

2016 CARSON CITY CBC

Just finished tallying up the final count for the Carson City CBC that took place this past Sunday, Dec. 18th. Going into the count, I was somewhat expecting a "below normal" count given the continuous below-freezing temperatures over the weekend and that most water bodies in the area were frozen or almost frozen. However, as it turns out, we set a new record for the count with 100 different species observed during the day (previous high was 98), not including the 4 species observed so far during the "count week" (which ends today). Highlights of birds observed include the following:

Mountain Quail

Snow, Ross's, Greater-White Fronted, and Cackling Geese

Long-Eared Owl

Ferruginous Hawk

Dunlin

Anna's Hummingbird

Woodhouse's Scrub Jay

Greater Scaup

Evening Grosbeak

A Purple Finch also was suspected of being observed but not enough documentation could be collected before it flew off so it was not included in the count. So far, during the count week, the highlight has been the Red (or Taiga) subspecies of Fox Sparrow that was observed and photographed at Silver Saddle Ranch on Saturday (as well as last Wednesday before the count week).

Also, there were new high counts for the following species observed during the count day:

Cackling Goose

American Wigeon

Mallard (with almost 1000 alone at the small pond at Ross Gold Park)

Green-Winged Teal

Bald Eagle

Red-Shouldered Hawk

Prairie Falcon

Virginia Rail

Sora

American Coot

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Red-Breasted Sapsucker

Downy Woodpecker

Mountain Chickadee

White-Breasted Nuthatch

Western Bluebird

American Robin
Dark-Eyed Junco

At the end of the day, we had another great time and good food during the tally rally potluck! If anyone sees any rare or unusual bird today (again the last day of "count week"), please e-mail me with your observation. Thanks to all who braved the cold temperatures and made the count day a resounding success!

Rob Lowry
Carson City