

Bruneau scored top count honors with 96 species, with two other counts—Nampa (93), and Lewiston-Clarkston (91)—also breaking 90 species. As always much credit goes to count compilers and participants for efforts vitally important to furthering the understanding of population trends and winter phenomena, and for aiding in the conservation of Idaho's birds. Following is a review of count highlights (and low-lights) in roughly taxonomic order.

Red-necked Grebes appear to have almost entirely disappeared as a wintering species in Idaho with only seven reported, whereas the count as recently as five years ago was 140. The reasons for the decline are unknown and worth investigating. American Kestrel numbers fluctuate but have generally increased over the past 10 years recording a new high (840) this year. Rare gulls were scarce (perhaps partly due to landfill access issues) with only count week Mew and Thayer's gulls and Glaucous-winged Gull (2) on two Treasure Valley Counts. Idaho benefited from the widespread Snowy Owl irruption with individuals present on two counts, Nampa (2) and Lewiston-Clarkston (1), the former enjoyed by many southern Idaho birders. Eurasian Collared-Doves increased, as they have done every year since appearing in the state, by 37 percent to 3259; only three were recorded in 2004–2005 and the count exceeded 1000 (1523) for the first time just three years ago.

Red-breasted Nuthatches (556) were found in near record numbers despite little evidence of an irruption from lower elevation counts. Townsend's Solitaires (137) were similarly in near record numbers bolstered by high tallies from three eastern Idaho counts (Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and Teton Valley). A well-documented **Wilson's Warbler**, only the second ever for an Idaho count, was a big surprise at Bonner's Ferry up near the Canadian border. Nampa reported an impressive 15 Orange-crowned Warblers, surely the winter hotspot for this species in Idaho. Idaho

had its best irruption of Common Redpolls (**950**) since 2001, as well as one of the better irruptions of Pine Siskins (803) in recent years. Lesser Goldfinch populations have increased markedly in Boise and the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley, resulting in a record count of **335** with small numbers of prospecting birds on four other counts. Indian Mountain in the panhandle reported two **Rusty Blackbirds** in an area providing a number of previous winter records. Thanks and good birding!

WYOMING/UTAH

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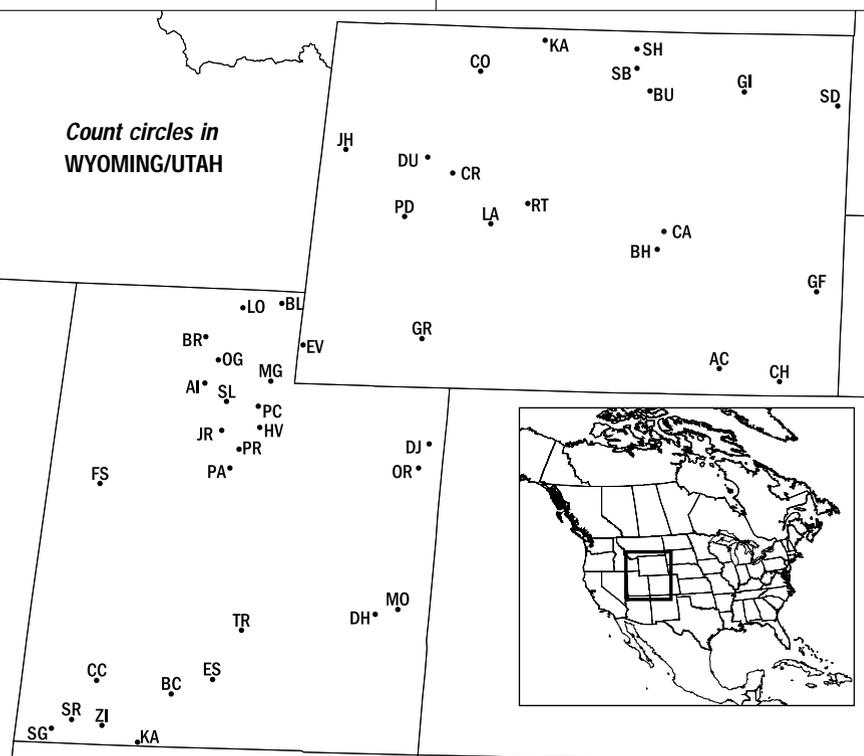
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For the 112th Christmas Bird Count, 19 count circles were reviewed for Wyoming and 25 count circles for Utah. One new count was established in Park City, Utah (UTPC). The region experienced a mild winter; however, a couple of cold fronts froze much of the open water just prior to the count period.

Again this season, Utah had very low counts of Bohemian Waxwings, with only 12 on three counts. Wyoming's Bohemian Waxwing count was down by 34 percent from CBC-111, with 1329

observed on five counts. The Red-tailed Hawk is the most abundant raptor in both Wyoming and Utah. Looking at the last 10 count years, the Red-tailed Hawk in Wyoming was at its lowest on CBC-103 (49 on 12 count circles) and steadily increased to a high of 164 on 18 count circles on CBC-109. This year, 129 were reported on 13 counts, slightly higher than the 10-year average of 108 individuals. In Utah, no trend in Red-tailed Hawks was apparent; however, there was a high of 806 reported (on 23 counts) on CBC-110. This year, 566 were counted on 22 circles, which is higher than the 10-year average of 528. Birding in northern Utah during the period just before the CBC-112 count period, I had the impression this was going to be a "good" year for Rough-legged Hawks; however, the Utah count of 116 on 16 counts was very close to the 10-year average of 113 individuals. One Winter Wren was reported during the count week in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I'm unsure if eastern Wyoming is in the Pacific Wren range or the Winter Wren range. I would appreciate hearing from someone who has studied the wintering ranges after the split between Winter Wren and Pacific Wren. Documentation of any winter sightings of both Winter



and Pacific wrens in both Wyoming and Utah would be very helpful.

In Wyoming, 115 species (same number as CBC-111) were reported with an average of 43 species per count circle. Last year I mentioned the continuous eight-year rise in Wild Turkey numbers with CBC-111 recording 1593 individuals. This year the trend was broken with only 954 Wild Turkeys reported on seven counts. American Tree Sparrow numbers were down to 287 on 14 count circles for CBC-112. This may be a result of the birds being more dispersed during the mild winter. The American Tree Sparrow high count was 1535 on CBC-106, and the 10-year average was 758 per count year. Four Lesser Goldfinches were observed on the WYGR (Green River) circle this year. This species was first reported in Wyoming on CBC-108. Wilson's Snipe numbers, at 23 on 10 count circles, were below the nine-year average (since name change) of 35 individuals.

"Out of range or season" birds reported included a Brown Thrasher on WYGR (Green River); an American Pipit on WYEV (Evanston); a Northern Saw-whet Owl on WYBH (Bates Hole); one Peregrine Falcon on each of three circles [this was a new species for WYDU (Dubois) and WYBH (Bates Hole), but a repeat for WYKA (Kane)]; a Marsh Wren on WYCR (Crowheart); two Yellow-headed Blackbirds on WYKA (Kane); and a flock of 691 Sandhill Cranes on WYRT (Riverton).

