

December 2023 Bird Count Report for Marine/Scandia/May Township Area
compiled Beth Honetschlager

The birders saw 31 species, and 934 individual birds.

That is somewhat fewer individuals than usual, perhaps because birds weren't concentrated at feeders due to the lack of snow. Also, the river had lots of open water, so waterfowl didn't need to hang out near the bank where they could easily be counted.

The most interesting birds seen were tufted titmice and red crossbills; species that are not seen every year in our area.

Unusually, no ring-necked pheasants, rock pigeons, or northern shrikes were seen.

The most numerous birds counted were black-capped chickadees, at 187. Other feeder birds counted were mourning doves, blue jays, red-breasted nuthatches, white-breasted nuthatches, house sparrows, house finches, purple finches, pine siskins, American goldfinches, dark-eyed juncos, northern cardinals, and brown creepers. Wild turkeys were also seen near several feeders.

Lots of woodpeckers were also counted, including red-bellied, downy, hairy, and pileated woodpeckers and a northern flicker.

Birds seen in and near the water included Canada geese, trumpeter swans, mallards, a belted kingfisher, Wilson's snipe, American robins, and an unidentified gull.

Flying overhead were several birds of prey: bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, and a sharp-shinned hawk. One great-horned owl was identified by its call before sunrise. And American crows and common ravens were also seen or heard.