 ex (*CA*, Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley), Blue-crowned Parakeet **160 ex** (*FL*, Fort Lauderdale), Scarlet-fronted Parakeet **15 ex** (*FL*, Dade Co.), White-eyed Parakeet 7 ex (*FL*, Dade Co.), Black-hooded Parakeet 390 (*FL*, St. Petersburg), Chestnut-fronted Macaw 2 ex (*FL*, Dade Co.), Blue-and-yellow Macaw 5 ex (*FL*, Kendall Area), Yellow-chevroned Parakeet 122 (*CA*, Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley), White-fronted Parrot 2 ex (*CA*, Orange Co. [coastal]), Red-crowned Parrot 3050 (*CA*, Pasadena-San Gabriel

Valley), Lilac-crowned Parrot 176 ex (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]), Red-lore Parrot 29 ex (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]), Yellow-headed Parrot 5 ex (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]), Orange-winged Parrot 5 ex (FL, Kendall Area), Blue-fronted Parrot 16 ex (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]), Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1 (FL, Avon Park A.F. Range), Greater Roadrunner 33 (AZ, Gila River), Groove-billed Ani 16 (TX, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Barn Owl 30 (TX, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh).

W. Screech-Owl 40 (CA, Orange Co. [NE]), E. Screech-Owl 218 (FL, St. Petersburg), Whiskered Screech-Owl 9 (AZ, Portal), Great Horned Owl 85 (CA, Point Reyes Pen.), Snowy Owl 10 (MA, Greater Boston), N. Hawk Owl 9 (MN, Baudette), N. Pygmy-Owl 8 (CA, Año Nuevo), Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl 2 (TX, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Burrowing Owl 275 (FL, Fort Myers), Spotted Owl 4 (CA, Sonoma Valley and W. Sonoma Co.), Barred Owl 47 (FL, Avon Park A.F. Range), Great Gray Owl 3 (MN, Baudette), Long-eared Owl 48 (CO, Bonny Reservoir), Short-eared Owl 68 (CA, Arcata), Boreal Owl 1 (AK, Anchorage and Narrow Cape-Kalsin Bay), N. Saw-whet Owl 49 (CA, Año Nuevo), Lesser Nighthawk 4 (AZ, Gila River), Com. Pauraque 7 (TX, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Com. Poorwill 2 (CA, Año Nuevo), Chuck-will's-widow 2 (LA, Venice), Whip-poor-will 4 (FL, Zellwood-Mount Dora).

Vaux's Swift 1 (CA, Marin Co. [southern]), Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad, and Sacramento), Mariana Swiftlet 2 (HI, O'ahu: Honolulu), White-throated Swift 550 (TX, Big Bend N.P. [east]), Broad-billed Hummingbird 36 (AZ, Santa Catalina Mountains), Buff-bellied Hummingbird 39 (TX, Victoria), Violet-crowned Hummingbird 1 (AZ, Tucson Valley), Blue-throated Hummingbird 14 (AZ, Portal), Magnificent Hummingbird 10 (AZ, Portal), Ruby-throated Hummingbird 26 (NC, Kitty Hawk), Black-chinned Hummingbird 17 (LA, Baton Rouge), Anna's Hummingbird 1131 (CA, San Francisco), Costa's Hummingbird 76 (CA, Anza-Borrego Desert), Calliope Hummingbird 4 (LA, Baton Rouge), Broad-tailed Humming-

bird 3 (AZ, Ramsey Canyon), Rufous Hummingbird 21 (LA, Baton Rouge), Allen's Hummingbird 487 (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]), Elegant Trogon 4 (AZ, Atascosa Highlands), Ringed Kingfisher 16 (TX, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Belted Kingfisher 240 (FL, Merritt Island N.W.R.), Green Kingfisher 16 (TX, Harlingen).

