

## A Roundup of 2017 Christmas Bird Counts around Northwestern Ontario

Notes: 1 - numbers in parentheses, e.g., (3), indicate number of individuals counted for a species;

2 - (cw) = count week, i.e., species observed during the count week, not on the count day

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### **Saturday, 16 December:**

#### **Eagle River**

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bald Eagle (13)    | 6. Sharp-tailed Grouse (12) |
| 2. Raven (162)        | 7. Downy WP (28)            |
| 3. Crow (16)          | 8. Hairy WP (35)            |
| 4. Ruffed Grouse (17) | 9. Pileated WoodPecker (6)  |
| 5. Spruce Grouse (cw) |                             |

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#### **Kenora**

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Canada Goose (1)          | 14. Blue Jay (89)                |
| 2. Mallard (1)               | 15. Black-billed Magpie (3)      |
| 3. Bufflehead (1)            | 16. American Crow (24)           |
| 4. Common Goldeneye (54)     | 17. Common Raven (229)           |
| 5. Ruffed Grouse (9)         | 18. Black-capped Chickadee (222) |
| 6. Bald Eagle (5)            | 19. Red-breasted Nuthatch (16)   |
| 7. Rock Pigeon (218)         | 20. White-breasted Nuthatch (4)  |
| 8. Mourning Dove (2)         | 21. European Starling (101)      |
| 9. Downy Woodpecker (26)     | 22. Dark-eyed Junco (5)          |
| 10. Hairy Woodpecker (23)    | 23. Pine Grosbeak (144)          |
| 11. Pileated Woodpecker (13) | 24. Common Redpoll (184)         |
| 12. Northern Shrike (4)      | 25. Hoary Redpoll (2)            |
| 13. Gray Jay (44)            | 26. Evening Grosbeak (44)        |

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### **Nipigon-Red Rock**

The day started at -32C but rose to a balmy -16C. There were 23 ffffffffrigid field observers and 9 feeder watchers. Twenty-eight species were observed - exactly the same as last year- a little below the long-term average (32 species).

A **Varied Thrush** and a **Northern Cardinal** were observed for the first time on the count, bringing the cumulative number of species observed on the count to 82. Other highlights included a Great Grey Owl (seen on 6 previous counts), a Three-toed Woodpecker (6 counts) and Bohemian Waxwings (7 counts). Conspicuous by their absence were House Sparrows (seen on all but 2 previous counts) and Dark eyed Junco (on all but 3 counts). Eight species of mammals were also observed. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with the count.

The complete list follows:

#### **Birds observed:**

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Common Merganser (1) | 4. Rock Pigeon (171)     |
| 2. Ruffed Grouse (13)   | 5. Great Grey Owl (1)    |
| 3. Bald Eagle (5)       | 6. Downy Woodpecker (26) |
|                         | 7. Hairy Woodpecker (38) |

8. American Three-toed Woodpecker (1)
9. Pileated Woodpecker (5)
10. Northern Shrike (1)
11. Gray Jay (21)
12. Blue Jay (87)
13. American Crow (48)
14. Common Raven (340)
15. Black-capped Chickadee (331)
16. Boreal Chickadee (5)
17. Red-breasted Nuthatch (77)
18. Varied Thrush (1)
19. European Starling (113)
20. Bohemian Waxwing (5)
21. Northern Cardinal (1)
22. Pine Grosbeak (360)

23. White-winged Crossbill (1)
24. Common Redpoll (126)
25. Hoary redpoll (2)
26. Pine Siskin (2)
27. American Goldfinch (4)
28. Evening Grosbeak (33)

**Mammals observed:**

- Red Squirrel (45)  
Gray Squirrel (1)  
Northern Flying squirrel (3)  
White-tailed Deer (5)  
Northern River Otter (10)  
Vole (sp?) (1)  
Snowshoe Hare (7)  
Coyote (2)

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**Rainy River**

1. American Crow (13)
2. American Goldfinch (9)
3. Bald Eagle (7)
4. Black-billed Magpie (7)
5. Black-capped Chickadee (82)
6. Blue Jay (27)
7. Bohemian Waxwing (cw)
8. Common Raven (112)
9. Common Redpoll (5)
10. Downy Woodpecker (2)
11. European Starling (22)
12. Evening Grosbeak (cw)
13. Gray Jay (2)
14. Great Gray Owl (2)

15. Hairy Woodpecker (8)
  16. House Sparrow (cw)
  17. Northern Cardinal (1 female)
  18. Northern Shrike (1)
  19. Pileated Woodpecker (5)
  20. Pine Grosbeak (8)
  21. Purple Finch (3)
  22. Red-breasted Nuthatch (3)
  23. Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) (43)
  24. Ruffed Grouse (2)
  25. Sharp-tailed Grouse (5)
  26. Snow Bunting (55)
  27. White-breasted Nuthatch (7)
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**Sunday, 17 December:**

**Marathon**

With 6 field teams, and 3 feeder watchers we covered a collective 63 km by foot and 96 km by car, searching for a total of 33 hours, plus an additional 14 hrs of feeder watching by 3 people.

Together our compiled list on count day was a pretty average 26 species (avg. was 25.6 from previous counts) and 966 individuals (vs. avg. of 1076). We beefed that up to 30 species with some additional sightings during count week.

Notable results were the highest ever counts for Bufflehead (3) and Bohemian Waxwings (263), a Great Grey owl during count week (observed in only 2 previous counts; 1978 & 91), and (more common but still unusual were) a Common Grackle and Eastern Towhee that showed up at feeders during count week.

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Long-tailed Duck (1)         | 16. Boreal Chickadee (11)       |
| 2. Common Goldeneye (13)        | 17. Red-breasted Nuthatch (32)  |
| 3. Bufflehead (3)               | 18. Bohemian Waxwing (263)      |
| 4. Bald Eagle (2)               | 19. Cedar Waxwing (CW9)         |
| 5. Ruffed Grouse (4)            | 20. European Starling (26)      |
| 6. Herring Gull (71)            | 21. Northern Cardinal (1)       |
| 7. Great Gray Owl (CW1)         | 22. Eastern Towhee (CW1)        |
| 8. Downy Woodpecker (6)         | 23. White-crowned Sparrow (1)   |
| 9. Hairy Woodpecker (5)         | 24. Dark-eyed Junco (6)         |
| 10. Pileated Woodpecker (3)     | 25. Common Grackle (CW1)        |
| 11. Gray Jay (18)               | 26. Pine Grosbeak (116)         |
| 12. Blue Jay (10)               | 27. White-winged Crossbill (20) |
| 13. American Crow (6)           | 28. Common Redpoll (107)        |
| 14. Common Raven (162)          | 29. Pine Siskin (5)             |
| 15. Black-capped Chickadee (66) | 30. Evening Grosbeak (8)        |
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