

A disturbing trend emerged in the 7th North American Fall Migratory Count—for the second year in succession the weather was exceptional; warm, little to no wind, and no rain. If this keeps up, the challenge will be lost. Although the day was pleasant, the lack of moisture that has been so apparent this year took a toll. 136 species were recorded, the lowest in the seven year history of this count.

Despite the low number of species, several unusual birds were discovered. Jim Wedgwood and Marten Stoffel found a Cinnamon Teal (an impressive identification for the fall) and a Lark Bunting, both firsts for our NAFMC. Another first for this count was the Red-necked Phalarope sighted by Stan Shadick's team. Frank Roy's team found two Golden Eagles. The most unusual bird was a Pine Warbler seen by Tim Haughian and Doug Smith in the city (another tough identification).

The number of birds counted 39861 was dominated by geese and gulls. The most abundant bird was the Ring-billed Gull with over 9000 identified and another 1000 "white-headed gulls" that were likely Ring-bills. Most of these were concentrated in the southwest area of the city for some reason. Large numbers of the four species of Arctic nesting geese were moving through the area.

Numbers of ducks were greatly reduced because most of the sloughs were dry. Numbers of some species such as Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead and Lesser Scaup were down over 90% from previous years' totals. No Ring-necked Ducks were seen at all. Even the number of Mallards was down 65%. In one territory (namely mine), a pond that would normally contain hundreds of ducks was on fire. The dry conditions also meant fewer shorebirds and other birds dependent on wet habitat. American Coots were also scarce except at Indi Lake. Even some grassland species such as Mountain Bluebird were hard to find. Worst of all, Common Raven numbers crashed from the previous year's record high.

Once again Yellow-rumped Warblers proved the most abundant Parulidae but their numbers were down sharply from previous years. The other common warblers in the fall, Palm and Orange-crowned, were also significantly scarcer. Late stragglers of other types brought the number of warbler species seen to 12.

The late date for this count meant that few flycatchers or swallows remained in the area. Blackbirds aside from Brewer's were also scarce. The city population of House Finches continues to increase.

Thanks to Michael Williams for organizing the count and to the 44 participants.

Robert Johanson
Statsman

7th North American Fall Bird Count (15 September 2001)

NW	NE	Riv	Brad	Blkst	Indi	City	Aves	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
A	B	C	E	F	G			9/15	9/16	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/16
51	71	37	66	74	66	88	Total Species	136	141	137	141	146	150	143
12.0	12.8	10.7	9.0	13.8	12.1	67.8	Party Hours	138	151	138	139	134	123	106
2	2	3	3	4	3	27	Participants	44	53	46	51	40	43	27
				1	1		Common Loon	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
	3		2		1	1	Pied-billed Grebe	7	31	49	64	16	31	17
			4	2			Horned Grebe	6	14	34	9	15	32	17
						1	Red-necked Grebe	1	4	2	3	19	9	8
			8	5	10		Eared Grebe	23	35	30	5	22	36	53
		2	5	7	5		Western Grebe	19	10	18	38	177	64	2
74				23	40	3	American White Pelican	140	33	38	86	24	16	20
1			6	113	6	9	Double-crested Cormorant	135	340	270	278	142	137	163
							American Bittern		1			1		
		1	3	1		1	Great Blue Heron	6	12	6	4	4	6	11
							Black-crowned Night-Heron							1
							• <i>Goose sp.</i> •		229					
154	40	15	50	167	220	70	Greater White-fronted Goose	716	2289	457	126	6815	435	1642
156	120	65	106	335	3424	162	Snow Goose	4368	3752	3261	647	13400	338	1710
71				543	212		Ross's Goose	826	2715	252	282	5		208
306	365	111	76	41	550	928	Canada Goose	2377	6370	4789	1309	3858	2889	3743
	5						Tundra Swan	5	1	1		33	5	27
	50		1000	10	1020	12	• <i>Duck sp.</i> •	2092	3211	4953	2895	2497	1070	500
							Wood Duck				2	1	3	
	10		34		20		Gadwall	64	423	847	572	739	219	201
	1		36	24	25	5	American Wigeon	91	141	316	318	177	396	222
							American Black Duck		1		1			
38	169	3	216	49	25	167	Mallard	667	1167	1726	3525	1830	1523	1429
3	22		50	19	2	7	Blue-winged Teal	103	160	312	227	149	145	137
	1						Cinnamon Teal *	1						
3	4		231	2	19	1	Northern Shoveler	260	142	189	179	212	198	112
	12		34		5		Northern Pintail	51	114	114	83	36	42	41
			3		1		Green-winged Teal	4	96	110	212	45	54	77
					9		Canvasback	9	36	101	1420	74	145	108
	1				1		Redhead	2	45	562	296	113	140	171
							Ring-necked Duck		16	73	10	15	34	29
	24	7	1	3	10	5	Lesser Scaup	50	115	182	525	541	133	238
							White-winged Scoter				1	2		
			23	19	4		Bufflehead	46	70	117	182	274	95	69
				2			Common Goldeneye	2	3		13		2	2
							Hooded Merganser			12	8			
		5					Common Merganser	5		1	1	28		1
			1				Red-breasted Merganser	1				1		
	10		5	2	4		Ruddy Duck	21	151	417	188	128	213	157
		1		1			Osprey	2	2	2	3	2		
		1					Bald Eagle	1		1	3	2	1	1
	3		6	5	6		Northern Harrier	20	28	68	14	58	42	26
	1			2			Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	8	14	6	10	13	5
							Cooper's Hawk		3	3	3	9	4	3
							Northern Goshawk		1	1		1	2	
							• <i>Buteo sp.</i> •		3			3	7	3
4	3	8	2	9	6	5	Swainson's Hawk	37	52	34	18	34	37	15
10	6	7	6	14	11	4	Red-tailed Hawk	58	55	59	33	72	122	42
							Rough-legged Hawk			3			3	1
			2				Golden Eagle	2		1				
2	1	2	1	6	1	1	American Kestrel	14	26	22	16	30	13	14
2	2	2	1	2	2	2	Merlin	13	14	29	15	17	13	11
							• <i>Large Falcon sp.</i> •				1			
	1					2	Peregrine Falcon	3	1	2		2	3	1

