

(WYJH), a White-winged Scoter and a Sora at Crowhart (WYCR), a Canyon Wren and an American Pipit at Lander (WYLA), two Western Wood-Pewees at Gillette (WYGI), a Vesper Sparrow at Evanston (WYEV), and a Savannah Sparrow as well as a Gyrfalcon (cw) at Casper (WYCA). The Eurasian Collared-Dove occupation of Wyoming is now complete with 1777 individuals reported on 18 of the 20 counts. As a reminder, the first seven Eurasian Collared-Doves reported on a CBC in Wyoming were on the 103rd count. The invasive nature of this species was interesting as it rapidly expanded its range across Europe (from a historic range in the Eastern Mediterranean area) during the 1930s to 1950s and now across the United States. The first Eurasian Collared-Doves on a CBC occurred in Florida during the 87th count when 106 were noted on two counts. Last season (the 108th count) tallied 40,292 on 626 counts in the United States.

In Utah, 188 species were recorded (189 last year) with an average number of species per circle at approximately 68. Three counts topped the 100-species mark. St. George recorded the high number with 109, and, as Marilyn said, "109 on CBC-109, birders are the *best*." Tundra Swan numbers were impressive

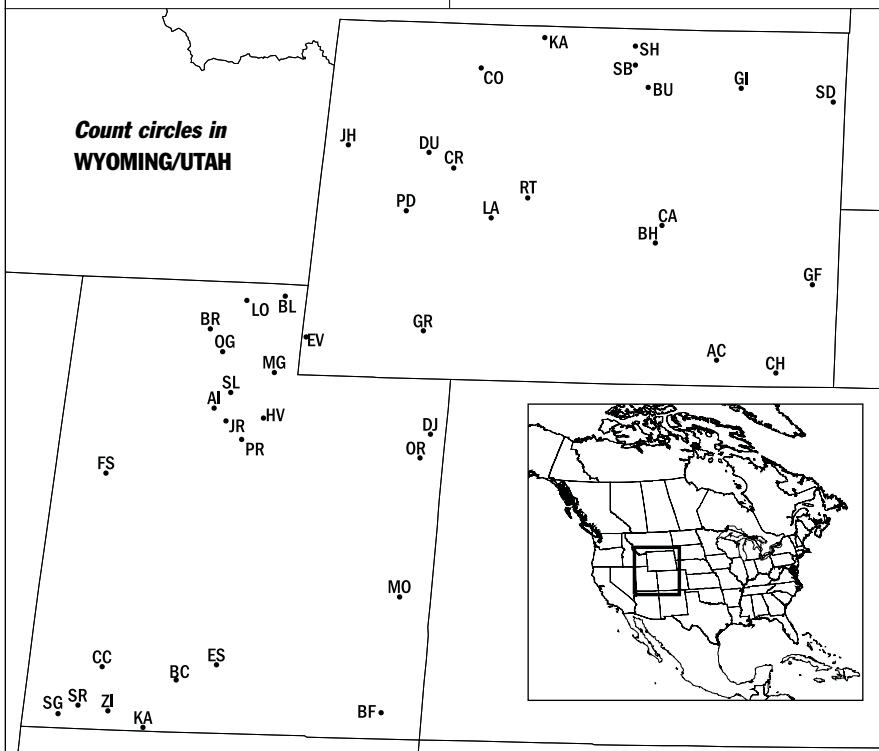
this year with 13,718 individuals reported from six circles. This compares to a five-year average of 4822 individuals. I didn't find information in the Audubon report on climate change about the Sandhill Crane, but Utah numbers indicate cranes are moving their wintering range northward into Utah. Prior to the 103rd count only a small number of Sandhill Cranes were reported from the northeast corner of the state; numbers began increasing after that season. The five-year average from the 104th to 108th count was 445 individuals per year reported from one or two circles in the Uinta Basin (Vernal area). This season 1656 individual cranes were counted on seven circles (plus one count week) throughout the state. After reading about the devastating decline in Yellow-billed Magpie numbers due to West Nile virus, I was curious about our Black-billed Magpie. I compared the 109th tally of 2568 on 19 circles to the five-year average of 2944 on 17 circles. Although this is a 13 percent decline, it appears within historic variability. In addition, the American Crow numbers this season were 4371; the five-year average is 4195. Several circles reported large influxes of American Robin, with the most noticeable irruption being in