In Utah, 185 species (five more than CBC-111) were reported with an average of 66 species per count circle. Three counts exceeded 100 species, which matches CBC-110; however, last year (CBC-111) no count tally exceeded 100 species. The biggest news this year was the number of White-faced Ibis remaining in Utah for the CBC period; 51 were observed on seven counts. Another late migrant was Western Grebe, where 29 were reported on six count circles. A close match for this news was the Snowy Owl on UTBL (Bear Lake) and a White-tailed Kite on

UTSG (St. George). The White-tailed Kite remained in the St. George area for most of the winter, offering many birders a rare "state bird" for their checklists. Wood Duck numbers remained high, with 120 reported on seven circles, but the highest count was on CBC-109 when 200 were observed on 11 circles. As with Wyoming, American Tree Sparrows were down, to 113 on 10 count circles compared to the 10-year average of 184 per count year. Wilson's Snipe numbers reached a high with 96 reported on 15 circles—the nine-year average was 62 individuals per count year. Lesser Goldfinch numbers were high with 637 counted on 12 count circles, compared to a 10-year average of 480 individuals. Red-naped sapsucker numbers were up with 50 counted on 10 circles. The average for the last 10 years was 29 individuals per count year. In contrast, Wyoming has only one reported Red-naped Sapsucker during the last 10 years (CBC-104).

"Out of range or season" birds reported included a White-winged Scoter and a Least Sandpiper on UTAI (Antelope Island); one Osprey on UTOR (Ouray); nine Greater Scaup on UTSR (Silver Reef); one Common Loon each on UTHV (Heber Valley) and UTPC (Park City); a Costa's Hummingbird and a Sage Thrasher on UTSG (St. George); a Hermit Thrush was new to the UTLO (Logan) count, although 13 were reported statewide; a Spotted Sandpiper on UTMO (Moab); three Lark Buntings on UTSG (St. George); two Snowy Egrets on UTKA (Kanab); a Say's Phoebe and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on UTPR (Provo); nine Western Kingbirds on UTKA (Kanab); and a Golden-crowned Sparrow on UTBC (Bryce Canyon).

COLORADO

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Two new Colorado CBCs were started this year: the Flagler CBC on the eastern



Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Longmont, Colorado.
Photo/Shelley Dahme

plains, in the east central part of the state, and the Pagosa Springs CBC, in the southwestern part of the state in Archuleta County.

The weather was cold early, so numerous bodies of water were frozen or partly frozen, which made the totals of species and numbers of birds in Colorado lower than last CBC season.

With the two new counts, Coloradans participated in 47 Christmas Bird Counts this season. The total of 666,568 birds counted was lower than the 781,067 birds that were counted last year. The total species was a little lower this year, with 199 species and 205 last year. The Pueblo Reservoir count found the most count day species again with (128), followed by Penrose (117), Boulder (112), John Martin Reservoir (106), Denver (101), Grand Junction (100), and Loveland (100). John Martin Reservoir once again counted the most birds with 65,853, up from 59,283 last year.

Here are the highlights: **Brant** were found at Denver (*hrota*) and Rocky Ford (*nigricans*); Trumpeter Swan at Delta and Loveland; Tundra Swans at Loveland, Montrose, and Rocky Ford; Surf and White-winged scoters at Pueblo Reservoir, and a White-winged Scoter also at Denver; and Long-tailed Duck at Colorado Springs, Denver Urban, and Rawhide Energy Station. Pacific Loon and Common Loons were at Pueblo Reservoir, and Denver also had a Common Loon; a Red-necked Grebe was at Barr Lake; the only American White Pelican was at Rocky Ford during count week; the only shorebirds of note were Spotted Sandpiper at



Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*),
Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado.
Photo/Brandon K. Percival

Grand Junction and Pueblo and much rarer Least Sandpiper at Hotchkiss. Nine species of gulls were found, the only Bonaparte's at Pueblo Reservoir, the only Mew Gull at Loveland; eight Thayer's Gulls; 10 Lesser Black-backed; two Glaucous; and two Great Black-backed Gulls were found. A Band-tailed Pigeon was at Colorado Springs; only two counts missed Eurasian Collared-Doves; and 97 White-winged Doves were found. **Three Snowy Owls** were found! Barr Lake, Crook, and Sterling all found one each. After a big sapsucker showing last year, only 10 sapsuckers were found—a Williamson's at Boulder, seven Yellow-bellied, and two unknown sapsuckers. In recent years Black Phoebes are to be expected along the Arkansas River in eastern Colorado in

winter from Penrose to Pueblo, and this year both Penrose and Pueblo Reservoir found them, though finally the West Slope got into the action with two Black Phoebes at Grand Junction!

Interesting wrens were a Carolina at Bonny Reservoir and the only Winter Wrens at Boulder and Longmont, along with a Winter/Pacific Wren at Penrose. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were only found at Grand Junction and Pueblo Reservoir. A **Varied Thrush** made a surprise appearance at the Great Sands Dunes N.P. The only Brown Thrashers were at Boulder and John Martin Reservoir. Bohemian Waxwings didn't make much of a show, with only North Park reporting 200. The only interesting warbler was a Common Yellowthroat at Pueblo Reservoir. Rare **Eastern Towhees** were at Bonny Reservoir and Longmont. A well-photographed Chipping Sparrow was found at Loveland. Both Bonny Reservoir and John Martin Reservoir found Field Sparrows. A Vesper Sparrow was a surprise at Crook, as well as Lark Bunting at Fountain Creek. Savannah Sparrows were found at Bonny Reservoir, John Martin Reservoir, and Rocky Ford. A much unexpected **Grasshopper Sparrow** was photographed from Fountain Creek, during count week. Of the more

uncommon sparrows, there were 11 Lincoln's, 13 Swamp, eight White-throated, and 41 Harris's sparrows. **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were found at Boulder and Denver. A McCown's and a Chestnut-collared Longspur were found on the new Flagler CBC, and both Fountain Creek and John Martin Reservoir also found Chestnut-collared. John Martin Reservoir also found the only Snow Bunting. Good numbers of Northern Cardinals were found at Bonny Reservoir and Crook, singles were at Flagler and Penrose, and both John Martin Reservoir and Pueblo Reservoir had them during count week. Totally unexpected were **Indigo Buntings** at Crook and John Martin Reservoir. Twelve Yellow-headed Blackbirds and 10 Rusty Blackbirds were found. The only documented **Purple Finch** was at Bonny Reservoir. Four counts found Common Redpoll; 35 at Granby was a very nice total!

