



Every winter, Beaver Creek Reserve takes part in the Christmas Bird Count, the longest-running bird census in the world, and it is driven by citizen scientists! We organized five count circles this year: Holcombe, Chippewa Falls, Beaver Creek Reserve, Durand, and Nelson. In total, we counted 23,354 birds representing 63 total species, covering nearly 2,300 miles over the course of 214 hours. 56 birders contributed to this effort! Data is still being submitted, but those 23,354 birds are part of the over 22,700,000 birds counted across 1426 circles worldwide!

All 5 circles had an above-average number of species, 3/5 had more individual birds counted than average. The Nelson circle had the most species (48) and the most birds (8224)

The 5 most abundant bird species are as follows:

European Starling: 3034

American Crow: 2874

Dark-eyed Junco: 2295 (+4 Oregon Juncos)

Rock Pigeon: 1739

Common Goldeneye: 1532

The Christmas bird count is a very old dataset stretching back decades, this being the 126th iteration. The Holcombe, Chippewa Falls, and Nelson count circles were established in the 50s, which can provide insight into how bird populations have changed. Here are a few trends and notes from the data.

A good year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, although not all that spectacular compared to other irruption years.

House Sparrow numbers continue to decline across all counts. Where there used to be thousands, there are now only a couple hundred. **American crows** have generally been increasing, although some circles have had a rough decade.

Another year without any **Evening Grosbeaks** despite the irruption, barely 14 have been counted across all 5 circles since 2001. Other species that have disappeared from the CBCs include **Bobwhite**, **Sharp-tailed Grouse**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, and **Common Grackle**. **Eurasian Collared-doves** continue expanding into the region, with consistent detection and higher numbers than in previous years.

An excellent year for **Bald Eagles** and **Wild Turkeys**, all circles had the highest counts in ~~over~~ a decade!

If you're interested in seeing how CBC count data is used, check out Audubon's webpage [here](#) to see modeled population trends. This site is entirely CBC data, the data that our volunteers have contributed towards!

The species counts are below. If you have any questions about the count, contact santiago@beavercreekreserve.org or csc@beavercreekreserve.org.

Thank you to all our volunteers for braving the cold and wind to count birds. If you are interested in helping with the count, keep an eye on the event calendar in December!

Count: *cw = count week	Grand Total	Holcombe	Chippewa Falls	Beaver Creek	Durand	Nelson
Cackling Goose	1	0	1	0	0	0
Canada Goose	905	0	729	173	0	3
Trumpeter Swan	204	0	0	0	0	204
American Black Duck	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mallard	243	0	96	31	90	26
Redhead	6	0	0	0	0	6
Bufflehead	15	0	0	15	0	0
Lesser Scaup	3	0	0	0	0	3
Common Goldeneye	1532	0	119	0	0	1413
Common Merganser	1427	0	50	0	0	1377
Red-breasted Merganser	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	62	1	12	1	34	14
Ruffed Grouse	4	0	0	4	0	0
Wild Turkey	1390	168	255	116	472	379
Golden Eagle	4	0	0	0	0	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15	0	3	6	3	3
Cooper's Hawk	4	1	3	0	0	0
Bald Eagle	209	14	16	31	32	116
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	0	cw	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	82	7	14	14	21	26
Rough-legged Hawk	39	11	2	10	11	5
Wilson's Snipe	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rock Pigeon	1739	217	468	255	254	545
Eurasian Collared-dove	29	0	9	2	11	7
Mourning Dove	665	106	179	39	233	108
Barred Owl	3	1	0	2	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	1	0	0	0	1	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	124	10	20	20	28	46
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	185	19	28	35	52	51
Hairy Woodpecker	89	13	23	24	12	17
Northern Flicker	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pileated Woodpecker	56	4	7	17	8	20
American Kestrel	8	0	3	3	1	1
Merlin	1	0	0	1	0	0
Northern Shrike	11	4	3	0	2	2
Blue Jay	824	86	195	172	235	136
American Crow	2874	200	314	254	671	1435
Common Raven	34	13	2	12	2	5
Horned Lark	184	56	3	19	60	46
Black-capped Chickadee	649	116	158	154	105	116
Tufted Titmouse	62	6	15	25	4	12

Red-breasted Nuthatch	130	23	33	62	8	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	176	22	28	47	22	57
Brown Creeper	16	2	4	6	1	3
Eastern Bluebird	10	0	0	4	5	1
American Robin	21	0	15	0	0	6
European Starling	3034	25	1249	324	880	556
Cedar Waxwing	13	0	12	0	1	0
Snow Bunting	846	595	100	101	50	0
American Tree Sparrow	714	63	277	259	51	64
Dark-eyed Junco	2295	41	356	277	932	689
Oregon Junco	4	0	0	0	2	2
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	2	1	1	0	0	0
Northern Cardinal	258	7	51	26	125	49
Red-winged Blackbird	25	1	0	0	23	1
Western Meadowlark	4	0	0	0	4	0
House Finch	237	0	47	33	111	46
Purple Finch	36	0	3	3	0	30
Redpoll	30	4	0	1	25	0
Pine Siskin	108	0	105	0	3	0
American Goldfinch	538	31	59	145	206	97
House Sparrow	1170	51	146	85	381	507
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS:	23357	1919	5213	2809	5172	8244
TOTAL SPECIES:	63	33	43	42	40	48