Morgan (UTMG). Observers this season recorded 10,636 individual American Robins; the five-year average is only 4393. Spotted Towhee numbers were also up with 639 counted; the five-year average is 308. The Audubon report indicated that Pine Siskin were moving their wintering range north; however, the Utah 109th CBC tally of 1819 individuals is the highest recorded since 4166 were reported 19 years ago. The five-year average (104th through 108th counts) is 727. The Lesser Goldfinch continues to move north and was recorded for the first time in Logan (UTLO).

In addition to 31 waterfowl, six gull, and seven wren species, some interesting Utah records were as follows: Lewis's Woodpecker at Morgan (UTMG), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Bluff (UTBF), Rusty Blackbird at Fish Springs (UTFS), Swamp Sparrow at Salt Lake City (UTSL), and Golden-crowned Sparrow at St. George (UTSG). The Antelope Island (UTAI) count included the most surprises with 13 new-to-the-count species and the only Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Ruff, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, and Lapland Longspur in Utah.

House Sparrows are declining across their native Europe and were placed on the "red list" in Britain (2002) and added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list in 2004. However, I believe the gene pool is still intact. In Utah this season, observers recorded 10,076 individual House Sparrows on 20 counts; nationwide, more than 500,000 are recorded on approximately 1500 circles each year.

Count circles in WYOMING/UTAH



COLORADO

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Forty-two counts were held in Colorado this year, the same number as last year. It was cold during the first part of the season and warmer at the end of the season. The counts held on the first day of the count period had to deal with

snow, fog, and very cold temperatures. The first full weekend of the counts had cold temperatures again, though most didn't have to deal with the snow. It was much nicer and warmer toward the end of the season; however, several counts had to deal with winds all day. The Boulder count, completed on the first day of the period, wins the coldest temperature honors this year with a low of -5 degrees Fahrenheit and a high of only 10 degrees. The Barr Lake count, held on January 3rd, was the warmest count, with a low of 35 degrees and high of 69 degrees. The snowy and windy weather on some counts may have made those totals lower than normal. Some mountain bird totals were much lower than last year. However, more snow cover in the mountains might have helped totals for rosy-finches. There was little to no snow cover on the eastern plains, which certainly helped the Snow Goose wintering population.

A total of 833,137 birds were counted this year, which was up from 688,598 last year. Colorado had a total of 186 species plus four count week species, down from 202 species last year. Pueblo Reservoir had the most species again (121), followed by Penrose (114), John Martin Reservoir (108), and Boulder (100). John Martin Reservoir counted the most birds this year with 158,988 (63,000 were "white" geese). The 16,322 Canada Geese at Rawhide Energy Station made up for 77 percent of the birds counted on that count.

It seemed like a slow year for major rarities. The best was a first-year **Iceland Gull** (a first for a Colorado CBC) at Pueblo Reservoir, found two days before count day and remaining through late January. Other highlights were **Brant** at Denver (urban); Surf Scoter at Boulder (count week); Turkey Vulture at Loveland (ND); Peregrine Falcon at Pueblo Reservoir; Greater Yellowlegs at Crook; Dunlin at Denver; Inca Dove at Rocky Ford; five **Mew Gulls** (three counts); five **Great Black-backed Gulls** (four counts); Gray Catbird at Loveland; Sage Thrasher at Penrose; Bohemian

Waxwing at Steamboat Springs; **Pine Warbler** at Rocky Mountain N.P.; Savannah and Fox Sparrow at Bonny Reservoir; Slate-colored Fox Sparrow at Montrose (ND); **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Penrose; Snow Bunting at Bonny Reservoir; Bullock's Oriole at Grand Junction; and White-winged Crossbill at Steamboat Springs (count week, ND).

