

## 61st Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

**Day, Date, and Time:** Saturday, December 20, 2014, 6:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Compiler:** Joey Kellner **Feeder Coordinator:** Joey Kellner

**Weather:** Overcast → Mostly clear **Temperature:** 24 to 58 deg. F **Wind:** variable, 0 to 15 mph

**Snow Cover:** 0 to 8" **Still Water:** Partly open **Moving Water:** Partly open

**Observers:** 164 (144 in 38 parties, 20 watchers at 20 feeders)

**Total Party Hours:** 238.25 (176.55 on foot, 61.7 by car)

**Total Party Miles:** 707.85 (119.25 on foot, 588.6 by car)

**Hours Spent Watching Feeders:** 53.5

**Count Day Totals:** 107 species; 36,271 individuals

### **Participants by Area** (Area Leader's names in **bold**):

Area 1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): Tom Behnfield, Bob Brown, Marie-Dominique Franco, John Sakulich, **Dan Stringer**

Area 2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Rick Creswell, Jan Metro-Emmert, Martha Eubanks, Kate Frost, Parri Galli, Mike Henwood, Art Hudak, Diane Hutton, Kerrie Lagon, **Michael Kiessig**, Cynthia Madsen, Gary Mattes, Veronica Mattes, Kylie Mattes, Kacie Miller, Amy Morton, Steve Sieders, Wendy Wibbens

Area 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): **Mark Amershek**, Bergit Arvin, Linda Broeren, A.J. Gest, Judy Lane, Bruce Neumann

Area 3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Mary Burger, Mike Fernandez, Candice Johnson, Tim Johnson, **Kay Niyo**, Jessie Overbeck, Ira Sanders, Tammy Sanders, Glenn Walbek

Area 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Ruth Breckon, Nelson Ford, **Ed Holub**, Molly O'Malley

Area 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Georgia Hart, **Dick Schottler**, Claude Vallieres

Area 5. Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Duke Deegan, Leslie Newell, Pam Schmidt

Area 6. Plum Creek (PCK): Chris Alexander, Jesse Casias, Renee Casias, **Norm Erthal**, Cheryl Teuton

Area 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): Amy Cervene, **Charles Lawrence**, Paulo Tabarg, Santiago Tabarg, Sebastian Tabarg, Lara ?

Area 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): **Hugh Kingery**, **Urling Kingery**, Deb Ostergard, Polly Reetz, Darrin Seex, Mike Serruto

Area 8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): Sandra Bland, Chris Gilbert, Jennifer Hallam, Alec Hopping, **Joey Kellner**, Alison Kondler, Bob Spencer

Area 9. Upper South Platte (USP): Corey Abe, Katherine Abe, Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler, Meredith McBurney

Area 10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Scott Dieni, Stephanie Jones, Melissa McKibben, Chris Owens, Liz Willcockson, **Lynn Willcockson**

Area 11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Karen Drozda, Lee Ferrell, Linda Ferrell, Nina Routh, **Paul Slingsby**

Area 12. Yegge Peak (YPK): Audrey Boag, **Ann Bonnell**, Mary Ann Bonnell, Peggy Gonder, Celia Greenman, Linda Knudsen, Walt Knudsen, Else Van Erp

Area 13. Doublehead Mountain (DHM): **Amy Davis**, Nancy Davis, Tim Davis, Adam Green, Derek Hankins, Peggy Hankins

Area 14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): Ed Furlong, **Larry Modesitt**, Aaron Shipe, Dean Shoup

Area 15. Indian Hills (IHL): Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Susan Blansett, Bill Eden, Caroline Gilbert, Michael Gilbert, Susan Harper, Bob Holmes, Jeanette Strom, Elaine Lockey, Bev Postmus, **Dick Prickett**, Warren Roske, Lynn Sauer

Area 16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): Melissa Mezger, **Laura Steadman**

Area 17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): Susan Bellegeini, Chip Clouse, Ruth Gabraski, David Gillian, **David Suddjian**, Bea Weaver

Area 18. Garrison Gate (GGT): Area not covered this year

Area 19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): Pat O'Driscoll, **Steve Stachowiak**

Area 20. Willow Creek (WCK): **Doris Cruze**, Lynn Forrester, Nathan McAdams, Barbara Shissler, Peggy Wait, Dennis Wojcicki

Area 21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): Laura Wathen, **Wayne Wathen**

A special thanks to the Count Roving Expert and Photographer—**Glenn Walbek**

## 2014 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

by Joey Kellner, Compiler

The 2014 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 20th, the 61st 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 overcast and became mostly clear with calm to low winds. It was a beautiful day to be out with the team reporting a respectable 36,271 individual birds of 107 species recorded by 144 field observers and 20 feeder watchers. No new species were added to the cumulative Denver CBC list in 2014. The grand total of species seen since 1954 thus remains at 199. (See Area totals at [http://dfobirds.org/Documents/History/CBC/2014\\_Denver\\_CBC\\_Summary.pdf](http://dfobirds.org/Documents/History/CBC/2014_Denver_CBC_Summary.pdf)).

“Rare” birds (seen on less than 10% of the previous Counts) and found this year included:

Yellow-billed Loon (5th record) found in Area 8  
Sora (3rd record) found in Area 2  
Williamson’s Sapsucker (only the 2nd record) found in Area 3  
Northern Saw-whet Owl (5th and 6th records) found in Areas 12 and 17  
Hermit Thrush (5th record) found in Area 2

“Uncommon” birds (seen 10–24% of the previous Counts) found this year included:

Cackling Goose (Multiple areas—split and tracked starting in 2004)  
Barrow’s Goldeneye (found in Area 8)  
Horned Grebe (found in Area 8)  
Eared Grebe (found in Area 8)  
Lesser Black-backed Gull (found in Area 8)  
Eurasian Collared-Dove (multiple areas – recent explosive addition to the annual count)  
Say’s Phoebe (Areas 6 & 8)  
Clark’s Nutcracker (found in Area 17)  
Golden-crowned Sparrow (found in Area 1)  
Lesser Goldfinch (5 individuals found at two feeder watchers homes—Areas 3 and 20)

Record-high individual numbers were established for **six** species this year: Cackling Goose (3,603 vs the previous high count of 2,534 in 2010), Northern Shoveler (1,272 vs 1,045 in 2011), Red-tailed Hawk (175 vs 143 in 2013), Eurasian Collared-Dove (382 vs 255 in 2012), Northern Saw-whet Owl (2 vs 1 in 1993, 2007, 2012, and 2013), Western Scrub-Jay (268 vs 219 in 2002).

The ten most numerous species observed on the 2014 Count were:

1. Canada Goose (12,590), 2. Cackling Goose (3,603), 3. American Crow (1,969), 4. Mallard (1,631), 5. Dark-eyed Junco (1,398), 6. Northern Shoveler (1,272), 7. House Finch (1,102), 8. Red-winged Blackbird (1,097), 9. Ring-billed Gull (946), 10. European Starling (915). Together, these ten species accounted for 72.5% of the birds counted. This is the first time that Northern Shoveler entered the top 10 (and #6 at that)!

One additional “Count Week” species was noted in the three days on either side of count day: Mountain Bluebird. Making an overall count of 108 species for the circle this year!

As compiler of the 61st 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. 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 those 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!