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Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2016 7:30 PM

To: Richard Blacquiére

Subject: 2015 Saint John Christmas Bird Count - Results

Attachments: 2015 SJ-CBC results summary.xls; SJ - CBC species list
10 years.xls

Hello all bird counters,

I finally have the 2015 edition of the Saint John Christmas Bird Count wrapped up. As you will recall the count, scheduled for 27 Dec 2015, was delayed due to some unwelcome weather. The count went ahead the next day (28 Dec) but birding conditions were not favourable. Anyone who was in the field will remember how cold and windy it was the entire day.

It was not the best count. The weather no doubt contributed to the poor results for the day. We ended up with only 57 species. This tied the 2007 count for the lowest species total in 10 years. And it was the second lowest in number of individuals, just 7332 birds, narrowly exceeding the total of 7246 in the 2007 count.

In spite of the weather, effort was enthusiastic. There were 80 participants that day, 38 watching feeders, 29 people in the field, and another 13 contributing reports from the field and from their feeders. Party hours for field observers was also high: 57.25 by car plus another 40.5 on foot for a total of 97.75 hours outside. The count circle was well covered: 656 km by car with another 85 on foot for a total of 741 km. A special acknowledgement here for 4 observers who walked 10 km or more on that cold windy day.

Results: I've attached a summary of the 2015 count results. If anyone has trouble opening the file let me know and I'll try sending the list another way. Also attached are the results for the 10 years for which I've been compiler.

Following are some personal observations comparing the count this year to the previous 9 years for which I have data. (Apologies to math teachers reading this - when I say 'average', it's an impressionistic average, not mathematical.)

Waterfowl: Open water was abundant this year. Only small quiet ponds had skimmed over. The open

water probably contributed to the higher numbers of some species. I had to assume it was the same flock of ~ 60 Canada Geese that were seen by 3 different parties over the Saint John River heading to the Bay. A total count of 83 was one of the highest ever. Mallards in rather normal numbers of several hundred, but Black Duck numbers lower, just 200.

As usual, other puddle ducks scarce, but Pintail, Gadwall, and American Wigeon all made the count. A good winter contingent of 20 Green-wing Teal was the exception.

Diving ducks seemed to enjoy the most benefit of the open water with Ring-necked Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup all in much higher numbers than usual. Relatively normal numbers for Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead. (No Barrow's Goldeneye on the count this year.) The only seaduck recorded was Common Eider. All 3 Merganser species were seen, but notably only 2 Common Mergansers. Common Mergansers are usually much more plentiful.

Grouse: 2 Ruffed Grouse reported. Missed getting Spruce Grouse again. Except for the years with ice storms, it's never easy to find grouse.

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants: Just 2 Loons (1 Common and 1 Red-throated). No Grebes or Cormorants.

Vultures, Hawks, and Falcons: No Turkey Vulture this year. Maybe too cold for them to venture out count day? (Surprisingly, no reports during Count Period, either. Anyone?) An average number of Eagles, 36; there were 2 Harriers (not expected every year); a single Sharp-shinned Hawk. No reports of Cooper's Hawk, Goshawk, any Buteo, or any Falcon. Not a good year for Hawks.

Gulls and Alcids: The usual 4 species of Gulls (Herring, Ring-billed, Iceland, and Great-black Backed), but well below average numbers. (Not many at the landfill that day - not sure why.) No alcids.

Pigeons and Doves: Slightly lower numbers of both Rock Pigeon and Mourning Doves this year, but still plenty around.

Owls: No reports.

Woodpeckers: Woodpecker numbers fluctuate from year to year. This year both Downy and Hairy were on the low side. The 3 Pileated was a normal quantity. Surprised that neither Red-bellied Woodpecker or Flicker made the list this year. Usually a few lurking somewhere in the count circle.

Shrikes: None this year. Never common, but always hoped for.

