

The 76th consecutive Elizabethton CBC was held on Saturday, 15 Dec 2018. Twenty-eight observers in six parties tallied 77 species. This is above the recent 30-year average of 72 species. The all-time high was set last year with 85 species.

Two species were found on this CBC for the first time: Osprey and Orange-crowned Warbler.

One noticeable difference between last year's count and this one was the number of ducks. Last year we found 13 species, but only 6 occurred this year.

Selected comments on this year's CBC (number in parentheses):

Bald Eagle: (1), has occurred 19 of last 20 years, with few before that.

Red-shouldered Hawk: (1), found only 6 of previous 25 years.

Merlin: (1), only 2 others in previous 25 years.

Am. Kestrel: (16), seems to be fairly steady (25 year average = 13)

Killdeer & Wilson's Snipe: (1 each), these two have a steady decline in recent years.

Carolina Wren: (139), most ever on this CBC, 25 year average = 82.

Cedar Waxwing (30) & Am. Robin (17): low numbers, apparently a poor wild fruit crop.

Palm Warbler: (1), has increased in recent years, rarely found in early years.

Chipping Sparrow: (29), found 15 straight years, but only 6 times in first 50 years.

White-throated Sparrow: (70), low numbers over last four years; I wonder why?

E. Meadowlark: (4), has declined in recent years, partly due to less habitat.

blackbirds: hard to find here in winter, often completely missed; this year only

Red-wings (25) were observed.

boreal irruptives: no Purple Finches or Pine Siskins occurred this year & only 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Misses this year: Ruffed Grouse, Com. Loon, Barred Owl.

Thanks to all observers on this CBC.

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