

# 2015 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

Dan Gleason, Count Compiler

The freezing, wet weather made for a rather miserable day for this year's Eugene Christmas Bird Count, but it didn't prevent most people from spending the day in the field looking for birds. The cold weather was probably responsible for the low numbers of some species reported by many people. During Count Day, 130 species were reported by the teams and Home Counters. Two additional species (Short-eared Owl and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker) were reported during Count Week for a total of 132 species and 113,678 individual birds. New for the Eugene count was a sighting of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker during Count Week.

Record high numbers were reported for 3 species: Wild Turkey, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Anna's Hummingbird. The number of Wild Turkeys and Eurasian Collared-Doves continues to increase each year. The Eurasian Collared-Doves are a species of some concern. In the Southwest, there is evidence that they have had a negative impact on White-winged Doves. Locally, I have had reports of people seeing fewer Mourning Doves in their yards as the Eurasian Collared-Doves appeared and increased.

Despite the cold weather, only nine species were recorded in much lower numbers than normal, and 26 species were found in much higher numbers than average. Shorebirds accounted for many of the species with lower numbers. The cold, freezing weather this December may have played a role in that, causing feeding areas to be less accessible to shorebirds than was the case last year.

More than 100 Home Counters contributed their observations to the count. These numbers account for the majority of Anna's Hummingbirds that were seen and brings our total to a record 221. One unusual report (with photos) was of a Harris's Sparrow that visited someone's yard.

Despite the unpleasant weather, the final numbers confirm that it was a good count with a normal number of reported species. Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's ECBC, even when confronted with cold hands and feet!