

9th North American Fall Migratory Bird Count 2003

The fall bird Count was held on September 20 this year. Fog near the river greeted the early risers, but by mid-morning that had burned off and the rest of the day proved to be most enjoyable. At the end, 140 species were recorded, an average number for this count. The total number of birds counted, 73093, is a new high.

Most numerous was once again the Snow Goose. Large skeins were flying through the area on their southerly migration. Just over 26000 were recorded although a few may have been counted more than once as they flew over multiple sectors. Sandhill Cranes were also very abundant, especially near the river, with over 7800 counted. Canada Geese, Ring-billed Gulls, House Sparrows, and Brewer's Blackbirds each had more than 3000 sightings. Lingering effects of the drought resulted in lower than normal numbers of ducks and other birds dependent on sloughs and small lakes. As in the past two years, the reservoirs provided the only concentrations of waterfowl.

Hawks put in a better than average showing. Many teams reported seeing Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks. These woodland hawks migrate through our area at this time. Eighty-seven Red-tailed Hawks and 24 Swainson's Hawks were found along with two Ospreys and two Bald Eagles. Guy Wapple, speeding by in his train, spotted a Broad-winged Hawk, a first for this count. Merlins were abundant especially in the city.

Most shorebirds had flown through our region months ago and, with the exception of Yellowlegs, only a few stragglers were seen, curiously enough mainly by Michael Williams's team. Likewise, flycatchers, vireos, and most warblers were well to the south by count date. Only the late migrating warblers--Yellow-rumped, Tennessee, Palm and Orange-crowned—were found in any great numbers; although a smattering of others brought the number of warbler species seen to 15. Northern nesting sparrows such as the White-crowned Sparrow were numerous but local sparrows such as the Clay-Colored Sparrow were scarce indicating that many had already left the area.

In addition to the Broad-winged Hawk, other rarities included Townsend's Solitaire, Fox Sparrow, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers, and American Pipit.

The invasion of West-Nile Virus in other locales in North America has had a devastating impact on local birds. Bird counts in these areas document plummeting numbers of the species most affected, especially crows, jays, magpies and chickadees. Our fall count this year did show declines in American Crow and Blue Jay numbers of 20% and 30% respectively, but the decrease is within the fluctuations from count to count. Numbers of Black-capped Chickadees and Black-billed Magpies were actually above average. Should West-Nile become more prevalent in our area, future bird counts will allow us to monitor its effect on local bird populations.

