

ORANGE COUNTY CBC JANUARY 1, 2010

Compiler: Ken Sztraky

The Orange County CBC was held as usual on January 1 without any real weather issues.

As with many other counts in the area this year, waterfowl were scarce. Snow Geese were in the lowest numbers in several years, and there were no Red-breasted Mergansers seen. On the other hand, Great and Snowy Egrets were found in high numbers.

A large number of Ospreys were seen, but it will always be difficult to know if any were sightings were duplicated or were re-sightings of the same bird(s).

Beach bird habitat is scarce within the count circle, with only a few areas along the mouth of the Neches and in the Old River Cover that offer much of a chance of seeing the "true" shorebirds. This year, no Black-bellied Plovers were seen, but American Avocet, not often found on this count even though the species is present virtually year round in the south impoundment of nearby Pleasure Island, was seen. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was also unusual.

White-winged Doves were seen again after several years absence. This is another species that has always been plentiful in areas quite close to the circle.

There was good evidence that the area was recovering from the effects of Hurricane Ike in that Red-headed Woodpeckers were back again and Brown Creeper and Brown-headed Nuthatches were seen for the first time in a few years. Brown Thrasher numbers were very low, as were Gray Catbirds, suggesting the underbrush may not have fully regenerated. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets – mid storey species – were seen in high numbers.

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Snow Goose (29); Ross's Goose (2); Wood Duck (4); Gadwall (5); Green-winged Teal (16); Mottled Duck (2); Redhead (2); Blue-winged Teal (15); Northern Shoveler (8); Ring-necked Duck (4); Greater Scaup (5); Lesser Scaup (153); Common Goldeneye (31); Bufflehead (2); Ruddy Duck (2); Hooded Merganser (15); Pied-billed Grebe (51); Neotropic Cormorant (108); Double-crested Cormorant (101); cormorant sp (25); Anhinga (3); American White Pelican (102); Brown Pelican (31); Tricolored Heron (1); Little Blue Heron (2); Snowy Egret (176); Great Blue Heron (22); Great Egret (116); Cattle Egret (2); Black-crowned Night-Heron (31); White Ibis (29); White-faced Ibis (2); Dark Ibis Species (41); Roseate Spoonbill (11); Black Vulture (41); Turkey Vulture (36); Osprey (27); Bald Eagle (1); Northern Harrier (5); Cooper's Hawk (2); Red-shouldered Hawk (14); Red-tailed Hawk (21); American Kestrel (12); Clapper Rail (2); Virginia Rail (2); Sora (1); Common Moorhen (22); American Coot (230); Wilson's Snipe (3); Greater

Yellowlegs (11); Lesser Yellowlegs (4); Spotted Sandpiper (2); Willet (8); Western Sandpiper (2); Least Sandpiper (25); Killdeer (55); Ring-billed Gull (154); Herring Gull (3); Bonaparte's Gull (53); Laughing Gull (21); Caspian Tern (1); Lesser Black-backed Gull (1); Royal Tern (7); Forster's Tern (96); Black Skimmer (1); Rock Pigeon (105); Eurasian Collared-Dove (10); Mourning Dove (100); White-winged Dove (1); Inca Dove (15); Eastern Screech-Owl (1); Belted Kingfisher (27); Red-headed Woodpecker (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (40); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (6); Downy Woodpecker (24); Northern Flicker (yellow) (4); Pileated Woodpecker (11); Eastern Phoebe (47); Blue Jay (36); American Crow (11); Fish Crow (2); Tree Swallow (1554); White-eyed Vireo (2); Blue-headed Vireo (5); Loggerhead Shrike (14); Cedar Waxwing (90); Eastern Bluebird (60); Hermit Thrush (3); American Robin (332); Gray Catbird (8); Northern Mockingbird (47); Brown Thrasher (1); European Starling (278); Brown-headed Nuthatch (3); Brown Creeper (2); Sedge Wren (10); Marsh Wren (1); Carolina Wren (37); Winter Wren (2); House Wren (10); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (27); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (85); Golden-crowned Kinglet (3); Carolina Chickadee (53); Tufted Titmouse (12); American Pipit (Water pipit) (14); Orange-crowned Warbler (21); Yellow-rumped Warbler (myrtle) (245); Pine Warbler (39); Common Yellowthroat (4); Song Sparrow (6); Swamp Sparrow (21); White-crowned Sparrow (20); White-throated Sparrow (33); Dark-eyed Junco (1); Savannah Sparrow (9); Chipping Sparrow (67); Eastern Towhee (1); Northern Cardinal (62); Red-winged Blackbird (529); Eastern Meadowlark (2); Great-tailed Grackle (530); Boat-tailed Grackle (55); Common Grackle (59); Brown-headed Cowbird (16); American Goldfinch (77); House Sparrow (11); overall total number birds seen (6916); overall total species seen (129); Participants Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Bruce Bishop, Don Jeane, Royce Pendergast, Sherry Gibson, Sue Harris, Sandra Langham, Sherrie Roden, John Whittle, Jana Whittle, Tex Wells, Ken Sztraky.