Corvids: Gray Jay made the count - they are not always seen. Average numbers of Blue Jays, Crows and Ravens.

Lark: A single Horned Lark in the Irving Nature Park, by a very pleased observer.

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, and Kinglets: Lucky again this year to get 2 Boreal Chickadees

- they are often missed on Count Day.

Black-capped Chickadee perhaps a little below average this year, but

still

635 counted. Both Red- and White-breasted Nuthatch in slightly lower

numbers than usual. A few

Brown Creepers is normal - 3 this year. No wrens - not expected every

year. Golden-crowned Kinglets -

about average.

Thrushes, Mockingbirds, Starlings: Robin numbers have been extremely

variable over the years from a

single bird in 2009, to 342 in 2013. This year there were 6. No other

thrushes. Mockingbird was missed

this year; there is usually one somewhere in the city, but not found this

year.

Starling numbers were much lower than normal this year, well below

average.

Not sure why that should be. (Only a casual observations, but there

doesn't seem to be nearly as many

roosting under the Harbour Bridge as in past

years.)

Pipits and Waxwings: None.

Warblers: the only warbler this year, and the one I'll declare as the

"Count Day Highlight", was a Yellow-

breasted Chat. Not the first for the count, but perhaps the most

unexpected of the day. It was coming to

a feeder on the west side of Saint John.

Sparrows: Several species. 52 American Tree (average numbers), 2 Chipping

(rare, but regular now), 1

Fox (rare, regular), 9 Song (low), 9 White-throated (low), 60 Dark-eyed

Junco (a little low). Sparrows may

have been in hiding on that cold windy Count Day. The area I cover, in

places

that always produced Sparrows - nothing.

Longspurs and Buntings: Neither Lapland Longspur nor Snow Bunting seen on

Count Day. Not too late if

you have a Count Period sighting.

Cardinals: 46 Cardinals counted this year, about the same as 2014. The population explosion seems to have tapered off.

Blackbirds and Orioles: Just a single Common Grackle on Count Day.

The Finch group: Just House Finch (2), Common Redpoll (2), and American Goldfinch (327). House Finch

and Goldfinch numbers about average (very roughly). It is supposed to be a Redpoll year, but not yet in

southern NB.

No Purple Finch, Siskins, Crossbills, or Evening Grosbeaks reported.

House Sparrow: Numbers have declined over the last several years, but

House Sparrows are still to be

found in Saint John. Only 6 counted this year. I'm sure there are more in

small areas not visited on Count

Day.

Count Period Birds:

Great Blue Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Red-winged Blackbird have all been seen on previous

Count Days, but only during Count Period this year.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Not on a Saint John Christmas Bird Count in at

least the last 10 years. (Not sure if

any had been recorded in Saint John prior to that - I don't have records

before 2006.) It was visiting a

feeder on the west side.

Tufted Titmouse: A first for the count. This which has been making

advances into the northeast for the

last few years. There were a few reports of Tufted Titmouse this Fall

within the Saint John count circle. It

seemed only a matter of time till one was recorded on the Christmas Bird

Count.

Unfortunately, not on Count Day, but likely in the area, unseen. A photo

confirmed the identification.

Thanks to everyone who participated. If you see any mistakes or omissions, it's not too late to make revisions.

Richard

Saint John Christmas Bird Count

28 Dec 2015

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>
Canada Goose	83
Gadwall	4
American Wigeon	8
American Black Duck	200
Mallard	556
Northern Pintail	2
Green-winged Teal	20
Ring-necked Duck	5
Greater Scaup	206
Lesser Scaup	45
Common Eider	3
Bufflehead	120
Common Goldeneye	124
Hooded Merganser	14
Common Merganser	2
Red-breasted Merganser	40
Ring-necked Pheasant	CP
Ruffed Grouse	2
Red-throated Loon	1
Common Loon	1
Great Blue Heron	CP
Bald Eagle	36
Northern Harrier	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
<i>Hawk species</i>	1
Ring-billed Gull	83
Herring Gull	1892
Iceland Gull	35
Great Black-backed Gull	57
<i>Gull species</i>	137
Rock Pigeon	584
Mourning Dove	179
Downy Woodpecker	16
Hairy Woodpecker	15
Pileated Woodpecker	3
<i>Woodpecker Species</i>	1