Lewis's Woodpecker 221 (CA, Anderson River Park), Red-headed Woodpecker 404 (KS, Linn Co.), Acorn Woodpecker 747 (CA, Santa Barbara), Gila Woodpecker 493 (AZ, Carefree), Golden-fronted Woodpecker 236 (TX, Weslaco), Red-bellied Woodpecker 584 (VA, Fort Belvoir), Williamson's Sapsucker 2 (AZ, Prescott and Ramsey Canyon; NM, Questa; and OR, Klamath Falls), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 110 (TX, Nacogdoches), Red-naped Sapsucker 56 (AZ, Portal), Red-breasted Sapsucker 48 (WA, Port Townsend), Ladder-backed Woodpecker 92 (AZ, Dudleyville), Nuttall's Woodpecker 202 (CA, Putah Creek), Downy Woodpecker 770 (MA, Concord), Hairy Woodpecker 160 (MA, Concord), Arizona Woodpecker 37 (AZ, Atascosa Highlands), Red-cockaded Woodpecker 23 (SC, Litchfield-Pawleys Island), White-headed Woodpecker 12 (CA, Lake Almanor and South Lake Tahoe), Am. Three-toed Woodpecker 3 (MN, Rice Lake N.W.R.), Black-backed Woodpecker 8 (MN, Rice Lake N.W.R.), N. (Red-shafted) Flicker 499 (CA, Putah Creek), N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 427 (MD, Bowie), Gilded Flicker 54 (AZ, Avra Valley), Pileated Woodpecker 155 (FL, Gainesville).

N. Beardless-Tyrannulet 2 (TX, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Greater Pewee 1 (AZ, Santa Catalina Mountains), W. Wood-Pewee 2 (WY Gillette), E. Wood-Pewee 1 (MS, Corinth; and TX, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Least Flycatcher 16 (FL, Zellwood-Mount Dora), Hammond's Flycatcher 26 (AZ, Atascosa Highlands), Gray Flycatcher 59 (AZ, Atascosa Highlands), Dusky Flycatcher 24 (AZ, Patagonia), Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1 (CA, Long Beach-el Dorado and Rancho Santa Fe), W. Flycatcher 2 (AZ, Superior), Black Phoebe 557 (CA, Orange Co. [coastal]),

E. Phoebe 597 (TX, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Say's Phoebe 172 (AZ, Gila River), Vermilion Flycatcher 61 (AZ, Tucson Valley), Ash-throated Flycatcher 16 (AZ, Atascosa Highlands), Great Crested Flycatcher 40 (FL, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary), Brown-crested Flycatcher 2 (FL, Long Pine Key), Great Kiskadee 178 (TX, Weslaco), Tropical Kingbird 22 (TX, Weslaco), Couch's Kingbird 77 (TX, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Cassin's Kingbird 230 (CA, Orange Co. [NE]), Thick-billed Kingbird 1 (CA, Palos Verdes Pen.), W. Kingbird 29 (FL, Zellwood-Mount Dora), E. Kingbird 1 (AL, Cullman; MD, Annapolis-Gibson Island; TX, Guadalupe River Delta-McFaddin Family Ranches and Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 38 (TX, Choke Canyon), Rose-throated Becard 1 (TX, Weslaco).

Loggerhead Shrike 257 (FL, Fort Myers), N. Shrike 14 (CO, Denver; and WI, Owen), White-eyed Vireo 103 (FL, Gainesville), Bell's Vireo 1 (TX, Guadalupe River Delta-McFaddin Family Ranches), Gray Vireo 1 (TX, Comstock), Yellow-throated Vireo 5 (FL, Fort Lauderdale), Plumbeous Vireo 7 (AZ, Superior), Cassin's Vireo 6 (AZ, Dudleyville), Blue-headed Vireo 114 (FL, Gainesville), Hutton's Vireo 102 (CA, Point Reyes Pen.), Philadelphia Vireo 1 (TX, Brazos Bend), Gray Jay 66 (AK, Fairbanks), Steller's Jay 456 (CA, Oakland), Blue Jay 906 (MA, Concord), Black-throated Magpie-Jay 2 ex (CA, San Diego), Green Jay 162 (TX, Kingsville), Florida Scrub-Jay 58 (FL, Avon Park A.F. Range), Island Scrub-Jay 26 (CA, Santa Cruz Island), W. Scrub-Jay 866 (OR, Eugene), Mexican Jay 354 (AZ, Patagonia), Pinyon Jay 252 (OR, Sisters), Clark's Nutcracker 247 (OR, Bend), Black-billed Magpie 1138 (MT, Bozeman), Yellow-billed Magpie 478 (CA, Sacramento), Am. Crow 162,000 (IL, Middle Fork River Valley), Northwestern Crow 867 (AK, Homer), Fish Crow 7800 (FL, Lakeland), Chihuahuan Raven 1009 (TX, Laredo), Com. Raven 2215 (UT, Silver Reef).

