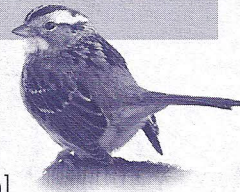


Results of the 2006 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Submitted January 13, 2007, by Dick Lamster

One hundred and twenty-eight bird watchers took flight on December 31 for the 65th annual Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). The earliest birders went owling before sunup and several teams stayed out in the afternoon until the last bit of sunlight allowed accurate identification.



The 15-mile-diameter circle, which has been the location for the ECBC since its inception, is divided into 25 areas, each with a team leader who is an expert bird watcher. Others join the teams to spend a fun day finding as many birds as possible. This year the teams totaled 120.5 miles walking, 4.5 miles on bicycles and 724 miles driving. They spent 261.5 hours looking for birds. In addition, 57 feeder counters looked for birds during the day and reported their sightings for inclusion in the count totals.

This year, 131 species were identified on Count Day, and two more were added during Count Week. The number of total birds counted was 80,499.

At the end of the day, all participants were invited to attend the annual Chili Feed sponsored by Lane Audubon and were treated to homemade chili prepared by Allison Mickel. Sandy Poinsett assisted Allison and the 80+ people who attended had a great time. Seeing old friends, discussing the day's activities and sharing that unusual bird over a hot bowl of chili are fun ways to end a great day of birding.

Congratulations and a big "Thank You" goes to the ECBC Committee that makes this event so popular and successful. **Dick Lamster** is the Count Coordinator and the official compiler, who also does publicity and works with national Audubon on all the details. **Barbara Gleason** works with the team leaders, recruits and places

volunteers, and is working to get new maps for next year. Dan Gleason collects and analyzes the results, confirms unusual sightings and produces the final tabulation. **Herb Wisner** coordinates all the home feeder counters and collects and analyzes their results. This year he recruited a record number of home counters, 57! The Committee would like to thank all the Team Leaders and all the volunteers who braved the cold and counted birds for a day. It was a big success.

Results of this Count as well as all the other Christmas Bird Counts in North America can be seen at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc. The Eugene Count's code is OREU. Be sure to mark December 30, 2007 on your calendar for the 2007 Eugene Christmas Bird Count.

2006 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Trends & Comparisons

by Dan Gleason

Last year there were 137 species reported for Count Day and one for Count Week, so with 133 species (131 on Count Day plus 2 during Count Week), we are down slightly in numbers but still have a very good total with several record high. Many of these records are probably the result of having 57 home counters, many more than usual.

The 80,499 total number of bird counted includes the many unidentified gulls. The two species missed on Count Day,

but reported during the Count Week were **Brant** and **Lewis's Woodpecker**.

Notably absent this year were **Osprey** and **Rough-legged Hawk**. At least one Osprey has been seen on the Eugene count for the past several years even though most have left our area long before now. There are always some Rough-legged Hawks in the valley each year (they breed in the Arctic), so having none reported is a bit surprising. **Mountain Quail** and **Horned Lark** were also not reported, but these birds can be easily missed even when you know where to search for them.

A **Lark Sparrow** was perhaps the most unusual species seen this year. It was well seen by the team led by David Irons. This is a bird that seldom makes an appearance in the Willamette Valley, especially during winter. A single Lark Sparrow was reported in 1945 and again in 1946, but I have no information regarding the validity of these old reports.

Another "first" for the Eugene Count is a hummingbird in the genus *Selasphorus*. Anna's are common here in the winter (and with 69, we shattered the old record of 45) but other species do not belong here now. This bird (visiting a feeder in the Coburg Road area) is most likely a **Rufous Hummingbird** as they are known to wander and most winter records of hummingbirds in the Atlantic states are of this species, which is not normally found there. However, **Allen's Hummingbird** cannot be safely ruled out as the plumage differences in immature males or females is very subtle and usually cannot be safely distinguished in the field. Allen's Hummingbirds are less likely to wander but they do breed along the southern Oregon coast. At this point, we can only safely say it is a hummingbird in the genus *Selasphorus*.