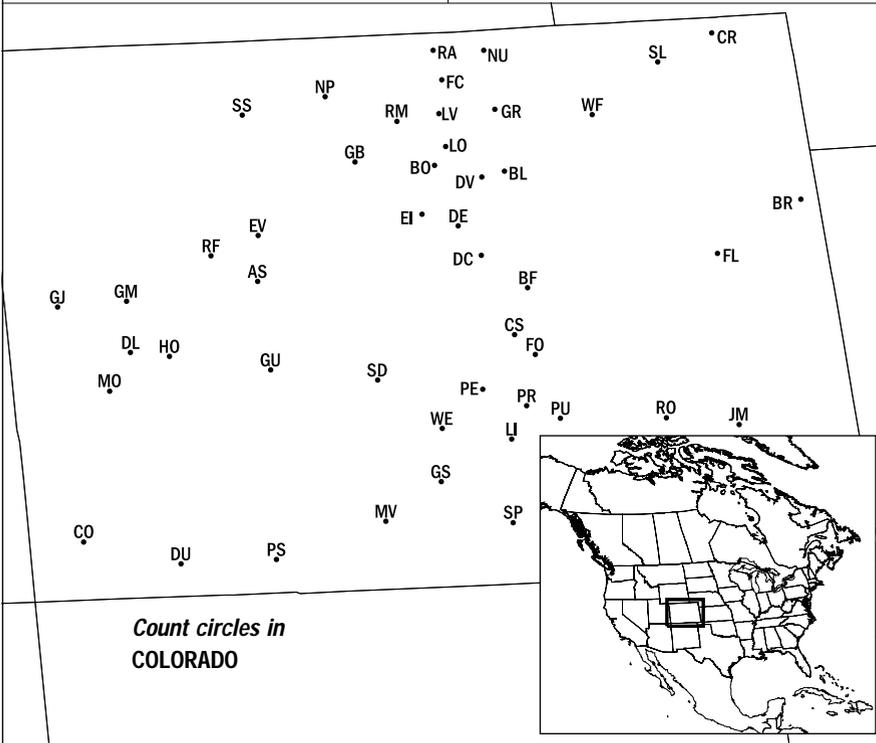
Observers reported several interested hybrids this year. Mostly hybrid geese and ducks were found, and a White-crowned x Harris's Sparrow hybrid was photographed at Pueblo Reservoir.

Several compilers mentioned the higher number of American Robins. In all 22,646 were counted in Colorado, the totals the last six years have been from 12,000 to 17,000.

It is always hard to find the Colorado chickens in the winter, so it was nice that Rocky Mountain N.P. found six White-tailed Ptarmigan; North Park found five Greater Sage-Grouse; four Dusky Grouse were found at Rocky Mountain N.P.; and Steamboat Springs found two Sharp-tailed Grouse. No counts found Greater Prairie-Chicken or Gunnison Sage-Grouse this year.

Of the owl sightings, six Barns, 58 Western Screech, 38 Eastern Screech, 268 Great Horned, nine Northern Pygmy, 14 Long-eared, five Short-eared, and six Northern Saw-whet owls were counted—all thanks to some dedicated nighttime efforts.

I want to thanks the compilers and observers for sending in photos and documentation of their interesting birds



found on Colorado CBCs this year; it helps me a lot in reviewing the counts. I also want to thank Doug Faulkner, Tony Leukering, and Chris Wood for helping review some of the photos submitted.

NEW MEXICO

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Of the 32 circles we surveyed last year, all but one returned. The Gila River circle is in transition; we hope to see them back next winter. The total species count this season was 224, well below last year's 238 and the all-time high of 244 set during the 106th count. The La Luz-Otero County Ovenbird is new to the all-time state CBC checklist, bringing the total to 332 species.

For the fifth straight year, the most speciose circle was Caballo with 128 species. Other contenders: Albuquerque with 119, Las Cruces with 117, Lakes Avalon-Brantley with 105, Bosque del Apache with an uncharacteristically low 104, and the new Ladder Ranch circle with 102. The total number of individuals statewide was about 446,000,

slightly less than last year's 480,000 and short of the all-time high of about 500,000 for the 99th count year. The Bosque refuge contributed over a quarter of these (148,456), with good numbers in Roswell (70,000), Las Cruces (47,000), and Farmington (35,000).

Among species that lingered in the north, Cinnamon Teal were in the Las Vegas circle, with high numbers also in Las Cruces and Lakes Avalon-Brantley. Normally gone from the state in winter, a Band-tailed Pigeon was photographed in the Sandia Mountains. An immature Red-headed Woodpecker stayed at a home in the Las Vegas circle. Albuquerque recorded its second Common Yellowthroat in 57 years. Turning to southerly lingerers, the Silver City count, celebrating its 50th year, reported its third Hutton's Vireo.

Winter Wrens put in appearances in Albuquerque, Bosque del Apache, and Ladder Ranch. The Five Points and Silver City circles listed Lark Sparrows. We have clear photos of Common Grackles in the La Luz circle in south central New Mexico, rarely documented away from the southeast corner of the state in winter.

Species that seem to be doing well include Wood Duck, reported from Albuquerque, Espanola, and Las Vegas. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were up in the Lakes Avalon-Brantley circle.

Continuing their recent trend, Eurasian Collared-Dove numbers were flagged as high in eight circles around the state; the Chaco circle remains the only modern count in the state that has not recorded this species. White-winged Doves were new to the Las Vegas circle, and appeared for only the fourth time in Clayton, also in its 50th year; that species remains unrecorded in only five of the more northerly circles. Black Phoebes were new in Cimarron and Santa Fe. Phainopepla numbers were up in the Bosque, Caballo, and Roswell circles.

Low or missing records included Roswell's fifth miss of Black-crowned Night-Heron in 65 years; American Coot numbers low in Clayton, Las Vegas,

Roswell, and Silver City; Loggerhead Shrikes low in Las Cruces and Sevilleta and missed altogether in Albuquerque. The La Luz circle had no Steller's Jays for the first time in its 31 years. Western Scrub-Jay numbers were also ominous: missed in Espanola for the second time in 68 years, and in Sevilleta for the first time in 24 years. No clear patterns of invasive or irruptive species emerged from the data; Pine Siskin numbers were low in the Cimarron, Caballo, and Farmington circles.

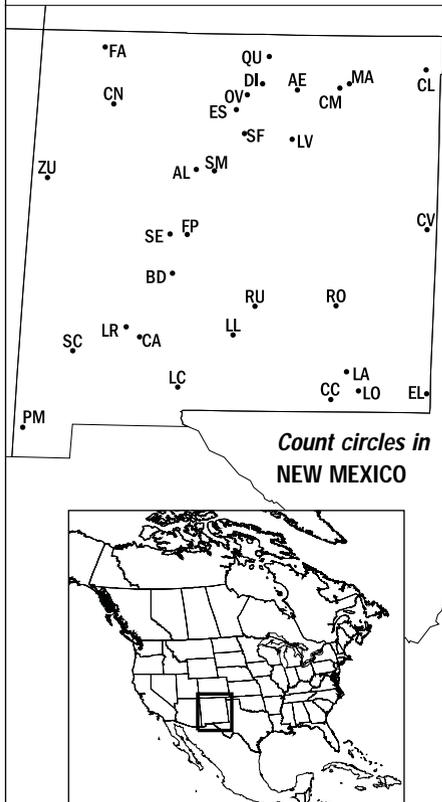
Finally, there were a few rarities of note. A count week "Black" Brant appeared in the Clovis circle. Las Cruces provided a clear photo of an immature Glaucous Gull. One of our new compilers, the energetic young field ornithologist Raymond van Buskirk, photographed a hybrid Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker in the Sandia Mountains circle. Blue Jays were documented in La Luz (second in 31 years), Las Cruces (fourth in 37 years), and Santa Fe after eight years without them. A Pacific Wren was documented by voice in the Sandia Mountains. Warbler records included a Chestnut-sided in the Ladder Ranch circle, a Pine Warbler at Rattlesnake Springs in the Carlsbad Caverns circle, and La Luz's stellar Ovenbird. Clayton had a Le Conte's Sparrow. Rusty Blackbirds were new to Albuquerque and Roswell, and seen for the fourth time in the Caballo circle. Silver City's Lawrence's Goldfinches were their third record.

Thanks as always to our many counters and compilers, who are doing a great job of keeping up with nomenclatural issues (all our snipe are Wilson's now, not Common) and splits like Pacific/Winter Wren.

