

# Eugene CBC Home Counters Summary

By Marcia Maffei

*(numbers in parentheses represent 2020 Counts)*

This was “The Year of the Dark-eyed Junco” for the 2021 Home Counters! A little over 700 juncos showed up this year beating out last year’s number of 575! Bushtits made a decent showing with 433 (621) of them flocking the yards, and American Crows were not far behind with 327 (456). Canada Geese flew in with 202 (585).

Other species that made the 100 - 200 club were: Black-capped Chickadees: 174 (263); Anna’s Hummingbirds: 150 (152); Pine Siskins: 147 (459); European Starlings: 129 (299); House Finches: 138 (183); California Scrub Jays: 109 (140); and Golden-crowned Sparrows: 100 (116). The rest of the species were in single or double digits.

All in all, the individual numbers were down from 2020. Especially the American Robins! Last year, 276 robins made a showing and only 62 this year! Where have all the robins gone? However, a few of our Home Counters had some great finds. A Canada Jay showed up with its passport, while Northern Saw-whet Owls and Northern Pygmy-Owls rounded out the not-so-common list.

Many thanks to the 100 (122) observers who reported 67 (64) species with a total of 3,829 (5,988) individual birds. Many Home Counters blamed the wet, cold, and windy weather for the lower numbers...or maybe... just maybe it was the hawk? Here’s what some of them had to say:

- I’m surprised at how few birds I saw today.
- Really slowed down once the wind started blowing.
- Very sparse and uneventful this year! No Dodos.
- I usually see more birds in a given morning and couldn’t figure out what was going on. When the neighborhood hawk made an appearance in the neighbor’s tree, I understood. He/she must have moved on because then I started to see a few birds. Was fun though. Thanks!
- It was a very windy and wet day. Not a lot of action from our feathered friends.
- Rather cold and windy today. Kept the birds tucked away.
- Fun as always to spend some quality time with the backyard birds.
- What I found interesting is that the birds didn’t start showing up until the afternoon. I think this happened with them knowing the storm was on its way. Also, this is one of the smallest count of birds and varied types I have done in the last 5 years.
- It was a dismal turnout compared to a day or two before.
- Kind of disappointing day. Birds were somewhere else! Still glad I did it.
- I plan to improve my yard this spring with bird-friendly trees and shrubs, so hopefully will have more species next year.
- Great to do this for my second year! Much better at recognizing species than last year. Sorry I couldn’t do more than 2 hours. Looking forward to doing it again.