

2007 EUGENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

Hardy Birdwatchers count 108,865 birds

by Dick Lamster

343-8664

Hardy birdwatchers on 24 teams plus counters at home find 138 species and count 108,867 birds!

One hundred and eighteen hardy bird watchers braved the harsh weather on December 30, 2007, to record 137 species during the 66th Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). Another 59 home counters recorded birds in their yards and at their feeders. (See article this page for a list of birds counted).

These 118 bird watchers were led by 24 Team Leaders in designated areas within the 15-mile-diameter circle that makes up the ECBC. In aggregate, the teams walked 110.75 miles, drove 637.15 miles and spent 230 hours looking for birds. In addition, a few teams also looked for owls before daylight and after the sun went down, driving 79 miles and logging 24 hours of "owling."

Two local television stations hooked up with teams led by Dennis Arendt and Bruce Newhouse, airing feature stories about the Count that evening. A reporter from the Register-Guard followed Dan Gleason's team around for awhile and wrote a nice article that appeared on the front page of the City/Region section on the day after the Count.

Over 80 wet bird counters gathered at the Eugene Garden Club after the Count for the Annual Chili Feed to share the results of the day. Allison Mickel made homemade chili and organized the Chili Feed. Sandy Poinsett assisted Allison during the day with this extremely popular event.

The CBC Committee this year was comprised of Dick Lamster, coordinator, Dan Gleason, Barbara Gleason and Herb Wisner. Dick and

the Committee would like to thank all the Team Leaders and bird watchers who spent the day braving the weather and tracking down the birds. It was a very successful Count.

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 code is OREU.

Be sure to mark Sunday, January 4, 2009 on your calendar for the 2008 Eugene Christmas Bird Count!

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Christmas Count participants at Chili Feed. Photo Cynthia Stockwell

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

by Dan Gleason

345-0450 dan-gleason@comcast.net

The annual Eugene Christmas Bird Count was held on December 30, 2007. Despite some early morning and late afternoon rain, the weather was generally favorable for the 24 teams of birders plus the 59 home counters. The number of species seen was also very good as 138 species of birds were recorded with an addition four species seen on Count week (but missed on Count day). There were 108,865 individual birds counted within the Count Circle on Count Day, including record-high numbers of several species. In total, it was a very good Count with a few nice surprises.

New for the Eugene Count were Eurasian Collared-Dove (a species that has rapidly spread across North America) and Baikal Teal. Baikal Teal is an Asian duck very rarely seen in North America except for a few sightings in western Alaska. A bird in Oregon is quite remarkable. Unfortunately, this bird was shot by a hunter at Fern Ridge Reservoir on the day after Count Day. It is impossible to know whether this bird is an escaped bird (some people raise exotic waterfowl) or a wild bird gone astray. In any case, it was certainly a surprise and not a species we should expect to see again.

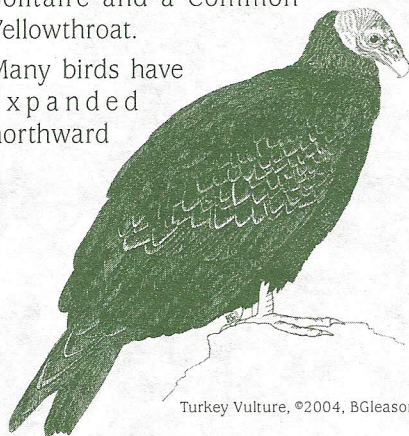
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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY, *continued*

continued from page 3

There were some other unusual sightings as well. The appearance of Trumpeter Swans is always a welcome surprise in the Willamette Valley. Loons are not common, and a Red-throated Loon was seen on Count Day and a Pacific Loon the following day. Two Say's Phoebes were found this year, a species found only very rarely on Eugene's Count. Equally unusual were the appearances of a Townsend's Solitaire and a Common Yellowthroat.

Many birds have expanded northward



Turkey Vulture, ©2004, BGleason

in recent years, and some of these are becoming more regular here in the valley. Such birds seen on this year's Count include Red-shouldered Hawk (18) and Black Phoebe (8). We also found a few birds we think of as summer residents, including Turkey Vulture (a record high of 32), Osprey (1), Tree Swallow (12), and Common Yellowthroat (1). Mountain Chickadee and American Dipper also put in an appearance this year; both are species that are unusual at this low elevation in western Oregon.