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A	B	C	E	F	G			9/15	9/16	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/16
	15			10		14	Gray Partridge	39	28	8		1	20	5
	1						Ruffed Grouse	1	2	3	2	4	1	4
	2						Sharp-tailed Grouse	2		18	1	35		1
1	2					1	Sora	4	6	2	1	1	2	1
	1	11	120	5	1320		American Coot	1457	1320	7624	1102	3567	7281	3200
112	218	177	10	816	124	45	Sandhill Crane	1502	1290	2037	2695	2358	1078	2488
							Whooping Crane							1
							• <i>Large Shorebird sp.</i> •		16					
							Black-bellied Plover		5	18	4	4	21	14
							American Golden Plover					15		
		2					Semipalmated Plover	2			1		7	
							Piping Plover						1	
14	7	7	15	4	23	4	Killdeer	74	45	11	117	15	20	43
							American Avocet		32	15		1	109	11
5			27	5	8	3	Greater Yellowlegs	48	52	64	68	67	54	170
	22		5		6		Lesser Yellowlegs	33	119	58	30	58	4	103
		3					Solitary Sandpiper	3		2				1
							Willet					2		6
	5		2			2	Spotted Sandpiper	9	9	1	1	10	9	6
							Hudsonian Godwit				1			
							Ruddy Turnstone							1
							Red Knot						1	
			2		21		• <i>Peep sp.</i> •	23	10		3	2	62	44
			1	2			Sanderling	3	7	10	1	2	10	106
	2				1		Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	156	6		1	1	
							Least Sandpiper		9	16	1	2		
			6	5	20		Baird's Sandpiper	31	37	8				37
					8		Pectoral Sandpiper	8	45	19	5	11	18	56
	1						Stilt Sandpiper	1	15		28	1	100	
			50				• <i>Dowitcher sp.</i> •	50	42	41	121		3027	242
							Short-billed Dowitcher				1			
							Long-billed Dowitcher			25	20		26	41
			11				Common Snipe	11	8	70	34	5	10	43
	1						Wilson's Phalarope	1	3					
				4			Red-necked Phalarope *	4						
246	350	300	7	525	8	272	Franklin's Gull	1708	6136	1321	238	150	605	126
							Little Gull						1	
				16			Bonaparte's Gull	16	161	37	10	28	60	32
66	10			500	15	611	• <i>White-headed Gull sp.</i> •	1202	1008	4586	796	3870	510	222
219	756	62	533	259	46	7468	Ring-billed Gull	9343	7986	3933	1710	921	2349	1334
4				1		7	California Gull	12	59	80	4	1	17	55
	2						Herring Gull	2	1	3			4	94
							Sabine's Gull					1	1	
						1	Common Tern	1	2		2		1	
							Forster's Tern		3		7		1	
							Black Tern					2		
56	34	9	11	40	31	331	Rock Dove	512	722	646	432	457	1599	190
1	10	3		17	13	4	Mourning Dove	48	40	53	23	32	11	56
1	2				5		Great Horned Owl	8	8	7	2	3	6	5
							Short-eared Owl		1			3		
							Common Nighthawk					1		
							Ruby-throated Hummingbird						1	
				1		2	Belted Kingfisher	3	13	6	20	14	31	10
1					1		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	16	6	4	2	31	11
							• <i>Picoides sp.</i> •							2
	1		1	2	1	1	Downy Woodpecker	6	16	9		3	3	5
1	1				1	1	Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	18	7	13	20	14
7	2	1	2	2	5	20	Northern Flicker	39	100	56	102	77	261	78