Elepaio (Hawaii) 19 (HI, Hawai'i: Volcano), Elepaio (Kauai) 9 (HI, Kauai:

Waimea), Elepaio (Oahu) 4 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Sky Lark 3 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Horned Lark 6131 (*CO*, Fountain Creek), Tree Swallow 51,682 (*NC*, Pettigrew S.P.), Violet-green Swallow 71 (*AZ*, Buenos Aires N.W.R.), N. Rough-winged Swallow 685 (*FL*, STA5-Clewiston), Cave Swallow 351 (*TX*, San Antonio), Barn Swallow 151 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), Carolina Chickadee 1711 (*OH*, Cincinnati), Black-capped Chickadee 3739 (*MA*, Concord), Mountain Chickadee 450 (*CO*, Evergreen-Idaho Springs), Mexican Chickadee 7 (*AZ*, Portal), Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1098 (*CA*, Oakland), Boreal Chickadee 200 (*AK*, Fairbanks), Bridled Titmouse 296 (*AZ*, Patagonia), Oak Titmouse 642 (*CA*, Folsom), Juniper Titmouse 42 (*CO*, Penrose), Tufted Titmouse 1535 (*MA*, Concord), Black-crested Titmouse 198 (*TX*, Boerne), Verdin 419 (*AZ*, Tucson Valley), Bushtit 1453 (*CA*, Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad), Red-breasted Nuthatch 341 (*MT*, Missoula), White-breasted Nuthatch 1050 (*MA*, Concord), Pygmy Nuthatch 1031 (*CA*, San Francisco), Brown-headed Nuthatch 356 (*GA*, St. Catherines Island), Brown Creeper 116 (*CA*, Santa Cruz Co.).

Cactus Wren 514 (*AZ*, Carefree), Rock Wren 147 (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), Canyon Wren 125 (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), **Sinaloa Wren CW** (*AZ*, Patagonia), Carolina Wren 770 (*VA*, Fort Belvoir), Bewick's Wren 264 (*WA*, Seattle), House Wren 280 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), House (Brown-throated) Wren 1 (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), Winter Wren 149 (*WA*, Olympia), Sedge Wren 477 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Marsh Wren 209 (*TX*, Guadalupe River Delta-McFaddin Family Ranches), Am. Dipper 48 (*AK*, Matanuska Valley), Red-vented Bulbul 170 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Red-whiskered Bulbul 32 (*HI*, O'ahu: Honolulu) 98 ex (*CA*, Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley), Golden-crowned Kinglet 1272 (*WA*, Olympia), Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1406 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Japanese Bush-Warbler 8 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 785 (*FL*, Emerald-Sunnyhill), California Gnatcatcher 55 (*CA*, Rancho Santa Fe

and San Diego), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 169 (*AZ*, Avra Valley), Black-capped Gnatcatcher 5 (*AZ*, Patagonia), White-rumped Shama 14 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o).

