

## 2016 PYRAMID LAKE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT held 1-1-2017

Fourteen brave souls participated in the 25th Pyramid Lake Christmas Count in sub-freezing temperatures ranging from a low of 13 to a high of 23. We tallied 2548 individuals of 74 species. There were very few water birds on the lake, especially at the south western corner, which was frozen solid.

However we did have a few highlights including a Pacific Loon found by Meg Andrews, Dave McNinch and Lauren Gonce at the Rawhide Lookout. This is only the 5th time this species has been recorded on the count. Another highlight was a Burrowing Owl found by me, Becca and Mary Luzier just south of Sutcliffe in the same spot where the Common Redpoll and Lapland Longspur were a few years ago. This is only the 3rd time this species has been recorded on the count, the last being in 2000. Count week birds included Mew Gull (December 30) at Popcorn Rock and an Anna's Hummingbird (December 31) at the Quail Run Ranch (private property). If seen on count day the hummingbird would have been a first for the count. A big miss was Ruddy Duck. This is the first time in 25 years that this species was missed on the count.

Thanks to all who participated and to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for waiving day use fees for the participants.

Dennis Serdehely