

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - KELOWNA CANADA

by

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I was wondering if you are interested in report of our Christmas Bird Count? You probably have no idea how popular they are here! Most areas across Canada and the States hold these in a designated period, about the last two weeks of December, and each place selects a date in that time to hold their CBC. This year there were 13 groups (of 3 to 6 birders in each) covering Kelowna, the event was held on Saturday 17th Dec. The area is measured out the same distance all around the city from the city centre. My husband and I have participated most years. There were only three of us in our group; Trevor (a really good birder), Lou and I. We leave when it's light, about 07.45hrs this time of year, and spend the whole day covering our area! The weather was chilly and overcast with a little snow on the ground. This is the list our area produced. I'll send a copy of the total for the area, as this year the whole area had a lot of birds that aren't usually here this time of year. We've had some quite cold weather the last few weeks; down to -16C /-18C some nights. Often the birds go south when it's like this!

My species list (with totals) is in the order that we saw them: -

Ringed-billed Gull 11
American Crow 8
American Kestrel 3
European Starling 452
Common Raven 66
Northern Shrike 1
Black-billed Magpie 49
House Finch 145
Song Sparrow 33
Black-capped chickadee 22
Ring-necked Pheasant 2
Downy woodpecker 5
Cooper's Hawk 1
Northern Flicker 42
Mallard 47
Seller's Jay 4
Mourning Dove 121
Clark's Nutcracker 5
Red-tailed Hawk 29
California Quail 174
House Sparrow 29
Pygmy Nuthatch 36
Dark-eyed Junco 81(incl. 2 Slate-coloured)
White-crowned Sparrow 77
Red-winged Blackbird 46
Townsend's Solitaire 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Mountain Chickadee 7
American Goldfinch 26
Bohemian Waxwing 60
Canada Goose 300
Rough-legged Hawk (Rough-legged Buzzard in the UK!) 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet 4
Brown Creeper 2
Great Blue Heron 2
Rock Dove 59
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Merlin 1
American Dipper 1
Wood Duck 1
American Tree Sparrow 1
Harris's Sparrow 1
Hairy Woodpecker 1