

CBC – Cottage Grove

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

Eight of us gathered at 6:30 am, Saturday, December 30, to enjoy a delicious hot breakfast at Vintage Inn. At the end of the day, 14 of us gathered at El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant to attempt an old-fashioned call-out-the-species Countdown. Alas, the restaurant was too noisy for us to make it through the entire list. However, we did enjoy discussing the adventures we had trying to find those hiding birds. The morning was eerily quiet for a number of us Counters. The weather was wet this year, with only short breaks from the rain. Temperatures ranged from the 40s into the 50s.

No new species were spotted since the Count started in 1971. However, we did have two Western Meadowlarks, spotted by Anne and Dan Heyerly. None had been seen since we restarted the Cottage Grove Count in 2017.

Not surprisingly, European Starling (612) was our highest Count bird by far. Dark-eyed Junco (354), was next, followed by Mallard (262), American Crow (226), Rock Pigeon (188), Cackling Goose (180), Wild Turkey (161), and Black-capped Chickadee (147). Others in the 100 category included: Common Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, American Robin, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Mourning Dove, California Scrub-Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Spotted Towhee, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Exciting sightings of only one or two of a species included: American Dipper, Western Meadowlark, Merlin, Mountain Quail, Lincoln's Sparrow, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and one Great Horned Owl that landed on a roof, hooting to be counted at 4 am. We also got one additional Count Week bird: Peregrine Falcon.

We reported 95 species. This year our Count was also submitted to eBird: ebird.org/tripreport/173133

Rory, seen on pages 5 and 7 of the [February Quail](#), is one of three students from Dorena School who participated in the Cottage Grove CBC for their third year. Of our 37 participants, six were younger than 18. A big thank you goes out to all the participants in the CBC process. It takes all of us to make a difference.