

## 2014 Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count

The 2014 Eaton Rapids Christmas Bird Count was held on December 27, 2014. This is the sixth year for this count as a “national” count, i.e. with results reported to the National Audubon Society.

While the day was free of precipitation with temperatures in the mid-40s, relatively high winds and dense cloud cover, among other things, caused the number of species and total birds seen to be below average.

Thirty-six (36) species were seen. The average since the count went national is 36.5. The biggest shortfall was in the number of birds seen, 3688, which was well below the count average of 5168.

Notwithstanding the overall low numbers, **four new species highs for the count were recorded: Cooper’s hawk, belted kingfisher, white-breasted nuthatch, and brown creeper.**

Individual counts by species are as follows:

### Species List

Canada Goose	1010
Swan sp.	2
Mallard	106
Scaup sp.	2
Great Blue Heron	1
Cooper’s Hawk	6
Red-tailed Hawk	19
American Kestrel	5
Ring-billed Gull	5
Rock Pigeon	320
Mourning Dove	131
Eastern Screech-owl	5
Great Horned Owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	19
Downy Woodpecker	36
Hairy Woodpecker	4
Northern Flicker	5
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Blue Jay	39
American Crow	974
Horned Lark	4
Black-capped Chickadee	128
Tufted Titmouse	28
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	44
Brown Creeper	9
Carolina Wren	2
Eastern Bluebird	9
European Starling	274
American Tree Sparrow	23
Dark-eyed Junco	12
Northern Cardinal	69
House Finch	20
American Goldfinch	106
House Sparrow	265