

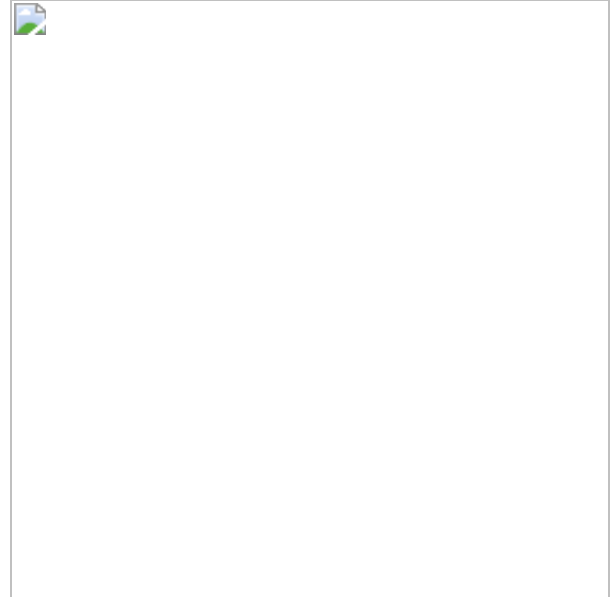
2017 Christmas Bird Count – The No Snow Year

 evergreenaudubon.org/2017-christmas-bird-count-the-no-snow-year

Chuck Aid

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The 2017 Christmas Bird Count (CBC), on Dec. 16, was a bit of a mixed bag. For starters, we had fewer people in the field, down to 56 from an all-time high last year of 80. Nevertheless, even with fewer people in the field, we set an all-time high of 152 total field party hours. Incidentally, the average for our total field party hours over our 49-year history is 103. On another positive note, this year we had an all-time high of 34 feeder-counters helping us to achieve 245 total party hours (field and feeders) – another all-time high. Two years ago, we had only 12 feeder-counters, and last year we had 23, so we are headed in the right direction in that regard.



Northern Shrike (c) Mick Thompson

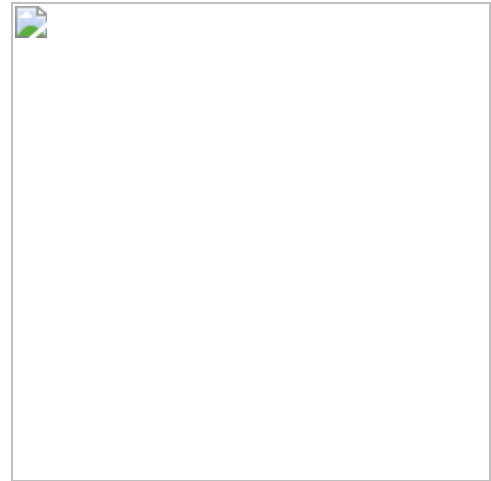
As for the birds, for the second year in a row we tallied 49 species, a definite contrast to the 57 species we were so euphoric about on the 2015 CBC. The last two autumns have been comparatively dry – perhaps contributing to less diversity. However, we did manage to get good numbers on the birds that were there. We had 6063 individuals, with high numbers for Red-tailed Hawk (47), Hairy Woodpecker (81), and Black-billed Magpie (413). We also had very good numbers for Mountain Chickadee (729) and Pygmy Nuthatch (823). We appear to be well set for maintaining our global dominance as the Mountain Chickadee Champs of the World, as well as being excellently prepared to regain our global dominance for Pygmy Nuthatches. Wahoo! Unfortunately, we have to wait until next November to find out, because it takes National Audubon awhile to determine these things.

There are a few species whose numbers dropped this year. In 2016, over a third of the birds we recorded were Dark-eyed Juncos, with 2171 individuals, and we had great numbers for all the various Junco subspecies. This year our grand total was down to 671, again perhaps due to the lack of snow. After all, they are also known as “Snowbirds.” Species that we failed to find this year included: Great Blue Heron, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwing, Bohemian Waxwing, Common Redpoll, and Spotted Towhee. Finally, two years ago we had 639 Rosy-Finches with good numbers for all three species. Last year we had a total of 53, and this year we had 38. It definitely takes some snowy weather to bring them down out of the high country, and we have not had that the last two years.

Thanks to all section leaders, participants, and Barbara Jean Gard for coordinating the feeder-counters. A huge thanks, once again, to the Walds for hosting the Tally Rally, to JoAnn Hackos for making the meat chili, to Lisa and David Wald for providing the veggie chili, to Megan Fuse for organizing the dinner, to all of you for contributing to the potluck, and to Brad Andres and David Wald for compiling our data.

Chuck Aid, Bird Monitoring Director

Summary of birds observed on the 2017 Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count, the average number seen from 1969 to 2016, and the high count and year recorded. Bolded entries are high counts or equaled high counts recorded in 2017.



