

58th Kingston Christmas Bird Count

The Kingston, NS Christmas Bird Count was held on December 30, 2025. The weather was cloudy with snow squalls and light to heavy snow with 20 to 50 SW winds for most of the day and around -5 to +1 C. There were 2 to 10 cm. of snow on the ground. Open water frozen, flowing water mostly open. Congratulations to everyone who took part, despite the poor conditions.

Thanks again this year to both Sheila Hulford (who continues to organize and collect results from feeder operators) and Lyall Bouchard (who once again organized our field parties). Great work again this year! Weather discouraged some participants, leaving some areas with poor coverage. All told, Lyall fielded 16 birders in 8 to 10 parties. Sheila was able to organize 65 feeder watchers at 42 feeders, collect the results and get them to me in a timely fashion. Thanks to Lyall and Sheila, my job as compiler is much easier. Altogether, 79 people participated on Count Day, two in a dual role, field and feeders.

We continue to use the Audubon and eBird method for reporting distance. The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count Compiler's Manual, found at the following web address: (<https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/h5h73acc0ix86vap55hf8miici88bniw>) says "If a route is an out-and-back trail or roadway, only the one-way distance is taken, but the entire time spent should be reported." That is definitive and should end any resistance to change. It is also the methodology used by eBird, which is, unfortunately, not followed by all eBirders either.

There is a continuing effort to encourage field parties to use eBird Trip Reports or checklists. We again had 4 plus zones do it this year, while 4 parties still used paper reports. Below is a list of the Trip Reports and checklists and links to them, if anyone wishes to look at them. We have a few bugs to iron out, like the conflict between individual and group numbers, but it looks like we are going to continue using this tool. A temporary online compiling tool to allow participants to follow the totals as they are submitted was developed by Lyall Bouchard in Google Docs and used again this year. You may access this file at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/106ntgAzzKiQ-d8B6PGIX_NqdjLLse-e4XfSaf6zZRA/edit?gid=720327460#gid=720327460.

Field Party Reports

- Zone 1 Bouchard - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S291197774>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291214534>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291214511>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291218886>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291229734>,
- Zone 2 Neily - <https://ebird.org/tripreport/454559>
- Zone 3 Robar-DeCoste - paper form
- Zone 4 Chute - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S291258840>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291259447>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291259068>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291259972>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291490485>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291260369>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291260575>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291490429>
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S291224240>
- Zone 5 Colville - <https://ebird.org/tripreport/455325>
- Zone 6 Kelly - paper form
- Zone 7 Neily – <https://ebird.org/tripreport/454559>
- Zone 8 Hulford - paper form
- Zone 9 Bates – <https://ebird.org/tripreport/454785>
- Zone 10 Foote - paper form



Orange-crowned Warbler on Bloomington Road in Zone 4. Photo taken by Jake Chute.

We had 55 species on count day, 24 species below last year's record high and 7 species below the latest ten-year average. With such poor count day weather we ended up with an additional 8 Count Week species, to reach a Total Species total of 63. The total number of individuals was 10139, close to the 10-year average, and only slightly less than last year's total. Most abundant species were European Starling (2523), American Goldfinch (2183), Evening Grosbeak (1064), Mourning Dove (656), Black-capped Chickadee (561), American Crow (541), Dark-eyed Junco (448), and Redpoll (457). Of the 37 species seen on 90% or more of the last 10 counts, all were seen except for Common Loon (which was seen during count week). Among the less common species missed, Green-winged Teal, Surf & White-winged Scoters, Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier, and Cedar Waxwing were the only ones that we have had 50% or more of the time in the past decade, as well as several seen on Count Week. Eight species were seen in the Count Week but not on Count Day: Long-tailed Duck, Spruce Grouse, Razorbill, Ring-billed Gull, Horned & Red-necked Grebes, Common Loon and Merlin.



An Eastern Towhee seen on count day was coming to a feeder in Lower Middleton from Dec. 15 into January. Photo by Jane White taken Dec. 31, 2025.

We had no new Count Day species this year leaving our cumulative Count Day total at 132 and our cumulative total including Count Week species stays at 140. We had our 2nd Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, our 3rd Orange-crowned Warbler, and our 4th Eastern Towhee. There were new record highs for 2 species: Evening Grosbeak (1064, was 723); American Goldfinch (2183, was 1437). And four species were tied for existing highs: Cooper's Hawk (3), Red-bellied Woodpecker (3), Eastern Towhee (1) and Orange-crowned Warbler (1). Other high counts, though not records, were from Redpoll (457) and Northern Cardinal (96). Low counts were recorded for Canada Goose (13), American Black Duck (9), reflecting lack

of open water, and Ring-necked Pheasant (4), Rock Pigeon (190), Red-tailed Hawk (15), Red-breasted Nuthatch (24), and Bohemian Waxwing (1).

