

Waterloo CBC - Monday, Dec. 19, 2016

On Monday, Dec. 19, 22 intrepid counters braved the COLD and WIND for the 17th year of the Waterloo CBC. An additional 11 were feeder counters, including one who spent time outside counting! Altogether, we tallied 49 species and 8,878 individual birds.

This was one of our coldest counts ever: minus 10 degrees early, and windy. The temperature slowly rose to 10 above, but the wind increased throughout the day, so it never felt any warmer. All lakes and slow-moving waters were completely frozen, making us work for the few waterfowl we found. Snow cover was 8-10", though, so good numbers of roadside birds were found.

Overall, the count was very average, yet there were a couple of highlights. Wood Ducks were found for the first time ever, and the 11 Bald Eagles seen was the highest ever (the next highest was 7 in 2012). One of the most surprising finds was a Short-eared Owl found by Aaron Stutz and Cynthia Bridge at the edge of a road.

Canada Goose – 180

Wood Duck - 3 (first ever on count)

Amer. Black Duck - 1

Mallard - 115

Common Merganser - 12 (flyover)

Ring-necked Pheasant - 8

Wild Turkey - 61

Bald Eagle - 11 (highest ever; next highest 7 in 2012)

N. Harrier – 3

Cooper's Hawk - 4

Red-tailed Hawk - 19 (lowest ever; 21 in 2005)

Rough-legged Hawk - 5

(Hawk species - 7)

(Amer. Coot - cw)

Herring Gull - 1

Rock Pigeon - 190 (lowest ever; 229 in 2003)

Mourning Dove - 303

E. Screech Owl - 1

Great Horned Owl – 2

Barred Owl – 2

Short-eared Owl - 1

Belted Kingfisher – 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker - 40

(Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - cw)

Downy Woodpecker - 62

Hairy Woodpecker – 17

Northern Flicker - 2

(Woodpecker species - 1)

Amer. Kestrel – 3

Blue Jay - 117
American Crow - 382
Horned Lark - 425 (3rd highest; 581 in 2005; 814 in 2000)
Black-capped Chickadee - 188 (2nd lowest; 165 in 2000)
Tufted Titmouse - 26 (2nd highest; 33 in 2015)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1
White-breasted Nuthatch - 69
Brown Creeper - 2
Amer. Robin - 1
European Starling - 1,536
Cedar Waxwing - 8
Lapland Longspur - 17
Snow Bunting - 196 (4th highest)
Amer. Tree Sparrow - 1,103 (4th highest)
Fox Sparrow - 2
Song Sparrow - 4
White-throated Sparrow - 3
Dark-eyed Junco - 2,240 (2nd highest; 2,759 in 2008)
Northern Cardinal - 210
Red-winged Blackbird - 1
Brown-headed Cowbird - 14
House Finch - 155
American Goldfinch - 140
(Finch species - 9)
House Sparrow - 974