

NC STATE

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Raleigh CBC results

1 message

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Hello Raleigh CBC participants! Please accept my apology for taking so long to get this summary out to you. We had a great count this year, with 78 participants in 25 parties (plus two yard/feeder watchers) putting in 130.4 party-hours and covering 168.6 party-miles, the majority of them on foot. The weather was freakishly warm and wet, with some sun coming through by afternoon. We covered all of the traditional spots in the count circle, and had good coverage of smaller parks and greenways as well.

Our tally for the day was 99 species and 17,395 individuals (2020 totals were 103 and 16365). The most unusual bird was a **Blackpoll Warbler** found by John Gerwin and Grainne O'Grady at Pullen Park. While not unprecedented in central/eastern NC in December, Blackpolls are very rare just about anywhere in North America this late in the year. This was the first record for the Raleigh CBC. Other noteworthy species/counts were a Loggerhead Shrike seen by Harry Legrand and Will Kimler (the first Raleigh CBC record in years); 20 Least Sandpipers seen by Brian Bockhahn and Kyle Kittelberger on Lake Benson, and another heard by Martina Nordstrand at They's Farm; 47 Wilson's Snipe seen by three parties; 27 Bald Eagles; 74 Eastern Phoebes; 34 Brown Creepers; three White-crowned Sparrows; and six Black-and-white Warblers, the latter almost certainly a count record. Eleven parties had the only records of 19 species: Lake Benson-kayak (American Black Duck, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck); Lake Johnson (Bonaparte's Gull); Cary-west (Great Egret, Blue-headed Vireo); Lake Benson-land (Red-headed Woodpecker); They's Farm (Merlin); NCSU Ag fields (Peregrine Falcon, Pine Siskin); Mid-Pines Rd (Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Eastern Meadowlark); Prairie Ridge (House Wren); Walnut Creek (Gray Catbird, Purple Finch); Shelley Lake (Baltimore Oriole); and Pullen Park (Blackpoll Warbler). We missed only a few: Wild Turkey, Lesser Scaup (for the second year in a row), Herring Gull, American Coot, and Fish Crow. Great job everyone!

Prior to the count, many people had noted that birds seemed more scarce than usual this winter. So I looked at our totals for each species from 2020 and 2021, adjusted for differences in effort between the years. Of the 94 species that were observed in both years, counts (individuals per party-mile) were lower for 56 species and higher for 38 species. Many of the differences were trivial, but some stood out. As a group, waterfowl were quite scarce, with the biggest declines noted for Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Other species showing a big drop in numbers compared to 2020 were Ring-billed Gull, Black and Turkey Vultures, Gray Catbird (although 2020's count of 13 was a record high), Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Swamp Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Fewer species showed notable increases over 2020. These were Pied-billed Grebe, Mourning Dove, Wilson's Snipe, Double-crested Cormorant, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle, and Palm Warbler.

The complete list is below, for your browsing pleasure. Thanks again to all of you for counting this year - this is a huge collective effort and I think we do very well! Hopefully over the next year we will put this pandemic behind us. The 2022 Raleigh CBC will be held on Saturday, December 17. Hope to see you all again in December! Cheers and Happy New Year, Brian

Mute Swan	9
Canada Goose	1236
Wood Duck	18
Green-winged Teal	86
Gadwall	71
American Black Duck	3
Mallard	388
Northern Shoveler	38
American Wigeon	4
Ring-necked Duck	7

Bufflehead	33
Hooded Merganser	152
Ruddy Duck	110
Pied-billed Grebe	32
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	443
Mourning Dove	318
Killdeer	101
Least Sandpiper	21
Wilson's Snipe	47
American Woodcock	3
Bonaparte's Gull	8
Ring-billed Gull	303
Double-crested Cormorant	1747
Great Blue Heron	81
Great Egret	4
Black Vulture	10
Turkey Vulture	41
Bald Eagle	27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Cooper's Hawk	7
Red-shouldered Hawk	61
Red-tailed Hawk	20
Great Horned Owl	7
Barred Owl	10
Belted Kingfisher	35
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	79
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	224
Downy Woodpecker	212
Hairy Woodpecker	23
Northern Flicker	115
Pileated Woodpecker	37
American Kestrel	5
Merlin	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Eastern Phoebe	74
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Blue-headed Vireo	1
Blue Jay	212
American Crow	381
Common Raven	4
Horned Lark	6
Carolina Chickadee	414
Tufted Titmouse	304
White-breasted Nuthatch	124
Brown-headed Nuthatch	185

Brown Creeper	34
House Wren	2
Winter Wren	24
Carolina Wren	447
Golden-crowned Kinglet	186
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	237
Eastern Bluebird	381
Hermit Thrush	58
American Robin	1345
Gray Catbird	3
Brown Thrasher	50
Northern Mockingbird	111
American Pipit	25
European Starling	1138
Cedar Waxwing	865
House Finch	230
Purple Finch	1
Pine Siskin	1
American Goldfinch	226
House Sparrow	8
Chipping Sparrow	324
Field Sparrow	42
Savannah Sparrow	46
Fox Sparrow	11
Dark-eyed Junco	267
White-crowned Sparrow	3
White-throated Sparrow	971
Song Sparrow	426
Swamp Sparrow	29
Eastern Towhee	133
Baltimore Oriole	3
Eastern Meadowlark	18
Red-winged Blackbird	241
Rusty Blackbird	108
Brown-headed Cowbird	326
Common Grackle	364
Black-and-white Warbler	6
Orange-crowned Warbler	3
Palm Warbler	28
Pine Warbler	96
Blackpoll Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	235
Northern Cardinal	455
Total Species	99
Total indivs	17395