**The 2018**

**Lewisburg**

**Christmas Bird Count**



-- count day photo by Kerry Givens

**Notables**

It was the year of the Carolina Wren. Our tally of 92 exceeded that of any previous count. This species sings all year, making them easy to detect, and this year they seemed to be everywhere.

Wild Turkey, now much more common than in past years, are still easy to miss, which we did last year. Nevertheless, in 2018 we were fortunte to have the second highest count in our 70-year history (see photo).

We had one Long-eared Owl, our first in 25 years.

No Horned Lark; the last time we failed to get a Horned Lark was 1973.

No Wilson’s Snipe, our second miss in 30 years.

We had very low numbers for junco and titmouse.

In last year’s report we noted that the American Crow tally was the lowest ever for the Lewisburg Christmas Count, lower even than in 1949 when count founder Hollis Ross was the only observer. The collapse continues. Our 118 crows were fewer than half of last year’s 264. As recently as 1999 we estimated 30,000 crows, which was only a portion of the winter roost that then occupied Milton Island.

We had 59 species altogether, down four from last year, now our lowest species total since 1971. We had the expected common birds, but struggled to get much else. A comparison with 2017, also a down year, shows that Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Wild Turkey, Herring Gull, Long-eared Owl, and Cedar Waxwing were birds that appeared this year, but not last.

Birds that we found last year, but not this year, included Green-winged Teal, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Rough-legged Hawk, Wilson’s Snipe, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, and Purple Finch.

Our 31.5 observers included: Warren Abrahamson, Steve Anderson, Brent Bacon, Dutch the Dog, Betsy Fickes, Roy Fontaine, Kerry Givens, Bob Gutheinz, David Hafer, John Holback, Galen & Bonnie Ingram, Kevin & Johanna Klinger, Jill Largent, Jim & Diane Lengle, Bill Malone, Barbara Martin, Jen Mattive, Jack McCann, Wayne McDiffett, Mike Molesevich, Allen & Joanne Schweinsberg, Lauri Shaffer, Bill & Ellen Snyder, Emily Southerton, Joe Southerton, Steve Stanko, Logan Stenger, Bill Tyler, Don Ulrich, Tom Yannaccone.

**Please save Saturday, December 14, for the 2019 Christmas Bird Count**

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| The results:  Canada Goose 1070  Wood Duck 4 |

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| American Black Duck 9 |
| Mallard 442  Bufflehead 3 |
| Common Merganser 108  Ring-necked Pheasant 1 |
| Ruffed Grouse 4  Wild Turkey 85  Great Blue Heron 12 |
| Bald Eagle 11 |
| Northern Harrier 3 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 |
| Cooper’s Hawk 6 |
| *Accipiter sp.* 1  Red-tailed Hawk 58 |

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| Ring-billed Gull 39  Herring Gull 1 |
| Rock Pigeon 575 |
| Mourning Dove 229 |
| Screech Owl 14 |
| Great Horned Owl 6  Long-eared Owl 1 |
| Belted Kingfisher 13  Red-headed Woodpecker 3 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker 69 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker 81 |
| Hairy Woodpecker 16 |
| Northern Flicker 24 |
| Pileated Woodpecker 11  American Kestrel 21 |
| Blue Jay 145 |
| American Crow 118 |
| Common Raven 11  Bl-capped Chickadee 147  Tufted Titmouse 53  Red-breasted Nuthatch 8  Wte-breasted Nuthatch 100 |
| Brown Creeper 13  Golden-crowned Kinglet 13  Carolina Wren 92  Winter Wren 1  Eastern Bluebird 123 |
| American Robin 21 |
| Northern Mockingbird 26 |
| European Starling 3855  Cedar Waxwing 42 |
| American Tree Sparrow 21  Field Sparrow 13 |
| Savannah Sparrow 1  Song Sparrow 56 |
| White-throated Sparrow 369 |
| White-crowned Sparrow 18 |
| Dark-eyed Junco 264 |
| Northern Cardinal 113  Brown-headed Cowbird 1  House Finch 101  American Goldfinch 72  House Sparrow 174 |