

December 2011 highlights from the Coos Bay Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Here is a little more info on our record-breaking CBC- species total was 162 with some late editions for those of you who left early. Our old record was 161 from back in 2006. We have also hit 160 three times, first in 2000 and again in 2004 & 2005. There were 40 people in the field on the count and four feeder watchers. I have info back from all but one person, so this is mostly complete (I expect no new editions species-wise). Temps were 48 for a high and 36 for a low, with heavy fog/light rain in the AM, stopping in the PM but with a brisk, cool wind out of the north and no sun.

This was our 38th year and here are the most unusual species we found:

- 1st count record, 1- BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER
- 2nd count record, 1- BARRED OWL
- 2nd count record, 28- WILD TURKEYS
- 3rd count record, 1- SELASPHORUS (Rufous/Allen's) HUMMINGBIRD (female/immature)
- 4th count record, 4- TURKEY VULTURES
- 5th count record, 1- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT
- 6th count record, 4- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS (high count)
- 6th count record, 1- WESTERN SCRUB-JAY
- 9th count record, 1- LESSER YELLOWLEGS
- 9th count record, 1- GLAUCOUS GULL
- 10th count record, 1- LONG-BILLED CURLEW

High counts were established for the following species:

- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (93!)
- CANADA GOOSE
- MALLARD
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL
- SURF SCOTER
- PACIFIC LOON (old high 189, new high 2,199)
- RED-NECKED GREBE
- RED-TAILED HAWK
- AMERICAN COOT
- GREAT HORNED OWL (around 20, twice our old high and that's excluding possible double counts!)
- BARN OWL (tie)
- AMERICAN CROW
- COMMON RAVEN
- AMERICAN ROBIN
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW
- GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Other birds of interest/low counts:

- 8- EURASIAN WIGEON

3- REDHEAD
29- HARLEQUIN DUCKS
5- BLACK SCOTER
1- LONG-TAILED DUCK
2- COMMON MERGANSER
13- EARED GREBE
5- CLARK'S GREBE
1- NORTHERN FULMAR (our only tubenose)
20- BROWN PELICAN (no Heermann's Gulls)
1- SNOWY EGRET
4- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON
2- OSPREY
2- SORA
32- SNOWY PLOVERS
2- WILLET
17- MARBLED GODWITS
1- ROCK SANDPIPER
53- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES
5, 314- COMMON MURRES
8- PIGEON GUILLEMOTS
19- RHINO AUKLETS
1- NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL
1- RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER
1- NORTHERN SHRIKE
3- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES (low year, look hard for them on other CBCs)
4- WESTERN BLUEBIRDS
2- AMERICAN PIPIT (a close to miss!)
23- CEDAR WAXWINGS
3- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS
1- PALM WARBLER
3- SWAMP SPARROWS
2- RED CROSSBILLS (whoa, another close one)
1- LESSER GOLDFINCH (and I saw 25 the day before the count!)

Thanks all of you who helped and contributed food, it was a memorable count with great food and comfy digs at the Clough's after the count. I may not have everyone's e-mail from the count on this list, if you know someone who didn't get this and would be interested please forward this.

Merry New Bird!
Tim R
Coos Bay