

CHIPPEWA VALLEY AUDUBON CLUB  
**Christmas Bird Count Report**  
**2002**

The Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The weather was cloudy and temperatures ranged from 32<sup>o</sup> - 39<sup>o</sup>. Winds were from the west to southwest at 5 - 12 mph, gusting to 17 mph. There was patchy snow cover, 2 inches or less. Moving water was mostly open and still water was partly open.

40 (33 in field) Chippewa Valley Audubon Club members and friends observed 54 species of birds during this 50th annual Christmas Bird Count. 61 species, one short of the all-time record, were observed last year. 12,005 individual birds were tallied, down from 13158 last year, but higher than the ten-year average of 10,788.

One new species, Ruddy Duck, was observed, bringing the 50-year total number of species to 118. Birds not normally observed on the Christmas Bird Count were Tundra Swan (3rd sighting and first since 1989), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4<sup>th</sup> sighting and first since 1984), and Northern Goshawk (7<sup>th</sup> sighting and also seen last year). Conspicuous by their absence were Ruffed Grouse, which has been seen 48 times, and Red-breasted Nuthatch, which has been seen 32 times. Most species were down in numbers, perhaps because of the warm weather and widespread availability of food with no snow cover. In particular: Ring-billed Gull, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Black-capped Chickadee and House Finch (lowest since 1990). Canada Goose, American Kestrel and Eastern Bluebird were observed in all-time record numbers. 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers were a good find, our first since 1997.

The complete list of species observed (numbers in parentheses) is: Canada Goose (5117), Mourning Dove (1185), Rock Dove (942), European Starling (897), Mallard (691), House Sparrow (586), American Crow (353), American Goldfinch (236), Blue Jay (205), Black-capped Chickadee (189), American Robin (178), American Tree Sparrow (178), Dark-eyed Junco (170), House Finch (148), Cedar Waxwing (122), Northern

Cardinal (96), Wild Turkey (87), Downy Woodpecker (81), Eastern Bluebird (70), Snow Bunting (62), White-breasted Nuthatch (61), American Kestrel (51), Tufted Titmouse (33), Red-tailed Hawk (31), Red-bellied Woodpecker (31), Common Goldeneye (27), Hairy Woodpecker (20), Common Merganser (15), Belted Kingfisher (13), Ring-necked Pheasant (12), Great Blue Heron (11), Ring-billed Gull (10), Tundra Swan (9), Pileated Woodpecker (8), Horned Lark (8), Song Sparrow (7), Northern Harrier (6), Rough-legged Hawk (6), Great Horned Owl (6), Golden-crowned Kinglet (6), Mute Swan (5), Cooper's Hawk (5), American Black Duck (4), Red-headed Woodpecker (4), Northern Flicker (4), Brown Creeper (4), Barred Owl (3), Northern Goshawk (2), American Coot (2), Eastern Screech Owl (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2), Northern Shrike (2), Ruddy Duck (1) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (1).

Field observers were: Dan and Katelynn Bettendorf, Dick Bolton, Bill and Larry Collins, Bob and Elaine Connell, Joanne Dannenhoffer, Jim and Elizabeth Dealing, Dick and Frances Dietrich, George Gibbs, John Grossa, Mick Hamas, Ron Hodgson, Ann and Hud Keenan, Adele and Gil Klickstein, Gary Kramer, Stan Lilley, Janea Little, Dixie Neier, John Mitchell, Jean Murray, Don Nagler, Chip Rucker, Everett Schafer, Jack Thorsen, John Tschetter, Julie and Brad Yocum.

Feeder watchers were: Betty Assman, Jo Jennings, Pat and Maurice John, Adele Klickstein, Bruce and Yvonne Miller. The post-Count tally was held at the home of Ron and Lydia Hodgson.

Gary Kramer earned the "Ducky" for his decision to credit a Jean Murray's dog for the team's sighting of 24 Cedar Waxwings.

Local results will be published in the National Audubon Society's *American Birds* and in the Michigan Audubon Society's *Michigan Birds and Natural History*. Bird count data is available at <http://www.birdsource.org> with count code (MIMP).

Mark your calendars. The 2003 Christmas Bird Count will be Sunday, December 14th.