

2016 MINDEN CBC

The 2016 Christmas Bird Count was completed by 22 Field Birders and 12 Feeder Watchers on a cold day under partly cloudy skies. The count was impacted by frozen water in the ponds and lakes and the unsettled weather in the preceding 2 weeks. The total count was 17,989 comprised of 89 species, 10 of which were CW sightings. The 4 Tundra Swans were supplemented by 24 additional sightings during CW as were the 34 Snow Geese added to the 32 found during the count. Nice finds and numbers for what are occasional species. The most populous specie was the E. Starling at 4892, followed by Am. Pipit (2000) and Horned Larks (790) in mixed flocks. GHOs and Barn Owls came in at 14 each, while the Woodpeckers were N. Flicker (41) , Downey (18) and (1) Harry rounded out their counts. There were 2: Black Phoebes, Loggerheaded Shrikes, Mt. Chickadees, Merlin and Peregrine Falcons. The Red-Tails numbered 403, Ferruginous (63), Rough-legged (11), Coops (31, Sharpies (16), 12 Prairies , 9 Bald Eagles and 1 Golden. The Sage Brush and PJ Birds were all present in small numbers with the Water birds greatly reduced due to the frozen waters. The day got wrapped up in a great dinner with a lot of fine birders. A great way to start 2017.

Jim Woods