

2019 Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count

by Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 17th Cottage Grove CBC (the first occurred in 1971) took place on December 28, 2019. Twenty-five participants identified 84 species and counted 4,011 individual birds. This is a decrease of 2,570 from last year. The day started out cold and foggy. Around noon it switched to cold and partly cloudy/clear, but we were lucky and didn't get any precipitation during our count.

Again this year, it appears the feeder birds knew when they are going to be counted, so they hid. Fortunately many returned to the feeders the next day. In 2018 the Green Heron eluded us for the entire count week, but this year we spotted it at the Row River Nature Park. I'm hoping the decreased numbers are a result of visibility during half of the day and not a drop in bird populations. A notable increase in numbers occurred for Eurasian Collared-Doves: 17 in 2017, 68 in 2018, and 100 in 2019. The largest numbers occurred on the north part of our circle. An American White Pelican made its first appearance on our count list.

Six more birds were added during Count Week: Dunlin, Cooper's Hawk, White-breasted Nuthatch, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Western Screech Owl.

Thanks to fellow zone volunteer leaders: Hydie Lown, Alison Center, Bonnie Samuels, Julie Parker, Barbara Butzer, Tori Morgan, and Tony Willey. A big thank you to all participants. This couldn't happen without your efforts.