NEVADA/ARIZONA

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Thanks to all of the compilers for working through the new data entry process this year with the few bugs and



delays at the start—next year will be smoother. For the 112th Christmas Bird Count season 15 counts were taken in Nevada. There were several comments on the weather this year and for the most part it was dry. There was not enough snow to bring the mountain species down to lower elevation where most of the counts are located. But in some cases it was cold enough to freeze lakes and ponds to hurt the waterbird totals. The warm winter did help in getting some species to linger later than usual and farther north than usual. Pyramid Lake was not able to get a boat out on the lake this year, and Snake Valley had a problem with large farm machinery constantly disrupting the birds from a stock tank on private property so they could be identified and counted. All of the counts were clean and done in timely fashion, and with documentation for all rare species.

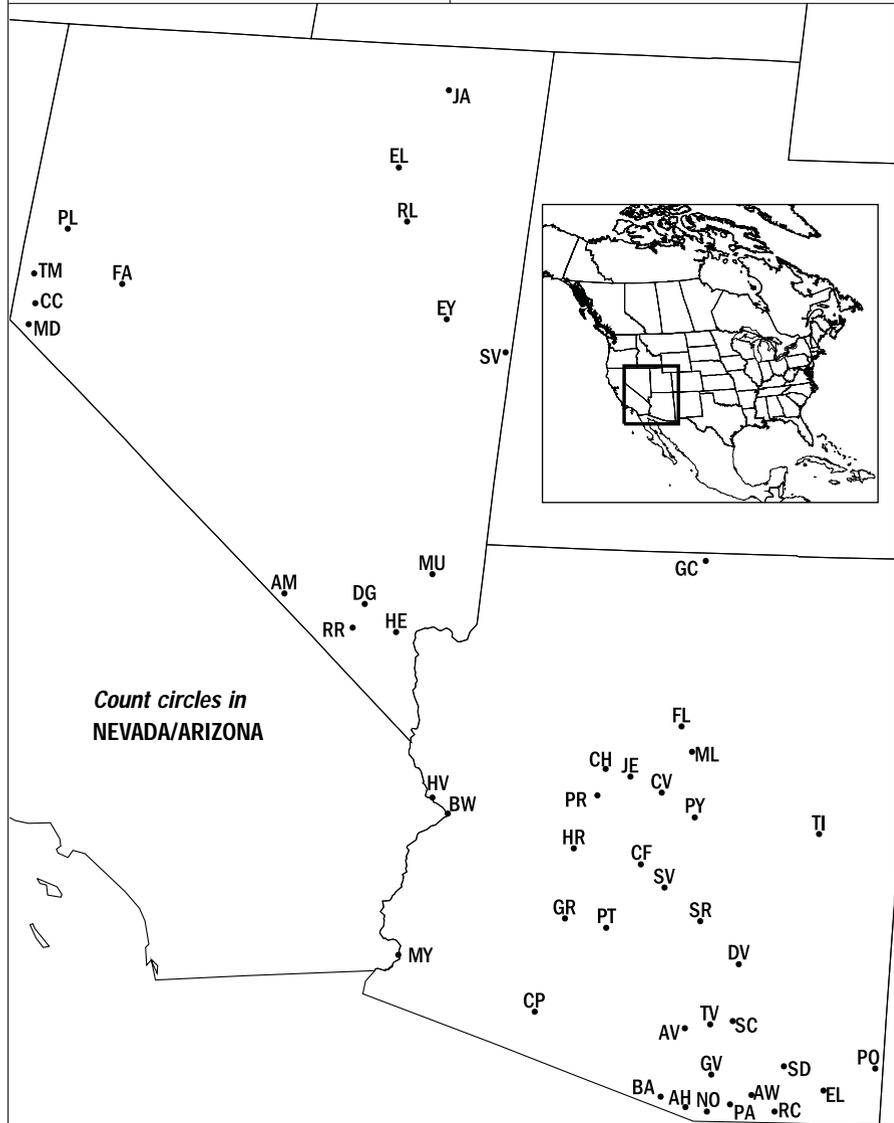
As usual, Truckee Meadows led the state in number of species seen, with 103, and was the only count breaking 100 species. Close behind was Carson City with 96, Henderson was at 95, Mindon at 88, Fallon at 86, and Muddy River at 82. These counts plus the other nine counts had some interesting birds found. The only Trumpeter Swans were the dozen on Ruby Lake. While a Eurasian Wigeon was not new for Truckee Meadows, the fact that it was a female was a good find. There was a Long-tailed Duck at Henderson as well as two Pacific Loons, and Carson City had two Barrow's Goldeneye. The only American White Pelican was at Pyramid Lake, and a Least Bittern was at Henderson. Two lingering Turkey Vultures were at Muddy River. Shorebirds included a Lesser Yellowlegs at Fallon and two Sanderlings at Pyramid Lake. Perhaps due to the warmer winter, a Common Poor-will was at Muddy River and two Cassin's Kingbirds were found in Henderson. A Winter Wren was far north at Jarbidge and a House Wren was counted at Muddy River. A Northern Mockingbird was unusual at Snake Valley in winter; it

was living off of dog food there. Late warblers included a bright male Northern Parula at Desert Game and both MacGillivray's and Wilson's warblers at Mindon. One of the most unexpected species was a Lazuli Bunting that was photographed at Jarbidge. Those are just some of the 178 or so species found the year.

Thirty-three counts were held in Arizona. For the most part the weather was good for counting; Flagstaff reported that it was 40 degrees warmer this year over last. But the overall effect was that fewer birds were forced into town for food and shelter and their totals were lower. Several counts reported that the leaves were still on the trees and few concentrations of birds were noted. A few other problems were

discovered. At Ramsey Canyon, which usually leads the state in total species, this year the effects of the Monument Fire were still obvious, and they were down a few species because the habitat was destroyed in the canyons. Mormon Lake had to deal with locked gates and did not have access to all of the areas in the circle. And Havasu N.W.R. was not able to take a boat out on the lake, and while the species total was not affected, the total number of individuals was decreased.

Two counts had 150 or more species, with Phoenix-Tres Rios leading the state at 156. They noted that habitat restoration along the river bed has made what were hard-to-get species much easier, and they have not lost agricultural fields for houses at the rate they did in the past



due to the slow economy. Patagonia came in second at 150 species. Gila River was right behind at 149 species, Green Valley-Madera Canyon at 147, Nogales 146, Ramsey Canyon at 145, and Tucson Valley at 142. Fourteen other counts had 100 species or more and eight counts were in the nineties.

There were many highlights of unusual species on the 33 counts this year. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks seem to be on the decline in the state, and Phoenix-Tres Rios was the only count to find them. They also had the only reported Cackling Goose. Swans are hard to come by here, but Camp Verde and Prescott had Tundra Swans. Eurasian Wigeon reports have been down in their usual Phoenix area, but this year they were on two counts in more northern locations, with two at Camp Verde and one in Flagstaff. A Surf Scoter was at a more expected location of the Bill Williams Delta, but two White-winged Scoters were unexpected in Prescott. The only Long-tailed Duck was at Glen Canyon where they also had 28 Barrow's Goldeneye, while Bill Williams had a high count of 17 more. This was a big year for Horned Grebes with 30 counted on nine different counts. Several were away from the Colorado River where they might be expected. The Atascosa Highlands had 14 Least Grebes, and the Gila River had all of the other species with Clark's, Western, Eared, Horned, Pied-billed, and even Red-necked grebe. Glen Canyon also had a Red-necked Grebe. Neotropic Cormorants are still moving west with two seen at the Bill Williams Delta.

