

The 48th annual Elizabethton Fall Count was held on Saturday, 30 Sep 2017, with 54 observers in 12 parties covering Carter Co. and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, & Washington Cos.

We tallied 122 species, which is slightly below the recent 30-year average of 126 species. The all-time high for this count was 137 species in 1993.

Shorebirds were in very short supply due to a shortage of suitable habitat. Aside from Killdeer, a Solitary Sandpiper was true to his name. In particular, two sites that formerly attracted shorebirds have undergone alterations that have essentially eliminated such conditions: Austin Springs & Bush Hog Pond.

Notable Misses: N. Bobwhite (found only 4 times in last 24 years), Broad-wg. Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper (first miss in last decade), Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Thanks to all participants.

The list, with some comments:

Canada Goose 957  
Wood Duck 24  
Mallard 378  
Blue-wg. Teal 2  
Hooded Merganser 1  
Ruffed Grouse 5  
Wild Turkey 79  
Pied-billed Grebe 11  
Dbl-cr. Cormorant 70 - most ever on this count  
Great Blue Heron 66 - most ever on this count  
Great Egret 1  
Green Heron 4  
Blk-cr. Night-Heron 2  
Black Vulture 330 - most ever on this count  
Turkey Vulture 215 - most ever on this count  
Osprey 12  
Bald Eagle 6  
N. Harrier 2  
Sharp-sh. Hawk 7  
Cooper's Hawk 7  
Red-shld. Hawk 6 - most ever on this count  
Red-tailed Hawk 27  
Killdeer 50  
Solitary Sandpiper 1  
Ring-billed Gull 1  
Forster's Tern 1  
Rock Pigeon 404  
Eur. Collared-Dove 2  
Mourning Dove 356  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1  
E. Screech-Owl 12  
Great Horned Owl 10  
Barred Owl 4  
N. Saw-whet Owl 1 - calling at Roan Creek in Johnson Co.  
Com. Nighthawk 1  
Chimney Swift 254  
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird 8  
Belted Kingfisher 40 - most ever on this count  
Red-headed Woodpecker 7  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 90 - most ever on this count  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 16  
Downy Woodpecker 46  
Hairy Woodpecker 8  
N. Flicker 63  
Pileated Woodpecker 37  
Am. Kestrel 16  
Merlin 1  
Peregrine Falcon 1  
E. Wood-Pewee 6  
E. Phoebe 76

E. Kingbird 1  
Loggerhead Shrike 1  
White-eyed Vireo 2  
Yellow-thr. Vireo 1  
Blue-hd. Vireo 14  
Red-eyed Vireo 6  
Blue Jay 447  
Am. Crow 424  
Fish Crow 2 - in Kingsport along river, first on this count  
Com. Raven 19  
N. Rough-wg. Swallow 3  
Tree Swallow 68  
Carolina Chickadee 174  
Tufted Titmouse 93  
Red-br. Nuthatch 6  
White-br. Nuthatch 44  
Brown Creeper 2  
House Wren 2  
Carolina Wren 180  
Golden-cr. Kinglet 4  
Ruby-cr. Kinglet 14  
E. Bluebird 163  
Veery 7  
Gray-chk. Thrush 26  
Swainson's Thrush 70  
Hermit Thrush 1 - at Roan Mtn, where they breed  
Wood Thrush 19  
Am. Robin 301  
Gray Catbird 34  
Brown Thrasher 11  
N. Mockingbird 100  
Eur. Starling 2106  
Cedar Waxwing 205  
Ovenbird 2  
Black & white Warbler 6  
Tennessee Warbler 32  
Com. Yellowthroat 9  
Hooded Warbler 2  
Am. Redstart 5  
Cape May Warbler 8  
N. Parula 3  
Magnolia Warbler 29  
Bay-breasted Warbler 10  
Blackburnian Warbler 2  
Chestnut-sd. Warbler 2  
Black-thr. Blue Warbler 5  
Palm Warbler 21  
Pine Warbler 11  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 5  
Yellow-throated Warbler 4  
Prairie Warbler 1  
Black-thr. Green Warbler 8  
E. Towhee 50  
Chipping Sparrow 57  
Field Sparrow 14  
Song Sparrow 144  
Lincoln's Sparrow 1  
Swamp Sparrow 1  
Dark-eyed Junco 75  
Summer Tanager 1  
Scarlet Tanager 11  
N. Cardinal 173  
Rose-br. Grosbeak 19  
Indigo Bunting 15  
Red-wg. Blackbird 41  
E. Meadowlark 17  
Com. Grackle 859  
Brown-hd. Cowbird 78  
House Finch 44  
Pine Siskin 1 - at Roan Mtn, where they breed  
Am. Goldfinch 138  
House Sparrow 33

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