E. Bluebird 804 (*OH*, Millersburg), W. Bluebird 785 (*CA*, Folsom), Mountain Bluebird 592 (*TX*, Amarillo), Townsend's Solitaire 146 (*CO*, Penrose), Omao 20 (*HI*, Hawai'i: Volcano), Puaiohi 3 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Swainson's Thrush 1 (*NY*, L.I.: Quogue-Watermill), Hermit Thrush 337 (*CA*, Putah Creek), Wood Thrush 1 (*IN*, Lake Monroe; *LA*, Venice; *MS*, Corinth; *PA*, Chambersburg; and *TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh and Victoria), Clay-colored Robin 4 (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Am. Robin 88,478 (*MA*, Mid-Cape Cod), Varied Thrush 714 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Hwamei 9 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Red-billed Leiothrix 17 (*HI*, O'ahu: Honolulu), Wrentit 638 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Japanese White-eye 123 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Gray Catbird 570 (*FL*, Long Pine Key), N. Mockingbird 484 (*TX*, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Sage Thrasher 71 (*TX*, Guadalupe Mountains), Brown Thrasher 101 (*NJ*, Warren Co.-Northampton Co.), Long-billed Thrasher 53 (*TX*, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Bendire's Thrasher 14 (*AZ*, Elfrida), Curve-billed Thrasher 363 (*AZ*, Carefree), California Thrasher 123 (*CA*, Rancho Santa Fe), Crissal Thrasher 53 (*AZ*, Gila River), Le Conte's Thrasher 2 (*CA*, Carrizo Plain), European Starling 1,001,106 (*OK*, Sooner Lake), Com. Myna 1049 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Hill Myna 23 ex (*FL*, Kendall Area), Am. Pipit 1481 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), Sprague's Pipit 44 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Bohemian Waxwing **22,245** (*AK*, Anchorage), Cedar Waxwing 3469 (*MO*, Columbia), Phainopepla 573 (*AZ*, Carefree).

Olive Warbler 7 (*AZ*, Portal), Tennessee Warbler 1 (*CA*, Santa Barbara; *GA*, St. Catherines Island; and *TX*, Freeport and Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Orange-crowned Warbler 360 (*TX*, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.), Nashville Warbler 14 (*TX*, Brownsville), Lucy's Warbler 1 (*CA*, San

Diego), N. Parula 28 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Tropical Parula 1 (*TX*, Weslaco), Yellow Warbler 20 (*FL*, Key Largo-Plantation Key and Key West), Chestnut-sided Warbler 1 (*AZ*, Jerome and Superior; and *CA*, San Diego), Magnolia Warbler 3 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Cape May Warbler 3 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Black-throated Blue Warbler 9 (*FL*, Fort Lauderdale), Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 5343 (*CA*, Orange Co. [NE]), Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 4500 (*FL*, Gainesville), Black-throated Gray Warbler 31 (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), Black-throated Green Warbler 13 (*FL*, Fort Lauderdale), Townsend's Warbler 521 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Hermit Warbler 18 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Blackburnian Warbler 1 (*AZ*, Tucson Valley), Yellow-throated Warbler 28 (*FL*, Gainesville), Grace's Warbler 1 (*CA*, Rancho Santa Barbara and Santa Fe), Pine Warbler 780 (*FL*, Avon Park A.F. Range), Prairie Warbler 90 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Palm Warbler 2300 (*FL*, Cocoa).

Black-and-white Warbler 70 (*FL*, Gainesville), Am. Redstart 15 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Prothonotary Warbler 3 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Worm-eating Warbler 1 (*CA*, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego, San Francisco, and Ventura), Ovenbird 9 (*FL*, Gainesville; and *NC*, Cape Hatteras), N. Waterthrush 24 (*FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P.), Louisiana Waterthrush 1 (*AZ*, Nogales and Ramsey Canyon; *FL*, Coot Bay-Everglades N.P., Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and Fort Lauderdale; and *OK*, Spavinaw), Kentucky Warbler **1** (*AZ*, Green Valley-Madera Canyon), MacGillivray's Warbler 2 (*CA*, Orange Co. [coastal]), Com. Yellowthroat 524 (*TX*, Guadalupe River Delta-McFaddin Family Ranches), Wilson's Warbler 17 (*CA*, Orange Co. [coastal]), Painted Redstart **17** (*AZ*, Green Valley-Madera Canyon), Rufous-capped Warbler **3** (*AZ*, Green Valley-Madera Canyon), Yellow-breasted Chat **17** (*MA*, Cape Cod), Hepatic Tanager **27** (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), Summer Tanager 4 (*CA*, San Diego), Scarlet Tanager 1 (*CA*, San Diego), W. Tanager 17 (*CA*, San Diego).