Red-shouldered Hawks were at two locations. One was at the more expected Hassayampa River and the other at Salt-Verde Rivers. The only unusual shorebird was a Solitary Sandpiper in Tucson Valley. Gulls are always good in the desert, and this year there was a Bonaparte's Gull at Nogales and two Mew Gulls were seen, one in Glen Canyon and one at Bill Williams. Ruddy Ground-Doves seem to be on a down cycle with only two reported, one

each at Patagonia and Ramsey Canyon. Hummingbirds of all types are being seen at feeders in winter. There was a Violet-crowned in Tucson, a Broad-tailed at Ramsey Canyon, and four Black-chinned Hummingbirds reported on four different counts with no documentation. I think a photo at a feeder would not be that impossible to get. Four Eastern Phoebes were counted, but the real star was the Nutting's Flycatcher at Bill Williams. The coverage on the Colorado River this year has been excellent and has paid off with many unusual species. The only Tropical Kingbird was at Phoenix-Tres Rios, and the only Northern Shrike was at Mormon Lake. An American Crow was out of place at the Salt and Verde River. The mild winter might have led to the many swallows counted, including three counts that had Violet-green Swallows. Winter Wren reports were down this year with only two counts reporting them, while four counts had Pacific Wrens. Three Rufous-backed Robins were noted, and there were two Brown Thrashers found.

Eastern Warblers are often a highlight on a count and two Rufous-capped Warblers and an Ovenbird were at Green Valley-Madera, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Tucson Valley, a lingering Lucy's was at Havasu, a Louisiana Waterthrush was at Patagonia, and statewide 20 Black-and-white Warblers were tallied. Tanagers were in good supply with 19 Hepatics, three Summers, and one Western Tanager reported. Unusual Sparrows included a Harris's Sparrow in Chino Valley and a Golden-crowned in Portal. Other good birds were a Black-headed and Blue grosbeak, and a Hooded Oriole at Atascosa Highlands. Thanks to all participants for their help.

WASHINGTON/OREGON

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The 112th CBC was a very good weather year. Temperatures were average

to above average, and the intense winter storms that often impact counts came and went before the count period started. As a result, many counts recorded species numbers well above average and several counts posted new records. Twenty of 40 Washington counts and 16 of 42 Oregon counts managed to break the 100-species mark.

It was an invasion year for Snowy Owls. Thirty-three were reported in Washington (plus two for count week) with most reports clustered around northwest part of the state. Leading the pack was Grays Harbor, WA, with 13 Snowy Owls. Bellingham, WA, and Skagit Bay, WA, tied with five owls each. Only two Snowies were reported in Oregon. A bird in Burns, OR, spent the winter, and a bird in Coos Bay, OR, stayed just long enough to make the count week list. The high Snowy Owl numbers attracted many sight-seers and plenty of controversy as birders worried over the stress caused by some observers and photographers as they attempted to get up-close views. The discussion went viral on the internet when video was posted on YouTube showing photographers off-trail flushing an owl as they continued to move in on the bird.

A King Eider was at Grays Harbor, WA, for a third year. A well-photographed Emperor Goose was also seen at Grays Harbor. Brown Pelicans numbers were lower than the trend over the past several years with small numbers evenly distributed along the coast. The only out of place Brown Pelican report was of two reported about 60 miles inland along the Columbia River for Cowlitz-Columbia, WA.

A Mountain Plover spent the season at Corvallis, OR, where it was seen by many observers. A golden-plover (mostly probably Pacific Golden-plover from the description) was seen at Sequim-Dungeness, WA. A White-faced Ibis overwintered at Summer Lake, OR.

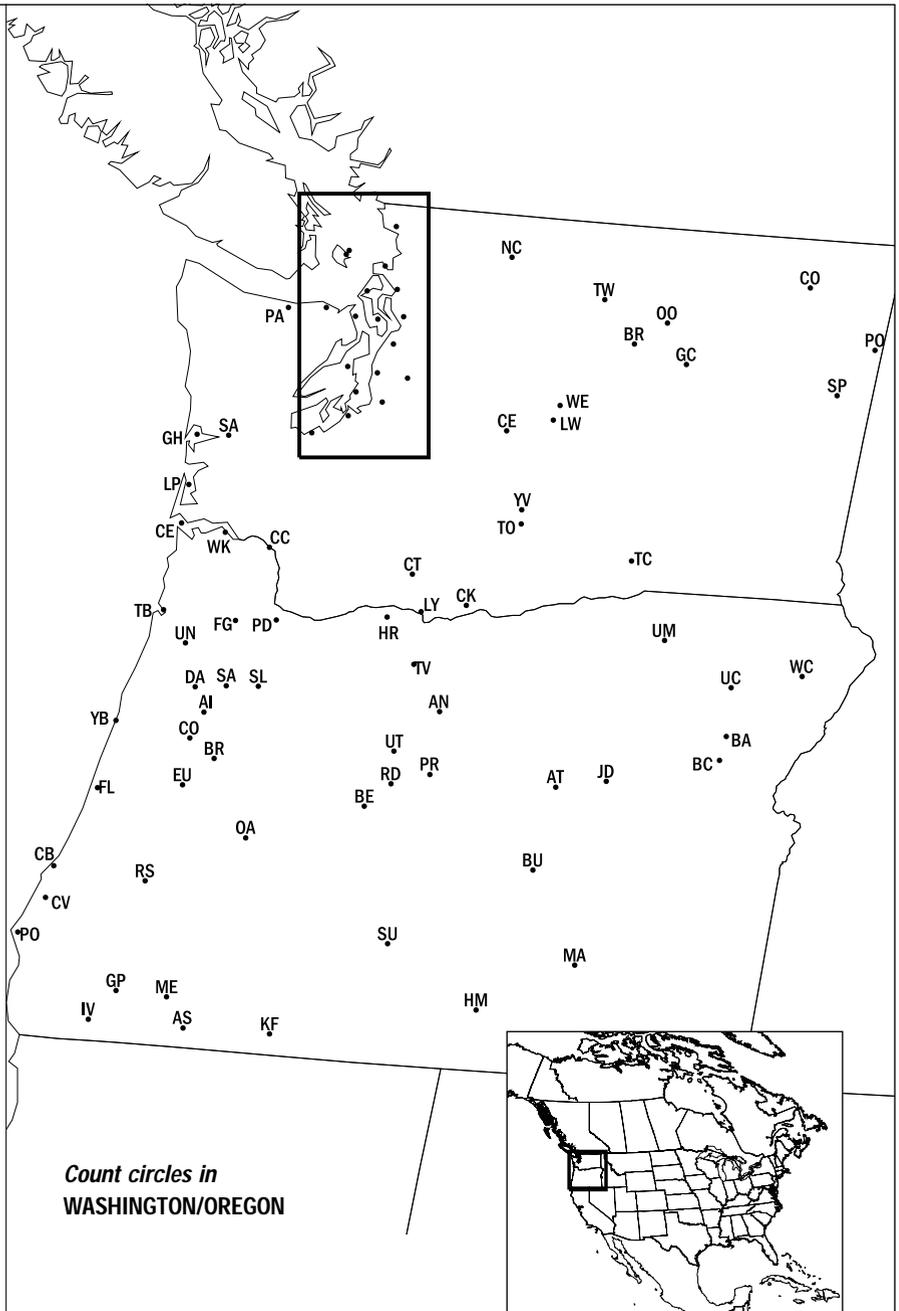
A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported from Coquille Valley, OR, and a Yellow-bellied/Red-naped

Sapsucker was seen at Olympia, WA. A well-documented Least Flycatcher spent the winter behind a local High School inside the Tillamook Bay, OR, count circle. A late Tropical Kingbird was seen by many observers at Yaquina Bay, OR. A Cassin's Vireo was reported from Kent-Auburn, WA, though the description did not completely eliminate other vireo species. A rare west-of-the-Cascades Blue Jay spent the winter in Corvallis, OR.