Some uncommon species found on count day were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2nd record), Eastern Towhee (4th record) and Orange-crowned Warbler (3rd record). Anyone who enjoys data tables can get their fill at [Kingston CBC Results 1968 to 2024](#). There you will find the field/feeder/total compilation table from December's count, and you can also find a complete table of the count's results from its inception in 1968 to the present.

A total of 10,139 individuals of 55 species were seen on count day. Canada Goose 13, Mallard 254, American Black Duck 9 (low), Common Eider 7, Black Scoter 1, Long-tailed Duck CW, Red-breasted Merganser 2, duck sp. 1, Ruffed Grouse 6, Spruce Grouse CW, Ring-necked Pheasant 4 (low), Rock Pigeon 190 (low), Mourning Dove 656, Razorbill CW, Ring-billed Gull CW, American Herring Gull 17, Great Black-backed Gull 1, gull, sp. 1, Horned Grebe CW, Red-necked Grebe CW, Common Loon CW, Sharp-shinned Hawk 5, Cooper's Hawk 3 (high, 4th record), Bald Eagle 11, Red-tailed Hawk 15 (low), Rough-legged Hawk 1, hawk sp. 1, Barred Owl 1, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2nd record), Red-bellied Woodpecker 3 (tied high), Downy Woodpecker 54, Hairy Woodpecker 56, Pileated Woodpecker 5, Northern Flicker 3, Merlin CW, Blue Jay 312, American Crow 541, Common Raven 80, Black-capped Chickadee 561, Golden-crowned Kinglet 27, White-breasted Nuthatch 64, Red-breasted Nuthatch 24 (low), Brown Creeper 3, European Starling 2523, American Robin 30, Bohemian Waxwing 1, waxwing, sp. 30, House Sparrow 61, Evening Grosbeak 1064 (new high), Pine Grosbeak 17, Purple Finch 17, Redpoll 457 (high), Pine Siskin 9, American Goldfinch 2183 (new high), finch, sp. 100, Snow Bunting 86, Chipping Sparrow 4, American Tree Sparrow 3, Dark-eyed Junco 448, White-throated Sparrow 14, Song Sparrow 28, Eastern Towhee 1 (4th record), Red-winged Blackbird 23, Brown-headed Cowbird 8, Common Grackle 1, Orange-crowned Warbler 1 (3rd record), Pine Warbler 1, Northern Cardinal 96 (high).

Field Party Participants: Andrew Bates, Andrew Baumier, Lyall Bouchard, Meg Carroll, Jake Chute, David Colville, Joanna Cook, Sarah Foote, Sheila Hulford, Joseph Johnson, Ted Kajdas, Patrick Kelly, Ken MacIntosh, Larry Neily (compiler), Twila Robar-DeCoste, Alex Sandford.

Feeder Watchers: John Antoniuk, Sandy Antoniuk, Leona Baker, Ron Baker, Sharon Baker, Brenda Berabe, Phill Berube, Karen Campbell, Robert Campbell, Tony Chaulk, Gerry Cormier, Kathy Cormier, Cathy Crook, John DeCoste, Linda Derry, Paul Despres, Valerie Despres, Sherry-Anne Deveau, Claire Diggins, David Diggins, Donna Elliot, Harold Elliott, Kim Fortin, Anita Frittenburg, Richard Giles, Shirley Giles, Doris Glavine, Leo Glavine, Stephen Glavine, Carol Gregory, Len Gregory, Janet Hatt, Arlene Healy, James Healy (?), Donna Hill, Kathryn Hindmarch, Pat House, John Hudgins, Marilyn Hudgins, Sheila Hulford, Sibella Hulford, Mike Inkpen, Ted Kajdas, Roseann Keddy, Russell Keddy, Amy Klein, Cheryl Lenton, Andrea Leeson, Patty MacDonald, Barb MacEachern, Allen Morris, Vivian Morris, Carolee Pollock, Noreen Reagh, Wayne Reiger, Wendy Rodda, Ingrid Rolph, Murray Rolph, Howard Selig, Judy Uhlman, Mac Uhlman, Margaret Waldner, Margaret Weeks, Jane White and Ann Young.

Larry Neily, Compiler, Lawrencetown, NS February 2026



Approximate location of Kingston CBC Zones – Note: The circle is centred about 300 m too far south.