White-collared Seedeater 2 (*TX*, Laredo), White-collared Seedeater 2 ex (*CA*, San Diego), Saffron Finch 49 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Red-crested Cardinal 118 (*HI*, O'ahu: Honolulu), Olive Sparrow 62 (*TX*, Choke Canyon), Green-tailed Towhee 254 (*NM*, Peloncillo Mountains), Spotted Towhee 618 (*OK*, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge), E. Towhee 177 (*FL*, Avon Park A.F. Range), Canyon Towhee 184 (*NM*, Peloncillo Mountains), California Towhee 776 (*CA*, Oakland), Abert's Towhee 699 (*AZ*, Gila River), Rufous-winged Sparrow **236** (*AZ*, Green Valley-Madera Canyon), Cassin's Sparrow 16 (*AZ*, Buenos Aires N.W.R.), Bachman's Sparrow 18 (*FL*, Wekiva River), Rufous-crowned Sparrow 244 (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), Five-striped Sparrow 1 (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands), Am. Tree Sparrow 4296 (*IL*, Crane Lake-Sangamon), Chipping Sparrow 1734 (*TX*, Nacogdoches), Clay-colored Sparrow 17 (*TX*, Big Bend N.P. [east]), Brewer's Sparrow 2756 (*AZ*, Green Valley-Madera Canyon), Field Sparrow 339 (*TN*, Buffalo River), Black-chinned Sparrow 42 (*AZ*, Portal), Vesper Sparrow 1525 (*TX*, Crawford), Lark Sparrow 655 (*CA*, Tejon Ranch), Black-throated Sparrow **3590** (*AZ*, Superior), Sage Sparrow 216 (*AZ*, Gila River), Lark Bunting 798 (*AZ*, Elfrida), Savannah Sparrow 5942 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]), Savannah (Belding's) Sparrow 126 (*CA*, San Diego), Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 32 (*MD*, Ocean City), Savannah (Large-billed) Sparrow 14 (*CA*, Salton Sea [south]).

Grasshopper Sparrow 33 (*FL*, Long Pine Key), Baird's Sparrow 2 (*AZ*, Buenos Aires N.W.R.), Henslow's Sparrow **53** (*MS*, Jackson Co.), Le Conte's Sparrow 153 (*TX*, Nacogdoches), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 92 (*LA*, Sabine N.W.R.), Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 36 (*FL*, Jacksonville), Seaside Sparrow 995 (*GA*, St. Catherines Island), Fox Sparrow 967 (*CA*, Arcata), Fox (E.) Sparrow 26 (*NY*, L.I.: Queens), Fox (Red) Sparrow 1 (*CA*, Putah Creek; *NM*, Zuni), Fox (Sooty) Sparrow 371 (*OR*, Coos Bay), Fox (Slate-colored) Sparrow **13** (*CA*, Yreka), Song Sparrow 1571 (*OH*, Millersburg), Lincoln's Sparrow 274 (*TX*, Guadalupe

River Delta-McFaddin Family Ranches and San Antonio), Swamp Sparrow 740 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), White-throated Sparrow 3241 (*VA*, Fort Belvoir), Harris's Sparrow 2285 (*KS*, Udall-Winfield), White-crowned Sparrow 3192 (*TX*, Balmorhea), White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow **1091** (*CA*, San Diego), Golden-crowned Sparrow 2180 (*CA*, Benicia), Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco 651 (*AZ*, Portal), Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 3055 (*WA*, Bellingham), Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco **976** (*CO*, Penrose), Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 4858 (*PA*, Lehigh Valley), Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco 163 (*SD*, Piedmont), Dark-eyed (Gray-headed caniceps) Junco 18 (*NM*, Zuni), Yellow-eyed Junco 36 (*AZ*, Portal), McCown's Longspur 600 (*NM*, Clovis), Lapland Longspur 14,260 (*KS*, Waconda Lake), Smith's Longspur 63 (*OK*, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge), Chestnut-collared Longspur 430 (*NM*, Five Points), Snow Bunting 4402 (*MI*, Clinton), McKay's Bunting **35** (*AK*, Nome), Crimson-collared Grosbeak 1 (*TX*, Weslaco), N. Cardinal 1985 (*OH*, Millersburg), Pyrrhuloxia 148 (*AZ*, Ramsey Canyon), Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2 (*CA*, Morro Bay), Black-headed Grosbeak 1 (*CA*, Oakland and Ukiah; *OR*, Eugene and Grants Pass; and *TX*, Armand Bayou, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh and Rockport), Blue Bunting 1 (*TX*, Weslaco), Blue Grosbeak 1 (*AZ*, Ramsey Canyon; *FL*, Choctawhatchee Bay and West Volusia Co.; *KS*, Wichita; and *TX*, San Bernard N.W.R.), Lazuli Bunting 23 (*AZ*, Ramsey Canyon), Indigo Bunting 19 (*FL*, Zellwood-Mount Dora), Painted Bunting 71 (*FL*, Cocoa), Dickcissel 5 (*AR*, Pine Bluff).

