

From: Richard Blacquiere [jblacqui@nb.sympatico.ca]

Sent: 02 January 2015 12:15

To: Richard Blacquiere

Subject: 2014 Saint John Christmas Bird Count - a long-winded wrap-up

Attachments: SJ - CBC species list 9 years.xls; _Certification_.txt; _Certification_.txt

Hello all Christmas Bird Counters,

The latest edition of the Saint John Christmas Bird Count took place on 27 Dec 2014, a day that will go down in history as clear, calm and unusually mild. (I think I predicted that over a year ago.) No snow on the ground, or ice in the rivers or streams.

We had 60 participants on the count this year. There were 35 people in the field, plus 8 more who observed both in the field and at their feeders. Another 17 people watched feeders and sent in reports. (One feeder had two observers.) That makes 24 feeders in all.

Despite the good weather, the species total of 65 this year was a little below the average of previous 8 years, 67.4 species. Number of individuals, 11680, was also below the 8 year average of 13644.25.

Below the signature line, I've written up a brief summary of my impressions of results this year, and how they compare to previous years. At the very bottom of this e-mail is a list of species with their count totals. I added this list in the body of the e-mail because I understand some e-mail recipients can't open attachments. I don't know if format will follow to its final destination. It looks perfect on my computer.

As an attachment, there is a spreadsheet covering the totals for the last 9 years, the years for which I've been compiler and have the data at hand. Interesting to compare what we found year to year.

Next year Christmas day falls on a Friday. I expect not many would want to head out on a Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, 26 Dec, the day following Christmas day. So, I'm proposing that next year, the Saint John Christmas Bird count be scheduled for Sunday, 27 Dec, 2015. Any comments on that, of other suggestions would be welcome.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

Richard

ps - it's not too late to send in any Count Period additions. I know some people are saving them till the end of count period (Jan 5). I can make adjustments if something new needs to be added or changed.

pps - please excuse any mistakes. I know there will be a few missed in proofreading. These I usually catch almost immediately after clicking 'SEND'.

Some general impressions of the Count follows....

Ducks and other water birds:

Most of the expected waterfowl this year, but generally lower numbers. Unusual by its absence was Hooded Merganser. Fewer Common and Red-breasted Mergansers this year, too. No Barrow's Goldeneye, and Common Goldeneye numbers were reduced. Lots of Bufflehead. No Scoters. The lower numbers of Black Ducks and Mallards this year probably reflects the amount of open water still available throughout the region; they haven't been forced to the coast by frozen ponds and lagoons. We usually get some rare-in-winter ducks on the count; this year the award goes to American Wigeon, a species not recorded since 2006.

Grouse:

Just 7 Ruffed Grouse this year. About average. No Spruce Grouse.

Hawks and Owls:

An early morning Snowy Owl at the container terminal on the west side was the only owl. The number of late-leaving or over-wintering Turkey Vultures continues to climb; 11 this year. The 26 Bald Eagles this year was about half of the 53 counted last year. (The ice storm last year may have concentrated the Eagles at the landfill with an amazing 45 there alone). No Harrier this year, but both Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks were observed. No Goshawk, but both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned. A single Merlin was the only definite falcon.

Hérons and Coots:

No Herons, not even a Great Blue Heron for the Count Period. But the first time in 9 years, 2 Coots on Count Day. (Coots previously made it into Count Period.)

Gulls, Shorebirds, and Alcids:

No Alcids or Shorebirds this year. Even with the open conditions, no Snipe were reported. The usual Gull species: Herring, Iceland, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed. The numbers vary widely from year to year. No surprise, most of the Herring were at the landfill. No other Gulls turned up this year.

Doves and Woodpeckers:

An average year for both groups. About average counts for both Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves (despite several comments about the lack of Mourning Doves at feeders. All 3 expected Woodpeckers (Downy, Hairy, Pileated), plus one each of Red-bellied and Flicker.

Shrikes:

Just one Northern Shrike. We seem to get at least one most years.

Corvids:

Gray Jays made it into the count with 4 this year; we don't always get this species. Fewer Blue Jays around to be counted, perhaps still in the woods enjoying natural food. The Blue Jays may come back to feeders when real winter arrives. Always lots of Crows, this year was no exception. Fewer Ravens

overall, especially noticeable at the landfill.

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens, Creepers, and Kinglets:

An average year for Black-capped Chickadees. We were fortunate to have 2 Boreal Chickadees make it on the count; we don't always get Boreal. A banner year for Nuthatches; 64 Red-breasted (highest in 9 years) and 14 White-breasted (tied for highest). A single secretive Carolina Wren allowed itself to be seen on count day. An average number of Golden-crowned, but no Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Thrushes, Mockingbird, Starling, and Waxwings:

Only 5 Robins (compared to 342 last year). No other Thrushes. We always seem to get Mockingbirds hanging on for the Count; this year no exception with 2. Only 1135 Starlings, the lowest number in 9 years. Not a single Waxwing, even in Count Period.