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A	B	C	E	F	G			9/15	9/16	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/16
							• <i>Empidonax sp.</i> •		19			4	12	4
					1	4	Least Flycatcher	5	10				6	1
	1					1	Eastern Phoebe	2		1	1	1	2	1
		1					Eastern Kingbird	1	4			1		
							• <i>Shrike sp.</i> •						2	
							Loggerhead Shrike		2					
							Blue-headed Vireo		1				3	
						1	Warbling Vireo	1					4	
							Philadelphia Vireo							2
						1	Red-eyed Vireo	1	1			3		3
3	1					35	Blue Jay	39	69	60	70	58	45	76
51	27	51	8	20	24	206	Black-billed Magpie	387	424	492	506	484	468	332
195	7	17	102	813	517	351	American Crow	2002	1359	2342	2887	5919	2736	1413
	1				3	1	Common Raven	5	27	9	8	15	14	7
	33		1				Horned Lark	34	4	9	121	64	50	38
							• <i>Swallow sp.</i> •						20	
							Tree Swallow			1	2	4		
							Cliff Swallow				1			
3	13	2		31	1	2	Barn Swallow	52	35	102	120	51	3	267
59	23	2	2	16	3	152	Black-capped Chickadee	257	285	261	159	163	132	155
10			1	1		99	Red-breasted Nuthatch	111	86	65	24	121	58	74
						1	White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1	1		1	4
							Brown Creeper				5	2		
	1					1	House Wren	2	6	4	6	8	13	9
	2		1			2	Marsh Wren	5	23	3		4	12	9
				3		2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	4	9	14	4	3	14
13	10	2		20			Mountain Bluebird	45	56	191	383	113	383	117
							Townsend's Solitaire				1			
							• <i>Thrush sp.</i> •		1				1	
							Veery				1			
							Gray-cheeked Thrush				1			1
							Swainson's Thrush		3	8	11	5	37	5
							Hermit Thrush		3	3	5	1	3	1
69	5	8	3	3	4	219	American Robin	311	332	549	799	360	876	278
							Varied Thrush					1		
					1	4	Gray Catbird	5	5	3	2	4	7	9
						2	Brown Thrasher	2	6	4	1		4	5
	21		16	36	14	5	European Starling	92	149	326	173	1004	337	189
	15		12	116			American Pipit	143	25	19	58	3	45	120
							Sprague's Pipit			7				
21	19	23	7	21	13	35	Cedar Waxwing	139	250	264	41	193	455	322
							• <i>Warbler sp.</i> •		10	20	5		3000	
						6	Tennessee Warbler	6	8	12	23	4	108	19
9				1		21	Orange-crowned Warbler	31	43	37	64	43	214	86
							• <i>Nashville-like Warbler sp.</i> •						46	
1							Nashville Warbler	1				4	6	3
						3	Yellow Warbler	3	29	3	2	8	25	1
							Chestnut-sided Warbler						3	
							Magnolia Warbler			1	5		15	4
							Cape May Warbler		2				3	
43	12	27	27	35	8	135	Yellow-rumped Warbler	287	1422	585	1039	1032	2168	511
							Black-throated Green Warbler							2
							Blackburnian Warbler						1	
						1	Pine Warbler *	1						
4	1			5		13	Palm Warbler	23	83	33	46	64	406	54
							Bay-breasted Warbler						5	
						6	Blackpoll Warbler	6	3	1	3	1	20	4
							Black-and-white Warbler		5	1		1	5	1

