

2013 Florence Christmas Bird Count

Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator

The 30th Florence Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on Saturday, December 14, on a mostly sunny and comfortable day with temperatures in the 40s. About 50 birders participated in the count—41 in the field and the others as Feeder Watchers.

Overall numbers for the count were average, with 128 species and almost 15,000 individual birds observed. Both of those numbers are very close to the average for the previous 29 years of the Florence CBC.

Unusual sightings included Red-shouldered Hawk (two), Palm Warbler (two), and Northern Fulmar (one), which were recorded for only the sixth time. Species that are usually found on the count but were missed this year include Tundra Swan and Surfbird. We counted 90 Eurasian Collared-Doves; last year we saw 103. Maybe the population has stabilized. We also recorded two notable count-week birds: Orange-crowned Warbler and Barred Owl.

We recorded higher than average counts for American Coot (six times average), Pelagic Cormorants (five times average), and Common Murre and Red-throated Loon (three times average).

Some low counts were noted among the finches, with only two Pine Siskin, 12 Red Crossbill, and 10 American Goldfinch counted. In addition, both White-winged and Surf Scoter were at about 10% of their historical average numbers.