

North Bay Christmas Bird Count

2009

2009 was an interesting count. Bird activity was rather low on count day. The field observers got between 10 to 14 bird species each on count day and a combined total of 25 species. Feeder watchers added two more species (White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco). Because of these low totals we were able to add six count week birds.

This includes Common Merganser and Bald Eagle spotted on Sunday. One of the field observers got a Common Goldeneye. Other count week birds include Purple Finch, American Tree Sparrow and Cedar Waxwing.

Total species was 27 (plus six count week birds), the lowest total since 1986. Since I have been doing the count the total species have been 44, 34, 35 and 27 from 2006 to 2009.

The only bird that was high was Common Loon with five spotted. 2nd highest total.

A great many birds were low. Here is a low numbers for a number of species followed by the year it was the lowest since:

Ruffed Grouse (1) 1986

Pileated Woodpecker (5) 1991

Common Raven (86) 1989

Red-breasted Nuthatch (8) 1986

Even more species were low but comparable to the count two years ago.

Total number of birds was 1994 which is comparable with the 1664 number of birds in 2007 and 1797 in 1985.

I figure the factors that made the count low include:

- Fair weather
- Low finch numbers
- Fewer field observers and feeder watchers
- Fewer feeders being filled
- With the exception of parts of Trout Lake, no open water.

It was odd that the activity was low at the feeders and in the field at the same time.

Effort	
	Observers
<u>In Field:</u>	Total Number: 13

	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 9	
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 9	
<u>At Feeders:</u>	Total Number: 6	
Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)		
	All distances are in kilometers .	
<u>By Foot :</u>	Hours: 9.0	Distance: 20.00 km
<u>By Car :</u>	Hours: 28.25	Distance: 549.00 km
<u>By Other Transportation:</u> (optional)	Hours: 0.0 Distance: .00 km By: Hours: 0.0 Distance: .00 km By: Hours: 0.0 Distance: .00 km By: Hours: 0.0 Distance: .00 km By:	
	Other Time and Distance	
At Feeders:	Hours: 18.5	
Nocturnal Birding:	Hours:0.0	Distance: .00 km
	Totals	
<u>Total Party :</u>	Hours: 37.25	Distance: 569.00 km

Weather		
Temperature	Minimum: -11 C°	Maximum: -7 C°
Wind Direction	East	
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 3.7	Maximum: 6.8
Snow Depth	Minimum: 3.9	Maximum: 7.8
Still Water	Frozen	
Moving Water	Partly Open	
AM and PM Conditions		
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Cloudy
AM Rain	None	
AM Snow	None	
PM Rain	None	
PM Snow	None	

Checklist				
Species	Number <i>or cw</i>	Flags	Max Number	Number of counts
American Black Duck	3		46 in 102	12
Mallard	250		622 in 102	17
Common Goldeneye	<i>cw</i>		70 in 100	15
Common Merganser	<i>cw</i>		5173 in 102	13
Ruffed Grouse	1		80 in 101	27
Common Loon	5		7 in 85	13
Bald Eagle	<i>cw</i>		2 in 99	10
	Adults:			
	Immatures:			
	Unknowns:			
Herring Gull	12		365 in 102	17
Rock Pigeon	357		1316 in 106	6
Mourning Dove	18		295 in 99	27
Downy Woodpecker	17		238 in 102	27
Hairy Woodpecker	33		235 in 100	27
Pileated Woodpecker	5		46 in 102	26
Northern Shrike	1		9 in 95	25
Gray Jay	4		80 in 100	24
Blue Jay	53		665 in 102	27
American Crow	81		311 in 102	27
Common Raven	86		373 in 109	27
Black-capped Chickadee	653		3192 in 102	27
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8		189 in 106	26
White-breasted Nuthatch	19		227 in 102	27
Brown Creeper	1		4 in 97	20

American Robin	1		29 in 99	15
European Starling	165		1381 in 95	27
Cedar Waxwing	cw		47 in 95	5
American Tree Sparrow	cw		611 in 99	25
White-throated Sparrow	1		12 in 103	16
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	5		71 in 99	16
Snow Bunting	4		370 in 97	27
Pine Grosbeak	73		1026 in 98	25
Purple Finch	cw		1039 in 95	22
American Goldfinch	77		1574 in 101	24
Evening Grosbeak	72		2219 in 95	27
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS COUNTED	2005			
TOTAL SPECIES REPORTED	33			
<p>cw = Reported count week; US = Flagged as an unusual species; HC = Flagged as an unusually high count. LC = Flagged as an unusually low count.</p>				