

**AUBURN/OPELIKA, ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
2005**

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The Auburn/Opelika Christmas Bird Counts have been conducted since 1954 (Dusi 1991, 1995) and provide data that can help document changes in winter bird populations. Below are the results for the 2005 count, which occurred on 3 January 2006. Sixteen participants formed 10 parties. The parties drove a total of 294 miles (473 km) and made 44.1 hours of observations. In addition, 16.5 mi (26.5 km) and 37.8 hours of observation were conducted on foot. Weather was clear with a high of 60°F (33°C) and a light wind. A total of 92 species was recorded and 7,889 individuals were counted.

The following is list of the species seen and the number of individuals counted. Ross's Goose 1, Canada Goose 156, Wood Duck 49, Gadwall 6, Mallard 56, Ring-necked Duck 94, Lesser Scaup 44, Bufflehead 24, Common Goldeneye 1, Hooded Merganser 50, Ruddy Duck 30, Wild Turkey 12, Pied-billed Grebe 15, Horned Grebe 2, Great Blue Heron 29, Black Vulture 25, Turkey Vulture 219, Sharp-shinned Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 26, Red-shouldered Hawk 7, American Kestrel 4, Merlin 1, Virginia Rail 2, Killdeer 35, Wilson's Snipe 13, American Woodcock 3, Rock Pigeon 146, Eurasian Collared-Dove 33, Mourning Dove 246, Eastern Screech-Owl 4, Great Horned Owl 3, Barred Owl 4, Belted Kingfisher 20, Red-headed Woodpecker 8, Red-bellied Woodpecker 37, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13, Downy Woodpecker 17, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Northern Flicker 13, Pileated Woodpecker 10, Eastern Phoebe 28, Loggerhead Shrike 10, Solitary Vireo 4, Blue Jay 118, American Crow 525, Fish Crow 27, Carolina Chickadee 85, Tufted Titmouse 69, Brown-headed Nuthatch 71, Brown Creeper 1, Carolina Wren 93, House Wren 2, Winter Wren 1, Sedge Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 73, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 108, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Eastern Bluebird 165, Hermit Thrush 6, American Robin 834, Gray Catbird 3, Northern Mockingbird 79, Brown Thrasher 7, European Starling 10, American Pipit 12, Cedar Waxwing 307, Orange-crowned Warbler 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 226, Pine Warbler 115, Palm Warbler 3, Common Yellowthroat 3, Eastern Towhee 76, Chipping Sparrow 117, Field Sparrow 69, Vesper Sparrow 4, Savannah Sparrow 61, Song Sparrow 80, Swamp Sparrow 71, White-throated Sparrow 77, Dark-eyed Junco 18, Northern Cardinal 127, Red-winged Blackbird 815, Eastern

Meadowlark 186, Common Grackle 1295, Brown-headed Cowbird 18, Baltimore Oriole 1, House Finch 38, Pine Siskin 1, American Goldfinch 196, House Sparrow 42.

The count observers were C. A. Carr, Evelyn Cook, Rosemary Dusi, Julian Dusi (compiler), John Ernst, Virginia Ernst, Barry Fleming, John Hachtel, Geoff Hill, Gene Hunter, Haskel Patterson, Betty Patterson, Chet Roe, Jane Rushin, Mary Ann Sims, and Lorna West.

LITERATURE CITED

- DUSI, J. L. 1991. A summary of Christmas Bird Counts at Auburn, Alabama, 1954-1990. *Alabama Birdlife* 38:14-21.
- DUSI, J. L. 1995. Auburn Christmas Bird Counts 1954-1994. *Alabama Birdlife* 41:14-20.

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