

The 75th consecutive Elizabethton Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, 16 Dec. 2017 with 25 observers in 6 parties.

85 species were tallied, establishing a new high for this count, beating the old mark set in 2012 & 2016. The average over the last 30 years is 72 species.

species list - with comments on some

Gr. White-fronted Goose - 1 -- 3rd time in last 5 years (none prior)
Canada Goose - 532
Wood Duck - 1
Gadwall - 5
Am. Wigeon - 1
Am. Black Duck - 2
Mallard - 366
N. Shoveler - 4 -- found 6 times in last 25 years (only 2 times prior)
Green-wg. Teal - 2
Ring-nk. Duck - 14
Gr. Scaup - 2 -- found 7 times in last 25 years
Lsr. Scaup - 3
Bufflehead - 293 -- most ever on this CBC
Hooded Merganser - 4
Ruddy Duck - 1 -- found 3 times in last 25 years (only 3 prior)
Wild Turkey - 33
Com. Loon - 2
Pied-billed Grebe - 14
Horned Grebe - 27
Great Blue Heron - 18
Black Vulture - 3
Turkey Vulture - 12
Bald Eagle - 3 -- found 20 of last 25 years (only 1 prior)
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1
Cooper's Hawk - 2
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2 -- found 6 of last 25 years (uncommon in NE Tenn)
Red-tailed Hawk - 25
Killdeer - 17
Ring-billed Gull - 27
Rock Pigeon - 305
Eur. Collared-Dove - 1 -- found 6 of last 9 years (none prior)
Mourning Dove - 157
E. Screech-Owl - 12
Great Horned Owl - 2
Barred Owl - 1
Belted Kingfisher - 10
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 -- found 4 of last 25 years (only 7 prior)
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 33
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 8
Downy Woodpecker - 27
Hairy Woodpecker - 3
N. Flicker - 26
Pileated Woodpecker - 21
Am. Kestrel - 16
E. Phoebe - 12
Blue-headed Vireo - 1 -- 3rd time on this CBC
Blue Jay - 162
Am. Crow - 223
Com. Raven - 4
Carolina Chickadee - 117
Tufted Titmouse - 84
Red-br. Nuthatch - 1
White-br. Nuthatch - 25
Brown Creeper - 4
House Wren - 1 -- found 9 of last 25 years
Winter Wren - 6
Carolina Wren - 75
Golden-cr. Kinglet - 41
Ruby-cr. Kinglet - 8
E. Bluebird - 111
Hermit Thrush - 11
Am. Robin - 277
Gray Catbird - 1 -- found 5 of last 25 years (only 1 prior)

Brown Thrasher - 1 -- found 8 of last 25 years (14 prior)
N. Mockingbird - 49
Eur. Starling - 1335
Am. Pipit - 75 -- found 3 of last 25 years (only 2 prior)
Cedar Waxwing - 154
Palm Warbler - 2 -- found 8 of last 25 years (only 1 prior)
Pine Warbler - 1 -- found 4 of last 25 years (only 4 prior)
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 154
E. Towhee - 22
Chipping Sparrow - 4 -- found each of last 14 years, 18 of last 25 (only 6 prior)
Field Sparrow - 8
Song Sparrow - 142
Swamp Sparrow - 5
White-thr. Sparrow - 102
Dark-eyed Junco - 16 -- lowest ever on this CBC
N. Cardinal - 111
Red-wg. Blackbird - 1 -- found 9 of last 25 years
E. Meadowlark - 1 -- becoming very hard to find on this CBC
Brown-hd. Cowbird - 2 -- found 3 of last 25 years
House Finch - 100
Am. Goldfinch - 90
House Sparrow - 41

Count week: Redhead
Notable misses: Ruffed Grouse, Am. Coot, Wilson's Snipe, White-crowned Sparrow.

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Participants: Fred Alsop, Jim Anderson, Jerry Bevins, Rob Biller, Rick Blanton, Kevin Brooks, Gil Derouen, Harry Lee Farthing, Dave Gardner, Carl Hacker, Jacki Hinshaw, David Irick, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Joe McGuiness, Charles Moore, Brookie & Jean Potter, Brenda Richards, Chris Soto, Amber Stanley, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, Scott Turner.

Thanks to all for a great CBC.

Rick Knight, compiler

Johnson City, TN