Some of the other unexpected finds (total number found/number of counts found) included Tundra Swan (2/2); Mute Swan (feral birds 2/2); Blue-winged Teal (5/3); Long-tailed Duck (5/2); Clark's Grebe (4/2); American White Pelican (4/4); Sora (4/2); Spotted Sandpiper (8/3); Glaucous Gull (5/3); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (6/5); Red-naped Sapsucker (5/3); Black Phoebe (3/3); Winter Wren (3/2); Brown Thrasher (2/2); Chipping Sparrow (3/3); Swamp Sparrow (6/5); Northern Cardinal (9/2); Yellow-headed Blackbird (6/3); Rusty Blackbird (5/4).

Some of the totals for some of the uncommon species in the state in winter include Greater White-fronted Goose (59/11); Greater Scaup (28/6); Black-crowned Night-Heron (17/2); Thayer's Gull (12/3); Lesser Black-backed Gull (14/4); White-winged Dove (168/10); Long-eared Owl (83/9); Say's Phoebe (12/5); Chihuahuan Raven (40/6, (if identified correctly)); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

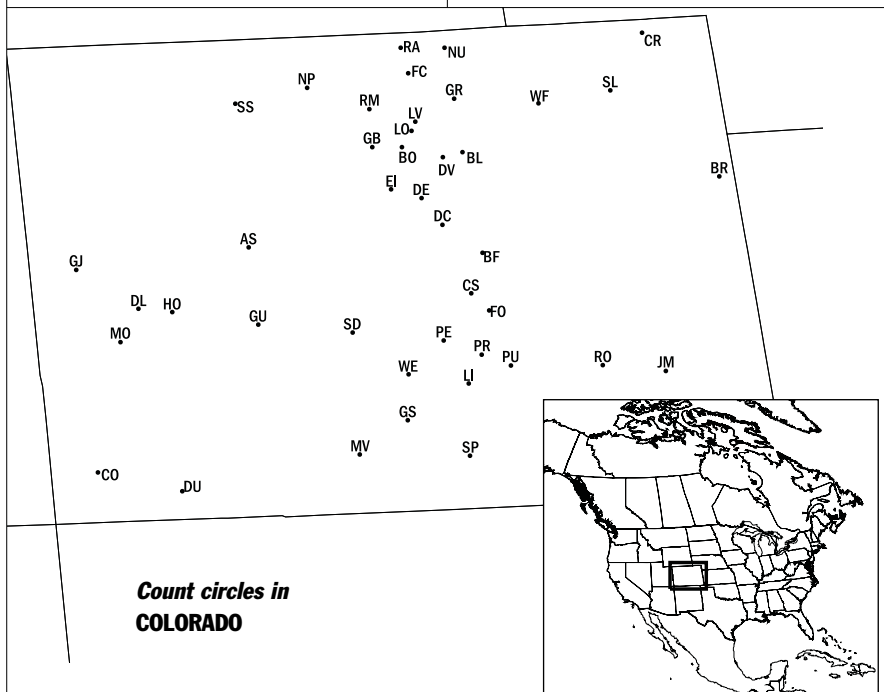


Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado.
Photo/Brandon Percival

(12/2); Hermit Thrush (11/9); Northern Mockingbird (10/7); Lincoln's Sparrow (14/5); White-throated Sparrow (11/8); Harris's Sparrow (10/8); Common Grackle (98/12); Great-tailed Grackle (1405/12); Brown-headed Cowbird (12/5); and Lesser Goldfinch (54/8).

A lot more geese were counted this year (261,128) and last year (146,836). I am wondering if Cackling Geese are being identified correctly on some counts. Some counts on the eastern plains didn't have any, while others had a lot. I hope all observers will learn the differences between (Lesser) Canada and (Richardson's) Cackling Goose. Pretty much all of Colorado's wintering Cackling Geese are the Richardson's subspecies. If you can't identify which species you are looking at, please call them Canada/Cackling Goose.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were up again this year, 8655 counted on 38 counts, up



from 5988 last year. They were seen for the first time at Aspen and Evergreen-Idaho Springs.

