

## 65th Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

Day, Date, and Time: **Saturday, December 15, 2018, 6:15 a.m. to 16:30 p.m.**

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

Weather: **AM mostly cloudy, PM partly cloudy** Temperature: **12 to 58° F** Wind: **variable, 0 to 10 mph**

Snow Cover: **0 to 2"** Still Water: **frozen to partly open** Moving Water: **partly open to completely open**

Observers: **161 (151 in 42 parties, 10 watchers at 10 feeders)**

Total Party Hours: **233 (169 on foot, 64 by car)**

Total Party Miles: **589.5 (137.5 on foot, 452 by car)**

Hours Spent Watching Feeders: **46.5**

Count Day Totals: **112 species; 33,923 individuals**

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

1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): Tom Casadual, Patti Galli, Fionn Gruebmeier, Kristin Gruebmeier, Kerrie Lagon, **Dan Stringer**
2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Dale Benson, Rick Creswell, Diane Hutton, **Michael Kiessig**, George Mayfield, Mary O'Connor, Janet Shin, **Scott Somershoe**, Wendy Wibbens
- 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): Burke Angstman, **Mark Amershek**, Carol Cook, Lee Farrell, Linda Farrell, Gail Feaber, Isaac Ho, Cyndy Johnson, Bruce Neuman
3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Darcy Bullock, Lindsay Fendt, Peggy Gonder, Steve Herbert, **Bill Hopping**, Alec Hopping, Betsy Maslow, Rich Maslow
- 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Jared Del Rosso, Nelson Ford, **Ed Holub**, Thomas Holub, Rikard Lundberg, Ann Ogg, Bill Ogg, Karen Watt
- 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Deb Carstensen, Phil Woods (+7 helpers), Dick Schottler, **Dean Shoup**, Christopher Warneke
5. Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Susan Dunn, Pam Schmidt
6. Plum Creek (PCK): Dan Brooke, Jesse Casias, Renee Casias, **Norm Erthal**, Cheryl Teuton
- 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): Amy Cervene, **Charles Lawrence**, Patrick O'Driscoll
- 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): Kate Hoilien, Hugh Kingery, **Urling Kingery**, Deb Ostergard, Alan Peryam, Daren Seex, Camille Schiraldi, Mark Meiklejohn, Senja Meiklejohn
8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): **Joey Kellner**, Michael Lester, Paul Shreck, Chris Wood
9. Upper South Platte (USP): Lynn Forrester, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler, Meredith McBurney
10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Scott Dieni, Steph Jones, Kathy Mihm-Dunning, **Riley Morris**, **Heather Morris**, Matt Newport, Doug Shoffner, Adam Vesely
11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Mary Burger, Ted Cooper, Laurie Gibb, Toni Rautus, John Sakulich, **Paul Slingsby**
12. Yegge Peak (YPK): **Ann Bonnell**, Audrey Boag, David Hill, Angela Gruna, Celia Greenman, Linda Knudsen, Walt Knudsen, Christina Leslie, Cynthia Madsen, Else VanErp, Bea Weaver
13. Doublehead Mountain (DHM): **Amy Davis**, Tim Davis, Ben Sampson
14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): **Ed Furlong**, Matt Ramlow
15. Indian Hills (IHL): Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Caroline Gilbert, Michael Gilbert, Susan Harper, **Dick Prickett**, Warren Roske, Bobby Strom, Jeanette Strom
16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): Melissa Mezger, **Laura Steadman**
17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): Kent Bagley, Margi Bagley, **Tom Bush**, Dale Campau, Melinda Crowe, Wes Donnell, Jane Haddock, John Hoogerheide, Jennifer Okeef, Terra Stern, Peter Strom
18. Garrison Gate (GGT): **Bob Shade**, Karen Drozda
19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): Mary Geder, **Chris Gilbert**, Rebecca LaRoche, Steve Meier, Cheryl Wilcox
20. Willow Creek (WCK): Roberta Chase, **Doris Cruze**, Sheila Duvall, Marian Erickson, Polly Reetz, Diane Roberts, Barbara Shissler, David Suddjian, Cindy Valentine, Peggy Wait
21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): **Bob Shade**, Karen Drozda

## 2018 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

Joey Kellner, Compiler

The 2018 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the 65<sup>th</sup> 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 cloudy and relatively calm. Morning temperatures started at 12F, but thankfully no wind to light winds. It was a nice day to be out with the team reporting a respectable **33,923** individual birds of **112 species** recorded by 151 field observers and 10 feeder watchers. This is one species shy of the all-time high count on Count Day of 113 species. No new species were added to the cumulative Denver CBC. The grand total of species seen since 1954 thus remains at 201.

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

- Black Scoter – the 4<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the Denver CBC and found in area 4B (Lower South Platte)
- Spotted Sandpiper - only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time recorded on the Denver CBC and found in Area 3 (Bow Mar/Marston),
- Eastern Bluebird - only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time recorded on the Denver CBC and found in Area 19 (Morrison/Willowbrook),
- Chipping Sparrow – the 3<sup>rd</sup> time recorded on the Denver CBC and found in area 4B (Lower South Platte)

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

- Ross’s Goose – 14<sup>th</sup> time recorded
- Cackling Goose (multiple areas—split from Canada Goose and tracked starting in 2004),
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (multiple areas—recent explosive addition to the annual count),
- Lesser Black-backed Gull – 8<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the Count
- Northern Saw-whet Owl – 9<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the Count
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 11<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the Count
- Say’s Phoebe – 11<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the Count
- Pine Grosbeak – 17<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the Count
- Lesser Goldfinch – 14<sup>th</sup> time recorded
- Golden-crowned Sparrow - amazingly the 14<sup>th</sup> time recorded on the count

Record-high individual numbers were established for several species this year: Cackling Goose (6,629), Downy Woodpecker (129), Bushtit (202), and Spotted Towhee (180).

The ten most numerous species observed on the 2018 count were: 1. Canada Goose (8,440), 2. Cackling Goose (6,629), 3. Mallard (1,632), 4. American Crow (1,614), 5. House Finch (1,258), 6. Red-winged Blackbird (1,214), 7. Dark-eyed Junco (1,144), 8. European Starling (945), 9. Black-billed Magpie (774), 10. Northern Shoveler (678). Together, these ten species accounted for 71.7% of the birds counted.

Christmas Bird Counts must be performed on a single calendar day. Any species seen outside that date can be added as “Count Week” if the sighting falls within three days prior or after the count date. Two additional “Count Week” species were noted this year: Black-crowned Night Heron along the Platte River and a Gray Catbird along the Platte River some distance below the Waterton Bridge. **Making an overall count of 114 species for the circle this year!**

As compiler of the 65<sup>th</sup> 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 once again 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 Multi-Purpose Room for our compilation meeting and for working our access during the current construction. 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!