Robert Johanson
Statsman

9th North American Fall Bird Count

20 September 2003

NW	NE	Riv	Mil	Brad	Blkst	Indi	City	Aves	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
A	B	C	D	E	F	G			9/20	9/21	9/15	9/16	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/16
77	50	33	50	63	91	82	98	Total Species	140	123	136	141	137	141	146	150	143
13.3	10.0	8.0	6.7	9.5	12.8	12.0	89.9	Party Hours	162	127	138	151	138	139	134	123	106
3	3	3	1	2	4	3	29	Participants	48	44	44	53	46	51	40	43	27
								Common Loon		1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
1	4		1	14	13	3	10	Pied-billed Grebe	46	5	7	31	49	64	16	31	17
	1			3		1		Horned Grebe	5	2	6	14	34	9	15	32	17
				2	8		1	Red-necked Grebe	11	1	1	4	2	3	19	9	8
				2	7	1		Eared Grebe	10	13	23	35	30	5	22	36	53
					30	6		Western Grebe	36	17	19	10	18	38	177	64	2
					12	4	1	American White Pelican	17	39	140	33	38	86	24	16	20
4				2	183	73	22	Double-crested Cormorant	284	481	135	340	270	278	142	137	163
								American Bittern				1			1		
1			1	2	1	2	1	Great Blue Heron	8	13	6	12	6	4	4	6	11
								Black-crowned Night-Heron									1
								Turkey Vulture		2							
								• Goose sp. •		380		229					
12	90		170	345	37	1948	33	Greater White-fronted Goose	2635	747	716	2289	457	126	6815	435	1642
1721	5340	420	595	400	1732	11905	3896	Snow Goose	26009	10988	4368	3752	3261	647	13400	338	1710
5	115				1206	400		Ross's Goose	1726	2045	826	2715	252	282	5		208
1210	109	540	101	762	150	869	1849	Canada Goose	5590	4330	2377	6370	4789	1309	3858	2889	3743
14	3						5	Tundra Swan	22	95	5	1	1		33	5	27
						744	6	• Duck sp. •	750	460	2092	3211	4953	2895	2497	1070	500
								Wood Duck						2	1	3	
13			2	6	7	23	2	Gadwall	53	194	64	423	847	572	739	219	201
			10	20	5	5	20	American Wigeon	60	219	91	141	316	318	177	396	222
								American Black Duck				1		1			
93	93		64	25	431	183	190	Mallard	1079	1409	667	1167	1726	3525	1830	1523	1429
5	8		1	13	4	23	17	Blue-winged Teal	71	91	103	160	312	227	149	145	137
								Cinnamon Teal			1						
2				32	14	27	1	Northern Shoveler	76	70	260	142	189	179	212	198	112
				2	12	11		Northern Pintail	25	48	51	114	114	83	36	42	41
4			1		7	11	4	Green-winged Teal	27	26	4	96	110	212	45	54	77
	1			8		40	1	Canvasback	50	20	9	36	101	1420	74	145	108
	23			14	1	12		Redhead	50	18	2	45	562	296	113	140	171
			1					Ring-necked Duck	1	2		16	73	10	15	34	29
	21			10	4	11		Lesser Scaup	46	94	50	115	182	525	541	133	238
								White-winged Scoter						1	2		
				51	25	30		Bufflehead	106	135	46	70	117	182	274	95	69
				1				Common Goldeneye	1	5	2	3		13		2	2
1			5		8	7		Hooded Merganser	21	20			12	8			
6							2	Common Merganser	8	6	5		1	1	28		1
								Red-breasted Merganser			1				1		
	27			31	3	75	9	Ruddy Duck	145	23	21	151	417	188	128	213	157
					2			Osprey	2	2	2	2	2	3	2		
	1					1		Bald Eagle	2	7	1		1	3	2	1	1
	10			10	14	6	2	Northern Harrier	42	41	20	28	68	14	58	42	26
1	6			1	4		1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	13	4	3	8	14	6	10	13	5
1					3	1	2	Cooper's Hawk	7	4		3	3	3	9	4	3
								Northern Goshawk				1	1		1	2	
								• Buteo sp. •				3			3	7	3
1								Broad-winged Hawk	1								
2	8	1		1		4	8	Swainson's Hawk	24	20	37	52	34	18	34	37	15
8	32	7	4	5	15	13	3	Red-tailed Hawk	87	43	58	55	59	33	72	122	42
							1	Rough-legged Hawk	1				3			3	1
								Golden Eagle			2		1				
2		3			5	8	2	American Kestrel	20	22	14	26	22	16	30	13	14
1			1	2	3	4	18	Merlin	29	13	13	14	29	15	17	13	11
								• Large Falcon sp. •						1			

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G			9/20	9/21	9/15	9/16	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/16
								Peregrine Falcon		1	3	1	2		2	3	1
	11			5	32		31	Gray Partridge	79	23	39	28	8		1	20	5
			1					Ruffed Grouse	1		1	2	3	2	4	1	4
2			1		2			Sharp-tailed Grouse	5	2	2		18	1	35		1
								Sora		1	4	6	2	1	1	2	1
2	157			349	169	1595	14	American Coot	2286	217	1457	1320	7624	1102	3567	7281	3200
106	1780	5409	6	39	324	47	112	Sandhill Crane	7823	2943	1502	1290	2037	2695	2358	1078	2488
								Whooping Crane									1
								• <i>Large Shorebird sp.</i> •				16					
								Black-bellied Plover		1		5	18	4	4	21	14
								American Golden Plover							15		
								Semipalmated Plover			2			1		7	
								Piping Plover								1	
9	25			9	2	15	18	Killdeer	78	8	74	45	11	117	15	20	43
				1				American Avocet	1	1		32	15		1	109	11
2	18		19	1	12	5	2	Greater Yellowlegs	59	40	48	52	64	68	67	54	170
			4	6	1	9	15	Lesser Yellowlegs	35	22	33	119	58	30	58	4	103
							1	Solitary Sandpiper	1		3		2				1
							3	Willet	3						2		6
2								Spotted Sandpiper	2	2	9	9	1	1	10	9	6
								Hudsonian Godwit						1			
								Ruddy Turnstone									1
								Red Knot								1	
				11	5			• <i>Peep sp.</i> •	16		23	10		3	2	62	44
								Sanderling			3	7	10	1	2	10	106
							1	Semipalmated Sandpiper	1		3	156	6		1	1	
								Least Sandpiper				9	16	1	2		
							4	Baird's Sandpiper	4		31	37	8				37
							3	Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	8	45	19	5	11	18	56
							2	Stilt Sandpiper	2		1	15		28	1	100	
				37	3	8		• <i>Dowitcher sp.</i> •	48	10	50	42	41	121		3027	242
								Short-billed Dowitcher						1			
2								Long-billed Dowitcher	2				25	20		26	41
	1		2		2		1	Wilson's Snipe	6	10	11	8	70	34	5	10	43
								Wilson's Phalarope			1	3					
						15		Red-necked Phalarope	15	3	4						
9	675			35	2	315	21	Franklin's Gull	1057	10078	1708	6136	1321	238	150	605	126
								Little Gull								1	
					13			Bonaparte's Gull	13	70	16	161	37	10	28	60	32
					1200	270	438	• <i>White-headed Gull sp.</i> •	1908	2234	1202	1008	4586	796	3870	510	222
699			450	205	42	2620		Ring-billed Gull	4016	2876	9343	7986	3933	1710	921	2349	1334
							5	California Gull	5	4	12	59	80	4	1	17	55
1	20						5	Herring Gull	26	1	2	1	3			4	94
								Sabine's Gull							1	1	
								Common Tern			1	2		2		1	
								Forster's Tern		2		3		7		1	
					4			Black Tern	4						2		
42	8			65	13	50	681	Rock Pigeon	859	765	512	722	646	432	457	1599	190
8	6	2	1	12	16	6	2	Mourning Dove	53	18	48	40	53	23	32	11	56
2		1		1				Great Horned Owl	4	1	8	8	7	2	3	6	5
								Short-eared Owl				1			3		
								Common Nighthawk							1		
								Ruby-throated Hummingbird								1	
5				1	2		5	Belted Kingfisher	13	6	3	13	6	20	14	31	10
3				1			14	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	18	1	2	16	6	4	2	31	11
								• <i>Picoides sp.</i> •									2
1					2		5	Downy Woodpecker	8	6	6	16	9		3	3	5
2	5	2	4	2		1	5	Hairy Woodpecker	21	3	4	3	18	7	13	20	14

