

Indiana Dunes Thirty-eighth Annual Christmas Bird Count

Held December 19, 2009

Count Compiler: Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N 25 E, Chesterton, IN 46304
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This year marks the 110th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. It is also the 38th Annual Christmas Bird Count for the Indiana Dunes area.

Locality: The count area encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle with the center being north and east of Chesterton, Indiana (near intersection of 1400 N and CR 450 E). This includes a large portion of Porter County and portions of western LaPorte County.

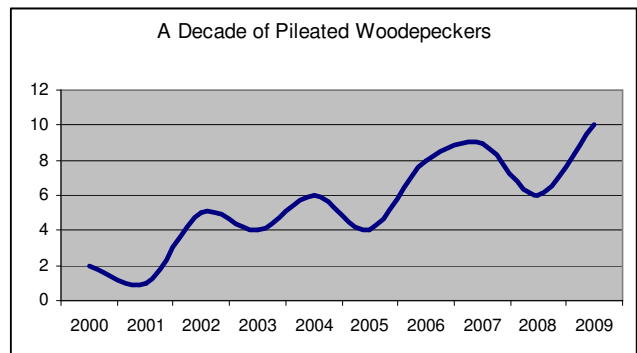
Weather and Snow/Ice Conditions: Temperature range was 31-34 degrees. The wind was from the northeast at 0-5mph. Light snow fell most of the day, restricting visibility, especially on Lake Michigan. Most small bodies of water were frozen. Lake Michigan and running water was open.

Totals: 31 observers in the field counted 11,486 birds of 79 species. One species was picked up during the count week: Western Grebe

Records: No new birds were found this year. Our count stands at 153 birds over the years (156 including CW birds).

A few notable record numbers this year were recorded for:

Canada Goose 2,983 (2,834 in 2008)
Mute Swan 16 (12 in 1995)
Horned Grebe 9 (5 in 2003)
Double-crested Cormorant 19 (15 in 2008)
Red-shouldered Hawk 12 (9 in 2007)
Pileated Woodpecker 10 (9 in 2007)
Brown-headed Cowbird 665 (651 in 2004)



Recorded during count week, but not count day:

Western Grebe

Recorded a day after the count week, but not during the count week: Gadwall, Eared Grebe, Bonaparte's Gull, Great-black backed Gull, and Ancient Murrelet!

Trends: Of the 79 species, 13 of them were represented by just one individual (16%). This year's species total was up 3 from last year. Winter finches were located in very low numbers. One highlight was a single Common Redpoll found by Team Anderson in Beverly Shores.

A couple interesting sightings included the fourth scoter tripecta for the Dunes CBC found by Team sans-Brock. Other highlights were a Short-eared Owl found by Team Lundquist, several Wild Turkey flocks found by multiple teams, and a lingering Gray Catbird also seen by multiple teams.

Missing this year were any Ring-necked Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, Thayer's Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, many owls, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Buntings. Winter gulls continue to be low. This is the fifth year of low gull counts.

Participants:

Field counters: Alan Anderson, Bobbie Atzhorn, Brad Bumgardner, John Cassady, Tom Edwards, Carol Fialkowski, Conrad Fialkowski, Bummer Gacsko, Tina Kelly, William Kelly, John Kendall, Richard Knutson, Bernie Konrady, Erin Krueger, Patrick Krueger, Robert LeMay, Eric Lundquist, Jeff McCoy, Don Mohar, Peg Mohar, Matt Myer, Corasue Nicholas, Randy Pals, Nancy Reiter, Chuck Roth, Sarah Sass, Steve Sass, Pat Sheahan, Tracy Spurgeon, Jim Zervos, and Tracy Zervos.

Thank you to all who participated. Finally, big thanks go out to Don and Peg Mohar for providing all that delicious chili. Not a spoonful was left at the end of the day... again!

Please mark you calendars for Saturday, December 18, 2010 for next year's count! Happy birding!

Totals taken from report submitted to National Audubon. View them online at www.audubon.org.

Totals from December 19, 2009. Indiana Dunes (INID) Christmas Bird Count.

Canada Goose- 2,983	Red-headed Woodpecker- 7
Mute Swan- 16	Red-bellied Woodpecker- 47
American Black Duck- 9	Downy Woodpecker- 55
Mallard- 818	Hairy Woodpecker- 19
Northern Shoveler- 1	Northern Flicker- 8
Redhead- 41	Pileated Woodpecker- 10
Greater Scaup- 34	Blue Jay- 326
Lesser Scaup- 41	American Crow- 138
Surf Scoter- 5	Horned Lark- 30
White-winged Scoter- 2	Black-capped Chickadee- 153
Black Scoter- 2	Tufted Titmouse- 105
Bufflehead- 42	Red-breasted Nuthatch- 1
Common Goldeneye- 107	White-breasted Nuthatch- 94
Common Merganser- 6	Brown Creeper- 2
Red-breasted Merganser- 82	Carolina Wren- 1
Ruddy Duck- 3	Winter Wren- 2
Wild Turkey- 12	Eastern Bluebird- 24
Red-throated Loon- 3	American Robin- 20
Common Loon- 2	Gray Catbird- 1
Horned Grebe- 9	European Starling- 2,226
Western Grebe- cw	Cedar Waxwing- 14
Double-crested Cormorant- 19	American Tree Sparrow- 259
Great Blue Heron- 3	Fox Sparrow- 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk- 2	Song Sparrow- 22
Cooper's Hawk- 6	Swamp Sparrow- 15
Red-shouldered Hawk- 12	White-throated Sparrow- 8
Red-tailed Hawk- 20	Dark-eyed Junco- 161
Rough-legged Hawk- 1	Northern Cardinal- 202
American Kestrel- 4	Red-winged Blackbird- 654
Peregrine Falcon- 1	Common Grackle- 136
Virginia Rail- 1	Brown-headed Cowbird- 665
American Coot- 2	Purple Finch- 3
Ring-billed Gull- 467	House Finch- 91
Herring Gull- 519	Common Redpoll- 1
Glaucous Gull- 1	Pine Siskin- 2
Rock Pigeon- 257	American Goldfinch- 162
Mourning Dove- 121	House Sparrow- 260
Barred Owl- 2	Total Individuals: 11,486
Short-eared Owl- 1	Total Species: 79 (+1 cw)
Belted Kingfisher- 2	

