

62nd Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

Day, Date, and Time: **Saturday, December 19, 2015, 6:50 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Compiler: **Joey Kellner** Feeder Coordinator: **Bob Shade**

Weather: **Mostly clear all day** Temperature: **19 to 61° F** Wind: **variable, 0 to 25 mph**

Snow Cover: **0 to 18"** Still Water: **Frozen to partly open** Moving Water: **Partly open**

Observers: **232 (222 in 27 parties, 10 watchers at 10 feeders)**

Total Party Hours: **252.73 (155.38 on foot, 60.35 by car, 37 feeder watching)**

Total Party Miles: **454.50 (104.1 on foot, 383.4 by car)**

Hours Spent Watching Feeders: **37.0**

Count Day Totals: **101 species; 27,503 individuals**

Area **Participants** (Area Leader's names in **bold**)

1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): Tom Behnfield, Bob Brown, Tom Casaderall, Karlee Gatewood, **Dan Stringer**
 2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Chuck Aid, Rick Creswell, Martha Eubanks, David Gillilan, Diane Hutton, **Michael Kiessig**, Kathanne Lynch, Mike McAteer, George Mayfield, Kacie Miller, Wendy Wibbens
 - 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): **Mark Amershek**, Carol Cook, Mary Geder, A.J. Gest, Chris Gilbert, Chris Goulart, Keith Hidalgo, Rebecca Laroche, Bruce Neumann, Pam Zimmer
 3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Van Chau, Peggy Gonder, Candice Johnson, Tim Johnson, Betsy Maslow, Richard Maslow, Joe Roller, **Chris Rurik**
 - 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Nelson Ford, **Ed Holub**, Scott Somershoe
 - 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Amy Cervene, Chris Gray, Alec Hopping, Bill Hopping, Pamela Munroe, Ben Sampson, **Dick Schottler**, Christopher Warneke
 5. Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Michele Danforth, Susan Dunn, Pam Schmidt
 6. Plum Creek (PCK): Jesse Casias, Renee Casias, **Norm Erthal**, Chris Owens, Cheryl Teuton
 - 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): Burke Angstman, Joey Angstman, Tim Angstman, Daniel Horton, **Charles Lawrence**
 - 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): Alan Haggard, **Hugh Kingery**, **Urling Kingery**, Robert Martinez, Deb Ostergard, Polly Reetz, Darrin Seex, Mike Serruto, Kara Soitler, Maikel Wise, Susan Wise
 8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): Sandra Bland, Dan Brooke, Mike Foster, **Joey Kellner**, Steve Meier, Bob Spencer
 9. Upper South Platte (USP): Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler
 10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Sarah Braun, Scott Dieni, John Esperance, Stephanie Jones, Patrick O'Driscoll, Matt Ramlow, **Steve Stachowiak**, Lynn Willcockson
 11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Lee Ferrell, Linda Ferrell, John Harrington, Norm Lewis, Nina Routh, **Paul Slingsby**
 12. Yegge Peak (YPK): **Audrey Boag**, **Celia Greenman**, Linda Knudsen, Walt Knudsen, Mike Seal
 13. Doublehead Mountain (DHM): **Amy Davis**, Nancy Davis, Tim Davis, Adam Green
 14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): Susan Blansett, **Ed Furlong**, Gregg Goodrich, Ann Troth
 15. Indian Hills (IHL): Brad Andres, Caroline Gilbert, Michael Gilbert, Susan Harper, Bob Holmes, JoNell How, Elaine Lockey, Paul Luzetski, **Dick Prickett**, Warren Roske, Bob Santangelo, Jeanette Strom, Karen von Saltza, Diane Young
 16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): Melissa Mezger, **Laura Steadman**
 17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): Ruth Gabraski, **David Suddjian**, Sherry Uhlemann, Ted Uhlemann, Bea Weaver
 18. Garrison Gate (GGT): Area not covered this year.
 19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): David Dowell, **Dean Shoup**, Douglas Watkins
 20. Willow Creek (WCK): Tami Bishop, **Doris Cruze**, Karen Hochgraf, Barbara Shissler, Peggy Wait
 21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): Steve Kingswood, **Bob Shade**
- A special thanks to the Count Roving Expert and Photographer—**Glenn Walbek**

2015 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

Joey Kellner, Compiler

The 2015 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 19th. This is the 62nd consecutive year that the Denver Field Ornithologists has conducted a Christmas Count within the same 15-mile diameter count circle established in 1954 and centered just north of the old Ken Caryl Ranch entrance.