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>
Gray Jay	1
Blue Jay	64
American Crow	969
Common Raven	62
Horned Lark	1
Black-capped Chickadee	635
Boreal Chickadee	2
Tufted Titmouse	CP
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown Creeper	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	CP
American Robin	6
European Starling	550
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
American Tree Sparrow	52
Chipping Sparrow	2
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	9
White-throated Sparrow	9
Dark-eyed Junco	60
<i>Sparrow species</i>	5
Northern Cardinal	46
Red-winged Blackbird	CP
Common Grackle	1
House Finch	2
Common Redpoll	2
American Goldfinch	327
House Sparrow	6

Total species 57

Total individuals 7322

Effort

Field observers = 29
 Field & feeder observers = 13
 Feeder watchers = 38

Total Participants = 80

Party hours by car = 57.25
 Party hours on foot = 40.5
Total Party hours = 97.75

Km by car = 656
 Km on foot = 85
Total Km = 741

2015

Bird Count - 28 Dec 2015

Count Period 14 Dec - 5 Jan.

Great Blue Heron

Northern Pintail

Ring-necked Pheasant

R-w Blackbird

~~Common Grackle~~

R-c Kinglet

Tufted Titmouse

1 American Tree Sparrow

Chipping Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Sparrow Species

Lapland Longspur

Snow Bunting

Northern Cardinal

Common Grackle

Pine Grosbeak

Purple Finch

House Finch

Red Crossbill

White-winged Crossbill

Common Redpoll

Hairy Woodpecker

Pink Skua

30 American Goldfinch

Finch Species

Evening Grosbeak

House Wren

Species not in this list

White-winged Dove

5 Returning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Red-brown Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Shrike

