

Thank you for helping with the 47th Rockwood Christmas Bird Count on December 26, 2020. The 87 species counted was above the average of 82 (range 70-99) for the 47 years. Highlights of this year's count—species with fewer than 10 records including count week sightings; the number of previous records is in parentheses— include Sandhill Crane (2), Merlin (7), Pileated Woodpecker (2), Northern Saw-whet Owl (9) and American Pipit (5). When count week birds— seen just before or after the day of the count— are included 3 additional species were added: Purple Sandpiper (1), Horned Grebe (8) and Evening Grosbeak (8, last recorded in 1988).

Usual or interesting species with fewer than 15 previous records including count week sightings—the number of previous records is in parentheses—were Snow Goose (13), Gray Catbird (12) Long-eared Owl (11) and Common Redpoll (13). Count week sightings added Green-winged Teal (13) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (12). Red-bellied Woodpeckers surpassed last year's count for a new record; White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse and Wild Turkey were also recorded in record numbers. Brown Creepers and Bald Eagles had their 2nd highest totals. Also encouraging there were no record lows for any species.

Coverage by field participants was very good and was enhanced by 4 feeder reports. The onset of cold on Christmas might have caused a few of the count week species to depart but likely helped the feeder counts. Numbers of waterfowl would probably have been higher were it not for the special duck hunt that occurred on the day of the count.

Several species we missed showed up just after the end of the count week, namely Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Snowy Owl and Nashville Warbler so the potential for a much higher species total was certainly there. Someday we will achieve 100 species, but it just wasn't in the cards this year.

Thanks must go to Ava Landgraf for help finding people to ensure all areas were covered.

We haven't set a date for next year's count, but it will likely be soon after Christmas. Too many of our participants have allegiances to other counts the first weekend and we have always had the count in the middle of the count period. As soon as a date is set, I will let everyone know. Hopefully, we will not be in the middle of a pandemic for the 2021 count. I really missed being able to see everyone in person like years past.

Tom Carpenter, compiler

Results of the 47th Rockwood Christmas bird count held 26 December 2020

Snow Goose 1	Red-tailed Hawk 37	Red-breasted Nuthatch 8
Canada Goose 2650	Am. Rough-legged Hawk cw	White-breasted Nuthatch 88* (83)
Mute Swan 285	American Kestrel 11	Brown Creeper 27
Tundra Swan 1089	Merlin 1	Carolina Wren 33
swan species 2	hawk species 1	Winter Wren 7
Wood Duck 3	American Coot 323	Golden-crowned Kinglet 17
Northern Gadwall 21	Wild Turkey 26	Eastern Bluebird 76
American Wigeon cw	Sandhill Crane 2	Hermit Thrush 2
American Black Duck 50	Purple Sandpiper cw	American Robin 559
Mallard 1532	Killdeer 1	Gray Catbird 1
Northern Shoveler cw	Bonaparte's Gull 109	European Starling 1831
Green-winged Teal cw	Ring-billed Gull 1049	American Pipit 1
Canvasback 3211	Herring Gull 271	Cedar Waxwing 1
Redhead 144	Lesser Black-backed Gull cw	Yellow-rumped Warbler 2
Ring-necked Duck 11	Great Black-backed Gull 23	American Tree Sparrow 219
Greater Scaup 9	gull species 75	Field Sparrow 2
Lesser Scaup 43	Rock Pigeon 207	Song Sparrow 74
scaup species 34	Mourning Dove 435	Swamp Sparrow 14
Long-tailed Duck 2	Eastern Screech Owl 14	White-crowned Sparrow 2
Bufflehead 108	Great Horned Owl 6	White-throated Sparrow 72
Common Goldeneye 425	Long-eared Owl 1	Dark-eyed Junco 410
Hooded Merganser 8	Short-eared Owl 1	Snow Bunting 8
Common Merganser 105	Northern Saw-whet Owl 1	Northern Cardinal 306
Red-breasted Merganser 22	Belted Kingfisher 7	Red-winged Blackbird 17
Common/Red-breasted Merganser 12	Red-bellied Woodpecker 84* (69)	Rusty Blackbird 2
Ruddy Duck 277	Downy Woodpecker 136	Common Grackle 1
duck species 309	Hairy Woodpecker 20	Brown-headed Cowbird 92
Horned Grebe cw	Northern Flicker 57	blackbird species 10
Great Blue Heron 84	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Evening Grosbeak cw
Bald Eagle 72	American Crow 8	Common Redpoll 30
Northern Harrier 8	Horned Lark 32	Pine Siskin 8
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Blue Jay 172	American Goldfinch 148
Cooper's Hawk 14	Black-capped Chickadee 160	House Finch 204
Red-shouldered Hawk 1	Tufted Titmouse 102* (97)	House Sparrow 911

Total species counted: 87

Total individuals counted: 19,089

bold type indicates an unusual or noteworthy species, or an unusually high number counted

asterisk designates a record high or low count for the species with the previous record in ()

cw = count week—species was seen in the count circle 3 days before or after the date of the count but was not seen during the day of the count

42 observers in 15-16 parties, plus 4 feeder watchers

450 party miles: 45.75 on foot and 404.25 by car

86 party hours: 46.5 on foot and 39.5 by car

11.25 hours owling and 41.25 miles

13.5 Hours at feeders.