The weather on count day started mostly clear with low to high winds. It was a beautiful day to be out with the team reporting a respectable 27,503 individual birds of 101 species recorded by 222 field observers and 10 feeder watchers.

One new species was added to the cumulative Denver CBC list in 2015, Snowy Owl. The grand total of species seen since 1954 thus increased to 200!

(See Area Totals at http://dfobirds.org/Documents/History/CBC/2015_Denver_CBC_Summary.pdf.)

Steve Stachowiak found an evening **SNOWY OWL** just inside Chatfield State Park's south entrance (Roxborough Road entrance)! The bird was seen as Steve was leaving the park after the potluck! A first ever for the Denver CBC!

Other "Rare" birds (seen on less than 10% of the previous counts) and found this year included

- White-winged Scoter (only the 6th time recorded on the Denver CBC) found in Area 4A (Lower South Platte) on McClellan Reservoir;
- Bonaparte's Gull (only the 2nd time recorded on the count) found in Area 8 (Chatfield Reservoir);
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (6th time recorded on the count) found in Areas 10 (Lower Deer Creek), 12 (Yegge Peak), and 17 (Ken Caryl Ranch); and
- Hermit Thrush (6th time recorded on the count) found in Area 8 (Chatfield Reservoir).

"Uncommon" birds (seen 10–24% of the previous counts) found this year included

- Cackling Goose (multiple areas—split and tracked starting in 2004),
- Long-tailed Duck (found in Area 8—Chatfield Reservoir),
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (multiple areas—recent explosive addition to the annual count),
- Say's Phoebe (Area 10—Lower Deer Creek), and
- Lesser Goldfinch (several individuals found in two count areas and at feeder watchers' homes).

Record-high individual numbers were established for six species this year: Redhead (377), Common Merganser (4,145), Cooper's Hawk (14), Snowy Owl (1), Northern Saw-whet Owl (8), Brown Creeper (61).

The ten most numerous species observed on the 2015 count were (1) Canada Goose (7,134), (2) Common Merganser (4,145), (3) Mallard (1,661), (4) Red-winged Blackbird (1,074), (5) American Crow (1,036), (6) Dark-eyed Junco (943), (7) House Finch (941), (8) European Starling (804), (9) Black-billed Magpie (734), (10) American Robin (609). Together, these ten species accounted for 69.3% of the birds counted.

Four additional "Count Week" species were noted in the three days on either side of count day: Greater White-fronted Goose on Johnson Reservoir at Clement Park, Ruddy Duck seen on South Platte Park Reservoir, Ferruginous Hawk in South Valley Park (Ken Caryl Valley), and a well photographed Green-tailed Towhee at Bear Creek Lake Park. Making an overall count of 105 species for the circle this year!

As compiler of the 62nd Denver Christmas Bird Count, I thank all of the field observers and feeder watchers for participating. Special thanks go to the Area Leaders whose efforts and knowledge make this count a success and to Cheryl Teuton and Dan Brooke who did an amazing job of coordinating this year's potluck. Thank you Bob Shade for contacting, coordinating, and compiling all the Feeder Watcher data. Thanks also to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the use of the Chatfield State Park Multipurpose Room for our compilation meeting. Lastly, thanks to all who brought drinks and food to share! Sharing food and friendship after a day in the field was a great way to relax before the holidays. I hope to see you all at the compilation next year!