Only a few out of season warblers species were reported this year, most notably a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Coos Bay, OR, and a Wilson's Warbler at Skagit Bay, WA. A wintering Dickcissel was reported from Port Orford, OR. Observers were able to pick out and get photos of a Hoary Redpoll consorting with Common Redpolls at Padilla Bay, WA.

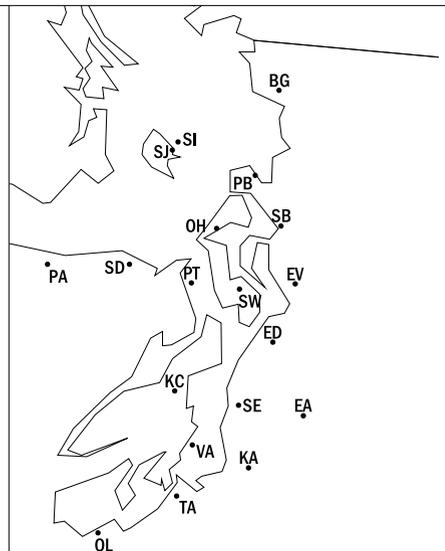
Coos Bay, OR, returned after taking last season off, posting the highest count this year with 162 species. Coquille Valley, OR, ran up a total of 152 with Sequim-Dungeness, WA, right behind at 151. East of the Cascades, Klamath Falls, OR, produced the highest count with 110 species. Tri-Cities, WA, was second was in second place with 103 species and Lyle, WA, was third reporting 98 species.

I changed entries where compilers continue to enter Winter Wren rather than Pacific Wren. I changed Common Snipe to Wilson's Snipe for one count. There are still several compilers who are (presumably) counting Cackling Geese as "small-form Canada Goose." The only record I removed was a "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow from the Sequim-Dungeness, WA, count. The description that accompanied the report fit one of the larger "Sooty" Fox Sparrow subspecies (possibly *unalaschensis* or *ridge-wayi*) more closely than any likely "Slate-colored." This may seem trivial given that dropping a subspecific category did not change the total species count (it was still a Fox Sparrow), but with talk of a possible future split in the



Fox Sparrow complex, claims of "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow should be treated like any other out of range report.

Corrigenda: In the summary for last season I stated that the Costa's Hummingbird reported from Lyle, WA, was submitted without details. In fact, photos had been submitted and, more embarrassingly, I had seen the photos and sent comments back to the sender. The report was filed in the wrong computer folder where it got confused with prior reports. The bird was unequivocally a Costa's Hummingbird and well documented.



CALIFORNIA

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The 112th Christmas Bird Count season had compilers from California complete data on 127 counts. Nearly all of the counts reported splendid weather with only nine counts posting light morning rain. Temperatures ranged from 11 degrees at Lake Almanor to 81 degrees at Rancho Santa Fe. The mild weather was cited by many compilers for the record participation many of them enjoyed. This year 5787 observers counted birds in 2242 parties and logged nearly 7400 miles on foot! Santa Barbara had the most observers with 214. Congratulations to the San Diego CBC for recording 216 species this season, the most of any count. Welcome Tall Trees and Cheep Thrills as two new counts this year. Birds that are on the California Bird Record Committee review list will be noted as such and a final decision will come from that committee. Following are some of the California CBC highlights.

There were 106 Eurasian Wigeon on 38 different counts plus one during count week, which is slightly less than the average recorded over the past decade. A Eurasian Green-winged Teal was on the Crystal Springs CBC and another was seen on the Coastal Orange

County count. Three Tufted Ducks were well documented with either photographs, a sketch, or written details, with individuals at Angwin and Point Reyes Peninsula, as well as a count week bird on the Oakland CBC. A total of 24 Long-tailed Ducks were found on 11 counts including one as far south as Ventura. Single Barrow's Goldeneye were as far south as the Kern River Valley and the Salton Sea (south) counts.

A Red-throated Loon was inland on the Contra Costa CBC. The only inland Pacific Loons were two on the Redding CBC and another individual on the Contra Costa count. Of the 15 CBCs reporting Red-necked Grebes, East Alameda County and Santa Clarita were inland.

A Masked Booby (review species) was photographed on the San Juan Capistrano CBC. San Diego and Rancho Santa Fe had five and one Little Blue Herons, respectively. Long Beach-El Dorado, Orange County Coastal, and San Diego CBCs each reported a Reddish Egret. The San Diego CBC had four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (review species) and the Thousand Oaks count reported six. The Wood Stork present in Escondido since 1986 was found dead in October.

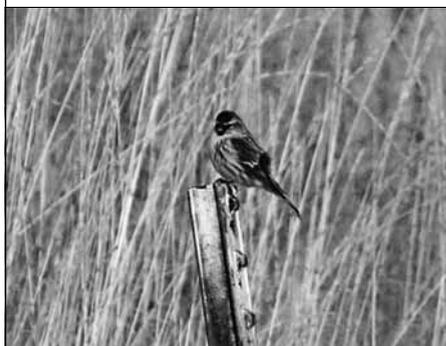
Eight CBCs, more than in any year prior, reported 10 Swainson's Hawks. Single Zone-tailed Hawks were seen on the Escondido and the Orange County (northeastern) counts. Six Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks were reported on five CBCs; however, details were in short supply, and given the rarity of this bird in California one would expect some comment from compilers. A Crested Caracara photographed on the Thousand Oaks CBC is under review by the California Bird Records Committee.

An American x Black Oystercatcher was photographed on the Ventura CBC. A Stilt Sandpiper was well documented on the San Jose CBC and was the only such species found anywhere other than the south end of the Salton Sea. Ruffs were all well documented on the Palo

Alto, Rio Cosumnes, and Sonoma Valley CBCs. The only Wilson's Phalarope was a well-documented and photographed individual on the San Jose count. A nicely documented Red-necked Phalarope was on the Oakland CBC.

The 52 Laughing Gulls seen on the Salton Sea South CBC was the second highest count ever for this count circle and the only place that species was recorded this year. A Little Gull (review species) was photographed during count week in Santa Barbara. There were four Lesser Blacked-backed Gulls (review species) this CBC season with individuals found on the Clear Lake, San Jose, San Jacinto Lake, and Salton Sea (south) counts. A Western Gull was found dead well inland on the San Jacinto Lake CBC. Two Elegant Terns were well described on the Morro Bay count, and a lone Xantus's Murrelet was well documented on the Santa Barbara CBC.