The 2006 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Complete Results

Birds with record high (or tied with record high) counts

This Year		Previous	Year
28,089	Cackling Goose	18,482	(2005)
308	Ruddy Duck	301	(1995)
9	Horned Grebe	8	(2004)
1,669	Double-crested Cormorant	800	(2004)
3	American Bittern	3	(1969)
26	Turkey Vulture	16	(2005)
25	Bald Eagle	19	(2005)
20	Red-shouldered Hawk	8	(2004)
1,733	American Coot	1,544	(2004)
22	Western Screech-Owl	19	(1972)
1	Barred Owl	1	(2004)
69	Anna's Hummingbird *	45	(2002)
1	Selasphorus sp. hummingbird *		
75	Downy Woodpecker *	66	(1972)
12	Pileated Woodpecker	11	(1994)
3	Black Phoebe	3	(2005)
1,100	Black-capped Chickadee *	1,057	(2000)
82	Brown Creeper *	74	(2004)
1	Lark Sparrow	1	(1945,1946)
3	Swamp Sparrow	3	(2003)
23	White-throated Sparrow	18	(2002)
302	American Goldfinch *	243	(1987)

Birds with notably high counts

This Year		Record High	Year	Average
390	Gadwall	4299	(2002)	[45]
45	Hooded Merganser	54	(2001)	[38]
119	Pied-billed Grebe	160	(2001)	[31]
140	Great Egret	180	(2002)	[33]
26	White-tailed Kite	30	(2004)	[11]
15	Sharp-shinned Hawk	21	(2001)	[8]
11	Cooper's Hawk	18	(2005)	[5]
118	Red-tailed Hawk	164	(2005)	[61]
9	Merlin	16	(2001)	[4]
1,147	Rock Pigeon	1,252	(1999)	[531]
570	Mourning Dove	660	(1967)	[134]
20	Great Horned Owl	29	(1969)	[7]
418	Northern Flicker	558	(1973)	[180]
716	Western Scrub-Jay *	999	(2002)	[367]
136	Chestnut-backed Chickadee *	187	(2002)	[59]
982	Bushtit *	912	(1997)	[60]

This Year		Record High	Year	Average
110	Red-breasted Nuthatch *	166	(2004)	[39]
104	Bewick's Wren	141	(1975)	[52]
54	Marsh Wren	59	(2003)	[16]
746	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1,111	(2001)	[386]
595	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1,751	(2001)	[243]
146	Western Bluebird	194	(2005)	[45]
375	Varied Thrush	1,010	(1954)	[140]
15	Wrentit	19	(2004)	[6]
123	Yellow-rumped Warbler *	259	(1984)	[48]
102	Townsend's Warbler *	103	(2005)	[27]
477	Spotted Towhee *	487	(2004)	[220]
350	Fox Sparrow	448	(1984)	[138]
931	Song Sparrow	1,111	(1984)	[450]
3,492	Dark-eyed Junco *	4,468	(1974)	[1,291]

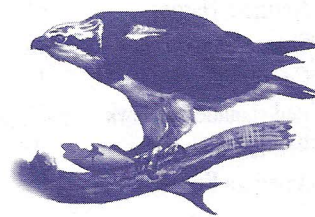
* Totals increased by help from high number of home counters

Birds with notably low counts

This Year		Record High	Year	Average
1	Canvasback (ties low)	1	(1950)	[29]
89	Lesser Scaup	2	(1955)	[253]
15	Ring-necked Pheasant	1	(1912)	[50]
570	Killdeer	4	(1912)	[1,309]
20	Least Sandpiper	1	(1971,1987)	[110]
19	California Gull	1	(1969)	[170]
2	Band-tailed Pigeon	1	(1986)	[8]
19	Acorn Woodpecker	1	(1946)	[40]
11	White-breasted Nuthatch	2	(1947)	[21]
31	Cedar Waxwing	1	(1944)	[58]
714	Red-winged Blackbird	1	(1944)	[3,371]
55	Pine Siskin	1	(1976)	[209]
4	Evening Grosbeak	2	(1943)	[389]

Frequently seen but missing on this count:

- Mountain Quail
- Osprey
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Horned Lark
- Orange-crowned Warbler



Eugene CBC: 12-31-06

Comment Codes

H High **R** Record number
L Low **CW** Count Week, but
T Ties (high or low) not on Count Day

