

Christmas Bird Count December 2009

Eleven observers braved chilly temperatures (13 degrees) to start the morning but as the temperatures warmed to 40 degrees in the afternoon it was one of the more pleasant days for the annual Cheyenne- High Plains Christmas Bird Count on December 19. A total of 2,952 individual birds comprised of 34 species were counted. The total number of birds was similar to past counts, but the number of species averaged fewer than normal, likely due to the cold snap in early December that probably pushed many birds further south. Most of the species observed were those expected in the area at this time of year, with the most unusual being a Brewer's blackbird which typically does not winter in this area.

Canada goose - 864
mallard - 612
northern shoveler - 4
common goldeneye - 8
hooded merganser - 1
northern harrier - 2
sharp-shinned hawk - 2
red-tailed hawk - 1
rough-legged hawk - 7
American kestrel - 2
rock pigeon - 140
Eurasian collared-dove - 81
great horned owl - 3
belted kingfisher - 1
downy woodpecker - 10
northern flicker - 9
northern shrike - 1
blue jay - 5
black-billed magpie - 18
American crow - 54
common raven - 1
horned lark - 14
mountain chickadee - 8
red-breasted nuthatch - 13
brown creeper - 1
Townsend's solitaire - 27
American robin - 29
European starling - 522
American tree sparrow - 5
song sparrow - 1
dark-eyed junco - 72
Brewer's blackbird - 1
house finch - 116
house sparrow - 317

34 species - 2,952 individuals

cw - American goldfinch, pine siskin