

# 2017 Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The Cottage Grove CBC was originally started in 1971 by Alan Contreras and Mike Patterson, then young birders. It continued for 14 years into the 1980s. On Saturday, December 30, 2017, after a 33-year hiatus, the count was resurrected, making this the 15th for the Cottage Grove area. Grace Fowler-Gore was Count Coordinator and Compiler for the first time this year. She was also among the 32 participants who identified over 80 species and counted 4,438 individuals.

The day started out cold and foggy. After about noon, when the fog cleared, participants enjoyed beautiful, mostly blue sky with high cirrus clouds. An interesting observation made by three of the five Home Counters was that they saw lots of birds on the days before and after the bird count, but that their feeder birds seemed to be hiding out on Saturday!

New birds for this count were: Eurasian Collared-Dove, Cackling Goose, Fox Sparrow (sooty), Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Black Phoebe, Common Yellowthroat, and Wild Turkey.

The three additional Count Week birds were: Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-throated Sparrow and Hutton's Vireo.

Thanks to fellow zone volunteer leaders: Hydie Lown, Alison Center, Catherine Engelman, Julie Parker, Nola Nelson, and Barbara Butzer.

Some of the favorite birds counted were: Barn Owl, Green Heron, Western Screech-Owl, Western Bluebird, Spotted Sandpiper, American Dipper, and Northern Harrier.