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							American Redstart			4	8	1	44	2
						1	Ovenbird	1			1		9	1
1						1	Northern Waterthrush	2	2		1	1	9	2
							Connecticut Warbler		6					
							Mourning Warbler			1	1		1	2
				1		5	Common Yellowthroat	6	11	8	13	8	32	17
						2	Wilson's Warbler	2	3		1		6	1
							Canada Warbler						1	
	5	200			70	3	<i>• Sparrow sp. •</i>	278	103	62	33	14	255	
1				2			Spotted Towhee	3	11	6	10	17	12	12
	8					2	American Tree Sparrow	10	5	36	22	7	4	1
				1	2	37	Chipping Sparrow	40	112	13	15	34	84	51
28	1					33	Clay-colored Sparrow	62	6	13	11	7	98	39
23			2	19	18	17	Vesper Sparrow	79	100	77	94	144	88	138
							Lark Sparrow					1		
	1						Lark Bunting *	1						
6	1		19	15	23	18	Savannah Sparrow	82	127	66	60	101	80	109
							Baird's Sparrow		8					
							Le Conte's Sparrow						3	7
							Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			2	2			
							Fox Sparrow			2	4	1	6	1
			5	1		31	Song Sparrow	37	35	12	15	1	68	33
						9	Lincoln's Sparrow	9	24	7	26	8	49	19
						2	Swamp Sparrow	2	2	2	16	4	3	18
23	17		1	25	5	120	White-throated Sparrow	191	218	246	549	303	165	185
						2	Harris's Sparrow	2	7	5	40	19	8	18
1			12	4	6	32	White-crowned Sparrow	55	97	27	310	196	101	99
1			2	1	1	24	Dark-eyed Junco	29	117	91	777	239	75	149
			424	30	100	4	Lapland Longspur	558	1667	1099	980	720	558	409
							Snow Bunting					2		
							Rose-breasted Grosbeak				1		2	
							<i>• Blackbird sp. •</i>			43		1013	13	
	2		4			3	Red-winged Blackbird	9	4	532	100	59	24	87
9	14	10	4	67	18	1	Western Meadowlark	123	80	101	83	123	100	69
			2	1		1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	4	6	530	23	156	45	10
							Rusty Blackbird		13	12	36	4	1	2
150	163	30	4175	100		241	Brewer's Blackbird	4859	1972	3090	6204	812	1263	1182
			1		2	3	Common Grackle	6	251	9	554	103	88	91
							Brown-headed Cowbird		41			1		30
				1		1	Purple Finch	2	1			2	1	11
						43	House Finch	43	18	21	5	15		
							Red Crossbill			1				
	1			9		6	Pine Siskin	16	276	177	172	138	46	157
22	5	25	24	39	14	65	American Goldfinch	194	227	58	180	216	102	187
							Evening Grosbeak					2		
29	5		142	58	15	434	House Sparrow	683	1005	470	753	764	852	481
2333	2714	1203	7712	5116	8160	12623	TOTAL BIRDS	39861	52803	52545	38904	58357	42098	27858

species order follows the AOU checklist, 7th edition

* new species **bf** species seen this year

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NW	NE	Riv	Brad	Blkst	Indi	City		2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
7:48	6:47	8:20	7:00	7:00	6:54		start							
19:45	16:45	19:00	16:30	19:45	20:09		end							
5.3	11.4	4.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	32.1	Car Party Hours	79	50	58	70	56	53	49
6.7	1.4	6.7	3.0	1.8	4.1	35.8	Foot Party Hours	59	101	79	68	78	62	57
							Bicycle Party Hours							7
							Train Party Hours			1				2
12.0	12.8	10.7	9.0	13.8	12.1	67.8	TOTAL Party Hours	138	151	138	139	134	123	106
152.0	155.0	189.0	122.0	241.0	188.3	198.0	Car Party km	1245	1244	1195	1076	1160	997	891
10.5	2.7	5.0	1.5	6.0	2.0	48.0	Foot Party km	76	77	114	83	98	66	89
							Bicycle Party km							16
							Train Party km			52				5
162.5	157.7	194.0	123.5	247.0	190.3	246.0	TOTAL km	1321	1321	1361	1159	1258	1084	980

