

2016 Florence Christmas Bird Count

Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 33rd Florence Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday December 17, 2016. The weather was cold, dry, and generally overcast with mild winds. At least 37 people participated in the field, and another 9 sent in Home Counter reports.

We added a species for the count week. A Brambling was found on Sunday, within the count circle. The species number was a low 117, compared to an average of 126. The total number of birds was also low—about 9,000 versus 16,000.

Red-shouldered Hawk and Snow Goose were reported and are not usually found on our count. Duck and goose numbers were higher than normal. We found 18 Black Phoebe, 41 Virginia Rail, and 4 Sora.

Mew Gull, California Gull, and Western Gull numbers were low. Less than a quarter of their usual numbers were seen. Other gull counts were down as well. Additional low species numbers included Northern Pintail, White-winged Scoter, Snowy Plover (only 1), Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Belted Kingfisher, and House Finch.

We counted only 25 Collared Doves. Three years ago, we spotted more than 100. Only 2 Purple Finch were reported (from a feeder), and only 4 Pine Siskin were found.

Species not found included Ruddy Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Tundra Swan, Surf-bird, Ring-billed Gull, Dunlin, and American Dipper.