

# 2014 Florence Christmas Bird Count

*Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator*

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The 31st Florence Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 20, under adverse weather conditions, with heavy and continual rain, winds, high surf, and flooded roads affecting the count numbers. The results paint an interesting picture of what the birds do when encountering an “atmospheric deluge.”

We found 91 species and just over 4,000 individual birds. The average for the past 30 years of the count is 128 species and more than 17,000 individuals. We counted birds for 13 hours on foot and 49 hours by car. Over the past three years, we averaged about 66 hours by foot and 33 by car.

Notable species included a Rufous Hummingbird (2nd sighting for the count). Species that are unusual for the count but were found this year include Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe, Brandt, Brown Pelican, Red Phalarope, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

For the first time in count history we missed entirely White-winged Scoter, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Bushtit, and Red-winged Blackbird. Some of the species we usually find but missed are Tundra Swan, Least Sandpiper, Wilson’s Snipe, Surfbird, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, and American Goldfinch.

Some species were low in numbers; we found 1 Rock Dove, 2 Mourning Doves, and 13 Eurasian Collared-Doves. We found 3 Ravens, 3 Pacific Wrens, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and 2 Wrentits. None of the coastal areas, including the city of Florence, reported any raptors. Raptors were found only in the interior areas. No Red-tailed Hawks or White-tailed Kites were seen. Where were all the birds hiding?