Species Number Comment

Brant		CW
Cackling Goose	28,089	RH
Canada Goose	4,731	
Tundra Swan	743	
Wood Duck	227	
Gadwall	390	H
Eurasian Wigeon	1	
American Wigeon	370	
Mallard	1,266	
Northern Shoveler	186	
Northern Pintail	184	
Green-winged Teal	802	
Canvasback	1	TRL
Redhead	6	
Ring-necked Duck	43	
Greater Scaup	3	
Lesser Scaup	89	L
Bufflehead	67	
Hooded Merganser	45	H
Common Merganser	179	
Ruddy Duck	308	RH
Ring-necked Pheasant	15	L
Wild Turkey	41	
California Quail	175	
Pacific Loon	1	
Pied-billed Grebe	119	H
Horned Grebe	9	RH
Western Grebe	42	
Double-crested Cormorant	1,669	RH
American Bittern	3	TRH
Great Blue Heron	132	
Great Egret	140	H
Green Heron	1	
Turkey Vulture	26	RH
White-tailed Kite	26	H
Bald Eagle	25	RH
Northern Harrier	61	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15	H
Cooper's Hawk	11	H
Red-shouldered Hawk	20	RH
Red-tailed Hawk	118	H
American Kestrel	88	

Species	Number	Comment
Merlin	9	H
Peregrine Falcon	2	
Virginia Rail	2	
American Coot	1,733	RH
Killdeer	570	L
Greater Yellowlegs	46	
Spotted Sandpiper	6	
Least Sandpiper	20	L
Dunlin	942	
Long-billed Dowitcher	159	
Wilson's Snipe	111	
Mew Gull	189	
Ring-billed Gull	996	
California Gull	19	L
Herring Gull	10	
Thayer's Gull	15	
Western Gull	6	
Glaucous-winged Gull	240	
gull sp.	1,209	
Rock Pigeon	1,147	H
Band-tailed Pigeon	2	L
Mourning Dove	570	H
Barn Owl	4	
Western Screech-Owl	22	RH
Great Horned Owl	20	H
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	
Barred Owl	1	TR
Short-eared Owl	2	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	5	
Anna's Hummingbird	69	RH
Selasphorus sps.	1	RH
Belted Kingfisher	24	
Lewis's Woodpecker		C
Acorn Woodpecker	19	L
Red-breasted Sapsucker	13	
Downy Woodpecker	96	RH
Hairy Woodpecker	7	
Northern Flicker	418	H
Pileated Woodpecker	12	RH
Black Phoebe	3	TRH
Northern Shrike	2	
Hutton's Vireo	11	
Steller's Jay	258	
Western Scrub-Jay	794	H
American Crow	2,435	
Common Raven	92	
Black-capped Chickadee	1,100	RH
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	136	H

Species	Number	Comment
Bushtit	912	H
Red-breasted Nuthatch	110	H
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	L
Brown Creeper	82	RH
Bewick's Wren	104	H
Winter Wren	69	
Marsh Wren	54	H
Golden-crowned Kinglet	746	H
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	595	H
Western Bluebird	146	H
Hermit Thrush	9	
American Robin	3,009	
Varied Thrush	375	H
Wrentit	15	H
Northern Mockingbird	1	
European Starling	8,915	
American Pipit	144	
Cedar Waxwing	31	L
Yellow-rumped Warbler	123	H
Townsend's Warbler	102	H
Spotted Towhee	477	H
Chipping Sparrow	2	
Lark Sparrow	1	TRH
Savannah Sparrow	46	
Fox Sparrow	350	H
Song Sparrow	931	H
Lincoln's Sparrow	32	
Swamp Sparrow	3	TRH
White-throated Sparrow	23	RH
White-crowned Sparrow	129	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1,025	
Dark-eyed Junco	3,492	H
Red-winged Blackbird	714	L
Western Meadowlark	105	
Brewer's Blackbird	1,795	
Brown-headed Cowbird	23	
Purple Finch	101	
House Finch	742	
Red Crossbill	6	
Pine Siskin	55	L
Lesser Goldfinch	112	
American Goldfinch	302	RH
Evening Grosbeak	4	L
House Sparrow	461	

Totals

Number of species: 131
Number of individuals: 80,499