

Creston Christmas Bird Count - December 27, 2025



On December 27th, 31 volunteer “citizen scientists” searched our forests, marshes, flats, and town site looking for birds during the 27th annual Creston Christmas Bird Count. The day had a bit of sunshine with some strong wind gusts but no precipitation. During the cool morning, birds were difficult to find as they were not at their food sources yet. A few more people counted birds from indoors as they watched their birdfeeders. These efforts contributed to finding 76 species!

Most surprising this year was the large flocks of American Robins everywhere! A milder winter and an abundance of berries accounts for these high numbers. Robins have been reported on every Christmas Bird Count since 1998 but numbers will vary from year to year. Absent this year were the big flocks of European Starlings and Bohemian Waxwings (Cedar Waxwings seemed unusually higher in numbers during the count week).

With so much open water and easy access to food, there were good numbers for both Trumpeter and Tundra Swans in our valley. In some years, the Trumpeters will overwinter here.

A few dedicated volunteers went the extra mile to find species within the ‘count week’ time period to find 10 additional species not found on December 27th. These were Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Western Screech Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Snow Goose, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Great Blue Heron, and a Wood Duck!

Written by: Ulrike Sliworsky, Creston Christmas Bird Count Compiler and Coordinator.

Photo credits: Tammy Bradford (Common Goldeneye, American Robin, Cedar Waxwings, Downy Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, and Pine Siskin)

1	Count Week Species
Creston Total	Species
1125	Canada Goose
1	Snow Goose
178	Trumpeter Swan
62	Tundra Swan
705	Mallard
1	Wood Duck
1	Northern Shoveler
1	American Wigeon
55	Common Golden-eye
29	Bufflehead
1	Pied-billed Grebe
13	Hooded Merganser
15	Common Merganser
95	California Quail
14	Ring-necked Pheasant
4	Ruffed Grouse
278	Wild Turkey
1	Great Blue Heron
2	Mourning Dove
40	Eurasian Collared Dove
373	Rock Pigeon
23	Bald Eagle
12	Northern Harrier
1	Cooper's Hawk
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk
26	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Rough-legged Hawk
9	American Kestrel
2	Merlin
6	Great Horned Owl
1	Western Screech Owl
1	Short-eared Owl
1	Northern Saw-whet Owl
2	Northern Pygmy Owl
16	Downy Woodpecker
5	Hairy Woodpecker
140	Northern Flicker
3	Pileated Woodpecker



3	Northern Shrike
4	Belted Kingfisher
219	European Starling
3	American Dipper
7	Steller's Jay
27	Blue Jay
33	Black-billed Magpie
590	American Crow
150	Common Raven
457	Black-capped Chickadee
45	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
1	Mountain Chickadee
2	Brown Creeper
99	Red-breasted Nuthatch
4	Pacific Wren
1	Marsh Wren
29	Golden-crowned Kinglet
1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
622	American Robin
13	Townsend's Solitaire
1	Cedar Waxwing
1	Bohemian Waxwing
6	Spotted Towhee
561	Dark-eyed Junco
10	American Tree Sparrow
42	Song Sparrow
3	White-throated Sparrow
7	Red Crossbill
180	House Finch
8	Cassin's Finch
12	Common Redpoll
1	Evening Grosbeak
942	Pine Siskin
202	American Goldfinch
27	House Sparrow
4	Western Bluebirds
56	Ring-billed Gull
5	Snow Bunting
7622	Total Individuals
76	Total Species