Warblers:

Not a single warbler. No reports for Count Period, either.

Sparrows and other finches:

The usual Sparrow species (Tree, Song, White-throated, Junco) in average numbers. None of the rarer species reported this year. Unusual in that no Longspur or Snow Bunting this year, either. After generally increasing since 2006, Cardinal numbers took a dip, down to 45 this year.

Blackbirds:

The only report of Blackbirds was of 6 Grackles coming to a feeder.

The 'winter' Finches:

A Pine Grosbeak in Count Period. Both Purple and House Finch on the count (small numbers). No Crossbills or Redpolls on Count Day, but a single Common Redpoll for Count week. A single Pine Siskin visiting a feeder, the same feeder that was hosting 16 of the 17 Evening Grosbeaks. American Goldfinch numbers were low this year, just 168; usually they are 300+ range.

Finally:

House Sparrow. Just 33 reported, one of the lowest counts ever. But I think there are many more around Saint John that go undetected on Count Day.

Species	Total	Species	Total
Canada Goose	7	Northern Shrike	1
Gadwall	3	Gray Jay	4
American Wigeon	1	Blue Jay	43

American Black Duck	359	American Crow	967
Mallard	393	Common Raven	44
Northern Pintail	6	Black-capped Chickadee	865
Green-winged Teal	12	Boreal Chickadee	2
Ring-necked Duck	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch	64
Lesser Scaup	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	14
Scaup species	25	Brown Creeper	2
Common Eider	42	Carolina Wren	1
Bufflehead	277	Golden-crowned Kinglet	17
Common Goldeneye	62	American Robin	5
Duck species	3	Northern Mockingbird	2
Common Merganser	6	European Starling	1135
Red-breasted Merganser	75	American Tree Sparrow	22
Ruffed Grouse	7	Song Sparrow	10
Common Loon	6	White-throated Sparrow	44
Horned Grebe	2	Dark-eyed Junco	91
Great Cormorant	1	Sparrow species	1
Turkey Vulture	11	Northern Cardinal	45
Bald Eagle	26	Common Grackle	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Purple Finch	2
Cooper's Hawk	2	House Finch	7
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Pine Siskin	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	American Goldfinch	168
Merlin	1	Finch species	1
American Coot	2	Evening Grosbeak	17
Ring-billed Gull	96	House Sparrow	33
Herring Gull	4710		
Iceland Gull	173	Total species	65
Great Black-backed Gull	279		
Gull species	562	Total Individuals	11680
Rock Pigeon	621		
Mourning Dove	222	Party hours by car	59.25
Snowy Owl	1	Party hours on foot	47.25
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Total Party hours	106.5
Downy Woodpecker	41		
Hairy Woodpecker	13	Km by car	642.5
Northern Flicker	1	Km on foot	76.5
Pileated Woodpecker	5	Total Km	719

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Great Cormorant	1	Sparrow species	3
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Iceland Gull	173	Total Individuals	11682
Great Black-backed Gull	279	Party hours by car	59
Gull species	562	Party hours on foot	47
Rock Pigeon	621	Total Party hours	107
Mourning Dove	222	Km by car	643
Snowy Owl	1	Km on foot	77
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Total Km	719
Downy Woodpecker	41		
Hairy Woodpecker	13		
Northern Flicker	1		
Pileated Woodpecker	5		

Count Week - Common Redpoll

Count Period - Pine Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, Fox Sparrow, Hermit Thrush

