

Christmas Bird Count Results

By Pam Watters

Snow Buntings, Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were some of the bird species found during the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) held in Red Bank/Sunny Corner on December 18 and Miramichi on January 3. Although the Miramichi CBC has been an annual event since 1972 and the Red Bank/Sunny Corner CBC since 2004, the tradition dates back to 1900. Ornithologist Frank Chapman decided to organize an event to count birds as an alternative to the Christmas Side Hunt in which teams counted how many birds they could shoot! Christmas Bird Counts now take place all across North America between December 14 and January 5. The goal of the count is to find and identify as many birds as possible in 24 hours within a 24 km diameter circle. It's a lot of fun and a great way to learn about the hardy birds that are able to spend the winter in New Brunswick. The results of our CBCs are submitted to a provincial coordinator for New Brunswick, and many are entered into a North American database of Christmas Bird Counts through Bird Studies Canada.



Sharp-shinned Hawk Phil Riebel Photo



Black-capped Chickadee Phil Riebel Photo

There were 29 species of birds sighted and 1,884 individual birds tallied on the Miramichi count. Highlights included a Great Blue Heron (hope this bird is well on his way south now!) and a White-breasted Nuthatch. A Northern Cardinal was seen in Nordin during the count period of December 14 to January 5. The Red Bank/Sunny Corner count had 19 species of birds sighted and 905 individual birds counted. Highlights of this count included a Northern Goshawk seen on the count day as well as Ring-necked Pheasants seen during the count period. Thanks to everyone who made these counts a success whether they braved the elements and trudged through the snow to count birds, or if they counted birds at their feeders from the comfort of home!

Results of CBCs (CP: species not seen on count day, but during count period Dec. 14 – Jan. 5)

	Miramichi (# of birds)	Red Bank/Sunny Corner(# of birds)
Canada Goose	5	3
American Black Duck	12	CP

Mallard	41	-
Common Goldeneye	19	-
Common Merganser	18	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	CP
Ruffed Grouse	CP	CP
Great Blue Heron	1	-
Bald Eagle	5	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CP	-
Northern Goshawk	-	1
Herring Gull	4	-
Great Black-backed Gull	20	-
Rock Pigeon	365	124
Mourning Dove	71	28
Barred Owl	CP	-
Downy Woodpecker	19	2
Hairy Woodpecker	22	1
Pileated Woodpecker	3	CP
Gray Jay	1	8
Blue Jay	51	42
American Crow	44	30
Common Raven	61	52
Black-capped Chickadee	238	95
Red-breasted Nuthatch	34	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	CP	1
Thrush species (Probably Bicknell's)	-	CP
American Robin	CP	-
European Starling	436	446
Bohemian Waxwing	CP	-
American Tree Sparrow	29	-
Dark-eyed Junco	4	CP
Snow Bunting	12	CP
Northern Cardinal	CP	-
White-winged Crossbill	CP	-
Common Redpoll	278	11
Pine Siskin	9	CP
American Goldfinch	23	18
Evening Grosbeak	58	15