Teams (Leaders)

SE sector

NW Robert Johanson, Randy Olson

NE Jim Wedgwood, Marten Stoffel

Riv Kirk Wallace, Peter Cornford, Gerard Lahey

Brad Frank Roy, John Bond, Judy Toews; Gary Bortolotti (field trip)

Blkst Stan Shadick, Candace Elchuk, Danna Schock, Karen Wiebe

Indi Michael Williams, Lucille Bradatsch, Kay Krueger

City

C Heather Wagg, John Horton, Loren Teed

N Tim Haughian, Doug Smith

NE Lorne Duczek, Vic Anton, Margaret Catto, Anna Leighton, Keith Pahl

U Mary Houston, Sharla Daviduik, Melanie Harris, Stuart Houston,
Marlene Kalanack, Rajesh Nighot, Erin Watson

SE Guy Wapple, Angela Stern, Janice Solem

S Craig Salisbury, Andy Salisbury, Lorriene Salisbury

SW Maureen DuWors, Dorothy Riemer

E Mary Gilliland; Barbara Kozmyk (feeder)

unique species

Nashville Warbler

Tundra Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse,
Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Lark Bunting

Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Semipalmated Plover,
Solitary Sandpiper, Eastern Kingbird

Red-breasted Merganser, Golden Eagle, Dowitcher, Common Snipe

Common Goldeneye, Red-necked Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull

Canvasback, Pectoral Sandpiper

Common Tern, Harris's Sparrow

Pine Warbler

White-breasted Nuthatch

Red-necked Grebe

Warbling Vireo, Swamp Sparrow

Red-eyed Vireo

Blackpoll Warbler

Ovenbird

Weather

temperature range: 8-24°C

sky: clear

rain: nil

wind: calm to light

NW	NE	Riv	Mil	Brad	Blkst	Indi	City	Animals sans feathers	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	
2							1	Beaver	3			1	2	1	3	
							1	Muskrat	1	3		2	7	7	5	
							1	Weasel			1 dead		1	1		
								Deer Mouse		1				1		
								Shrew			1					
								Vole							1	
						1	8	Least Chipmunk	9	39	17	1	11	7	17	
								Franklin's Ground Squirrel			4				2	
							2	Red Squirrel	2	2	1		9			
								Eastern Fox Squirrel			1					
8						2	8	Richardson's Ground Squirrel	18	33	6		3	19	6	
1		1					2	13-lined Ground Squirrel	4	3				2	1	
								Nuttall's Cottontail						1		
							2	White-tailed Jack Rabbit	2	1			1		4	
								Snowshoe Hare				1				
					5	3		Mule Deer	8	3	7		15	8	4	
2	5					3	5	White-tailed Deer	15	16	8	15	7	13	21	
1	1	1				2	3	1	Coyote	9	5	1		11	5	8
									Red Fox					2	1	
									Skunk			1	1 dead		1	4
						2		Raccoon	2	1						
								Bat sp.							1	
								Boreal Chorus Frog							1	1
								Wood Frog							2	
1								Leopard Frog	1							
								Canadian Toad						1		
1								Salamander	1							
1								Garter Snake	1						3	
					1	1	2	Red Admiral	4				2			
							6	Mourning Cloak	6	1	2		11	4	1	
								-- White sp. --		19			1		24	
				few	1	5	27	Cabbage White	33	801			13	5	49	
							33	Western White	35				1		1	
							3	Checkered White	3							
								Compton's Tortoiseshell					1			
						2	1	Milbert's Tortoiseshell	3	7			2	1		
						5		Variigated Fritillary	5							
						7	3	Painted Lady	10						1	
				many			10	-- Sulphur sp. --	10	6			141	129	48	
						60	19	Clouded sulphur	79	318	4		52	10	28	
						15	4	Orange Sulphur	19	1						
								-- Blue sp. --		1					1	
								-- Comma sp. --						1	2	
								Satyr Comma					1			
						3		Checkered Skipper	3							
						1		Purplish Copper	1				2		2	
								Woolly Bear Caterpillar			2	1				
								Dragonfly sp.					10	22		
								Damselflies					5			