

2017 Audubon Christmas Bird Count Results from Uxbridge – Close to 50 species Despite the Frigid Polar Vortex

Forty-eight species were recorded this year up from forty-four last year. Overall numbers of most species were much lower than last year (down 2400 birds). Exceptions included increases in, pigeons, turkeys, woodpeckers and cardinals. A definite sign of the colder air front which parked itself over the region for the season was the arrival of 2185 Snow Buntings, and thirty – nine Horned Larks, a nice reward for birding parties driving around the fields of Scugog township. Birds caught in the cold this year included Red winged blackbirds, Brown headed cowbirds, , a Song Sparrow, and a Carolina Wren. Some of these birds maybe pushing the northern edge of their year-round range as they have been here on other years.

The number of participants was down this year both in the field and at the feeders which reduced the effort overall, this plus the cold affected the numbers of birds seen. On the positive side the bright sunshine made it easy to see those birds that were out.

This was Uxbridge's thirteenth official count which started in 2005. Over this time eighty -seven species of birds have been recorded during the Christmas season for the Audubon count. This effort helps understand the trends in bird populations across North America affected by weather and human activities.

Full results will be available on the National Audubon website and on the North Durham Nature website. Why not join the bird count next year or at any of North Durham Natures activities throughout the year. Enjoy the birds!

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www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count