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Sent: 10 January 2013 12:17
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: Saint John Christmas Bird Count results
Attachments: CBC last 7 years.xls

Hello all,

Thank you for patiently waiting. I've finally corralled all the numbers, totalled all the sums, and simmered everything down into a single spreadsheet.

Last year I went through the data for all counts I had at hand (6 years worth) and made a spreadsheet comparing those years. To that, I've added the results for 2012, and that is the attachment to this e-mail. If anyone wants the results just for this year alone, let me know.

A species total of 82 was the highest of the last 7 years. Also 19424 individuals counted eclipsed the previous high by a good margin. No doubt the relatively mild weather through early December contributed to many birds lingering in the area. We had 68 participants this year.

Every year is remarkable in it's own way. I picked out a few other things ...

This year, even with lots of open water, the variety of ducks was down. Plenty of Mallards, Black Ducks, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead. But, apart from a single Green-winged Teal and Barrow's Goldeneye, none of the less common species showed up.

A single Great Blue Heron was found, but the Snowy Egret missed the count by just a couple of days (and hasn't been seen since).

No owls, but daytime raptors were fairly well represented. The number of overwintering Turkey Vultures continue to increase: 5 counted this year. There were 2 reports of Cooper's Hawk, an adult and an immature. Also, 16 Eagles, 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Merlin, a Peregrine, and a Red-tailed Hawk.

Lots of Gulls. There was a nice find of a Little Gull and 400 Bonaparte's Gulls at Courtney Bay. The estimated 6000 (mainly) Herring Gulls at Crane Mountain landfill was a sight to behold.

After the invasion last year, only a single Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported. Relatively normal numbers of other Woodpeckers.

Passerines: We missed getting Boreal Chickadee and Gray Jay on count day again this year. But one Shrike did show up to be counted. A Carolina Wren was found (and photographed) at a feeder on count day. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Pine Warblers were at other feeders. Quite unusual were 2 Yellow-breasted Chats (one photographed). A single Yellow-rumped Warbler was found. Lots of Robins this year (56), but nowhere close to the 105 in 2006. European Starling numbers fluctuate a lot from year to year; we seem to be a little below average this year with 2042. The usual sparrows: Song, White-

throated, Tree, and Junco, in typical numbers. An unexpected Sparrow, a Lincoln's (with photo), was at a feeder in Saint John. A single Chipping Sparrow was also reported. The only Blackbird was a Grackle (3), though a Red-winged Blackbird showed up the day after the count. Just about every winter finch imaginable (Grosbeaks, Redpolls, Crossbills, Siskin, Goldfinch) were present this year. Not overwhelming numbers, but an impressive variety. Small numbers of House Sparrows are still to be found in Saint John.

I hope all the participants had a good time. I know everyone is looking forward to Saturday 28 Dec, 2013 when we can do it all over again. Mark it on your calendar.

Richard