Northern Pygmy Owl (c) Bill Schmoker

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2016	2017	number	Year
Cackling Goose	<1		2	08
Canada Goose	8	4	70	90
Wood Duck	<1		2	93/07
Gadwall	<1		1	10
American Wigeon	<1		2	96
Mallard	61	149	248	12
Northern Pintail	<1		1	96/98
Green-winged Teal	<1		1	81
Chukar	<1		1	80
Dusky Grouse	<1		12	94
Wild Turkey	40	54	110	04
Rock Pigeon	75	65	212	81
Eurasian Collared-Dove	6	4	83	15
Mourning Dove	<1		3	16

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2016	2017	number	Year
Wilson's Snipe	1		4	78/91/00
Great Blue Heron	<1		1	88/90
Black-crowned Night Heron	<1		1	09
Bald Eagle	1		5	10
Northern Harrier	<1		2	04
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	3	several
Cooper's Hawk	<1	1	2	09
Northern Goshawk	1	2	3	72/87/11
Red-tailed Hawk	15	47	47	17
Ferruginous Hawk	<1		2	98
Rough-legged Hawk	1		11	85
Golden Eagle	3	2	8	89/15
Great Horned Owl	1	1	5	09/12/14
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	3	4	95
Long-eared Owl	<1		1	74/82
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<1		1	70
Belted Kingfisher	2	2	6	04
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<1		1	80
Downy Woodpecker	30	45	51	08
Hairy Woodpecker	46	81	81	11/17
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	<1		3	79/89
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	16	36	45	15
American Kestrel	1		4	87/12
Merlin	<1		2	10
Prairie Falcon	<1		1	82

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2016	2017	number	Year
Loggerhead Shrike	<1		1	several
Northern Shrike	4	6	13	86
Gray Jay	13	17	53	77
Pinyon Jay	4		200	72
Steller's Jay	266	381	446	00
Blue Jay	<1			95/00
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	3	2	18	11
Clark's Nutcracker	27	25	108	78
Black-billed Magpie	197	413	413	17
American Crow	705	1,039	1,786	15
Common Raven	117	149	200	72
Horned Lark	<1		15	86
Black-capped Chickadee	76	155	184	15
Mountain Chickadee	490	729	786	75
Hybrid Chickadee	<1		1	13
Juniper Titmouse	<1		1	82
Bushtit	1		17	15
Red-breasted Nuthatch	47	65	127	93
White-breasted Nuthatch	72	117	142	15
Pygmy Nuthatch	431	823	1,046	12
Brown Creeper	13	28	36	15
Canyon Wren	1	1	5	81
Winter Wren	<1		2	75
American Dipper	18	12	37	87
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	4	18	84

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2016	2017	number	Year
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<1		2	83/91
Mountain Bluebird	<1		2	92
Townsend's Solitaire	68	107	202	82
American Robin	134	20	1,500	72
Brown Thrasher	<1		1	Several
Northern Mockingbird	<1		1	78
European Starling	127	75	301	00
Bohemian Waxwing	38		580	80
Cedar Waxwing	7		163	87
House Sparrow	97	50	377	00
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	120		429	84
Black Rosy-Finch	7		70	04
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	15		140	04
Unknown Rosy-Finch		38		
Pine Grosbeak	14	35	103	14
House Finch	176	376	443	11
Cassin's Finch	160	45	519	14
Red Crossbill	61	4	643	82
White-winged Crossbill	1		16	70
Common Redpoll	3		30	70
Hoary Redpoll	<1		1	12
Pine Siskin	208	120	723	08
American Goldfinch	16	1	176	00
Evening Grosbeak	129	15	420	95
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<1		13	15

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2016	2017	number	Year
Spotted Towhee	<1		4	75
Cassin's Sparrow	<1		1	71
American Tree Sparrow	2	4	37	84
Chipping Sparrow	<1		1	12
Clay-colored Sparrow	<1		1	83
Fox Sparrow	<1		1	Several
Song Sparrow	5	13	15	11
White-throated Sparrow	<1		1	84/06
Harris's Sparrow	<1		2	80
White-crowned Sparrow	<1	1	1	Several
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	93
Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco	172	295	587	16
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	89	44	258	16
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco	25	50	276	80
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	85	52	413	82
Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco	54	26	91	16
Dark-eyed (Cassiar) Junco	<1	4	7	16
Dark-eyed Junco (All subspecies)	591	671	2,171	16
Red-winged Blackbird	56	25	586	91
Brewer's Blackbird	<1		15	12
Common Grackle	<1		3	93
Great-tailed Grackle	<1		1	07
Brown-headed Cowbird	<1		1	09
Number of Species	47	49	57	15

