

Cottage Grove's 18th Christmas Bird Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator, Compiler and participant

The 18th Cottage Grove CBC took place on January 2, 2021. It's 32 participants identified 88 species and counted 5,302 individuals. This was an increase from 2019, but not as good as 2018. The day started out overcast, drizzling, and in the 40s, and ended drizzling in the mid-50s. Luckily, it wasn't heavy rain.

Eurasian Wigeon, a new bird for the CGCBC, was found by Noah Strycker. On CBC day, we also found these birds not reported in recent CBCs: Mountain Chickadee (Dan Heyerly), Merlin and Northern Pygmy Owl (Anne Heyerly), and Red Crossbill (Tori Morgan and Nola Nelson).

Additional Count Week birds: 11

Count Week was especially exciting this year, because many of the birds observed had not been reported in the last three counts. Noah Strycker found four of these: Red-necked Grebe, American Pipit, Cinnamon Teal, and Marsh Wren. Count Week birds that had been reported in recent CBCs: American Dipper (Noah), White Pelican and Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler (Alison Center), Spotted Sandpiper (Noah and Grace), and Least Sandpiper (Grace).

Beck McCoy, a K/1 Teacher at Dorena School in Cottage Grove, led 17 participants on this year's Christmas Bird Count. Six of them were children, ages 4 and up. They are hoping to make it an annual event for their school as a part of incorporating more citizen science projects into their curriculum.

To all participants —THANK YOU! This couldn't happen without your efforts.