

# Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 19th Cottage Grove CBC took place on January 1, 2022. Of our 51 participants, 14 were youths. On Count Day we identified 86 species and counted 5,952 individuals. A big thrill was having a wonderfully sunny, rain-free day that started cold at 28 degrees and topped out at 41 degrees. Five more species were seen during Count Week. Special thanks go to K/1 teacher, Beck McCoy, of Dorena School for gathering 32 people together, of which 14 were kids, allowing us to thoroughly cover Dorena Lake.

Two birds, a Brown-headed Cowbird and a Greater White-fronted Goose (Count Week) have only been seen once before, in 1981 during the CBC or Count Week. One Snow Goose, first reported in the 2020 Count, was seen again this year. The same was true of Eurasian Wigeon. Black Phoebes were not just hanging around ponds; they appear to be broadening their habitat. Only one individual saw a lot of American Robins. A pair of Barn Owls, seen on the last 4 counts, were not seen during this Count. However, a fresh pellet was found on January 6.

We had new high counts of 407 for Cackling Geese, 38 for Wood Ducks, 5 for Ruffed Grouse, 250 for Double-crested Cormorants, 31 for American White Pelicans, 40 for Anna's Hummingbirds, 50 for Western Bluebirds, and 19 for Black Phoebes. Brewer's Blackbirds hit a new low of 37.

To all participants—Thank you! This couldn't happen without your efforts.