

The 74th annual Elizabethton Spring Bird Count was held on 6 May 2017 with 43 observers in 9 parties. The area covered included Carter Co and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, & Washington Cos.

Although held nearly a week into May, this was one of the coldest days we have experienced on a spring count. The temperature range was 36-54\*. Light rain fell before sunrise; the morning was partly cloudy to cloudy, then the afternoon saw light rain, with light SNOW showers at the higher elevations & a half inch accumulation of snow on Roan Mtn.

Previous cold spring counts included: 32-55\* in 1979, 44-52\* in 1987, and 27-54\* in 1992.

Despite the weather, we managed to find 148 species, which is exactly the average over the last 30 years, but below the average over the last decade (154 species).

As always, there were a few misses, such as: bobwhite & grouse, Pied-b. Grebe, any gulls, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Swamp Sparrow, & Pine Siskin. Some of the low numbers noted in the list below may be attributable to the weather.

The list:

Canada Goose 426  
Wood Duck 28  
Mallard 109  
Blue-wg. Teal 5  
Hooded Merganser 2  
Wild Turkey 54  
Com. Loon 2  
Dbl-cr. Cormorant 42  
Great Blue Heron 115 (most ever on this count)  
Great Egret 1  
Green Heron 13  
Black-cr. Night-Heron 1  
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron 8  
Black Vulture 74  
Turkey Vulture 108  
Osprey 10  
Bald Eagle 13 (including 7 nestlings in 3 nests)  
Sharp-sh. Hawk 1  
Cooper's Hawk 5  
Broad-wg. Hawk 5  
Red-tailed Hawk 25  
Virginia Rail 4  
Killdeer 36  
Spotted Sandpiper 27  
Solitary Sandpiper 19  
Gr. Yellowlegs 1  
Lsr. Yellowlegs 1  
Stilt Sandpiper 1 (3rd ever on this count)  
Least Sandpiper 6  
Forster's Tern 1  
Rock Pigeon 155  
Eur. Collared-Dove 3  
Mourning Dove 224  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 4  
Black-billed Cuckoo 1  
E. Screech-Owl 6  
Great Horned Owl 1  
Barred Owl 2  
Com. Nighthawk 1  
Chuck-will's-widow 2  
E. Whip-poor-will 10  
Chimney Swift 66 (lowest since 1963 !!)  
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird 23  
Belted Kingfisher 23  
Red-headed Woodpecker 5  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 54  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3  
Downy Woodpecker 23

Hairy Woodpecker 5  
N. Flicker 30  
Pileated Woodpecker 34  
Am. Kestrel 11  
E. Wood-Pewee 1  
Acadian Flycatcher 5  
Willow Flycatcher 1  
Least Flycatcher 6  
E. Phoebe 42  
Great Crested Flycatcher 13  
E. Kingbird 43  
Loggerhead Shrike 1  
White-eyed Vireo 5  
Yellow-thr. Vireo 10  
Blue-hd. Vireo 41  
Warbling Vireo 9  
Red-eyed Vireo 122  
Blue Jay 138  
Am. Crow 301  
Fish Crow 2 (for 2nd straight year)  
Com. Raven 22  
N. Rough-wg. Swallow 345  
Purple Martin 36  
Tree Swallow 526  
Barn Swallow 259  
Cliff Swallow 1046 (most ever)  
Carolina Chickadee 82  
Tufted Titmouse 140  
Red-br. Nuthatch 3  
White-br. Nuthatch 13  
House Wren 30  
Marsh Wren 1  
Carolina Wren 107  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 39  
Golden-cr. Kinglet 11  
Ruby-cr. Kinglet 2  
E. Bluebird 136  
Veery 44 (most ever)  
Swainson's Thrush 5  
Hermit Thrush 1  
Wood Thrush 82  
Am. Robin 693  
Gray Catbird 35  
Brown Thrasher 51  
N. Mockingbird 95  
Eur. Starling 704  
Cedar Waxwing 272  
Ovenbird 117 (lowest in a decade)  
Worm-eating Warbler 19  
Louisiana Waterthrush 18  
Northern Waterthrush 1  
Golden-wg. Warbler 3  
Black-and-white Warbler 47 (lowest in a decade)  
Swainson's Warbler 2  
Tennessee Warbler 1  
Kentucky Warbler 1  
Com. Yellowthroat 17  
Hooded Warbler 95  
Am. Redstart 6  
Cape May Warbler 7  
N. Parula 25 (lowest in a decade)  
Bay-breasted Warbler 4  
Blackburnian Warbler 1  
Yellow Warbler 3 (lowest in two decades)  
Chestnut-sd. Warbler 9  
Blackpoll Warbler 1  
Black-thr. Blue Warbler 25 (lowest in a decade)  
Palm Warbler 1  
Pine Warbler 15 (tied for most ever)  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 18  
Yellow-throated Warbler 20  
Prairie Warbler 4

Black-thr. Green Warbler 53 (lowest in a decade)  
Canada Warbler 1  
Yellow-br. Chat 11  
E. Towhee 132  
Chipping Sparrow 67  
Field Sparrow 35  
Savannah Sparrow 4  
Grasshopper Sparrow 1  
Song Sparrow 166  
White-thr. Sparrow 4  
White-crowned Sparrow 2  
Dark-eyed Junco 28  
Summer Tanager 2  
Scarlet Tanager 60  
N. Cardinal 212  
Rose-br. Grosbeak 19  
Blue Grosbeak 5  
Indigo Bunting 79  
Bobolink 22  
Red-wg. Blackbird 271  
E. Meadowlark 89  
Com. Grackle 327  
Brown-hd. Cowbird 97  
Orchard Oriole 21  
Baltimore Oriole 16  
House Finch 64  
Am. Goldfinch 228  
House Sparrow 52

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148 species

Thanks to all participants.

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