

2018 Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count Compiler Notes

by Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

Cottage Grove birders took to the hills and fields Saturday, December 29, for their 16th Christmas Bird Count. The day started out cold and cloudy, and it didn't rain all day.

The 31 participants identified 87 species and counted 6,598 individuals. Among those was a Snow Goose, making a first-time appearance in the Cottage Grove CBC. Four frequently elusive birds also showed up: a Ruffed Grouse, a Ruddy Duck, a Virginia Rail, and a Marsh Wren. The Green Heron we've seen a number of times at Row River Nature Park eluded us this year. We looked on a day before and another day after the official count day but were unable to locate it, so it couldn't be counted. We were able to add another 4 species during Count Week: Ring-necked Duck, White-breasted Nuthatch, Osprey, and Barred Owl.

Coordinator Grace Fowler-Gore took part in the count and offers her thanks to fellow zone volunteer leaders: Hydie Lown, Alison Center, Catherine Engelman, Julie Parker, Dan Heyerly, Barbara Butzer, and Jan Wellman, plus extra thanks to her life partners, Dena Fowler-Gore and Ed Gore, for their patience and help with the CBC. Another extra special thank you goes out to Paul Sullivan for participating in his 57th different Oregon CBC. In all, he's participated in 173 Christmas Bird counts, eight of them outside of Oregon!