Bobolink 1 (*OH*, Toledo), Red-winged Blackbird 5,000,101 (*OK*, Sooner Lake), Tricolored Blackbird 3055 (*CA*, Yreka), E. Meadowlark 1226 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), W. Meadowlark 3081 (*CA*, Lincoln), Yellow-headed Blackbird 16,465 (*AZ*, Phoenix-Tres Rios), Rusty Blackbird 50,000 (*OK*, Sooner Lake), Brewer's Blackbird 225,080 (*OK*, Sooner Lake), Com. Grackle 1,001,435 (*SC*, Pinewood), Boat-tailed Grackle

23,459 (*TX*, Matagorda Co.-Mad Island Marsh), Great-tailed Grackle **1,000,056** (*OK*, Sooner Lake), Shiny Cowbird 1 (*FL*, Kendall Area), Bronzed Cowbird 611 (*TX*, Harlingen), Brown-headed Cowbird 2,00,000 (*OK*, Sooner Lake), Orchard Oriole 4 (*CA*, San Diego), Hooded Oriole 4 (*CA*, San Diego), Bullock's Oriole 9 (*CA*, San Diego), Spot-breasted Oriole 4 (*FL*, West Palm Beach), Altamira Oriole 19 (*TX*, Anzalduas-Bentsen), Audubon's Oriole 27 (*TX*, Choke Canyon), Baltimore Oriole 35 (*FL*, Gainesville), Scott's Oriole **29** (*AZ*, Atascosa Highlands).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch 2000 (*ID*, Bear Lake Valley), Black Rosy-Finch 435 (*WY*, Dubois), Brown-capped Rosy-Finch 282 (*CO*, Gunnison), Pine Grosbeak 389 (*AK*, Anchorage), Purple Finch 201 (*CA*, Point Reyes Pen.), Cassin's Finch 170 (*CA*, Woodfords), House Finch 2414 (*CA*, Lincoln), Red Crossbill 364 (*WY*, Jackson Hole), White-winged Crossbill 956 (*AK*, Homer), Com. Redpoll 2104 (*AK*, Anchorage), Hoary Redpoll 19 (*AK*, Fairbanks), redpoll sp. 4847 (*AK*, Fairbanks), Pine Siskin 6075 (*ND*, Icelandic S.P.), Lesser Goldfinch 1154 (*CA*, Lincoln), Lawrence's Goldfinch 70 (*CA*, Pinnacles N.M.), Am. Goldfinch 2619 (*MA*, Concord), Com. Canary 391 (*HI*, Midway Atoll), Evening Grosbeak 204 (*ME*, Presque Isle), Laysan Finch 142 (*HI*, Laysan Island), Hawaii Amakihi 245 (*HI*, Hawai'i: North Kona), Oahu Amakihi 1 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Kauai Amakihi 7 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Anianiau 4 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Akiapolaau 6 (*HI*, Hawai'i: Volcano), Akikiki 3 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Hawaii Creeper 1 (*HI*, Hawai'i: Volcano), Akekee 2 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Waimea), Iiwi 23 (*HI*, Hawai'i: North Kona), Apapane 113 (*HI*, Hawai'i: North Kona), House Sparrow 4537 (*MI*, Detroit River), Eurasian Tree Sparrow 626 (*IL*, W. Mercer Co.), Orange Bishop **11 ex** (*CA*, Palos Verdes Pen.), Red Bishop **11 ex** (*CA*, Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley), Com. Waxbill 298 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o), Nutmeg Mannikin 142 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Kapa'a), Chestnut Munia 147 (*HI*, Kaua'i: Kapa'a), Java Sparrow 239 (*HI*, O'ahu: Waipi'o).