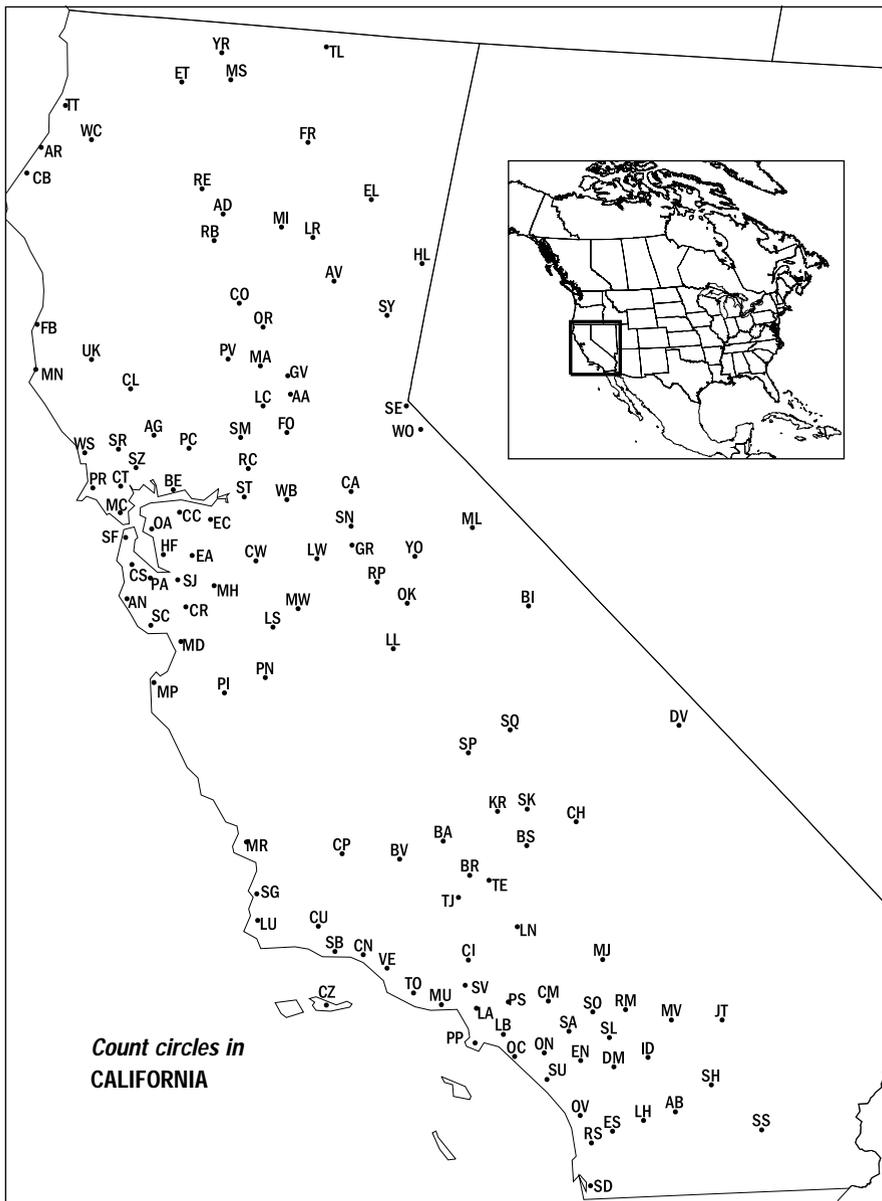
Spotted Doves have all but disappeared from southern California with only one individual reported, that on the Bakersfield CBC. Eight Common Ground-Doves were reported in the San Joaquin Valley section of the Bear Valley Springs CBC. Barred Owls occurred on the Tall Trees CBC (2) as well as the Ft. Bragg count (1). Four different CBCs, plus one count week, reported five individual Common Poorwills. The only Chaetura swifts reported were two birds on the Southern Marin CBC and left unidentified to species. A Red-naped x Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was excellently described on the Palos Verdes Peninsula



Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*), Fall River Mills, California. Photo/Bob Yutzy



Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), Fall River Mills, California. Photo/Bob Yutzy



CBC and a White-headed Woodpecker wandered east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains on to the Bishop count.

The only Least Flycatcher reported this year was a count week bird photographed in Long Beach. Six Hammond's Flycatchers were well documented (three were photographed) including two in Bakersfield and singles in Malibu, Oakland, San Bernardino Valley, and one much farther to the north in Wallace-Bellota. Twenty-four Gray Flycatchers were tallied, all in our most southeastern count circles. Three Dusky Flycatchers were reported but just one was sufficiently documented, a photographed bird on the Orange County (coastal) count. Fourteen Western Flycatchers (presumed Pacific-slope)

were seen on 11 counts with all being in the southern third of the state except for single birds in Calero-Morgan Hill, Point Reyes, and Santa Cruz. Eight Eastern Phoebes on seven counts is more than is usually encountered of this species. Among these were photographed birds from coastal Orange County, Santa Barbara, San Jose, San Jacinto Lake, and Salton Sea (north). Thirty-nine Vermilion Flycatchers on 18 southern California counts is an all-time high and marks only the second time that 30 or more have been recorded. Three Dusky-capped Flycatchers (review species) on as many counts were reported. Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad benefitted from a stakeout bird, San Francisco provided photographs, and

the third was a bird present in Santa Cruz County. Three Ash-throated Flycatchers, all from southern area counts, were well documented. Five Tropical Kingbirds were seen on five counts, single birds were particularly far north in San Francisco and Arcata. Southern California circles reporting this bird were Santa Barbara, San Diego and Pasadena. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (photographed) was a stakeout bird on the Palos-Verde Peninsula count.

Northern Shrike was recorded in eight count circles, all in the northern third of our state. Nine Plumbeous Vireos on five counts, plus two count week birds is close to the average for this species. Twenty Cassin's Vireos is more than double the average. Thirteen counts reported this species, including these counts from the northern end of our state: Arcata, Centerville Beach to King Salmon, Marysville, Moss Landing, and Mariposa. A Warbling Vireo, exceedingly rare in winter, was photographed on the Los Angeles count. Four northern California counts tallied an impressive 109 Gray Jays, far more than the average number recorded.

Fifty-five Northern Rough-winged Swallow were reported on 12 counts, which is close to the average over the last 10 years. Barn Swallows, however, were reported in far fewer numbers (just 33 statewide) as compared to a 10-year average of just over 300.

A Swainson's Thrush photographed on the San Diego count is a remarkable find. Nineteen Sage Thrashers on seven counts is almost double what has been recorded in the past decade, most notable was one fairly far north in Bishop. Seven Sprague's Pipits, all on the southern Salton Sea count, is more than typically reported from here.

