

## THE 2017 EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2017 East Lansing Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 16, 2017. There were 52 participants, the most since 2005. They had to contend with temperatures in the mid-20s and several inches of snow on the ground, including some that had freshly fallen.

58 species were tallied, which is right at the ten year average for this count (58.5), but below the average of the last five years (61). 22,663 birds were counted, which was well above the five and ten year averages for the count (17,934/18659). That was the highest total for this count since 2005.

There were no species discovered which were new for this count. However, a Northern Bobwhite that was ticked by Bruce Mortimer in his yard was the first of that species seen since 1991. There were no new high counts for any species, although there were a few ties of previous high counts. (See the attached species list.) The 7004 American Crows counted was the second highest total for that species. That number was achieved largely by Clara Bratton and her diligent crew carefully counting the birds departing the west Lansing roost. On the other end of the spectrum, the count for Mallards was the lowest since at least 1981.

The top ten species were: 1) American Crow 2) Canada Goose 3) European Starling 4) Rock Pigeon 5) House Sparrow 6) Mallard 7) Black-capped Chickadee 8) American Goldfinch 9) Dark-eyed Junco 10) Blue Jay.

A big thanks to Sam and Liz Febba for hosting the compilation dinner.

The count for next year will be held **Saturday December 15, 2018.**

## 2017 EAST LANSING CBC SPECIES LIST

6442d	Canada Goose (4179/3522)	386u	Blue Jay (217/238)
2s	Wood Duck (1/irreg)	7004u	American Crow (5021/4176)
3d	American Black Duck (3/5)	46u	Horned Lark (8/18)
646d	Mallard (1389/1160)	575d	Black-capped Chickadee (480/546)
6u	Hooded Merganser (32/17)	86d	Tufted Titmouse (74/86)
4u <b>T</b>	Red-breasted Merganser (irreg/irreg)	5d	Red-breasted Nuthatch (11/13)
7u	Common Merganser (5/4)	190u	White-breasted Nuthatch (144/140)
1u	Northern Bobwhite (-----/-----)	15u	Brown Creeper (13/17)
99d	Wild Turkey (77/98)	1s	Winter Wren (1/1)
1u	Pied-billed Grebe( irreg/irreg)	7s	Carolina Wren (9/8)
2d	Great Blue Heron (2/2)	1d	Golden-crowned Kinglet (9/6)
2d	Sharp-shinned Hawk (2/2)	82d	Eastern Bluebird (49/47)
15u	Cooper's Hawk (9/11)	2d	American Robin (76/59 )
1s	Accipiter Species	2748u	European Starling (1578/1925)
2u	Northern Harrier (irreg/irreg)	302u	Cedar Waxwing (200/366)
2d	Bald Eagle (2/1)	7u	Lapland Longspur (irreg/irreg)
35d	Red-tailed Hawk (26/29)	73u	Snow Bunting (21/142)
4u <b>T</b>	Rough-legged Hawk (irreg/irreg)	3u	Yellow-rumped Warbler (ireg/irreg)
3u	Buteo species	172d	American Tree Sparrow (185/178)
719d	Rock Pigeon (627/681)	451u	Dark-eyed Junco (418/392)
324d	Mourning Dove (240/287)	3d	White-throated Sparrow (15/13)
13u	Ring-billed Gull (237/119)	8s	Song Sparrow (10/8)
1u	Gull species	338d	Northern Cardinal (333/387)
1d	Eastern Screech Owl (4/3)	1u	Red-winged Blackbird (irreg/irreg)
1u	Barred Owl (irreg/irreg)	14u	Purple Finch (irreg/4)
3u	Owl species	233	House Finch (215/229)
3d	Belted Kingfisher (2/3)	525u	American Goldfinch (376/430)
110u	Red-bellied Woodpecker (76/71)	704d	House Sparrow (725/861)
151u	Downy Woodpecker (130/133)		
31d	Hairy Woodpecker (17/21)		
29d	Northern Flicker (16/16)		
10u <b>T</b>	Pileated Woodpecker (6/4)		
3s	American Kestrel (3/4)		
3u <b>T</b>	Peregrine Falcon (1/2)		

( **KEY:** The number in front of the species name is the 2017 total. **R**=record total. **T**=tied old record. **u**=up from 2016. **d**=down from 2016. **s**=same as 2016. **Irreg**=not seen in at least 3 of the last 5 years or 6 of the last 10 years. ----- = not seen in the five or ten year period. . Following the species name is the average for the species for the preceding 5 and 10 years.

**SEEN IN 2017 BUT NOT IN 2016:** Red-breasted Merganser; Northern Bobwhite; Pied-billed Grebe; Northern Harrier; Ring-billed gull; Barred Owl; Horned Lark; Lapland Longspur; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Purple Finch; Red-winged Blackbird

**SEEN IN 2016 BUT NOT IN 2017:** Ring-necked Duck; Ruddy Duck; Great Horned Owl; Northern Shrike; Hermit Thrush; Gray Catbird; Ovenbird; Fox Sparrow; Pine Siskin; Common Grackle.