Sent to David Christie

File name: 2014 SJ-CBC Species and Effort

DM,
2022

Name	field	feeder	W4
Armstrong, Louise	E3	feeder	W4
Barnford, Mike		feeder	W4
Barlow, Rick		feeder	W5
Black, Faye		feeder	E2
Black, Heather		feeder	W5
Blacquiere, Richard	W3		
Bonnell, Suzanne	E4		
Campbell, Moira	E5n		
Clark, Paul	W6		
Cormier, Merv	E4	feeder	
Deichmann, Joanne		feeder	
Deichmann, Jocelyn	K2		
Dewar, Keith	W2		
Finn-Allen, Jeanne	C2	Feeder	
Forbes, Nancy	W3		
Gass, Cheryl	C2		
Goodwin, Brenda	K1	feeder	
Gorham, Allen	K1	feeder	
Gorham, Janet	E5n		
Graves, Charles	C1		
Haines, Holly			
Jackson, Sally			
Johnson, Lois			
Johnston, Denise			
Johnston, Doris			
Kelly, Frank	W7	feeder	
Lizotte, Betty		feeder	
Mansz, Paul	E4		
McAlpine, Don	W2		
McAlpine, Fenning	W2		
McAlpine, Lynne	W2		
McLeod, Charles	W5		
McLeod, Harvey	W5		
Nelson, Ngairu	W4	feeder	
Parkinson, Kyle	C3		
Peacock, Rick	W1		
Pearce, Joan	C1	feeder	
Patric, Susan	E1		
Potter, Paul	C1		
Putt, David	E4		
Richard, Mary	W6	feeder	
Roy, Eugene	W6		
Roy, Mary Ann	W6		
Savage, Joanne	K2		
Scarth, Carolyn	C3		
Scarth, Hank	C3		
Scott, Joe		feeder	
Smith, Dave	E1	feeder	
Smith, Jane			
Smith, Peggy	C3		
Stead, Ian	W5		
Stevens, Doug	W5		
Toole, Heather	C1		

Wallace, Jonathan
Wallace, Samantha
Wasson, Rick
Whelean, Judy
White, Wendy
Wilson, Jim
Wilson, Margie

Field observers = 35
Field & feeder observers = 8
Feeder watchers = 17

Total Participants = 60

Feeder Notes

- a) 1 observer @ 1 feeder = 15 feeders
- b) 2 observers @ 1 feeder = 1 feeders
- c) 1 field observer with 1 feeder = 8 feeders

- 1) Cormier
- 2) Dewar
- 3) Finn-Allen
- 4) Gorham
- 5) Haines
- 6) Kelly
- 7) Nelson
- 8) Pearce

d) Total Feeders : 24

Sent to David Christie
Filename: 2014 M.S.J.-C-BC participants
Dor 2022

Saint John 2014 Christmas Bird Count

Environmental conditions

- 1) **Temperature (C)** - +3 to +7
- 2) **Wind (km/h)** – W 14 to 25, gusts to 36
- 3) **Snow and Ice** – ground bare. Rivers streams and ponds open. No appreciable ice anywhere in count circle.
- 4) **Sky** – Clear in morning, becoming partly cloudy mid-day, clearing again in late afternoon.

Sent to David Christie

Filename: 2014 SJ-CBC environmental
conditions

Dlu,
2022

2014 Species List

C. Poose - 7	28. PA	* Gull sp - 562	
Gadwall - 3	26. PA	ROPI = 621	
Am Wigeon - 1		MODO = 222	
Black Duck - 359	2.001	Snowy Owl - 1	
Mallard - 393		Rb. Wood - 1	
Pintail - 6		Dow O - 41	
Gw Teal - 12	2.8 PA	HAWO - 13	
R-n Duck - 5	2.001	NO FL - 1	
Lesser Scaup - 1		PIWO - 5	
* Scaup sp - 25	PIP	N Shrike - 1	
C. Eider - 42		Gray Jay - 4 - ?	
Bullhead - 277		BLSA - 43	
C. Goldeneye - 62		AMGR - 967	
* Duck sp - 3		CORA - 44	
Com Merg - 6		BCH - 865	
R. b Merg - 75		BOCH - 2	
R. Brnse - 7		RBNV - 64	
C Loon - 6		wBNU - 14	PISI - 1
H. Grebe - 2		BRER - 2	AmGO - 168
G. Cormorant - 1		Coastal Wren - 1	* Finch sp - 1
TUVU - 11		GCKI - 17	EVGR - 17
BAEA - 26		AmRO - 5	House sp - 33
SSHA - 2		No. Mock - 2	
Coop Hawk - 2		ENST - 1135	
RTHA - 1		Tres sp - 22	
RLHA - 1		SOSP - 10	
Mallin - 1		WTSP - 44	
Am. Coot - 2		Junco - 91	
RB. Gu - 96		* Sparrow sp - 1	
HERG - 4710		Cardinal - 45	
Ice Gull - 173		COGR - 8	
G-BBG - 279		PUFI = 2	
		House Finch - 7	

LES SP.

