

**The 49th Nacogdoches, TX Christmas Bird Count
(December 16, 2018)**

It's hard to believe, but this was our **49th Nacogdoches Christmas Bird Count**, held on Sunday **December 16, 2018**. A big thank you goes to all who helped to make it a success! We had more parties and participants than we have had in many years and we welcome you first-timers to this count! Our final **species total** was **112**, just one under our 30-year average, plus one species for count week but not on count day. The **weather** was ideal – upper 30s overnight warming to 60° by afternoon; almost no surface wind; and high clouds much of the day. The **sunrise** was unforgettable, an amazing palette of pink, purple, salmon and blue-gray.

In many ways this count was very similar to last year, with **good numbers of “mild-winter” species and low numbers of those that are hardier**. The one important exception was the presence of **three “northern invaders”**: Red-breasted Nuthatch (a high count of 20; found by 7 parties/feeder-watchers); Purple Finch (a high count of 58, found by 7 parties); and Pine Siskin (10, found by one party). All three are likely to remain in our area for the winter and all three are regular visitors to feeders, so enjoy them while they are with us! **No real rarities** were seen, but there were some **“good birds”** that aren't often found: 8 Common Gallinules (JS boat party on Kurth Lake); a White-winged Dove (JS); 2 White-eyed Vireos (DB et al); 4 Black-and-white Warblers (RS, DW); and a Spotted Towhee (RS). Thanks to those of you who provided documentation for these. **“Scarce regulars”** found included Horned Grebe, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Sprague's Pipit and Henslow's Sparrow. Completely **missed** were Mallard, Greater Roadrunner, Harris's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird.

In reviewing the count these species were in **relatively high numbers**: Gadwall, American Wigeon, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Purple Finch. **Insignificantly low numbers** were Northern Shoveler, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Eastern Bluebird, American Pipit, Brown Thrasher, Field, Fox and White-crowned sparrows, and Common Grackle.

What does all of this mean? Well, find out by visiting the National Audubon Society website. There is a wealth of information to be found there.

Thanks again for your participation and keep those winter sightings coming in -- David & Mimi Wolf, compilers (dewolfnac@gmail.com) phone: (936) 569-6531

Species List: (cw = count week, but not on count day).

Wood Duck – 98; Gadwall – **484**; American Wigeon - **270**; Mallard – cw; Northern Shoveler – 41 (low); Am. Green-winged Teal - 43; Canvasback – 527; Redhead - 145; Ring-necked Duck - 97; Greater Scaup - 1; Lesser Scaup - 70; Bufflehead - 30; Hooded Merganser - 7; Ruddy Duck - 76; duck sp? – 18; Common Loon - 5; Pied-billed Grebe - 93; Horned Grebe – 2; Double-crested

Cormorant - 70 (low); American White Pelican – 4; Great Blue Heron - 19; Great Egret - 11; Black Vulture - 216; Turkey Vulture - 89 (low); Northern Harrier - 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk -1; Cooper’s Hawk - 3; accipiter sp? - 1; Bald Eagle – 3; Red-shouldered Hawk - 43; Red-tailed Hawk - 25; Virginia Rail - 2; **Common Gallinule - 8** (JS); American Coot - 15,250; Killdeer - 73; Spotted Sandpiper – 1; Wilson’s Snipe - 10; American Woodcock - 3 (low); Ring-billed Gull - 9; Rock Pigeon - 76; Eurasian Collared Dove - 10; **White-winged Dove - 1** (JS); Inca Dove – 3; Mourning Dove - 96; Eastern Screech-Owl - 4; Great Horned Owl - 5; Barred Owl - 9; Belted Kingfisher - 12; Red-headed Woodpecker - 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker - 173; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 60; Downy Woodpecker - 52; Hairy Woodpecker – 7; Northern Flicker - 82; Pileated Woodpecker - 42; American Kestrel - 15; Eastern Phoebe – 132; Loggerhead Shrike - 3; White-eyed Vireo - 2; Blue-headed Vireo -**35**; Blue Jay – 354; American Crow - 250; Carolina Chickadee - 215; Tufted Titmouse - 144; Red-breasted Nuthatch - **20** (found by 7 parties/feeder watchers); White-breasted Nuthatch – 13; Brown-headed Nuthatch - 11; Brown Creeper – 25; House Wren - 32; Winter Wren - 18; Sedge Wren - 12; Marsh Wren - 2; Carolina Wren - 260; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – **14** (2nd highest ever); Golden-crowned Kinglet – 34; Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 178; Eastern Bluebird - 229 (low); Hermit Thrush – 70; American Robin – 2974; Gray Catbird – 2; Brown Thrasher - 37; Northern Mockingbird - 97; European Starling - 105; American Pipit - 47 (low); Sprague’s Pipit – 3; Cedar Waxwing - 1316;**Black-and-white Warbler - 4** (RS, DW; highest ever); Orange-crowned Warbler - **69**; Pine Warbler – 444; Yellow-rumped Warbler - 507; Henslow’s Sparrow - 2; LeConte’s Sparrow – 24; Chipping Sparrow - 705; Field Sparrow – 40; Fox Sparrow – 15; Dark-eyed (“Slate-colored”) Junco – 129; White-crowned Sparrow - 1 (low); White-throated Sparrow – 959; Vesper Sparrow - 29; Savannah Sparrow – 359; Song Sparrow – 272; Lincoln’s Sparrow - 15; Swamp Sparrow – 165; **Spotted Towhee - 1** (RS); Eastern Towhee - 6; Spotted/Eastern towhee sp? - 7; Northern Cardinal – 584; Red-winged Blackbird – 24,287; Eastern Meadowlark - 20; Western/Eastern meadowlark sp? – 35; Common Grackle – 45 (low); Brown-headed Cowbird – 13; blackbird sp? – 1704; Purple Finch - **58** (found by 7 parties); House Finch - 16; Pine Siskin – 10; American Goldfinch – 559; House Sparrow – 52. **Total Species:** 112 (plus 1 count week but not on count day).

36 Observers in 16 Field Parties: Abigail Bell, David Bell, Brent Burt, Louis Debetaz, Dean Fisher, Heinz Gaylord, John Gorham, Kathy Griffin; Taylor Hart, Tyson Hart, Jamie Hooker, Gary Hunter, Susie Lower, Alix Matthews, John Pike, Jim Renfro, Dave Richardson, Jack Rohrer, Tim Scallon, Maggie Schaefer, Owen Schaefer, Rick Schaefer, Cliff Shackelford, John Smelser; Sarah Stovall, Ron Thill; Eamonn Thurmond, Anne Tindell, Robert Truss, Ashley Wahlberg, Dave Wallace, Vickie Wallace, Carol Wells, Laura Wilson, David Wolf (compiler), Mimi Wolf (co-compiler) = **36 observers in 16 parties, plus 6 feeder-watchers** (Carol Delaney; Chuck Ely; Steve & Billie Kinnaird; Jack Rohrer; Julie Shackelford, Howard Williamson).

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