Black-billed Magpie was the only species found on all 42 counts this year, with a total of 4774 which is 178 less than last year.

Totals this year for all three species of nuthatch were down from last year, with 492 fewer Red-breasted, 380 fewer White-breasted, and 743 fewer Pygmy.

Rosy-finch numbers were up this year (2408) and last year (1203). However, there were only six Black Rosy-Finches this year, all at Gunnison.

Pine Siskins were much more common than last year, with 5500 more counted this year and a total of 7737.

Unfortunately, I had to excise a few species that were reported on this year's counts with unconvincing or no details. When you fill out a rare bird form, please include a description of the bird and how you eliminated the species from other more likely species. Photos or drawings are always very helpful.

All and all, it was another interesting CBC season in Colorado.

NEW MEXICO

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New Mexico counters worked 33 Christmas Bird Count circles in the state this year, a net gain of one. We lost the Raton circle for lack of observers, but we added two new circles: Clovis on the east side of the state, and Ladder Ranch, a fascinating site in the foothills of the Black Range west of Caballo Reservoir.

The total number of species seen in the state was quite low—221 compared to last year's 235 and the all-time high of 244. No new species were added to the cumulative state checklist, which remains at 327. Circles with high counts of species were led by Caballo with 127, La Luz-Otero with 122, Las Cruces with 117, Roswell with 112, and Albuquerque with 104. At the other extreme, heavy snow limited the Chaco circle to a mere nine species for five counters.

The statewide total of individual birds was about 385,000, better than last year's 330,000. Roswell reported about 94,000 of these, followed by Bosque del Apache with around 70,000, Las Cruces with 42,000, and Farmington with 30,000.

Looking at range expansions and boom years, Eurasian Collared-Doves have now been seen in every recent circle with two exceptions: Chaco and Ladder Ranch. By contrast, eight circles have never reported another range-expanding columbid, the native White-winged Dove. Lincoln's Sparrow records were widely dispersed, reaching Zuni, Las Vegas, and Roswell.

Among lingering and northerly species, four Black-necked Stilts were notable in Las Cruces, and Greater Yellowlegs persisted in Albuquerque and Espanola. A Belted Kingfisher remained in Santa Fe, and Clayton reported a northerly Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler. Only a total of three species of warblers were reported, including one Common Yellowthroat in Las Cruces and Orange-Crowned Warblers in three circles in the south. Lesser Goldfinches persisted as far north as Las Vegas and Cimarron.

After having been a resident or nesting species in the middle and lower Rio

Grande Valley, not a single Neotropical Cormorant was reported in the state, where the species has been in decline recently. Bald Eagle numbers were down generally. Lewis's Woodpeckers went unreported in the Espanola circle for only the fourth time in 55 years. Western Scrub-Jay reports were down statewide; the Caballo counters missed this species for the second straight year, only the second miss in the count's 25-year history. Black-billed Magpie and Mountain Chickadee numbers were also low.

Only one clear pattern of invasion emerged: Pine Siskins were numerous in the lowlands.

Interesting rarities were rather few this year: a Common Ground-Dove photographed in Eunice, a count week Varied Thrush in Zuni, a Brown Thrasher in Clayton, and a Harris's Sparrow in Eunice.