11680 indiv

2014 Participants.

	Section	
✓ Allen Gorham ✓	K1	feeder
✓ Janet Gorham ✓	K1	
✓ Ngairi Nelson	W4	feeder.
✓ Jonathan Wallace	W4	
✓ Samantha Wallace	W4	
✓ Luis Johnson		feeder.
✓ Holly Haines	C1	feeder
✓ Joan Pearce	C1	feeder.
✓ Heather Toole	C1	
✓ Paul Potter	C1 (Rockwood PK)	
✓ Donald McAlpine	W2	
✓ Lynne McAlpine	W2	
✓ Fenning McAlpine	W2	
✓ Paul Mansz	E4	
✓ Merv Cormier	E4	feeder
✓ Suzanne Bonnell	E4	
✓ Hank Scarth	ES5	
✓ Carolyn Scarth	ES5	
✓ Richard Blacquier	W3	
✓ Nancy Forbs	W3	
✓ Paul Clark	W4	
✓ Eugene Roy	W6	
✓ Mary Ann Roy	W6	
✓ Jim Wilson	W5	
✓ Harvey McLeod.	W5	
✓ Charles McLeod.	W5	
✓ Doug Stevens	W5	
✓ Rick Wasson	W5	
✓ Ian Stead	C3	
✓ Kyle Parkinsm	C3	
✓ Judy Whelan	E2	
✓ Frank Kelly	W7	feeder.

- Sum
- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✓ Joanne Savage | K2 | feeder | |
| ✓ David Putt | K2 | | |
| ✓ Joanne Reichmann | K2 | feeder | |
| ✓ Jocelyn Reichmann | K2 | | |
| ✓ Joe Scott | K2 | feeder | |
| ✓ Susan Petrie | E1 | | |
| ✓ Jane Smith | E1 | | |
| ✓ Keith Dewar | W2 | feeder | |
| ✓ Faye Black | | feeder | |
| ✓ Heather Black | | feeder | |
| ✓ Louise Armstrong | | feeder | |
| ✓ Sally Jackson | | feeder | |
| ✓ Mary Richard | | feeder | |
| ✓ Denise Johnson | | feeder | } 2 people at
1 feeder. |
| ✓ Doris Johnson | | feeder | |
| ✓ Betty Lizotte | | feeder | |
| Energy Gass | | | |
| ✓ Jeanne Finn-Allen | C2 | feeder. | |
| ✓ Dave Smith | | feeder. | |
| ✓ Rick Barlow | | feeder. | |
| ✓ Wendy White | | feeder | |
| ✓ Charles Graves | ESN | feeder | |
| ✓ Moira Campbell | ESN | feeder | |
| ✓ Rick Peacock | W1 | feeder feeder | |
| ✓ Brenda Goodwin | | feeder | |
| ✓ Margie Wilson | | feeder. | |
| ✓ Mike Bamford | E3 | | |
| ✓ Cheryl Gass | C2 | | |
| Judy Whelan | E2 | | |
| ✓ Peggy Smith | | feeder | |
| ✓ call Peggy Smith | | | |



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Saint John Airport, New Brunswick

Past 24 Hour Conditions

°C °F [Table](#) [Gra](#)

Date / Time (AST)	Conditions	Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	Dew Point (°C)	Wind (km/h)	Pressure (kPa)	Vis (km)	Wind Chi
27 December 2014								
21:00	Mainly Clear	0	75	-4	SW 9	101.8	24	-3
20:00	Mainly Clear	-3 ↓	92	-4	SSW 3	101.8	24	-4
19:00	Mainly Clear	-2	84	-4	calm	101.7	24	*
18:00	Mainly Clear	-1	76	-4	SSW 5	101.8	24	-2
17:00	Mainly Clear	3	57	-5	WNW 10	101.7	24	*
16:00	Mainly Sunny	6	47	-5	WNW 14	101.7	24	*
15:00	Mainly Sunny	6	45	-5	WNW 20 gust 30	101.6	24	*
14:00	Mainly Sunny	7 ↑	45	-5	WNW 25 gust 36	101.6	24	*
13:00	Partly Cloudy	6	50	-4	WNW 21 gust 38	101.6	24	*
12:00	Partly Cloudy	6	51	-3	W 17 gust 33	101.7	24	*
11:00	Partly Cloudy	6	55	-3	W 25 gust 38	101.7	24	*
10:00	Mainly Sunny	5	60	-3	W 20	101.7	24	*
9:00	Mainly Sunny	3	66	-3	W 16	101.6	24	*
8:00	Mainly Clear	3	69	-3	W 14	101.6	24	*
7:00	Mostly Cloudy	3	66	-3	W 18 gust 30	101.5	24	*
6:00	Partly Cloudy	3	66	-3	WNW 22 gust 34	101.5	24	*
5:00	Cloudy	3	65	-3	W 14	101.5	24	*
4:00	Mostly Cloudy	2	70	-3	W 14	101.5	24	*
3:00	Mostly Cloudy	2	69	-3	W 14	101.5	24	*
2:00	Mostly Cloudy	2	67	-4	W 18 gust 29	101.5	24	*