Twenty-four Warbler species were recorded during this count season. Many species were reported in numbers exceeding averages of the past decade. Six Tennessee Warblers on as many counts is far more than usually reported during winter, and excellent documentation was provided from the Orange

County (coastal), Oceanside-Vista, and Santa Barbara counts accounting for three of these six reports. Thirty-seven Nashville Warblers is more than the 10-year average of 24. One Lucy's Warbler from Santa Cruz went undocumented and should likely be disregarded. Three Northern Parula, one each in Long Beach, Pasadena-San Gabriel, and San Diego, were all photographed. Fifty-four Yellow Warblers is well above the 10-year average of 35. A stakeout Chestnut-sided Warbler was found count day on the Pasadena-San Gabriel count. A well-described Cape-May Warbler (review species) was seen (and sketched) on the Point Reyes Peninsula count. A total of just over 100 Black-throated Gray warblers on 39 counts is well above the 10-year average of 63. Remarkably, 20 of these counts were from Northern California where the species is even less expected. Two Grace's Warblers (review species), one photographed in San Diego and a stakeout bird in Santa Barbara, were reported. Another review species, Pine Warbler, was found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula count. Twenty-three Palm Warblers, which closely matches the 10-year average, were seen on 11 counts. Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers and eight American Redstarts are both slightly more than their respective 10-year averages. Six Northern Waterthrushes on as many counts is slightly above the 10-year average of four. Three MacGillivray's Warblers is exceptional and included singles from the Orange County (coastal), Point Reyes Peninsula, and Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley counts. A fourth report of this exceedingly rare winter species went undocumented. An adult male Hooded Warbler was photographed for the Orange County (northeastern) count, and a second, female plumaged Hooded Warbler was seen during the count week period on the Claremont count. Eighty-five Wilson's Warblers is substantially more than the 20-year average of about 50. Three Painted Redstarts were recorded, two in San Diego and one in Rancho Santa Fe.

The Hepatic Tanager that has become a regular on the San Diego count continued for another year. Fifteen counts reported 27 Summer Tanagers, which is one less than last year's total but still in line with an upward trend of the past decade. Particularly northern records came from Fort Bragg and Marin County (southern). Twenty-five counts recorded 78 Western Tanagers, which is more than the 10-year average of 62.

Eleven Green-tailed Towhees on eight counts is more than has been encountered in recent years and included a photographed bird that was relatively far north on the Monterey Peninsula count. Four American Tree Sparrows on the Honey Lake count were the only ones reported this season. Fifteen Clay-colored Sparrows were scattered across 13 counts. Twenty-seven Brewer's Sparrow on six of the southeastern counts is far less than is normally encountered. Nine Grasshopper Sparrows on four counts is close to what has been tallied in recent years. Red Fox Sparrow had a nice showing this year with three counts providing photographs and/or good details: Morro Bay, Orange County (coastal), and Willow Creek. Two others were reported but details were not forthcoming. Sixty-six Swamp Sparrows on 22 counts is well above the 10-year average of about 40. White-throated Sparrows (347) were recorded in numbers well above the 10-year average of just over 200. Two Harris's Sparrows were recorded, one in Año Nuevo and one in San Diego. Five Gray-headed and two Pink-sided Juncos is about what we'd expect for these less frequently encountered subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco. Longspurs continue to be found in less than expected numbers. Two stakeout McCown's Longspurs were counted on the Cachuma count. Lapland Longspurs were photographed on the Long Beach and Fall River Mills counts and there was a continuing bird on the Cachuma count. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were noted in Cachuma (2) and Lancaster (1). Two Snow Buntings



Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), Fall River Mills, California. Photo/Bob Yutzy

(under review) were found and at least one was photographed on the Centerville Beach to King Salmon count. Three Rose-breasted Grosbeak were recorded, one each at Carpinteria, Moss Landing, and San Diego; in addition there were two count week birds. Eight Black-headed Grosbeaks, noted on seven counts, is double the average over the past 10 years. A Blue Grosbeak in Año Nuevo was supported with good details.

Single Orchard Orioles were recorded in Santa Barbara, San Diego, and San Francisco; a count week bird was also present in Long Beach. Fourteen Hooded Orioles is well above the 10-year average of just over five; they were noted on eight counts including a more northern circle, Morro Bay. Six counts recorded eight Baltimore Orioles, which is twice the 10-year average for California. Twenty-two Scott's Orioles on the Morongo Valley count is more than has been counted in any of the past 20 years. Single birds were also found in Anza-Borrego and much farther out of range at Santa Barbara.

The only Pine Grosbeak reported was from Mono Lake where there was ample access to areas usually covered in snow. A photographed Common Redpoll at Fall River Mills was the first well-documented record in many years. Evening Grosbeaks (332) were reported from seven northerly count circles in numbers well above the average.

Thank you to all who participated in this 112th Christmas Bird Count and especially to the compilers who gave so much of their time for this project. The

year was a bit more challenging than usual with difficulties associated with entering data into a new website interface. The patience demonstrated by compilers is commendable and didn't go unnoticed.

HAWAII/PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Coverage of Hawaii was exceptionally good with all 12 regular count circles and a new count on the island of Lanai. The inaugural count for Lanai Circle tallied 707 birds of 24 species. In addition, Johnston Atoll was counted after a hiatus of 12 years. Winter weather conditions this year were closer to normal across the Hawaiian chain.

Johnston Atoll showed high counts for Red-tailed Tropicbirds (846, must have been quite a sight!) and Red-footed Boobies (2305). These and other species of seabirds recolonized or increased after the island became a refuge following the closing of the Air Force Base there in 2004. In the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a high count 122 Tristram's Storm-Petrels on Laysan perhaps can be attributed to their greater visibility resulting from die-back of the flood-damaged shrubs under which the birds

nest. Only one Short-tailed Albatross was tallied, on Midway. A Lesser Frigatebird, from the South Pacific, was counted again this year on Laysan, which also hosted a total of three "Brewster's" Brown Boobies, an eastern Pacific subspecies.

Although low numbers of the common Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler were reported from around the state this year, there was a good turnout of unusual species. Two Cackling Geese were reported, one from the Kapaa Circle (Kauai Is.), the other from North Kona (Hawaii Is.). A Brant showed up on Midway. Species with high counts included European Wigeon (12 on Midway), American Wigeon (2 on Midway and 11 in N. Kona), Green-wing Teal (9 in Kapaa, 2 in Honolulu, and 7 in North Kona), and Ring-necked Duck (11 on Molokai).

It was a banner year for Hawaiian Moorhens, with high counts on three of the four circles where the species would be expected: Kapaa (387) and Waipio (9) on Kauai, and Honolulu (59). Hawaiian Coot and Hawaiian Stilt appeared in moderate numbers, except for high counts of 138 coots on Molokai and 263 stilts at Kapaa. Noteworthy migrant shorebirds included a Gray-tailed Tattler on Laysan and a Curlew Sandpiper at Waipio (Oahu). The high

count of 85 Cattle Egrets on Midway indicates an increasing population there, despite control efforts. Johnston Island also reported five Cattle Egrets of a newly established population.

Two raptor species had unusual flights to the islands this year. Peregrine Falcons appeared across the State: Midway (3, but possibly just 2 birds), Laysan (1), Molokai (2), and Iao, Maui (1). Significantly, six Short-eared Owls were observed together on Midway. The count of 11 Short-eared Owls on Johnston Is. reflects the recent colonization by this bird.

The most exciting news from this year's CBC was the detection of four Millerbirds on Laysan Island. Extinct there for decades following the nearly complete destruction of its habitat by rabbits, the Millerbird was reintroduced this year from Nihoa Island to the now rabbitless and mostly restored Laysan. Another highlight was the count of 21 Akiapolaau on the Keauhou segment of the Volcano Circle, including three family groups with two young each—extraordinary reproductive success for this Hawaiian honeycreeper.

There were too many high counts of nonnative birds to report here. New records for count circles included Black Francolin (1) on the Waipio Circle, Mitred Conure (24) on the North Kona