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G			9/20	9/21	9/15	9/16	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/16
1							1	Blackpoll Warbler	2	2	6	3	1	3	1	20	4
								Black-and-white Warbler				5	1		1	5	1
1							2	American Redstart	3				4	8	1	44	2
							1	Ovenbird	1		1			1		9	1
1						1		Northern Waterthrush	2		2	2		1	1	9	2
								Connecticut Warbler				6					
						1	1	Mourning Warbler	2				1	1		1	2
				1	2		10	Common Yellowthroat	13	2	6	11	8	13	8	32	17
							4	Wilson's Warbler	4		2	3		1		6	1
								Canada Warbler								1	
	100					60		• Sparrow sp. •	160	87	278	103	62	33	14	255	
1		1	3		1	1	1	Spotted Towhee	8	2	3	11	6	10	17	12	12
								American Tree Sparrow		27	10	5	36	22	7	4	1
7		2				2	32	Chipping Sparrow	43	19	40	112	13	15	34	84	51
2				2	2	7	11	Clay-colored Sparrow	24	11	62	6	13	11	7	98	39
23	3	20	11	2	30	12	28	Vesper Sparrow	129	101	79	100	77	94	144	88	138
								Lark Sparrow								1	
								Lark Bunting			1						
5		12		10	22	14	37	Savannah Sparrow	100	30	82	127	66	60	101	80	109
								Baird's Sparrow				8					
								Le Conte's Sparrow								3	7
								Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow					2	2			
							1	Fox Sparrow	1	1			2	4	1	6	1
		13	1	2	4		15	Song Sparrow	35	4	37	35	12	15	1	68	33
		12	1		1		8	Lincoln's Sparrow	22	5	9	24	7	26	8	49	19
			1				3	Swamp Sparrow	4		2	2	2	16	4	3	18
29			12		3	17	173	White-throated Sparrow	234	157	191	218	246	549	303	165	185
2		1		1	5	2	21	Harris's Sparrow	32	5	2	7	5	40	19	8	18
5		3	3	5	23	6	109	White-crowned Sparrow	154	97	55	97	27	310	196	101	99
11	3	5	3	4	18		134	Dark-eyed Junco	178	194	29	117	91	777	239	75	149
	150		8	180	700	10		Lapland Longspur	1048	594	558	1667	1099	980	720	558	409
								Snow Bunting								2	
							1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1		2	
								• Blackbird sp. •					43		1013	13	
				14	92		6	Red-winged Blackbird	112	9	9	4	532	100	59	24	87
23	21	31		14	16	58	4	Western Meadowlark	167	39	123	80	101	83	123	100	69
				1	3	33	2	Yellow-headed Blackbird	39	30	4	6	530	23	156	45	10
			14				5	Rusty Blackbird	19	15		13	12	36	4	1	2
1	1			410	1000	1918	15	Brewer's Blackbird	3345	6107	4859	1972	3090	6204	812	1263	1182
					1		186	Common Grackle	187	156	6	251	9	554	103	88	91
								Brown-headed Cowbird				41			1		30
							5	Purple Finch	5	1	2	1			2	1	11
6						2	43	House Finch	51	34	43	18	21	5	15		
								Red Crossbill					1				
12						11		Pine Siskin	23		16	276	177	172	138	46	157
7			4	4	33	3	46	American Goldfinch	97	65	194	227	58	180	216	102	187
								Evening Grosbeak							2		
23	5	51		262	155	61	2832	House Sparrow	3389	853	683	1005	470	753	764	852	481
4688	9440	7114	1285	3750	8736	21861	16219	TOTAL BIRDS	73093	54463	39861	52803	52545	38904	58357	42098	27858

