

Patagonia, Arizona Christmas Bird Count 2014-2015

December 16, 2014

A Rainy Day for Bird Counting

By Gary Romig

This year's Christmas bird count in Patagonia went on despite the horrible weather. My team of four people, including an eleven-year-old beginning birder from England, had the territory starting at the extreme west edge of the San Raphael Valley and then west and south along the road back to Patagonia. This included Corral Canyon which was the center of our territory.

We certainly appreciated a border patrol agent with tow strap and truck who came along and pulled us out of a muddy ditch after our car began to do nothing but slide into said ditch.

After that, we got some good birding in the wooded canyons of our territory. Patagonia continues to be an amazing Christmas bird count but it is not always easy. Many thanks go out to all who participated and especially to Abbie Zeltzer, Matt Brown and Tom Army. They have been running this count for many years now.

Editor's note: The CW stands for "Count Week." These are birds not seen on the specified day of the count but are seen during the seven-day week before and after the main day of the count. In this case that day was the 18th. So any birds seen three days before or three days after can be added to the list if they were not seen on the 18th. These are often just one special bird, but may be of a bird that is very common and was just not seen by anyone on the day of the count.

Sp designation happens when the observer cannot identify the separate species of very similar birds. We have Eastern and Western Meadowlarks here and they are so similar that many observers just say Meadowlark sp and can't separate them. This designation does not add to the total species list but does add to the total number of birds seen.

Note: This is not the official count.

Mallard - 7
Gadwall - 3
Ring-necked Duck - 3
Rudy Duck - 11
Gambel's Quail - 11
Great Blue Heron - 1
Northern Harrier - 21
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1
Cooper's Hawk - 2
Northern Goshawk - 1
Gray Hawk - 1
Red-tailed Hawk - 30
Kestrel - 39
Merlin - 1
Golden Eagle - 1
Virginia Rail - 1
Sora - 1
American Coot - 13
Wilson's Snipe - 2
Killdeer - 6
Band-tailed Pigeon - 5

Eurasian Collared Dove - 153
White-winged Dove - 73
Mourning Dove - 465
Inca Dove - 16
Common Ground-Dove - 4
Great Horned Owl - 1
Northern Pygmy-Owl - 1
Spotted Owl - 2
Broad-billed Hummingbird - 4
Anna's Hummingbird - 11
Rufous Hummingbird - 1
Violet-crowned Hummingbird - 1
Elegant Trogon -
CWBelted Kingfisher - 1
Acorn Woodpecker - 41
Gila Woodpecker - 64
Williamson's Sapsucker - 2
Red-naped Sapsucker - 14
Ladder-backed Woodpecker - 56
Arizona Woodpecker - 1
7Red-shafted Flicker - 93
Hammond's Flycatcher - 24
Gray Flycatcher - 9
Dusky Flycatcher - 4
Northern Beardless Tyranulet - 2
Greater Pewee - 2
Cassin's Kingbird CW
Black Phoebe - 23
Say's Phoebe -26
Loggerhead Shrike - 6
Plumbeous Vireo - 1
Cassin's Vireo - 1
Hutton's Vireo - 19
Western Scrub Jay - 4
Mexican Jay - 175
Chihuahuan Raven - 84
Common Raven1 - 70
Raven sp. - 17
Horned Lark - 12
Bridled Titmouse - 113
Verdin6Bushtit - 33
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2
White-breasted Nuthatch - 72
Rock Wren - 11
Canyon Wren - 31
Bewick's Wren - 106
House Wren - 34
Marsh Wren - 4
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 296
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher CW
Black-capped Gnatcatcher - 3
Eastern Bluebird - 106
Western Bluebird - 81
Townsend's Solitaire - 2
Hermit Thrush - 69
American Robin - 18
Rufous-backed Robin - 1
Northern Mockingbird - 9
Curve-billed Thrasher - 14
Crissal Thrasher - 3
Phainopepla - 2
European Starling - 2
Olive Warbler - 3
Orange-crowned Warbler - 4
Yellow-throated Warbler - 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 46
Black-throated Gray Warbler - 6
Townsend's Warbler - 12
Wilson's Warbler - 3
Louisiana Waterthrush - 1
Painted Redstart - 4
Hepatic Tanager - 6
Green-tailed Towhee - 26
Spotted Towhee - 36
Canyon Towhee - 41
Abert's Towhee - 32
Rufous-winged Sparrow - 6
Rufous-crowned Sparrow - 49
Chipping Sparrow - 875
Brewer's Sparrow - 4
Vesper Sparrow - 48
Lark Sparrow - 94
White-crowned Sparrow - 88
White-throated Sparrow - 4
Savanna Sparrow - 91
Slate Fox Sparrow - 1
Song Sparrow - 26
Lincoln's Sparrow - 25
Dark-eyed Junco - 351
Oregon Junco - 58
Pink-Sided Junco - 70
Gray-headed Junco - 107
Chestnut-collared Longspur - 30
Northern Cardinal - 36
Pyrrhuloxia - 6
Lazuli Bunting - 2
Red-winged Blackbird - 198
Scott's Oriole - 1
Western Meadowlark - 11
Eastern Meadowlark - 47
Meadowlark sp. - 4
Brewer's Blackbird - 484
Great-tailed Grackle CW
Brown-headed Cowbird - 300
House Finch - 175
Pine Siskin - 109
Lesser Goldfinch - 54
House Sparrow - 54

Total species: 131 Total individuals: 6432