

January 3, 2009

The Sturgeon Bay Christmas Bird Count results are finally compiled. This report gives the list of species and numbers seen (as a file attachment) plus the names of all the participants. Records of this count go back to 1996, the first year we organized it. Several records were set in 2008 and they are outlined below.

The total number of species seen on Dec. 20, 2008 was 50, the second lowest since 1996. The lowest was 46 in that first year. The highest number of species seen was 72 in 2001. That year also had the highest number of birds at 14,497. This year we had the lowest number of birds at 5034.

Weather plays a big part in the count. This year we had some lake effect snow and cold temperatures. In 2001 it was 40 degrees with no snow cover.

This year we had three new highs: the greatest number of Red-bellied Woodpeckers (40), the greatest number of White-winged Crossbills (41) and the greatest number of White-throated Sparrows (6). Three species often seen in past counts were not seen this year: Tundra Swan, Redhead Duck and Greater Scaup.

New lows in numbers of the following species also set records: Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Ruffed Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk (tie), Northern Shrike (tie) and House Finch.

We had the lowest number of field parties @ 10, previous low 13 in '98 & '04; Lowest number of field party hours 49.5, previous low 70 in 2004.

Thank you all for helping!

Charlotte