

2014 Christmas Bird Count for Green Bay
64 species and 17,014 Total birds

This year tied the 4th highest number of species we have seen on a CBC in the past 15 years. Number of species was good due to weather- warm mild day on count day, and mild weather for weeks before. November was extremely cold and snowy and without the warm up in December we would have had very few birds. We had the largest number of people in the field (32) for the past 15 years.

Weather was mild and overcast (18-30 degrees Fahrenheit) with just a few areas of snow left on the ground from weeks before. Almost all moving water was not frozen. The Fox River was open from De Pere to Green Bay. Jim & Bob Johnson/Mike Gottfredsen topped the list with 44 species, newcomers Adam Sinkula/Tom Prestby had 38, Bob Mead/Mike Rowe/Arthur Sonneland/Lee Bialkowski 36, Ed Houston/Larry Schroepfer 30. Don VanDuyse/ Wayne Kuhn had 13 Screech Owls- they started at midnight. We recovered the key observers we lost last year.

Unusual birds include: Rusty Blackbird, White Pelican, Song, Fox, White-throated and White-crowned sparrows, Hooded Merganser, Glaucous and Gr. Bk.-Backed Gulls, Red-headed WP, Pileated WP, Flickers, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk. Good numbers of robins and cedar waxwings, but no RW blackbirds or grackles. Snowy owls were seen at the Airport and Bay. This is the 3rd high Snowy Owl winter in a row- very unusual. The open water brought in an unusually large number of Bald Eagles (72), common mergansers (1995), and goldeneyes (1341). Other birds seen include: Snow Goose, Black & Mallard Ducks, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Red-breasted mergansers, Turkeys, Cormorants, Coopers hawk, Red-tailed hawk, Rough-legged hawk, kestrel, Ring-billed and Herring gulls, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great horned and Barred owls, Red-bellied, Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers, N. Shrike, Blue Jay, Crow, Horned Lark, B.C. Chickadee, RB & WB Nuthatches, GC Kinglet, Starling, Tree sparrow, Junco, Snow bunting, Cardinal, BH Cowbird, Purple & House Finches, C. Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch and House sparrow.

----submitted by John Jacobs