

Happy New Year, Birders,

We did it! We beat last year's total species by three; we found **40; our count produced the 3rd highest**. The city of Pittsburgh identified 53 and Shaler had 41 species. Thank you all very much for making this year's count successful. Although the weather at times was windy and cold, your friendliness, cooperation, and of course, the fabulous lunch provided by Sherron and Pat, made for a wonderful day of birding. Jim Valimont, the CBC compiler, will post the results for the entire Pittsburgh count on the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's web site - www.aswp.org. - within a few weeks.

Here is a list of the birds we found in North Park - all 40 species of them!

Canada Goose - 615
Mallard - 92
Great Blue Heron - 2
Cooper's Hawk - 2
Red-tailed Hawk - 6
Killdeer - 1 (a flyover on the McKinney soccer complex fields; the only one found for the Pgh. count)
Ring-billed Gull - 1 (John found it late in the afternoon.)
Mourning Dove - 26
Screech Owl - 6 (Thanks, Donna Foyle, for getting up so early and helping to find these birds. Your hearing is almost as good as the owls.)
Great Horned Owl - 1
Belted Kingfisher - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 19
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1
Downy Woodpecker - 16
Hairy Woodpecker - 4
Northern Flicker - 1
Pileated Woodpecker - 4
Blue Jay - 34
American Crow - 59
Carolina Chickadee - 7
Black-capped Chickadee - 23
Chickadee sp. - 13
Tufted Titmouse - 52
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 (Sue Bayer discovered this one.)
White-breasted Nuthatch - 20
Brown Creeper - 1 (Jamie Sehrer spied the bird. Sherron Lynch identified it for her, and Jamie got a life bird!)
Carolina Wren - 5
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2
Eastern Bluebird - 8 (Last year we had 31. Where did they go?)
American Robin - 106
Northern Mockingbird - 5 (Mockers are expanding their range northward. 10 were found last year.)
European Starling - 69
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 2 (Pat Lynch located them. North Park and Harmar Township were the only places where these birds were found.)
American Tree Sparrow - 9
Song Sparrow - 17
White-throated Sparrow - 18
Dark-eyed Junco - 16 (Jim Valimont found an Oregon Junco in Oakmont.)
Northern Cardinal - 60
House Finch - 8
American Goldfinch - 34
House Sparrow - 30 (our highest total count for this species in the last 10 years)

Total Individual Birds - 1, 396

There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot. (from A Sand County Alamanac by Aldo Leopold)

Thank you all again for your effort and time spent birding on Saturday. It was a joy to be with you as we all shared a "walk" in the park together and celebrating a bird-filled day better known as the Christmas Bird Count. I hope you enjoyed last Saturday so much that you would like to make the Christmas count your annual tradition. I will be contacting you in October or November of 2008 to see if you can join us again for the 109th annual Christmas Bird Count.

Good birding,
Bob VanNewKirk