

2016 Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count results

by Tom Wheeler

On December 28, 2016, 16 intrepid birders participated in the Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count. This is the ninth year that the Eaton Rapids Count has been conducted as a “national” count, with the results reported to National Audubon Society and included in the Christmas Count database.

The weather was mild and partly to mostly sunny with no precipitation. The heavy snow cover that existed for the East Lansing Count eleven days earlier was gone.

Forty-one species were tallied on the count, which exceeded the historical average of 38 species. A total of 5,837 birds were counted; the average for the count is 5,233.

Since this is a fairly new count, new high totals for a species are relatively common. Species with new high totals this year were: Wood Duck, American Kestrel, Sandhill Crane (tied), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, American Robin (tied), and White-throated Sparrow (tied).

There was one new species for the count: Ring-necked Pheasant.

Four species were seen on the Eaton Rapids Count that were not seen on the East Lansing Count: Wood Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Lark, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Eaton Rapids CBC species list

Species	Total	Range
Canada Goose	480	222-3430
Wood Duck	5	0-5
Mallard	522	106-1195
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	-----
Great Blue Heron	1	0-3
Cooper's Hawk	5	2-6
Bald Eagle	1	0-3
Red-tailed Hawk	17	4-33
Buteo species	1	-----
Sandhill Crane	2	0-2
Rock Pigeon	380	126-485
Mourning Dove	162	36-343
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	0-7
Great Horned Owl	1	0-3
Belted Kingfisher	1	0-3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	39	4-39
Downy Woodpecker	49	13-53
Hairy Woodpecker	10	1-10
Northern Flicker	8	2-11
Pileated Woodpecker	8	0-8
American Kestrel	9	4-9
Blue Jay	76	11-105
American Crow	2239	492-3127
Horned Lark	2	0-25
Black-capped Chickadee	241	36-241
Tufted Titmouse	92	17-92
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	0-7
White-breasted Nuthatch	73	15-73
Brown Creeper	6	0-9
Carolina Wren	6	0-6
Eastern Bluebird	29	9-47
American Robin	4	0-4
European Starling	573	242-1028
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	0-3
American Tree Sparrow	56	3-179
Dark-eyed Junco	92	12-322
White-throated Sparrow	1	0-1
Song Sparrow	3	0-7
Northern Cardinal	92	27-166
House Finch	78	15-97
American Goldfinch	183	63-202
House Sparrow	300	92-439