

Summary: The 28th Stone Mountain Christmas Bird Count was fun and productive, finding 2,420 birds of 63 species on a beautiful mild sunny day. This compares to our overall averages of about 2100 birds and 55 species. The 63 species tied for 2nd highest alltime.

Effort: 3 parties in the field with about 25 hours of effort was a little below our longterm average because there used to be more birders in the area who participated in the count. The loss of veterans Jim Keighton and Eric Harrold as participants, was partially offset by additions of new birders, some younger with good ears and ID skills, who helped each party find good numbers of birds and species. Participants: Pat Geiger, Katie Griffith, Paul Laurent, Guy McGrane, Ron Morris, GP, Max Ramey, Nancy Russo, Debbie Shetterly, Jimmy Shetterly. Compiler: Guy McGrane.

Good finds included our first count record LINCOLN'S SPARROW in the Wilkes Ag Lands, a second count record RUDDY DUCK, a single, at Lake Louise, and 4 American Black Ducks also at Lake Louise, and our 6th count record in 28 years of Brown thrasher, with 2 widely separated birds seen.

High(ish) counts: (count, highest previous count, average):

Canada Goose (143, 186, 32)
Hooded Merganser (19, 22, 8)
Great Blue Heron (8, 8, 2)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8, 8, 4)
Blue Jay (87, 78, 29)
American Crow (625, 731, 354)
Tufted Titmouse (91, 76, 39)
Chipping Sparrow (145, 117, 15)

Missed (number of previous counts seen, average)

Ruffed Grouse (9, 1)
Wild Turkey (17, 13)
Cooper's Hawk (18, 1)
Great Horned Owl (9, 1)
Yellow-rumped warbler (13, 4)
Pine Warbler (11, 2)
Fox Sparrow (8, 1)
Common Grackle (9, 2209)
Brown-headed Cowbird (11, 15)
Purple Finch (11, 3)

List

Canada Goose 143
Mallard 12
American Black Duck 3
Bufflehead 4
Hooded Merganser 19
Ruddy Duck 1
Pied-billed Grebe 1
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 11
Mourning Dove 58

Killdeer 8
Great Blue Heron 8
Black Vulture 3
Turkey Vulture 93
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 10
Red-tailed Hawk 10
Eastern Screech-Owl 3
Barred Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 8
Red-bellied Woodpecker 17
Downy Woodpecker 13
Hairy Woodpecker 2
Pileated Woodpecker 12
Northern Flicker 4
American Kestrel 5
Eastern Phoebe 15
Blue Jay 87
American Crow 625
Common Raven 8
Carolina Chickadee 89
Tufted Titmouse 91
Golden-crowned Kinglet 19
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4
Red-breasted Nuthatch 10
White-breasted Nuthatch 21
Brown-headed Nuthatch 6
Brown Creeper 2
Winter Wren 2
Carolina Wren 56
European Starling 67
Brown Thrasher 2
Northern Mockingbird 13
Eastern Bluebird 63
Hermit Thrush 4
American Robin 58
Cedar Waxwing 23
House Sparrow 6
House Finch 22
Pine Siskin 1
American Goldfinch 37
Chipping Sparrow 145
Field Sparrow 11
Dark-eyed Junco 154
White-crowned Sparrow 10
White-throated Sparrow 97
Savannah Sparrow 8
Song Sparrow 117

Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Swamp Sparrow	4
Eastern Towhee	11
Eastern Meadowlark	31
Northern Cardinal	66
Total	2420