

Christmas Bird Counts for North Dakota-1973

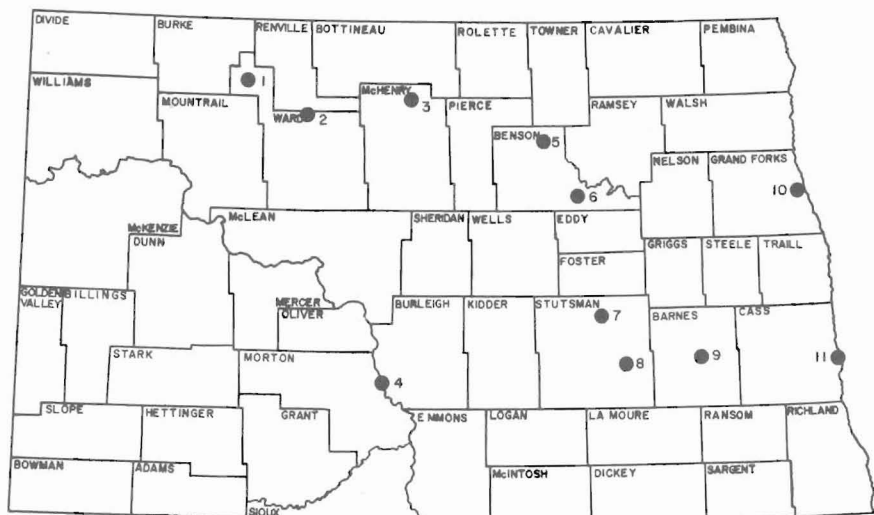
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Fewer areas were covered by Christmas Bird Counts in 1973 than in the preceding year. Three of the four areas not covered in 1973 were those which had previously been counted by persons not resident of the immediate area. The fuel shortage with which we were all concerned was undoubtedly a primary cause of reduced coverage. Most of the areas which were counted have been included on the list for a number of years (Fig. 1).

Although fewer counts were made, the number of persons taking part dropped only slightly, with 137 participants this year. The number of party miles and party hours were both down significantly but the total number of individual birds was up over 14 per cent above the 1972 count. The total number of species observed was 63, down five from 1972.

Several species were new to count lists in different areas and it appears that two species were new to the composite Christmas Count List for the State. These were the Gray Catbird reported at Grand Forks and the Gray Jay at Sullys Hill National Game Preserve. Grand Forks also reported the Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned Kinglet and White-throated Sparrow as being new to their list. Jomestown added the Bald Eagle, Varied Thrush and Hoary Redpoll. The American Kestrel, Mourning Dove and Robin were new to the Valley City list, while Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge added the Merlin. A Red-



1. Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge
2. Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge
3. J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge
4. Bismarck-Mandan
5. Leeds
6. Sullys Hill National Game Preserve
7. Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge
8. Jamestown
9. Valley City
10. Grand Forks
11. Fargo-Moorhead

bellied Woodpecker was a new species at Bismarck and Grand Forks, and it was also reported from Fargo. The Goshawk, which in many years is quite rare, was reported from Jamestown, Fargo and Valley City.

In general this was a poor year for northern finches in the State. The one exception was the Common Redpoll which was reported in fair to substantial numbers from each area. The Red Crossbill, which frequently makes an important contribution to the Christmas list, was absent in all areas. The Bohemian Waxwing, which usually is also an important part of the winter avifauna of North Dakota, was scarce with a total of only 16 individuals being reported from three locations.

The only other species which appeared at all reporting locations was the common Hairy Woodpecker.

NORTH DAKOTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1973

Species	Des Lacs 12-1-6-73	Upper Souris 12-27-73	J. Clark Salyer 12-19-73	Bismarck-Mandan 12-16-73	Leeds 12-23-73	Sullys Hill 12-27-73	Arrowood 12-28-73	Jamestown 12-27-73	Valley City 12-16-73	Grand Forks 12-16-73	Fargo-Moorhead 12-15-73
1. Canada Goose				1							
2. Mallard				1							
3. Goshawk								1	1		1
4. Rough-legged Hawk	1		1								1
5. Golden Eagle			1			1	1				
6. Bald Eagle								1			
7. Merlin	1										
8. American Kestrel									1	1	2
9. Sharp-tailed Grouse	27	25	2	45		2	84	23		28	
10. Ring-necked Pheasant	8	148	32	32				11		1	22
11. Gray Partridge	78	20	9	25	71		23	99	80	53	81
12. Turkey									20		
13. Rock Dove									175		
14. Mourning Dove									1		2
15. Screech Owl	1										
16. Great Horned Owl	2	1	6	2	1	1	2	9		5	12
17. Snowy Owl			1		1				1		2
18. Short-eared Owl			4	1							2
19. Common Flicker							1	1		1	5
20. Pileated Woodpecker											4
21. Red-bellied Woodpecker				1							1
22. Hairy Woodpecker	2	10	7	18	7	9	1	28	17	18	77
23. Downy Woodpecker	5	2	4	16	8	13		32	26	12	62
24. Horned Lark				560	3			394	5	14	
25. Gray Jay						1					
26. Blue Jay	4			4	4	24	1	3	26	20	48
27. Black-billed Magpie	7	15	6	14	7	11	20		1		10
28. Common Crow										1	26
29. Black-capped Chickadee	11	46	18	87	8	26		72	101	131	263
30. White-breasted Nuthatch	1		2	20	1	15		19	34	42	94