The species with record high numbers this year were Cackling Goose (33,934), Trumpeter Swan (4), Wild Turkey (200), Clark's Grebe (4), Turkey Vulture (32), Bald Eagle (36), Cooper's Hawk (22), Anna's Hummingbird (87), Black Phoebe (8), Say's Phoebe (2), Bushtit (975), Marsh Wren (69), and White-throated Sparrow (40). Species in unusually high, but not record numbers, were Gadwall (326),

Northern Shoveler (446), Double-crested Cormorant (1,536), White-tailed Kite (28), Long-billed Dowitcher (212), Rock Pigeon (1,111), Mourning Dove (591), Downy Woodpecker (53), Northern Flicker (440), Hutton's Vireo (14), Western Scrub-jay (888), Tree Swallow (12), Black-capped Chickadee (1,060), Red-breasted Nuthatch (128), White-breasted Nuthatch (36), Brown Creeper (74), Spotted Towhee (530), White-crowned Sparrow (431), and Dark-eyed Junco (4,121).

A few species were found in lower than expected numbers: Greater White-fronted Goose (4), Ring-necked Pheasant (14), Mountain Quail (2), Rough-legged Hawk (2), Killdeer (632), Herring Gull (6), Varied Thrush (42), and Savannah Sparrow (12).

Birds missed on Count Day, but reported for Count Week were Baikal Teal, Pacific Loon, Eurasian Collared Dove and Swamp Sparrow.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

by Dan Gleason

345-0450

dan-gleason@comcast.net

Eugene CBC - 12/30/2007: 137 species; 108,865 individuals plus an additional 4 species for count week.

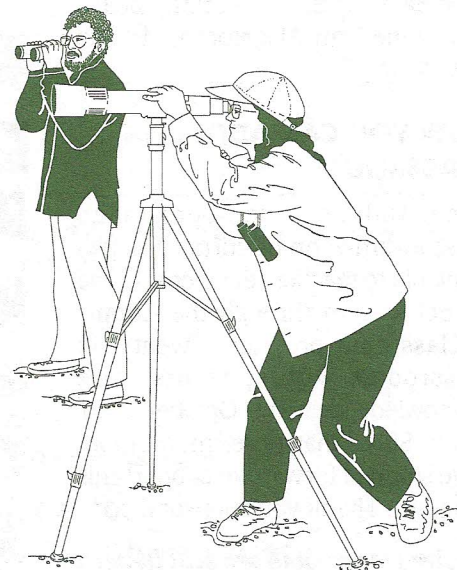
Key: H = High L = Low T = Ties ('high or low) R = Record number number of species

SPECIES		H OR L	LOW	HIGH		SPECIES		H OR L	LOW	HIGH	
TOTAL	SPECIES	RECORD	('YEAR)	('YEAR)	AVG	TOTAL	SPECIES	RECORD	('YEAR)	('YEAR)	AVG
4	Grtr. White-fronted Goose	L	1 (in 5 yrs)	245 ('94)	29	217	Ruddy Duck		1 ('44)	308 ('07)	36
33,934	Cackling Goose	RH	?	28,089 ('07)	3884	14	Ring-necked Pheasant	L	1 ('12)	161 ('47)	50
20,540	Canada Goose		3 ('64)	70,139 ('00)	6738	200	Wild Turkey	RH	25 ('00, '03)	142 ('99)	72
4	Trumpeter Swan	RH	3 ('76)	3 ('76)		2	Mountain Quail	L	1 ('68, '92, '02)	32 ('53)	10
938	Tundra Swan		2 ('63, '59)	3,000 ('99)	654	110	California Quail		1 (5 yrs)	662 ('75)	76
46	Wood Duck		1 ('47)	201 ('49)	24	1	Red-throated Loon		1 (4 yrs)	3 ('69, '87)	2
326	Gadwall	H	2 ('46, '72)	429 ('05)	85	CW	Pacific Loon		1 ('66, '87, '01)	4 ('58)	2
3	Eurasian Wigeon		1 (6 yrs)	6 ('99)	3	90	Pied-billed Grebe		1 (5 yrs)	160 ('01)	31
464	American Wigeon		2 ('63)	5,603 ('03)	575	7	Horned Grebe	H	1 (4 yrs)	9 ('07)	3
1,153	Mallard		10 ('45)	6,754 ('95)	1194	1	Eared Grebe		1 (6 yrs)	9 ('70)	3
1	Cinnamon Teal		2 ('86)	13 ('84)	6	83	Western Grebe		2 (4 yrs)	245 ('83)	35
446	Northern Shoveler	H	1 ('48)	471 ('92)	134	4	Clark's Grebe	RH	1 ('01)	3 ('04)	
1,639	Northern Pintail		2 ('76)	9,023 ('84)	1427	1,536	Double-crested Cormorant	H	1 (6 yrs)	1,665 ('07)	174
CW	Baikal Teal					176	Great Blue Heron		1 ('55, '64)	215 ('93)	77
974	Green-winged Teal		1 ('62)	8,994 ('05)	750	89	Great Egret		1 (4 yrs)	180 ('02)	28
67	Ring-necked Duck		1 ('47)	351 ('87)	68	1	Green Heron		1 (15 yrs)	10 ('03)	3
8	Greater Scaup		1 ('78)	43 ('95)	9	32	Turkey Vulture	RH	1 ('52, '79, '96)	26 ('07)	5
215	Lesser Scaup		2 ('55)	7,000 ('64)	253	1	Osprey		1 (5 yrs)	3 ('91, '98)	2
72	Bufflehead		2 ('64)	142 ('03)	31	28	White-tailed Kite	H	1 ('68, '94, '95)	30 ('04)	11
26	Hooded Merganser		1 ('70, '78)	54 ('01)	13	36	Bald Eagle	RH	1 ('74, '75, '82)	23 ('07)	5
191	Common Merganser		2 ('49, '56)	1,075 ('04)	162	76	Northern Harrier		1 ('42)	102 ('03)	35

