

The 80th consecutive Elizabethton CBC was held on 17 Dec.  
24 observers in 8 parties and 2 feeder watchers participated.

The weather was less than ideal, with strong winds in parts of the coverage area.

We tallied 61 species, which was well below the recent 30 year average of 73 species. In fact, this was the lowest species total since 1970 when 58 species were found.

Missed birds included Ring-necked Duck, Horned Grebe, Grouse, Eur. Collared-Dove, Cormorant, Barred & Great Horned Owls, White-crowned & Fox Sparrows, Meadowlark.

Reasons for the low number are complicated. The wind was a factor in some areas. Also, duck numbers have been generally low so far this winter. Blackbirds have been scarce in this area for most recent winters (why?). Some half-hardy lingerers weren't found (i.e., House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Palm Warbler). Some others are low density wintering birds and were just missed.

So, what did we see?

The list:

Canada Goose 447  
Mallard 210  
Bufflehead 226  
Hooded Merganser 5  
Wild Turkey 5  
Pied-billed Grebe 4  
Rock Pigeon 148  
Mourning Dove 86  
Killdeer 9  
Wilson's Snipe 5  
Ring-billed Gull 9  
Com. Loon 2  
Great Blue Heron 14  
Black Vulture 17  
Turkey Vulture 12  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Cooper's Hawk 6  
Bald Eagle 5  
Red-tailed Hawk 22  
E. Screech-Owl 7  
Belted Kingfisher 15  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 26  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11  
Downy Woodpecker 17  
Hairy Woodpecker 4

N. Flicker 17  
Pileated Woodpecker 11  
Am. Kestrel 12  
E. Phoebe 17  
Blue Jay 71  
Am. Crow 733  
Com. Raven 14  
Carolina Chickadee 108  
Tufted Titmouse 91  
Red-br. Nuthatch 4  
White-br. Nuthatch 45  
Brown Creeper 1  
Winter Wren 7  
Carolina Wren 86  
Golden-cr. Kinglet 9  
Ruby-cr. Kinglet 15  
E. Bluebird 149  
Hermit Thrush 9  
Am. Robin 122  
N. Mockingbird 41  
Eur. Starling 714  
Cedar Waxwing 281  
House Sparrow 70  
House Finch 89  
Purple Finch 3  
Am. Goldfinch 73  
Chipping Sparrow 29  
Field Sparrow 36  
Dark-eyed Junco 74  
White-throated Sparrow 73  
Song Sparrow 97  
Swamp Sparrow 2  
E. Towhee 7  
Pine Warbler 2  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 75  
N. Cardinal 132

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Observers: Bryan Stevens, Chris Soto, Brookie & Jean Potter,  
Don Holt, Dianne Draper, Eric Draper, Fred Alsop, Kevin Brooks,  
Judi Sawyer, Charlie Warden, Deb Mignogno, Rick Knight, Kim Stroud,  
Dave Gardner, Joe McGuinness, Vern Maddux, Roy Knispel, Pete Range,  
Harry Lee Farthing, Richard Lewis, Tammy Bright, Scott Turner,  
Larry McDaniel, David & Connie Irick.

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Rick Knight, compiler