**The 2012 Lewisburg Christmas Bird Count**



Eastern Bluebird by Matt Levanowitz, photographed on Dale’s Ridge during the count

I suppose one should expect about half of our Christmas Bird Counts to be “below average.” Well, this year we achieved that – in spades! Our total of 64 species was the lowest since 1980 and the 2nd lowest during the “modern era,” which began when Seven Mountains Audubon was formed.

On a much brighter note, I am confident we set a record for the number of participants (records are a little fuzzy on this). There were 51 wonderful friends and outdoor enthusiasts enjoying the event on Saturday. It’s satisfying to know so many folks who share an appreciation for wildlife and this annual tradition.

With no shortage of participants, we did manage to set a few high count records. There were 21 Belted Kingfishers reported, besting the old mark of 20. Sixty-two Red-bellied Woodpeckers was six higher than the prior record. And 86 Carolina Wrens thoroughly shattered the previous record of 65. This species thrives when we have a sequence of mild winters only to decline again after harsh seasons.

Nice finds included Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant (yes, that has become a “rare” bird), Bald Eagle (even though we now expect them), Barn Owl, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, Winter Wren, **Field Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. The four bold-faced species were absent from last year’s count.

A Red-shouldered Hawk was reported on December 13, allowing us to denote that species as a “count week” species.

There were just three Horned Larks! How was that possible? Birds that we missed entirely included Ruffed Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fish Crow, Hermit Thrush, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Pine Siskin.

Our 51 counters included: Warren Abrahamson, Roger Allison, Owen Anderson, Steve Anderson, George Boone, Roy Fontaine, Warren Frantz, Kerry Givens, Geoff Goodenow, Allan & Ann Grundstrom, Bob Gutheinz, Robert Hazard, David Hafer, Rolf & Annick Helbig, Ben Hoskins, Galen & Bonnie Ingram, Kay Cramer, Jill Largent, Jim & Diane Lengle, Matt Levanowitz, Alice Marquart, Jen Mattive, Jack McCann, Wayne McDiffett, Larry McGraw, Debby & Paul Meade, Than Mitchell, Mike Molesevich, Dianne Muchant, Dick Nickelsen, Robert Nylund, Judy Peeler, Robert Reyda, Allen & Joanne Schweinsberg, Carl Shaffer, Wesley Sigl, Joe & Luke Southerton, Logan Stenger, Stephanie Thomas, John Tonzetich, Don Ulrich, Tom Yannaccone, Jim & Marilyn Zaiser. Please come back next year!

Here is the list.

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| Canada Goose | 704 |
| Wood Duck | 4 |
| American Black Duck | 13 |
| Mallard | 348 |
| Bufflehead | 20 |
| Hooded Merganser | 4 |
| Common Merganser | 54 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 1 |
| Wild Turkey | 12 |
| Great Blue Heron | 12 |
| Bald Eagle | 3 |
| Northern Harrier | 4 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 |
| Cooper’s Hawk | 9 |
| *Accipiter sp.* | 1 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | (cw) |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 100 |
| American Kestrel | 67 |
| Killdeer | 14 |
| Wilson's Snipe | 13 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 312 |
| Herring Gull | 2 |
| Rock Pigeon | 608 |
| Mourning Dove | 936 |
| Barn Owl | 3 |
| Screech Owl | 7 |
| Great Horned Owl | 9 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 21 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 62 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 103 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 19 |
| Northern Flicker | 15 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 11 |
| Blue Jay | 271 |
| American Crow | 1137 |
| Common Raven | 9 |
| Horned Lark | 3 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 333 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 126 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 13 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 123 |
| Brown Creeper | 21 |
| Carolina Wren | 86 |
| Winter Wren | 3 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 56 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 129 |
| American Robin | 5 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 58 |
| European Starling | 2754 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 21 |
| American Tree Sparrow | 86 |
| Field Sparrow | 5 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 2 |
| Song Sparrow | 73 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 1 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 228 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 44 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 663 |
| Northern Cardinal | 204 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1 |
| Common Grackle | 4 |
| Purple Finch | 4 |
| House Finch | 190 |
| American Goldfinch | 160 |
| House Sparrow | 587 |
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