**The 2020**

**Lewisburg**

**Christmas Bird Count**

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We had our first Evening Grosbeak since 1999! Thank you, David Hafer. It’s hard to believe, but in the twenty-year interval from 1968 through 1987 we *averaged* over 240 Evening Grosbeaks per year with a high count of 1628 in 1978. They were more common than House Sparrows that year. It’s not completely understood why grosbeaks exploded, then declined sharply, in the 20th century.

We had our 2nd occurrence of Common Redpoll in 25 years! Thank you, Michael McGuire. The redpolls had been hanging out with Pine Siskins near the East Buffalo Township duck pond.

We observed 64 species altogether. A comparison with 2019, which was our best year in quite some time, shows that in addition to the grosbeak and redpolls we added Wilson’s Snipe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Conversely, birds that we found last year, but not this year, were many. These included Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Herring Gull, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and Fox Sparrow. Mike Molesevich did report a peregrine in 2020 – one day after the count 😟.

Few species were found in large numbers. Steve Anderson spotted 15 Tundra Swans high overhead, an all-time record number. Bald Eagle at 22, Red-breasted Nuthatch at 37, and Common Raven at 31 were our second, second, and third highest tallies, respectively, since the Lewisburg count began in 1949.

Eagles are conspicuous and wide-ranging, so some of the 22 eagles may be duplicates. Also, two observers, not far apart, each reported exactly 5 Black Vultures, so it is reasonably safe to assume they were the same birds.

We had one each of six species, namely Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Evening Grosbeak. Also, American Crows, once found by the thousands, remain in severely depleted numbers.

We should mention one more species. Warren Abrahamson reported that his party had a coyote.

Finally, recall that we need to gather information for a report to National Audubon. Data like miles by car, miles by foot, hours by car, hours by foot. In 2020 we had a first. Thom Rippon submitted his miles and hours by tractor! It’s not what you are imagining. Thom’s new tractor has a heated cab.

Our 43 observers included: Warren Abrahamson, Steve Anderson, Kay Cramer, Tim Craries Sr., April Fairweather, Francesca Ferguson, Betsy Fickes, Roy Fontaine, Kerry Givens, Geoff Goodenow, Bob Gutheinz, David Hafer, Robert Hazard, Galen & Bonnie Ingram, Deepak Iyer, Kevin Klinger, Jill Largent, Alice Marquart, Barbara Martin, Jack McCann, Wayne McDiffett, Larry McGraw, Michael McGuire, Than & Margaret Mitchell, Mike Molesevich, Dianne Muchant, John & Judy Peeler, Thom Rippon, Kathy Rowe, Allen & Joanne Schweinsberg, Lauri Shaffer, Ellen Snyder, Emily Southerton, Joe Southerton, Logan & Tanna Stenger, Lynn Tanner, Bill Tyler, and Don Ulrich.

Sometimes we don’t notice the changing of the guard. Only 13 of the above folks were among the 38 participants in our count in 2006.

The Results

Canada Goose 368

Tundra Swan 15

American Black Duck 7

Mallard 247

Hooded Merganser 1

Common Merganser 66

Great Blue Heron 10

Black Vulture 5

Turkey Vulture 2

Bald Eagle 22

Northern Harrier 1

Sharp-shinned Hawk 2

Cooper’s Hawk 7

*Accipiter sp* 1

Red-tailed Hawk 61

Wilson’s Snipe 4

Ring-billed Gull 45

Rock Pigeon 688

Mourning Dove 227

Screech Owl 4

Great Horned Owl 2

Belted Kingfisher 11

Red-bellied Woodpecker 49

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3

Downy Woodpecker 67

Hairy Woodpecker 18

Northern Flicker 12

Pileated Woodpecker 9

American Kestrel 29

Blue Jay 82

American Crow 154

Common Raven 31

Horned Lark 140

Black-capped Chickadee 167

Tufted Titmouse 105

Red-breasted Nuthatch 37

White-breasted Nuthatch 74

Brown Creeper 11

Golden-crowned Kinglet 17

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2

Carolina Wren 45

Winter Wren 2

Eastern Bluebird 128

Hermit Thrush 1

American Robin 31

Northern Mockingbird 38

European Starling 2114

Cedar Waxwing 26

Yellow-rumped Warbler 1

American Tree Sparrow 39

Field Sparrow 6

Savannah Sparrow 2

Song Sparrow 39

White-throated Sparrow 270

White-crowned Sparrow 6

Dark-eyed Junco 445

Northern Cardinal 148

Brown-headed Cowbird 1

Purple Finch 5

House Finch 165

Common Redpoll 3

Pine Siskin 83

American Goldfinch 140

Evening Grosbeak 1

House Sparrow 276