Gray Jay

13 Blue Jay

14 American Crow

1 Common Raven

Horned Lark

23 Black-crowned Nightingale

Hooded Warbler

7 Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brook Creeper

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Red-crowned Kinglet

Hermit Thrush

2 American Robin

Common Crow

Song Sparrow

Blue Jay

Common Goldfinch

Blue Jay's Goldfinch

Yellow-rumped Cuckoo

Hooded Merganser

Common Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser

Ruffed Grouse

Red-throated Loon

Common Loon

Common Loon

Horned Grebe

Red-necked Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Cormorant

Great Cormorant

Turkey Vulture

Bald Eagle

Northern Harrier

<u>Name</u>	<u>field</u>	<u>feeder</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>field</u>	<u>feeder</u>
Armstrong, Louise		feeder	Moore, Gail		feeder
Bamford, Mike	E3		Moore, Wayne		feeder
Barlow, Rick		feeder	Nelson, Ngaire	W4	feeder
Barlow, Terry		feeder	Newstead, Joyce		feeder
Benslim, Sara	E2		Newstead, Kelly		feeder
Black, Faye		feeder	Peacock, Rick	W1	
Black, Heather		feeder	Pearce, Joan	C1	feeder
Blacquiery, Richard	W3		Petrie, Susan	E1	
Bonnell, Suzanne	C1		Potter, Paul	C1	
Burrows, Roger	C3		Putt, David	E4	
Campbell, Moira	E5		Richard, Mary		feeder
Chevarie, Joe		feeder	Rooney, Ernestine		feeder
Chevarie, Thelma		feeder	Roy, Eugene	W6	
Clark, Paul	W6	feeder	Roy, Mary Ann	W6	
Clayden, Barbara	W8		Russell, James	W5	
Clayden, Stephen	W8		Savage, Joanne	K2	
Cormier, Merv	E4	feeder	Scarth, Carolyn	C2	feeder
Cosman, Deanna		feeder	Scarth, Hank	C2	feeder
Deichmann, Joanne		feeder	Scarth, Hugh	C2	
Deichmann, Mark		feeder	Scott, Joe		feeder
Dewar, Keith	W2	feeder	Shedd, Sue		feeder
Finn-Allen, Jeanne		Feeder	Sherwood, Marion		feeder
Goodwin, Winston		feeder	Smith, Lucy	E3	
Gorham, Allen	K1	feeder	Smith, Peggy		feeder
Gorham, Janet	K1	feeder	Stead, Ian	C3	
Graves, Charles	E5		Sullivan, Andrew	C1	feeder
Haines, Holly	C1	feeder	Weeks, Rosalie		feeder
Hughes, Liam	W3		Weiss, Paula		feeder
Jackson, Sally		feeder	Whelan, Judy	E2	
Johnston, Denise		feeder *	White, Wendy		feeder
Johnston, Doris		feeder *	Wilson, Margie		feeder
Jonart, Laurent	W8		Withers, Mitzy		feeder
Kelly, Frank	W7	feeder			
Kelly, Marta	W7				
Kyle, Pattie		feeder			
Kyle, Ray		feeder			
Lizotte, Betty		feeder			
MacPhail, Ann	E5				
MacPhail, Don	E5				
MacPherson, Amy		feeder			
MacPherson, David		feeder			
MacPherson, Ida		feeder			
Mansz, Pattie		feeder			
Mansz, Paul	E4	feeder			
Marsden, Anne		feeder			
McAlpine, Don	W2				
McAlpine, Lynne	W2				
McCormick, David	E4a				

Field observers = 29

Field & feeder observers = 13

Feeder watchers = 38

Total Participants = 80**Feeder Notes**

a) 1 observer @ 1 feeder = 19

b) 2 observers @ 1 feeder = 9

c) 1 field observer @ 1 feeder = 8

d) 2 field observers @ 1 feeder = 3

Total Feeders = 39

Species	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Canada Goose	83	7	1	CP	28	86	6			66
Wood Duck					2	1				1
Gadwall	4	3	1	6	9	14	5		3	14
American Wigeon	8	1								4
American Black Duck	200	359	469	799	622	577	577	886	482	970
Mallard	556	393	619	728	626	838	517	395	556	535
<i>Mallard x Black Hybrid</i>			1	4			9	3	1	3
Blue-winged Teal				CP						CP
Northern Shoveler						2				
Northern Pintail	2	6	1		1		CP	1		1
Green-winged Teal	20	12	21	1	CP	3	2	3	2	20
Canvasback					1				CP	
Redhead					1					
Ring-necked Duck	5	5	CP		1			1		CP
Tufted Duck					CP		1	1		
Greater Scaup	206		70	5	85	4	34	12	CP	4
Lesser Scaup	45	1	7		6	2	3			3
<i>Scaup species</i>		25		75		22	1	15		
Common Eider	3	42	40	7	14		41	1		12
Surf Scoter			1	1	2	11				
White-winged Scoter					2				4	
Black Scoter							2			
Bufflehead	120	277	208	276	202	160	176	166	19	72
Common Goldeneye	124	62	219	159	840	330	389	118	36	673
Barrow's Goldeneye			CP	1	7	1	3	1	2	2
<i>Duck species</i>		3	168	16	31	11	6			
Hooded Merganser	14		6	24	7	2	3	3	CP	5
Common Merganser	2	6	25	11	91	93	151	30	11	59
Red-breasted Merganser	40	75	147	92	112	79	38	36	31	147
Ring-necked Pheasant	CP									
Ruffed Grouse	2	7	12	3	4		3	4	CP	12
Spruce Grouse										CP
Northern Bobwhite										CP
Red-throated Loon	1		CP	12	9	2	1			13
Common Loon	1	6	15	12	7				2	15