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

SPECIES	SPECIES	H OR L	LOW	HIGH	AVG
TOTAL		RECORD	('YEAR)	('YEAR)	
13	Sharp-shinned Hawk		1 ('7 yrs)	21 ('02)	8
22	Cooper's Hawk	RH	1 ('10 yrs)	18 ('05)	5
18	Red-shouldered Hawk		1 ('11 yrs)	20 ('07)	3
142	Red-tailed Hawk		2 ('45)	164 ('05)	66
2	Rough-legged Hawk	L	1 ('5 yrs)	44 ('73)	7
77	American Kestrel		6 ('45)	1000 ('69)	75
11	Merlin		1 ('10 yrs)	16 ('01)	4
5	Peregrine Falcon		1 ('12 yrs)	5 ('05)	1
1	Prairie Falcon		1 ('7 yrs)	1 ('7 yrs)	1
6	Virginia Rail		1 ('14 yrs)	11 ('84)	3
1,107	American Coot		2 ('44, '47)	1,733 ('07)	159
15	Black-bellied Plover		1 ('4 yrs)	123 ('99)	16
1	Semipalmated Plover		1 ('93, '02)	2 ('95, '00)	
632	Killdeer	L	4 ('12)	6400 ('69)	1309
43	Greater Yellowlegs		1 ('7 yrs)	126 ('02)	23
5	Spotted Sandpiper		1 ('4 yrs)	14 ('67)	5
85	Least Sandpiper		1 ('71, '87)	800 ('47)	110
3,419	Dunlin		3 ('50)	14,578 ('99)	1960
212	Long-billed Dowitcher	H	1 ('78, '82, '83)	300 ('68)	73
84	Wilson's Snipe		3 ('42)	410 ('69)	78
261	Mew Gull		1 ('7 yrs)	1,605 ('84)	103
1,278	Ring-billed Gull		1 ('51)	4,600 ('68)	1142
21	California Gull		1 ('69)	1,000 ('65)	170
6	Herring Gull	L	1 ('58)	175 ('79)	27
11	Thayer's Gull		1 ('96, '04)	117 ('73)	16
8	Western Gull		1 ('4 yrs)	42 ('04)	8
307	Glaucous-winged Gull		1 ('49)	1403 ('85)	144
1,111	Rock Pigeon	H	29 ('45)	1252 ('99)	531
CW	Eurasian Collared-Dove		0	0	0
591	Mourning Dove	H	1 ('44, '46, '53)	660 ('67)	134
6	Barn Owl		1 ('58, '61, '80)	10 ('72)	4
9	Western Screech-Owl		1 ('6 yrs)	22 ('07)	8
9	Great Horned Owl		1 ('5 yrs)	29 ('69)	7
3	Short-eared Owl		1 ('11 yrs)	35 ('72)	6
1	Northern Saw-whet Owl		1 ('10 yrs)	8 ('05)	2
87	Anna's Hummingbird	RH	1 ('73, '88)	45 ('02)	15
24	Belted Kingfisher		1 ('5 yrs)	49 ('95)	15
23	Acorn Woodpecker		1 ('46)	146 ('77)	40
6	Red-breasted Sapsucker		1 ('5 yrs)	59 ('90)	9
53	Downy Woodpecker	H	1 ('42, '48)	75 ('07)	29
7	Hairy Woodpecker		1 ('4 yrs)	16 ('48)	5
440	Northern Flicker	H	2 ('12)	558 ('73)	180
5	Pileated Woodpecker		1 ('9 yrs)	12 ('07)	4
8	Black Phoebe	RH	1 ('84, '86, '00)	3 ('05, '07)	
2	Say's Phoebe	RH	1 ('57, '96)		
1	Northern Shrike		1 ('7 yrs)	16 ('73)	4
14	Hutton's Vireo	H	1 ('4 yrs)	15 ('72)	4
229	Steller's Jay		4 ('45)	854 ('02)	126
888	Western Scrub-Jay	H	11 ('51)	999 ('02)	367
3,591	American Crow		2 ('12)	5600 ('68)	1129
114	Common Raven		1 ('59, '67, '69)	501 ('99)	41
4	Horned Lark		1 ('69, '74)	118 ('48)	
12	Tree Swallow	H	1 ('92, '99, '03)	30 ('04)	
1,063	Black-capped Chickadee	H	46 ('44, '48)	1,057 ('00)	455
2	Mountain Chickadee		1 ('79, '81, '02)	80 ('70)	12
57	Chestnut-backed Chickadee		2 ('46, '52)	187 ('02)	59
975	Bushtit	RH	2 ('47, '50)	970 ('97)	225
128	Red-breasted Nuthatch	H	1 ('56)	166 ('04)	39
36	White-breasted Nuthatch	H	2 ('47)	88 ('67)	21
74	Brown Creeper	H	1 ('65)	80 ('07)	22
98	Bewick's Wren		1 ('45)	141 ('75)	52
42	Winter Wren		3 ('57)	118 ('75)	42
69	Marsh Wren	RH	2 ('89)	59 ('03)	16
1	American Dipper		1 ('8 yrs)	2 ('4 yrs)	1
713	Golden-crowned Kinglet		26 ('45)	1,111 ('01)	386

