

RESULTS OF THE 20 DECEMBER 2008 KODIAK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This was the 36th consecutive Kodiak Christmas Bird Count. A record seventy-seven people participated this year. We tallied 74 species and 13,862 individual birds on count day, and an additional 12 species in count week (the period from three days before, to three days after count day). The average number of species seen over the previous ten years is 78, so the count day total was respectable, considering the strong winds, snow, and rain that we endured. Despite the bad weather, everyone I talked to had a great time on the count. No wimps in this crowd! This year, hardcore birder Bill Taylor, from Dayton Ohio, came to Kodiak to see Emperor Geese and to participate in the count. As you can imagine, he did get the goose (Life Bird 762), and upon returning to Dayton, he made an entry on his web site describing his trip to Kodiak. To view Bill's impression of his trip go to: <http://www.billietaylor.com/birder/TRAK08.html>



The post-count compiling party was held at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge visitor center.

Thanks to Claudia Anderson for organizing that effort. Townsend's Warbler

Thirteen upland field parties included two Ptarmigan SWAT teams, both of which were successful at finding Rock Ptarmigan. As usual, we had two boats participating: the Ursa Major II and the Celeste. Bird feeder Counts were made from Monashka to Bells Flats at 26 feeders *up a whopping 11 feeders from last year*. Four count day species, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, were seen only at feeders, while one count week species, Wilson's Warbler, was seen only at a feeder.



Fox Sparrow

There were all-time high counts of six species this year: Emperor Goose (616), Common Raven (1020), Townsend's Warbler (2), Fox Sparrow (80), Golden-crowned Sparrow (18), and Rusty Blackbird (17). One species, Wilson's Warbler, was reported (count week) for the first time ever.

Rare species that have been seen fifteen or fewer times in the 36 years of the count (and the number of times they have now been seen) were: Wilson's Warbler (1), Orange-crowned Warbler (2), Townsend's Warbler (2), Rusty Blackbird (3), European Starling (6), Thayer's Gull (10), Eurasian Wigeon (11), Ring-necked Duck (13), Red-throated Loon (14), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (15).

While last winter there was a dearth of small passerines, including the “winter finches”, this winter they are quite common. Fox Sparrows, in particular, made a good showing, with the 80 birds seen being more than *three times* the previous count high of 24. An interesting question is whether these birds summered on Kodiak and didn’t migrate out come fall, or whether they are similarly plumaged birds from the adjacent mainland that migrated down here to spend the winter. Other small passerines that were particularly abundant were, Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin.

For the first time in many years, Kodiak did not have the highest count day species total in the state. This year, the high count title goes to Ketchikan, which mustered an impressive 75 count day species. Ketchikan compiler Andy Piston launched a count day juggernaut that was so effective, only three additional count week species were found. In the years to come, both Ketchikan and Juneau, under the command of Mark Schwan and Gus van Vliet, will be serious contenders for the state high count title. Well done, Ketchikan!



Lincoln's Sparrow

We are always very thankful to have large vessels covering the marine waters in the count circle. This year the two vessels were the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge’s Ursa Major II, skippered by Jeff Lewis, and Andy Schroeder’s Celeste, skippered by Andy. We appreciate their commitment to the count.

You can find all count results as they are posted at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

Cheers, Rich MacIntosh, compiler

PARTICIPANTS:

Claudia Anderson, Stosh Anderson, Roberta Astring, Paul Banyas, Shirley Berns, RaeJean Blaschka, Stephen Bodnar, Mary Chase, Ron Chase, Kathy Cole, Chris Cooney, Dianne Cooney, Lauren Cooney, Jamie Corder, Mat Corder, Pete Cumiskey, Braxton Dew, Libby Eufemio, Rosemary Eufemio, Jan Finlay, Josh Fitzgerald, Pam Foreman, Harvey Goodell, Carolyn Heitman, Pat Heitman, Eva Holm, Iver Holm, Oliver Holm, Beverly Horn, Carolyn Huey, Chan Johnson, Gunnar Johnson, Katya Johnson, Mona Johnson, Dave Kubiak, Debra Kubiak, Jeff Lewis, Scott Lynch, Mary Lukens, Molly MacIntosh, Rich MacIntosh, Ellen Marion, Mike Marion, Eric Munk, Kevin Murphy, Bruce Nelson, Dale Nelson, Dan Olsen, Hildur Olsen, Deedie Pearson, Jim Pearson, Doug Pederson, Laurie Pederson, Suzanne Peschier, Jeanne Pontti, Bill Pyle, Dick Ross, Brandon Saito, Patrick Saltonstall, Andy Schroeder, Dave Schuckman, Lila Schwantes, Tom Schwantes, Mike Sirofchuck, Darcy Stielstra, Stacy Studebaker, Bill Taylor, Harlen Trosvig, Pat Trosvig, Tom Trosvig, Cindy Trussell, Jane Van Atta, Dick Waddell, Esther Waddell, Gary Wheeler, Jill Wittenbrader, Denny Zwiefelhofer

BIRDS OF THE 2008 KODIAK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Emperor Goose	616	Wilson's Snipe	cw
Canada Goose	31	Mew Gull	271
Gadwall	95	Herring Gull	cw
Eurasian Wigeon	3	Thayer's Gull	cw
American Wigeon	28	Glaucous-winged Gull	1042
Wigeon sp.	2	Glaucous Gull	2
Mallard	496	Common Murre	103
Northern Pintail	2	Pigeon Guillemot	42
Green-winged Teal	21	Marbled Murrelet	40
Ring-necked Duck	cw	Rock Pigeon	183
Greater Scaup	730	Belted Kingfisher	4
Lesser Scaup	1	Downy Woodpecker	3
Steller's Eider	395	Northern Shrike	cw
King Eider	2	Black-billed Magpie	235
Common Eider	cw	Northwestern Crow	157
Harlequin Duck	739	Common Raven	1020
Surf Scoter	151	Black-capped Chickadee	198
White-winged Scoter	256	Red-breasted Nuthatch	41
Black Scoter	992	Brown Creeper	2
Long-tailed Duck	439	Winter Wren	14
Bufflehead	130	American Dipper	1
Common Goldeneye	255	Golden-crowned Kinglet	101
Barrow's Goldeneye	50	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	cw
goldeneye sp.	7	American Robin	2
Common Merganser	131	Varied Thrush	315
Red-breasted Merganser	98	European Starling	1
Rock Ptarmigan	26	Bohemian Waxwing	24
Ptarmigan sp.	4	Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Red-throated Loon	cw	Townsend's Warbler	2
Pacific Loon	1	Wilson's Warbler	cw
Common Loon	28	American Tree Sparrow	2
loon sp.	1	Fox Sparrow	80
Horned Grebe	74	Song Sparrow	15
Red-necked Grebe	13	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Double-crested Cormorant	55	White-crowned Sparrow	cw
Red-faced Cormorant	3	Golden-crowned Sparrow	18
Pelagic Cormorant	534	Sparrow sp.	4
Cormorant sp.	236	Dark-eyed Junco	50
Great Blue Heron	cw	Snow Bunting	160
Bald Eagle	289	Rusty Blackbird	17
Northern Goshawk	cw	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	42
Black Oystercatcher	583	Pine Grosbeak	80
Black Turnstone	12	Red Crossbill	48
Surfbird	2	White-winged Crossbill	130
Rock Sandpiper	28	Common Redpoll	3
Dunlin	44	Pine Siskin	1563

cw = seen count week only