

MERRITT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS - December 2025 **This was the 27th count for this count circle**

NOTES: "CW" means species seen in count week (3 days before to 3 days after count day), but not on the count itself.

SPECIES	No. Birds	Notes
Canada Goose	1040	Record high count - average is 263 birds
SNOW GOOSE	1	New species for the Merritt counts
Trumpeter Swan	124	Close to the record count (129 in 2019)
American Wigeon	9	
Mallard	979	
Hybrid Mallard x Red-crested Pochard	1	New for the Merritt count - but this bird was here last spring.
Northern Shoveler	3	Only the 4th time on a Merritt count
Green-winged Teal	65	Close to the record count (67 in 2002)
Greater Scaup	0	Missing regular species - average is 11 birds
Lesser Scaup	0	Missing regular species - average is 10 birds
Bufflehead	18	
Common Goldeneye	18	
Barrow's Goldeneye	48	
Hooded Merganser	4	
Common Merganser	8	
Ruffed Grouse	2	
Common Loon	5	
Pied-billed Grebe	2	
Horned Grebe	1	Low count - average is 7 birds
Western Grebe	4	
Great Blue Heron	4	
Golden Eagle	2	
Northern Harrier	4	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW	Missing regular - found on 17 of the past 26 counts
Bald Eagle	22	
Red-tailed Hawk	13	
Rough-legged Hawk	4	
DUNLIN	6	First for the Merritt count - at Nicola Lake
Unidentified gull sp.	2	Last year we had Ring-billed Gulls - likely the same
Rock Pigeon	185	
Eurasian Collared Dove	132	
Mourning Dove	CW	Missing on the count day, but 2 in the count week
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	
Belted Kingfisher	0	Missing regular species - on 21 previous counts
Downy Woodpecker	6	
Hairy Woodpecker	3	
Three-toed Woodpecker	1	Found on only two previous Merritt counts
N. (Red-shafted) Flicker	41	
Pileated Woodpecker	1	
American Kestrel	1	
Merlin	2	
Northern Shrike	2	
Steller's Jay	7	
Black-billed Magpie	33	
Clark's Nutcracker	4	Low count - average is 24 birds
American Crow	80	
Common Raven	74	
Black-capped Chickadee	46	
Mountain Chickadee	50	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	
Pygmy Nuthatch	20	
American Dipper	1	Low count - average is 7 birds
Townsend's Solitaire	7	
American Robin	48	High count - average is 25 birds
European Starling	317	
Bohemian Waxwing	1	Low count - average is 426 birds
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	Only the third time for a Merritt count
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	99	
White-throated Sparrow	1	Only the second time for a Merritt count
Song Sparrow	12	
Spotted Towhee	18	High count - average is 6 birds
Red-winged Blackbird	5	Low count - average is 84 birds
Brewer's Blackbird	0	Missing regular species - average is 43 birds
House Finch	99	Low count - average is 171 birds
Pine Siskin	0	Missing regular species - average is 35 birds
American Goldfinch	23	
House Sparrow	180	
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	3905	Just below the average of 4172 birds
TOTAL SPECIES	59	Just below the average (62 species)
TOTAL SPECIES	61	Including the Count Week
No. of participants (field)	21	
Total party-hours	46.5	
Feeder-watchers	4	