

The 31st Carter Co. Summer Count was held on 1 June 2024 with 23 observers in 9 parties. The weather was generally favorable, but somewhat cool early in the morning and breezy at times.

We tallied 114 species, which is exactly the 30 year average, but slightly below the average of the last decade of 117 species. The all-time high was 123 species in 2017.

The list:

Canada Goose 270
Wood Duck 5
Mallard 52
Wild Turkey 13
Rock Pigeon 61
Eur. Collared-Dove 1
Mourning Dove 130
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1
Chuck-will's-widow 1
E. Whip-poor-will 13
Chimney Swift 61
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird 15
Killdeer 11
Am. Woodcock 4 - a family group at Carver's Gap
Double-cr. Cormorant 7
Great Blue Heron 18
Green Heron 4
Black Vulture 14
Turkey Vulture 59
Sharp-shinned Hawk 3
Cooper's Hawk 1
Bald Eagle 3
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Broad-winged Hawk 8
Red-tailed Hawk 12
E. Screech-Owl 8
Barred Owl 2
Belted Kingfisher 11
Red-bellied Woodpecker 31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 6
Downy Woodpecker 13
Hairy Woodpecker 6
N. Flicker 13
Pileated Woodpecker 22
Am. Kestrel 1
Great Crested Flycatcher 5
E. Kingbird 24
E. Wood-Pewee 28
Acadian Flycatcher 19

Alder Flycatcher 1
Least Flycatcher 10
E. Phoebe 65
White-eyed Vireo 6
Blue-headed Vireo 47
Warbling Vireo 1
Red-eyed Vireo 205
Blue Jay 80
Am. Crow 208
Fish Crow 5
Com. Raven 14
Carolina Chickadee 49
Tufted Titmouse 91
Tree Swallow 88
N. Rough-winged Swallow 32
Purple Martin 21
Barn Swallow 135
Cliff Swallow 330
Golden-crowned Kinglet 20
Cedar Waxwing 58
Red-breasted Nuthatch 16
White-breasted Nuthatch 17
Brown Creeper 6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 15
Carolina Wren 126
House Wren 48
Winter Wren 7
Gray Catbird 36
Brown Thrasher 34
N. Mockingbird 62
Eur. Starling 471
E. Bluebird 86
Veery 21
Hermit Thrush 5
Wood Thrush 56
Am. Robin 372
House Sparrow 40
House Finch 86
Pine Siskin 8
Am. Goldfinch 77
Chipping Sparrow 85
Field Sparrow 25
Dark-eyed Junco 51
Song Sparrow 240
E. Towhee 135
Yellow-breasted Chat 9
E. Meadowlark 9
Orchard Oriole 7
Baltimore Oriole 7

Red-winged Blackbird 68
Brown-headed Cowbird 27
Com. Grackle 87

warblers (18 sp.)
Ovenbird 73
Worm-eating 12
Louisiana Waterthrush 6
Black-&white 44
Swainson's 9
Com. Yellowthroat 27
Hooded 145
Am. Redstart 9
N. Parula 48
Blackburnian 4
Yellow 5
Chestnut-sided 30
Black-thr. Blue 61
Pine 4
Yellow-rumped 4
Yellow-throated 18
Black-thr. Green 50
Canada 20

Scarlet Tanager 28
N. Cardinal 135
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 13
Blue Grosbeak 4
Indigo Bunting 141

As always, a few species were missed on count day, usually because they are very localized in distribution or occur in very low densities. And sometimes birds just don't cooperate.

Missed species:

Com. Merganser - a female with a brood of ducklings was seen the day before,
Ruffed Grouse, Com. Nighthawk, Yellow-cr. Night-Heron, Great Horned Owl,
Yellow-throated Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Kentucky
Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Prairie Warbler.

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Thanks to the participants.
Rick Knight, compiler