

The 51st Nacogdoches, TX Christmas Bird Count (December 20, 2020)

It's hard to believe, but this was our **51st Nacogdoches Christmas Bird Count**, held on Sunday **December 20, 2020**. A big thank you goes to all who helped to make it a success! We had an enthusiastic turnout and we welcome you first-timers to this count. Our final **species total** was **114**, right on our 20-year average but higher than our previous 6 counts, plus 3 species for count week but not on count day. The **weather was pleasant**, with 50°F and clouds at daybreak turning sunny in the late morning as a weak cold front pushed through with a light north wind. Bird activity was relatively high in the early morning, but many observers commented that birds were very quiet and hard to find in the afternoon. Plus, **many of our winter residents seem to be in low numbers so far this winter** -- it may be too mild to have pushed them southward. This follows the trend of recent years.

In many ways this count was similar to last year, with **good numbers of "mild-winter" species and low numbers of those that are harder**. The **only real rarities** were **Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Clay-colored Sparrow and Summer Tanager**, but there were also many "**good birds**" that aren't always found, including Greater Roadrunner, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, Herring Gull, Anhinga, Neotropical Cormorant, White-eyed Vireo, Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Sprague's Pipit, Henslow's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird and Common Yellowthroat. Thanks to those of you who provided documentation for your rarities. Completely **missed** were American Woodcock (for the 1st time since 1971), Northern Harrier, Loggerhead Shrike (for the 2nd time in 51 years; the first time was last year), Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Sedge Wren, plus some of our scarce and irregular winter birds like Bewick's Wren, Brewer's Blackbird, Grasshopper Sparrow and Harris's Sparrow.

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 – 82; Gadwall – 379; American Wigeon - 255; Mallard – 19; Northern Shoveler – 90; Northern Pintail - 1; Am. Green-winged Teal - 147; Canvasback – 322; Redhead – **515** (high); Ring-necked Duck - 289; Lesser Scaup - 41; Bufflehead - 24; Hooded Merganser – 3 (low); Ruddy Duck - 76; duck sp? – 370; Pied-billed Grebe - 157; Horned Grebe – 5; Rock Pigeon - 100; Eurasian Collared-Dove – 14; Inca Dove – 4; Mourning Dove - 80; Greater Roadrunner - 1; **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – 1; Virginia Rail – 6; Common Gallinule - 4; American Coot - 8763; Killdeer - 67; Wilson's Snipe – 3 (low); Ring-billed Gull - 7; Herring Gull - 2; Forster's Tern - 1; Common Loon - 6; Anhinga – 1; Neotropical Cormorant - 1; Double-crested Cormorant - 115; American White Pelican – 5; Great Blue Heron - 13; Great Egret - 8; Black Vulture – **514** (high); Turkey Vulture - 296; Sharp-shinned Hawk -3; Cooper's Hawk - 1; *Accipiter sp?* – 1; Bald Eagle – 7; Red-shouldered Hawk - 37; Red-tailed Hawk – 17 (low); Eastern Screech-Owl - 1; Great Horned Owl - 2; Barred Owl - 7; Belted Kingfisher - 12; Red-headed Woodpecker - 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker - 122; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 41; Downy Woodpecker - 43; Hairy Woodpecker – 5; Northern Flicker - 118; Pileated Woodpecker - 36; American Kestrel - 14; Eastern Phoebe – 109; White-eyed Vireo - 1; Blue-headed Vireo - 23; Blue Jay – 260; American Crow - 303; Cave Swallow – cw; Carolina Chickadee - 197; Tufted Titmouse - 136; Red-breasted Nuthatch – cw; White-breasted Nuthatch – 11; Brown-headed Nuthatch - 6; Brown Creeper – 8; House Wren - 38; Winter Wren - 10; Marsh Wren - 4; Carolina Wren - 183; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet – 17; Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 134; Eastern Bluebird - 210; Hermit Thrush – 52; American Robin – 744; Gray Catbird – 2; Brown Thrasher - 25; Northern Mockingbird - 63; European Starling - 163; American Pipit -94; Sprague's Pipit – 2; Cedar Waxwing - 905; House Finch - 16; Purple Finch – **61** (high); Pine Siskin – 15; American Goldfinch – 262 (low); Henslow's Sparrow – 4; LeConte's Sparrow – 12; Chipping Sparrow - 992; **Clay-colored Sparrow** – 1; Field Sparrow – 28 (low); Fox Sparrow – 11; Dark-eyed ("Slate-colored") Junco – 225; White-crowned Sparrow - 12; White-throated Sparrow – 744; Vesper

Sparrow – 8 (low); Savannah Sparrow – 436; Song Sparrow – 184; Lincoln’s Sparrow – **31** (high); Swamp Sparrow – 138; Eastern Towhee - 16; Spotted Towhee – cw; towhee sp? – 7; Red-winged Blackbird – 80, 107; Eastern Meadowlark - 60; Rusty Blackbird – 12; Common Grackle – 4097; Brown-headed Cowbird – 252; blackbird sp? – 9650; Common Yellowthroat – 1; Orange-crowned Warbler - 48; Pine Warbler – 206; Yellow-rumped Warbler – 442; **Summer Tanager** – 2; Northern Cardinal – 471; House Sparrow – 49. **Total Species:** 114 (plus 3 count week).

30 Observers in 15 Field Parties: Abigail Bell, David Bell, Aaron Bradley, Brent Burt, John Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, Charles Dean Fisher, Kathy Griffin, Gary Hunter, Ryan Phelps, Josh Pierce, Dave Richardson, Tim Scallon, Cliff Shackelford, Julie Shackelford, John Smelser; Dennis Stovall, Sarah Stovall, Ron Thill; Anne Tindell, Robert Truss, Ashley Wahlberg, Scott Wahlberg, Dave Wallace, Vickie Wallace, Carol Wells, Laura Wilson, David Wolf (compiler), Mimi Wolf (co-compiler), Liam Wolff = **30 observers in 15 parties, plus 4 feeder-watchers** (Heinz Gaylord; Steve & Billie Kinnaird; Howard Williamson). **Compilers:** David & Mimi Wolf (936) 569-6531; e-mail: dewolfnac@gmail.com