species order follows the AOU checklist, 7th edition

NW	NE	Riv	Mil	Brad	Blkst	Indi	City		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
7:15	7:15	8:30	6:25	7:30	7:15	6:52		start									
19:35	17:45	17:00	13:05	16:00	19:45	20:02		end									
4.7	7.5	6.0	2.3	8.5	11.0	6.0	14.6	Car Party Hours	61	60	79	50	58	70	56	53	49
7.7	2.5	2.0	4.3		1.8	6.0	74.2	Foot Party Hours	98	68	59	101	79	68	78	62	57
								Bicycle Party Hours									7
1.0				1.0			1.0	Train Party Hours	3				1				2
13.3	10.0	8.0	6.7	9.5	12.8	12.0	89.9	TOTAL Party Hours	162	127	138	151	138	139	134	123	106
148.0	220.0	70.4	60.7	115.0	195.0	204.4	112.3	Car Party km	1126	1242	1245	1244	1195	1076	1160	997	891
6.5	1.5	4.0	11.5		5.0	2.0	77.5	Foot Party km	108	86	76	77	114	83	98	66	89
								Bicycle Party km									16
29.0				29.0			2.0	Train Party km	60				52				5
183.5	221.5	74.4	72.2	144.0	200.0	206.4	191.8	TOTAL km	1294	1328	1321	1321	1361	1159	1258	1084	980

Teams (Leaders)

SE sector

NW Robert Johanson, Kay Krueger, Carol Maccan; Guy Wapple (train)NE Marten Stoffel, Gerard Lahey, AnonymousRiv Dave Cook, Louise Cook, Jim WoodMil Mike GollopBrad John Bond, Judy Toews; Guy Wapple (train)Blkst Stan Shadick, Carol Blenkin, Janet McVittie, Jan TedescoIndi Michael Williams, Lucille Bradatsch, Mercedes Wayman

City

C Heather Wagg, Muriel Park, Mary ToewsNW Ivor Thokle, Lorne Sperling, Ruth WelshN Tim Haughian, Kay Klassen, Melissa MaximnukNE Donna Bruce, Thelma Howard, Marlene Kalanack, Judy MolnarU Lorne Duczek, Vic Anton, Gale Diakaw, Melanie ElliotSE Hilda Noton, Kathy Exner, Hilda VothS Craig Salisbury, Rob SalisburySW Maureen DuWors, Erica Lorer, Linda Schnedar; Guy Wapple (train)E Bill MacKenzie, Audrey MacKenzie, Janice Solem, Angela Stern

unique species

Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper,
Long-billed Dowitcher*, Brown Thrasher

American Pipit

Townsend's Solitaire, Cape May Warbler

Ring-necked Duck, Ruffed Grouse

American Avocet

Common Goldeneye, Osprey, Bonaparte's Gull, Black Tern,
Eastern Kingbird, Bay-breasted WarblerWillet, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral
Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope

Loggerhead Shrike

Rough-legged Hawk, Ovenbird

Solitary Sandpiper, Least Flycatcher*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Fox Sparrow

Tree Swallow

Weather

temperature range: 1-17°C

sky: morning fog near river, otherwise mostly clear

rain: nil

wind: calm-light breeze

NW	NE	Riv	Mil	Brad	Blkst	Indi	City	Animals sans feathers	2003
							2	Beaver	2
	1					2	1	Muskrat	4
2			18				15	Least Chipmunk	35
							5	Red Squirrel	5
2						1	3+	Richardson's Ground Squirrel	6+
							9	Snowshoe Hare	9
12			9					Mule Deer	21
4	3					12		White-tailed Deer	19
1	1	4	2			5		Coyote	13
						1		Red Fox	1
							dead	Badger	dead
						1		Canadian Toad	1
	x			2			7	Mourning Cloak	9
	x	4				2	5	Cabbage White	11
						4	2	Western White	6
				6			11	-- Sulphur sp. --	17
	x	7	5			10	2	Clouded sulphur	24
						1		Gray Comma	1
						1		Purplish Copper	1