

Eugene Christmas Bird Count Compiler

Notes

by Vjera Thompson, Species Compiler

Count day, December 31, 2017, dawned foggy and cold, and stayed foggy until late afternoon. The teams that persisted until the end of the day were rewarded with sunshine at sunset. Two different areas were also rewarded with Short-eared Owls that came out at sunset.

On Count Day, 130 species were reported by the field teams and Home Counters. An additional seven species were seen during Count Week. We had two firsts for the count. Two Common Redpolls were found by one team. Those birds stuck around for many local birders to see in the following days. The other first was a female Wilson's Warbler that was seen a few days before the count and was re-found on Count Day. Other unusual birds were two Say's Phoebes (tying a record high), and a Trumpeter Swan. A Golden Eagle, Palm Warbler, and Gray Jay were also seen during Count Week.

Wild Turkeys have continued to increase in numbers. This year they reached another new record high, with 600 counted in 15 different areas. Other record highs were Ross's Goose (1, ties record), Sora (1, ties record), Downy Woodpeckers (123), and Tree Swallows (52).

Even in the fog, we had high counts of several raptors: Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks (35, one short of a record high), and Red-tailed Hawks (159). Unfortunately we saw no Northern Shrikes on Count Day, and almost missed seeing a Rough-legged Hawk (1) and White-tailed Kite (1). Many duck and sparrow species had higher counts than normal. Our Home Counters contributed significantly to high counts of Anna's Hummingbirds (245), Downy Woodpeckers (123), and Red-breasted Sapsuckers (31).

It was a good count despite cold, foggy conditions, thanks to all the birders that participated on field teams and from homes.