

Detroit Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count Summary
For December 15, 2019 by Timothy Nowicki

The 75th count of a 15 mile diameter circle is now in the history books. Though noteworthy for its longevity, this year's actual count was average except for one noteworthy exception. An Eastern Phoebe was seen by the same section that logged a Baltimore Oriole last year (though the official state committee accepted it as a new world oriole). This year tallied a total of 8792 individuals of 55 different species, while the average is 8325 individuals and 54 species. Visibility in the morning was limited by snow and fog and open water was limited. It's hard to say how the freezing temperatures in November affected the movement of birds, but one species was noticeably scarce – American Tree Sparrow.

My thanks again to those individuals who participated in the count this year; several have been participating for MANY years.

The following are some observations I have made regarding this year's count in relation to the history of the count.

- American Tree Sparrow numbers were the second lowest on record - 2014 (61) was lower than the (68) this year. According the Christmas Count Bird Population Trend data, the tree sparrow in Michigan has declined .23% per year. Using their calculations, that equates to a 15% decline over 61 years. We should feel lucky; some states are showing MUCH greater declines per year.
- There was a bumper number of Canada Geese this year (1917), only 2001 was greater (2221).
- Seven Bald Eagles sets a new record for the count.
- This is the third year in a row when no American Kestrel were seen.
- Sandhill Crane numbers set a new record at (204).
- The last Rufous-sided Towhee seen was in 2005 (4).
- There has only been one year (2015) when a Song Sparrow has not been seen.
- There is an average of 8 years between peak numbers of Cedar Waxwing seen on the count. The range between peaks is from 4-14 years.

Thank you to the following people for helping continue the tradition of the Detroit Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count.

Bachman, Sean
Becker, Roger
Burton, Lee
Burton, Tony
Colon, Jeff
Fedyk, Amy
Fedyk, Anthony
Fedyk, John
Fedyk, Theo
Frohardt-Lane, Dan
Gramlich, Jean
Hansen, Kathleen
Hull, Chris

Joswick, Holly
Joswick, Jeremy
Keesler, Donald
Klimchalk,
Christopher
Lanyon, Duane
Lanyon, Justin
Lendle-King, Gisela
Mikols, Elisah
Mikols, Jairus
Mikols, Ken
Norton, Susan
Nowicki, Timothy
Steward, Aubrey

Stewart, Elizabeth
Stewart, Robert
Summers, Chris
Van Wormer, Sara
Vatai, Grace
Weber, Leonard
Wells, Mike
Wilhite, Jeff
Wilson, Wayne

The following species were seen on December 15, 2019.

SPECIES	TOTAL
Great Blue Heron	3
Mute Swan	86
Trumpeter Swan	3
Canada Goose	1917
Mallard	968
Am. Black Duck	15
N. Pintail	1
Ring-necked Duck	1
Bufflehead	23
Common Goldeneye	11
Hooded Merganser	8
Common Merganser	15
Cooper's Hawk	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	50
Bald Eagle	7
Wild Turkey	126
Sandhill Crane	204
Ring-billed Gull	91
Herring Gull	1
Rock Dove	232
Mourning Dove	335
Screech Owl	2
Barred Owl	3
Belted Kingfisher	4
Pileated Woodpecker	4
Common Flicker	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	82
Hairy Woodpecker	22
Downy Woodpecker	80
Eastern Phoebe	1
Horned Lark	2
Blue Jay	294
Common Crow	246
Black-capped Chickadee	490
Tufted Titmouse	112
White-breasted Nuthatch	131
Brown Creeper	16
Carolina Wren	3
American Robin	44

Eastern Bluebird	74
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Cedar Waxwing	604
Starling	1142
House Sparrow	475
Northern Cardinal	225
Purple Finch	3
House Finch	108
American Goldfinch	129
Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Dark-eyed Junco	247
Tree Sparrow	68
White-throated Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	5
Swamp Sparrow	8
gull sp.?	48
swan sp?	2
Total Species	55
Total Individuals	8792