

## THE 2017 EATON RAPIDS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 30, 2017. It was the tenth year that the count was conducted as a “national” count, which means that the results are reported to the National Audubon Society and included in the Christmas count data base. The weather was less than ideal. Temperatures hovered between 10 and 14 degrees and, while it did not seriously snow during the time that the count was being conducted, there were several inches of snow on the ground and the roads were slippery.

Only 2593 birds were seen, which is less than half of the average for this count (5233). Nevertheless, the 40 species seen was slightly above the count average of 38.

Two species new to this count were seen: Common Merganser and Brown-headed Cowbird. Two other species had new highs for the count: Horned Lark and American Tree Sparrow.

Thanks to the truly intrepid birders who participated. Next year’s count will likely be **December 29, 2018.**

## 2017 EATON RAPIDS CBC SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose—497	Blue Jay—46
Mallard—89	American Crow—369
Common Goldeneye—9	Horned Lark—46
Common Merganser—1	Black-capped Chickadee—100
Ring-necked Pheasant—1	Tufted Titmouse—28
Wild Turkey—97	Red-breasted Nuthatch—3
Great Blue Heron—1	White-breasted Nuthatch—30
Northern Harrier—1	Brown Creeper—3
Cooper's Hawk—3	Carolina Wren—3
Red-tailed Hawk—8	Eastern Bluebird—10
Rough-legged Hawk—2	European Starling—101
Rock Pigeon—116	Cedar Waxwing—4
Mourning Dove—82	American Tree Sparrow—242
Eastern Screech-Owl—3	Dark-eyed Junco—193
Great Horned Owl—1	Song Sparrow—1
Red-bellied Woodpecker—11	Northern Cardinal—88
Downy Woodpecker—36	Brown-headed Cowbird—17
Hairy Woodpecker—3	House Finch—92
Northern Flicker—1	American Goldfinch—152
American Kestrel—1	House Sparrow--102