SPECIES	SPECIES	H OR L	LOW	HIGH	AVG
TOTAL		RECORD	('YEAR)	('YEAR)	
353	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1 ('49)	1,751 ('01)	243
53	Western Bluebird		8 ('81)	194 ('05)	45
1	Townsend's Solitaire		1 ('6 yrs)	15 ('79)	
17	Hermit Thrush		1 ('6 yrs)	37 ('03)	7
2,226	American Robin		130 ('44)	7228 ('77)	1900
42	Varied Thrush	L	1 ('56, '59)	1010 ('54)	140
5	Wrentit		1 ('4 yrs)	19 ('04)	6
13,339	European Starling		6 ('52)	50,184 ('95)	9941
173	American Pipit		1 ('87)	610 ('57)	130
98	Cedar Waxwing		1 ('44)	1117 ('82)	135
1	Orange-crowned Warbler		1 ('13 yrs)	8 ('95)	3
169	Yellow-rumped Warbler		35 ('90)	259 ('84)	48
80	Townsend's Warbler		1 ('7 yrs)	103 ('05)	27
1	Common Yellowthroat		1 ('5 yrs)		
530	Spotted Towhee	H	30 ('42)	487 ('04)	220
12	Savannah Sparrow	L	1 ('52, '57)	344 ('92)	49
304	Fox Sparrow		5 ('45, '57)	448 ('84)	138
832	Song Sparrow		10 ('12)	1,111 ('84)	450
59	Lincoln's Sparrow		1 ('5 yrs)	119 ('90)	21
0	Swamp Sparrow	CW	1 ('8 yrs)	3 ('03, '07)	1
40	White-throated Sparrow	RH	1 ('6 yrs)	19 ('07)	6
431	White-crowned Sparrow	H	6 ('51)	453 ('03)	128
1,362	Golden-crowned Sparrow		34 ('45)	3,374 ('00)	535
4,121	Dark-eyed Junco	H	100 ('12)	4,468 ('74)	1291
2,260	Red-winged Blackbird		1 ('44)	40,263 ('93)	3371
155	Western Meadowlark		8 ('52)	380 ('68)	137
2,222	Brewer's Blackbird		113 ('44)	9792 ('72)	2268
24	Brown-headed Cowbird		1 ('5 yrs)	240 ('68)	48
133	Purple Finch		2 ('64)	246 ('53)	57
891	House Finch		3 ('45)	1,675 ('75)	416
190	Pine Siskin		1 ('76)	1,809 ('92)	209
73	Lesser Goldfinch		1 ('54, '92)	150 ('68)	28
177	American Goldfinch		2 ('71)	243 ('87)	89
667	House Sparrow		2 ('43)	900 ('67)	389



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