

The Elizabethton Fall Bird Count traditionally covers parts of five counties in northeast Tennessee, namely Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, & Washington.

However, this year the remnants of Hurricane Helene threw a monkey wrench into our plans, to put it mildly. Parts of the 3 mountain counties plus southern Washington Co suffered major storm damage. Flooding was devastating in these areas. Thousands of trees were toppled. Not to mention the human misery & loss of life.

Despite all this, we decided to conduct a limited count to continue our tradition. Obviously, some areas normally covered were inaccessible due to damage or recovery efforts.

We delayed the count a week from the scheduled date of Sep.28 to Oct 5. Nearly normal count coverage in Sullivan & Washington Cos was possible. Small parts of the other 3 counties were covered, with 27 observers participating.

Despite all of the limitations we tallied 124 species, which is exactly the average of the most recent 30 years of this count. Rather amazing, in my opinion. It speaks to the dedication of club members.

Highlights of the count included 2 Am. White Pelicans and a Lark Sparrow. Also notable were Semipalmated Plover, Fish Crow, & Am. Pipit.

The list:

Canada Goose 199  
Wood Duck 14  
Mallard 116  
Wild Turkey 44  
Ruffed Grouse 1  
Pied-billed Grebe 3  
Rock Pigeon 107  
Eur. Collared-Dove 2  
Mourning Dove 118  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 4  
Com. Nighthawk 1  
Chimney Swift 17  
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird 9  
Killdeer 31  
Semipalmated Plover 2  
Wilson's Snipe 3  
Spotted Sandpiper 3  
Solitary Sandpiper 1  
Lesser Yellowlegs 1  
Dbl-cr Cormorant 47  
Am. White Pelican 2  
Great Blue Heron 16  
Green Heron 1  
Black Vulture 54  
Turkey Vulture 119  
Osprey 1  
N. Harrier 1  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2  
Cooper's Hawk 4  
Bald Eagle 2  
Red-shld. Hawk 5

Broad-wg. Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 11  
E. Screech-Owl 19  
Great Horned Owl 5  
Belted Kingfisher 21  
Red-headed Woodpecker 7  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 75  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11  
Downy Woodpecker 49  
Hairy Woodpecker 9  
N. Flicker 95  
Pileated Woodpecker 22  
Am. Kestrel 17  
Great Crested Flycatcher 1  
E. Kingbird 1  
E. Wood-Pewee 17  
E. Phoebe 67  
White-eyed Vireo 4  
Yellow-thr. Vireo 1  
Blue-hd. Vireo 10  
Philadelphia Vireo 1  
Red-eyed Vireo 12  
Blue Jay 235  
Am. Crow 133  
Fish Crow 1  
Com. Raven 11  
Carolina Chickadee 139  
Tufted Titmouse 130  
Tree Swallow 340  
N. Rough-wg. Swallow 2  
Barn Swallow 30  
Ruby-cr. Kinglet 9  
Golden-cr. Kinglet 4  
Cedar Waxwing 130  
Red-br. Nuthatch 5  
White-br. Nuthatch 50  
Brown Creeper 1  
Carolina Wren 179  
House Wren 5  
Gray Catbird 30  
Brown Thrasher 9  
N. Mockingbird 62  
Eur. Starling 523  
E. Bluebird 100  
Gray-cheeked Thrush 7  
Swainson's Thrush 39  
Hermit Thrush 1  
Wood Thrush 8  
Am. Robin 151  
House Sparrow 13  
Am. Pipit 1  
House Finch 40  
Am. Goldfinch 77  
Lark Sparrow 1  
Chipping Sparrow 34

Field Sparrow 5  
Dark-eyed Junco 5  
White-cr. Sparrow 1  
Savannah Sparrow 5  
Song Sparrow 66  
Swamp Sparrow 5  
E. Towhee 48  
E. Meadowlark 10  
Red-wg. Blackbird 7  
Brown-hd. Cowbird 16  
Com. Grackle 56

warblers (22 species)

Ovenbird 3  
N. Waterthrush 3  
Black-&white 2  
Tennessee 52  
Orange-cr. 1  
Nashville 1  
Com. Yellowthroat 19  
Hooded 6  
Am. Redstart 13  
Cape May 15  
N. Parula 5  
Magnolia 12  
Bay-br. 31  
Blackburnian 15  
Chestnut-sd. 4  
Blackpoll 2  
Black-thr. Blue 4  
Palm 101  
Pine 7  
Yellow-rumped 27  
Yellow-thr. 3  
Black-thr. Green 11

Summer Tanager 1  
Scarlet Tanager 14  
N. Cardinal 153  
Rose-br. Grosbeak 143  
Indigo Bunting 2

-----  
124 species

#####

Rick Knight  
compiler