

The 27th annual Carter County Summer Count was held on 13 June with 28 observers in 10 parties, plus 2 feeder watchers. The weather was favorable with temperatures of 47-79*, partly cloudy skies, and little wind.

We tallied 121 species, which is above the 26-year average of 113 species. The all-time high for this count was 123 species in 2017.

As with the Unicoi Co. count on 6 June, we had more field parties than normal on this count as we practiced social distancing because of COVID-19. As a result, numbers for numerous species were higher than on past counts; however, if we were to calculate numbers by unit of effort (party-hours), I think most would be near average. There would be some exceptions, of course.

Participants: Roy Knispel, Jim Anderson, Michele Sparks, Bryan Stevens, Brookie & Jean Potter, Chris Soto, David & Connie Irick, David Kirschke, Eric Middlemas, Rob Armistead, Tom & Cathy McNeil, Debi & J.G. Campbell, Joe McGuinness, Vern Maddux, Kim Stroud, Dave Gardner, Fred Alsop, Catherine Cummins, Judi Sawyer, Richard Lewis, Larry McDaniel, Rob Biller, Jacki Hinshaw, Rick Knight (compiler), plus Dianne Lynn and Peggy Stevens as feeder watchers.

The List:

Canada Goose 122
Wood Duck 29
Mallard 91
Wild Turkey 10
Double-cr. Cormorant 5
Great Blue Heron 16
Black Vulture 8
Turkey Vulture 55
Cooper's Hawk 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Broad-winged Hawk 9
Red-tailed Hawk 10
Killdeer 6
Rock Pigeon 79
Eur. Collared-Dove 2
Mourning Dove 149
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2
E. Screech-Owl 14
Great Horned Owl 4
Barred Owl 2
Chuck-will's-widow 5
E. Whip-poor-will 39
Chimney Swift 43
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird 29
Belted Kingfisher 5
Red-headed Woodpecker 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker 24
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 10
Downy Woodpecker 27
Hairy Woodpecker 16
N. Flicker 19
Pileated Woodpecker 24
Am. Kestrel 1
Peregrine Falcon 1
E. Wood-Pewee 28
Acadian Flycatcher 27
Alder Flycatcher 2
Willow Flycatcher 2
Least Flycatcher 18
E. Phoebe 84
Great Crested Flycatcher 4
E. Kingbird 12
White-eyed Vireo 4
Yellow-throated Vireo 1
Blue-headed Vireo 55
Warbling Vireo 1
Red-eyed Vireo 204
Blue Jay 98

Am. Crow 204
Fish Crow 1
Com. Raven 16
N. Rough-wg. Swallow 39
Purple Martin 54
Tree Swallow 106
Barn Swallow 88
Cliff Swallow 662 (more than Starlings !!)
Carolina Chickadee 109
Tufted Titmouse 109
Red-br. Nuthatch 13
White-br. Nuthatch 34
Brown Creeper 5
House Wren 48
Winter Wren 8
Carolina Wren 133
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 22
Golden-crowned Kinglet 10
E. Bluebird 82
Veery 47
Hermit Thrush 6
Wood Thrush 74
Am. Robin 401
Gray Catbird 65
Brown Thrasher 23
N. Mockingbird 70
Eur. Starling 531
Cedar Waxwing 67
Ovenbird 106
Worm-eating Warbler 14
Louisiana Waterthrush 9
Golden-winged Warbler 3
Black-and-white Warbler 37
Prothonotary Warbler 1 (first on this count)
Swainson's Warbler 7
Com. Yellowthroat 28
Hooded Warbler 134
Am. Redstart 17
N. Parula 32
Magnolia Warbler 2
Blackburnian Warbler 15
Yellow Warbler 3
Chestnut-sided Warbler 43
Black-thr. Blue Warbler 76
Pine Warbler 5
Yellow-rumped Warbler 2
Yellow-throated Warbler 23
Prairie Warbler 2
Black-thr. Green Warbler 43
Canada Warbler 18
Yellow-breasted Chat 7
E. Towhee 160
Chipping Sparrow 71
Field Sparrow 64
Savannah Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 260
Dark-eyed Junco 97
Scarlet Tanager 40
N. Cardinal 155
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 28
Blue Grosbeak 1
Indigo Bunting 105
Red-wg. Blackbird 91
E. Meadowlark 7
Com. Grackle 73
Brown-hd. Cowbird 32
Orchard Oriole 2
Baltimore Oriole 3
House Finch 34
Red Crossbill 19
Pine Siskin 25
Am. Goldfinch 124

121 species

Misses: Ruffed Grouse, Green Heron, Yellow-cr. Night-Heron,
Sharp-shinned Hawk, Com. Nighthawk, and Kentucky Warbler.

Thanks to all participants for another good count.
Stay safe out there.

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Rick Knight, compiler