

2023 Home Count Summary

By Marcia Maffei, Home Count Coordinator

On this year's ECBC Home Count, Dark-eyed Juncos were the most reported bird with 850 sightings, beating out those cute little Bushtits (346) by a mile!

Cackling and Canada Geese made a decent showing with 538. Impressive, but quite a downturn from last year's count of 3230! Well, who could see the sky with all that fog?! Anna's Hummingbird hovered in with 132 of those feisty, fascinating creatures.

Other species that made the 100 - 300 club were: American Crow: 297; Pine Siskin: 179; Black-capped Chickadee: 158; House Finch: 150; American Robin: 122; a flurry of Lesser Goldfinch: 120; Golden-crowned Sparrow: 119; and Mourning Dove at 103. The remaining species were in single or double digits. A Mountain Chickadee rounded out the list of less commonly spotted birds.

Two birders stood out in the Count. The Eagle Eye Award goes to the birder who reported an impressive 52 Great Egrets! Who said that we haven't had any snow this year? What a sight! And the Honorable Mention Award goes to a birder who helped neighbors identify and report birds, making birding more enjoyable for all.

Many thanks to the 101 observers who observed 74 species, for a sum total of 4845 individual birds.

Read on for Home Counters' comments, in their own words:

- As usual, my favorite day of the year :)
- Happy New Year!!!
- Never seen it so quiet! Must be the fog...
- Two plump squirrels kept themselves busy vacuuming up the seed I had scattered in my count area to make it more enticing.
- Cold, foggy day. The fewest species ever for our backyard bird count, but still so much fun to participate.
- Well, it happened again. I am mystified by whatever vortex force seems to happen where I live, and actually do have gorgeous birdlife much of the time. But not on the Count Day.
- Dark foggy day, better luck next year, I hope.
- Worst year for counting since we moved to Eugene. Must be the dark day we had. Happy New Year birders!
- Not a great day for bird watching—thick fog, no wind or weather.
- Thanks for your time and energy working on this. Usually we have more birds, so I was disappointed they didn't show up. Birders were walking up the gas pipe hill right by us, so maybe they saw them.
- This year I have seen the fewest number of species at my feeders that I have ever experienced. I also haven't seen as many birds in general. Most interesting to me was how many times the two Anna's hummers visited the feeder in late afternoon; I counted 14 times in 1.5 hours!