

2003 JUNEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

by Mark Schwan

Juneau's Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, December 14. Twenty-four volunteers enjoyed a brisk but otherwise fine day for birding. Sixty-three species and just over 9,000 birds were seen during the day. The day's list was marked by rather low numbers of some of our more common waterfowl, and overall diversity of species was down compared to many years. This was likely due to the early arrival of winter this year, but also our birding party sizes were small and coverage in some areas was below optimum. I heard from several people that holding the count on Sunday precluded them from participating. Finally, the count was conducted when hunting season was still in progress, which likely displaced birds from the refuge wetlands. These are all things to consider for next year. On the other hand, because of Alan and Ann Doty's offer to take a group on their boat to outer Auke Bay, an area was covered that is almost always missed. Seven species of birds were seen that would have otherwise gone uncounted.

The 23 common species seen on all previous 30 counts were seen again; these include mostly waterfowl that over-winter here, along with our familiar resident species. New high counts were obtained for only one species: Surf-bird (number below in bold face). The best bird of the day was a lingering Yellow-rumped Warbler, found by Steve Zimmerman; this species has only been recorded on one previous local count day, and one other time as a Count Week (CW) bird. A Black-capped Chickadee was seen 2 days before the count day and therefore can be listed as a CW species, as can Bonaparte's Gull, as Larry Edfelt saw 10 on the last day new species could be added. There were 6 other species seen during the remaining days of the Count Week but which were missed on Count day.

The potluck after the day's birding activities was great; thanks to everyone for their generous contributions. Also, thanks to Gus van Vliet for conducting the evening tally, collecting the participant fees, and reviewing a draft of the results, and thanks to all those who participated on the count; it was a fine day.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Common Loon	4
Unidentified loons	1
Horned Grebe	26
Red-necked Grebe	12
Pelagic Cormorant	30
Great Blue Heron	4
Canada Goose	764
Green-winged Teal	1
Mallard	2,630
Northern Pintail	8
Gadwall	16
American Wigeon	3
Greater Scaup	27
Harlequin Duck	72
Long-tailed Duck	11
Black Scoter	3
Surf Scoter	361
White-winged Scoter	150
Common Goldeneye	67
Barrow's Goldeneye	499
Unidentified Goldeneyes	92
Bufflehead	119
Hooded Merganser	1
Common Merganser	103
Red-breasted Merganser	91
Unidentified Mergansers	1
Bald Eagle	106
American Kestrel	cw
Merlin	1
Unidentified Ptarmigan	cw
Killdeer	17
Black Turnstone	80
Surfbird	102
Rock Sandpiper	60
Dunlin	1
Common Snipe	2
Bonaparte's Gull	cw
Mew Gull	61
Herring Gull	2
Thayer's Gull	11
Glaucous-winged Gull	2,097
Gl.-winged x Herring Gull hyb.	5
Unidentified Gulls	212
Common Murre	5
Pigeon Guillemot	2
Marbled Murrelet	76
Rock Dove	32
Northern Pygmy-owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	6

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Three-toed Woodpecker	1
Steller's Jay	61
Black-billed Magpie	60
Northwestern Crow	404
Common Raven	276
Black-capped Chickadee	cw
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown Creeper	cw
Winter Wren	2
American Dipper	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10
Unidentified Kinglets	8
American Robin	cw
Varied Thrush	cw
Northern Shrike	1
European Starling	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
American Tree Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	6
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	122
Rusty Blackbird	cw
Pine Grosbeak	1
Red Crossbill	10
Common Redpoll	1
Pine Siskin	15
TOTAL SPECIES	63
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	9,019