Loon species										
Pied-billed Grebe									2	CP
Horned Grebe	2	3	7	1						2
Red-necked Grebe			1							2
Double-crested Cormorant		1	3	1					1	2
Great Cormorant	1		1	1			3	1	1	
Cormorant species										
Great Blue Heron	CP		1						1	CP
Snowy Egret			CP							
Turkey Vulture	11	8	5	1	2					
Bald Eagle	36	53	16	22	12			21	8	10
Northern Harrier	2	3		1				1	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	5	2	2			CP	CP	3
Cooper's Hawk	2	2	2					CP	1	1
Northern Goshawk		1						CP	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	CW	1	4	2			3	CP	CP
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1						CP		
Hawk species										
Merlin	1		2	CP				1	1	1
Peregrine Falcon		1	1	1	1			CP	1	2
Falcon species										
American Coot	2		CP							CP
Purple Sandpiper		25							CP	
Little Gull			1							
Black-headed Gull									CP	
Bonaparte's Gull			400							
Ring-billed Gull	83	96	51	137	44			242	55	64
Herring Gull	1892	4710	5208	2064	2605			2287	2801	887
Iceland Gull	35	173	792	412	86			262	93	416
Lesser Black-backed Gull										1
Glaucous Gull			5	7	1				CP	CP
Great Black-backed Gull	57	279	1303	150	353			495	191	42
Black-legged Kittiwake			CP					5		
Gull species										
Dovekie	137	562	31	150	61			152	8	4
Common Murre				CP						
		25								

Alcid Species											
Rock Pigeon	584	621	606	669	692	655	1009	582	CP	561	945
White-winged Dove								CP	CP		
Mourning Dove	179	222	181	325	274	191	133	188		144	326
Great-horned Owl								CP			2
Snowy Owl		1	CP								
Barred Owl									CP		
Short-eared Owl											
Northern Saw-whet Owl											1
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1	1	1	9			2			1
Downy Woodpecker	16	41	16	55	50	26	20	18		5	34
Hairy Woodpecker	15	13	18	33	24	26	18	17		8	24
Black-backed Woodpecker							1				
Northern Flicker		1	3	2	2						CP
Pileated Woodpecker	3	5	1	3	2		1	1		CP	6
Woodpecker species											
Northern Shrike	1	1	3	1	CP		1	3		1	1
Gray Jay	1	4		CP	3		CP	1		2	13
Blue Jay	64	43	89	75	105	53	73	82		25	97
American Crow	969	967	1411	1161	1203	718	765	1035		667	984
Common Raven	62	44	138	85	79	80	46	76		78	54
Horned Lark	1			3			6	3			
Black-capped Chickadee	635	865	540	972	999	674	630	714		487	765
Boreal Chickadee	2	2		CP	7	1					
Tufted Titmouse	CP										
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	64	14	58	33	43	7	27		9	25
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	14	2	14	3	10	3	CP		5	CP
Brown Creeper	3	2	CP	3	2	1		3			2
Carolina Wren		1	CP	1							
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	17	6	17	20	9	8	7			16
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	CP			1	1		1				
Hermit Thrush		CP	1		1						
American Robin	6	5	342	56	3	2	1	48		3	105
Thrush species											
Northern Mockingbird	550	2	1	3	1	CP	1	1			1
European Starling		1135	2572	2042	5353	3776	4262	3387		1207	2904

[illegible]

Finch species	1	22	9	40	
Evening Grosbeak	17	26		CP	72
House Sparrow	6	86	141	145	33
					60
Year	<u>2015</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
No.of species (+ hybrid)	57	65	68 (+1)	82 (+1)	77
					61
					58 (+1)
					67 (+1)
					57 (+1)
					69 (+1)
Total individuals	7322	11682	16407	19424	12337
					15458
					13501
					7246
					11272