

50th Kingston Christmas Bird Count 2017-18

The Kingston, NS Christmas Bird Count, held December 23, 2017, was a success and enjoyable from many points of view. Exciting for me was that we had our best field coverage ever, with 29 observers in 13-14 parties. We had 59 feeder watchers at 34 feeders, down somewhat from recent years. The weather cooperated, the freezing rain holding off until late PM. We had 63 species, three more than the ten year average. The number of individuals was 13,550, just below the ten year average. Most abundant species were European Starling, American Crow, Canada Goose, Black-capped Chickadee, and American Goldfinch, much as expected, except for the Canada Goose, which was incredibly high. These and the other 37 "A-List" species (those seen on 90% or more of the last 10 counts) were all seen except the Evening Grosbeak - a major miss although it has been declining in recent years. Another A-listener, the Pine Siskin, was almost missed, with only one observed. Among less common species missed, Surf Scoter, Horned Grebe, Horned Lark, and Pine Grosbeak were ones that we have had 50% or more of the time in the past decade. Two species were seen in the count week but not on count day: Wood Duck and Rough-legged Hawk.

At the other end of the highlights, several species rare in our area in winter were observed. No species new for our cumulative list, but there were two 2nd records - the Peregrine Falcon (recently removed from the endangered list in NS), seen by Sydney & Nelson Penner in North Kingston, and a Dickcissel (first recorded in 2015), seen by the Colvilles in Melvern Square. There were also two 3rd records ever: Yellow-breasted Chat, found at Nictaux Falls by Claire Diggins and Britt Roscoe, and Fox Sparrow, seen at Victoria Vale by Richard Stern and Ron Blackert. Other highlights of uncommon species found were Razorbill, Great Blue Heron, Grey (Canada) Jay, and both crossbills. Anyone interested in past results can find a complete table prepared by my brother Larry Neily at <http://www.neilyworld.com/neilyworld/CBC-Kingston.htm>.

Canada Goose 1,824 (High), American Black Duck 87, Mallard 204, Green-winged Teal 1, Common Eider 26, White-winged Scoter 3, Long-tailed Duck 3, Common Merganser 3, Red-breasted Merganser 2, duck sp. 21, Ring-necked Pheasant 33, Ruffed Grouse 16, Red-throated Loon 1, Common Loon 2, Great Blue Heron 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 5, Northern Goshawk 1, Bald Eagle 20, Red-tailed Hawk 35, hawk sp. 1, Razorbill 1, Herring Gull 89, Great Black-backed Gull 2, Rock Pigeon 555, Mourning Dove 574, Barred Owl 4 (High), Downy Woodpecker 64, Hairy Woodpecker 44, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 7, Pileated Woodpecker 11, woodpecker sp. 2, Merlin 2, Peregrine Falcon 1, Gray Jay 1, Blue Jay 529, American Crow 2,516, Common Raven 196, crow/raven sp. 2, Black-capped Chickadee 846, Red-breasted Nuthatch 48, White-breasted Nuthatch 57, Brown Creeper 10, Golden-crowned Kinglet 36, American Robin 60, European Starling 4,099, Cedar Waxwing 30, Snow Bunting 20, Yellow-breasted Chat 1, American Tree Sparrow 9, Chipping Sparrow 1, Fox Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 317, White-throated Sparrow 16, Song Sparrow 22, sparrow sp. 1, Northern Cardinal 21, Dickcissel 1, Red-winged Blackbird 6,

Common Grackle 3, Brown-headed Cowbird 47, Purple Finch 16, Red Crossbill 2, White-winged Crossbill 19, Common Redpoll 6, Pine Siskin 1, American Goldfinch 892, House Sparrow 69.

Participants: Carole Allen, Spike Allen, John Antoniuk, Sandy Antoniuk, Ron Baker, Sharon Baker, Brian Barkman, Ron Blackert, Victor Braun, Karen Campbell, Robert Campbell, Kathy Chapman, Tony Chaulk, James Churchill, Lana Churchill, Kevin Coldwell, Shelley Coldwell, David Colville, Keegan Colville, Kristin Colville, Ruth Colville, John DeCoste, Paul Despres, Valerie Despres, Claire Diggins, David Diggins, Donna Elliott, Harold Elliott, Michael Gemmell, Barbara Giffin, Patrick Giffin, Carol Gregory, Len Gregory, Sheila Gubernt, Mark Hamilton, Pat House, Sheila L. Hulford, Sibella Hulford, Cameron Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Patrick Kelly, Alicia Kennedy, Cathou Larocque, Andrea Leeson, Holly Lightfoot, Frances Lourie, Thelma Lourie-Gosse, Dave Ludlow, Tonya Ludlow, Judy MacKenzie, Myrna Maye, Jason McInnis, Ethel McLane, Ruth Myers, Wayne Neily, John Ogletree, Claire Pelley, Daniel Penner, Kenley Penner, Nelson Penner, Sydney Penner, Darlene Prest, Jeff Prest, Ann Quinn, Reginald Quinn, Noreen Reagh, Dawn Robar, Mable Robar, Twila Robar-DeCoste, Alan Robinson, Emily Robinson, McCall Robinson, Wendy Rodda, Ron Rogerson, Philip Rolph, Britt Roscoe, Kay Sanford, Shirley Sanford, Howard Selig, Richard Stern, Charles Tye, Doris Tye and Jane White. Thanks to all participants, and, especially to the hosts of our compiling get-together, Twila Robar-DeCoste and John DeCoste of Aylesford.

I want to thank my brother Larry Neily for completing the compilation and this summary while I was in the Valley Regional Hospital.

Good Birding to all in 2018,

Wayne Neily

Compiler

Tremont, NS