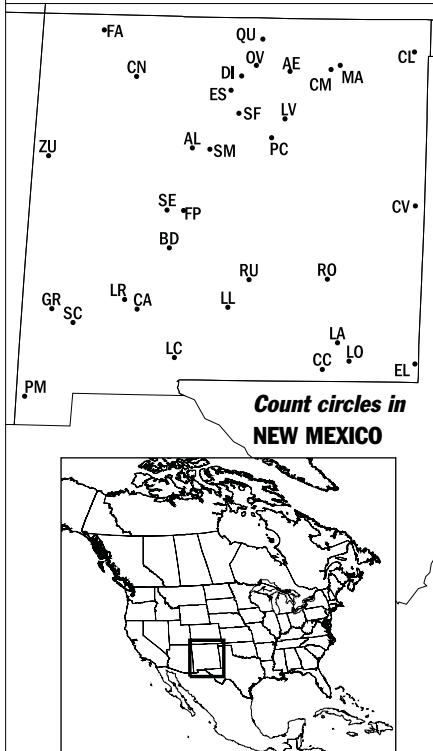
Starting next year, because there are a number of unresolved questions about recent range expansions, we are requesting details for all reports of Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal, Yellow-shafted Flicker, any *Empidonax* flycatcher, either gnatcatcher species outside of their strongholds in the south and southeast, Bendire's Thrasher, and Common Grackle. A more complete explanation is available on the state CBC compiler resource page: <http://www.nmt.edu/~shipman/z/cbc/nmcbc.html>.

Because I have been less active in the field the last few years, I rely heavily on our state's professional ornithologists and many active field birders. I would like to give particular thanks to Sandy Williams, Christopher Rustay, John Hubbard, John Parmeter, and Jerry Oldenettel, among many others who have provided invaluable advice.

NEVADA/ARIZONA

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An even dozen counts were held in Nevada during the 109th Christmas Bird Count season. Two counts broke the 100-species barrier: Truckee Meadows



with 106 species, and, hot on its heels, Henderson with 105 species. Four counts did quite well with more than 80 species: Carson City (85), Desert Game (84), Pyramid Lake (also 84), and Ash Meadows (81). The other six counts ranged between 20 and 74 species.

Among Truckee Meadows' 106 species was the second state record for Lesser Black-backed Gull. The bird was found before the count and was well documented with photos. They also recorded a Northern Saw-whet Owl (photo) and a Glaucous-winged Gull. Two birds that just missed the count week have been new for the count, Yellow-billed Loon and Glaucous Gull. With 12 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Henderson had the only swallows on a CBC; Henderson also had a Cassin's Kingbird. Carson City had the only unusual warbler, a Northern Parula (photo), a great find especially that far north. Desert Game had two Costa's Hummingbirds, also a new species for that count. Pyramid Lake had four Sanderlings, a Barrow's Goldeneye, and a Red-shouldered Hawk.

Ash Meadows had an outstanding count this year, setting a new all-time high for species with 81, which was 4 over the previous high of 77. Among the highlights was a Yellow-billed Loon (photo). It was a good year in that Ash Meadows also had 10 count week birds. Fallon had some cold and windy weather but still managed 74 species, including a Red-shouldered Hawk and three Dunlin. Muddy River had 66 species, including a Sage Thrasher, Ross's Goose, and a Bald Eagle. Elko had a Varied Thrush among its 51 species, and Snake Valley was able to add a new species to its count (two Bohemian Waxwings) plus the state's only Harris's Sparrow. Ruby Lake recorded two Wilson's Snipe and a (blue) Snow Goose. Jarbige is always a challenge with the weather, and they recorded the only Northern Shrike, while Red-tailed Hawk was actually new for their count.

All of Nevada's counts were well done; no species had to be removed because of

lack of documentation. All compilers and participants did a great job.

In Arizona 35 counts were held this season; 22 of those counts tallied more than 100 species, and of those 10 counts went over 130 species. Most years, Ramsey Canyon leads the way with the most species in the state, but this year Green Valley-Madera Canyon took the top spot with 155 species (4 more than Ramsey Canyon's 151). Patagonia was third with 147 species, but they had a special honor this year. It is not very often that you can add a new species to the U.S. bird list, but this year Patagonia was able to add the **Sinaloa Wren** to the cumulative list. The bird had been present for some time before the count and stayed long after, but as is typical with this species they can be very hard to see, and it ended up as a frustrating count week bird!

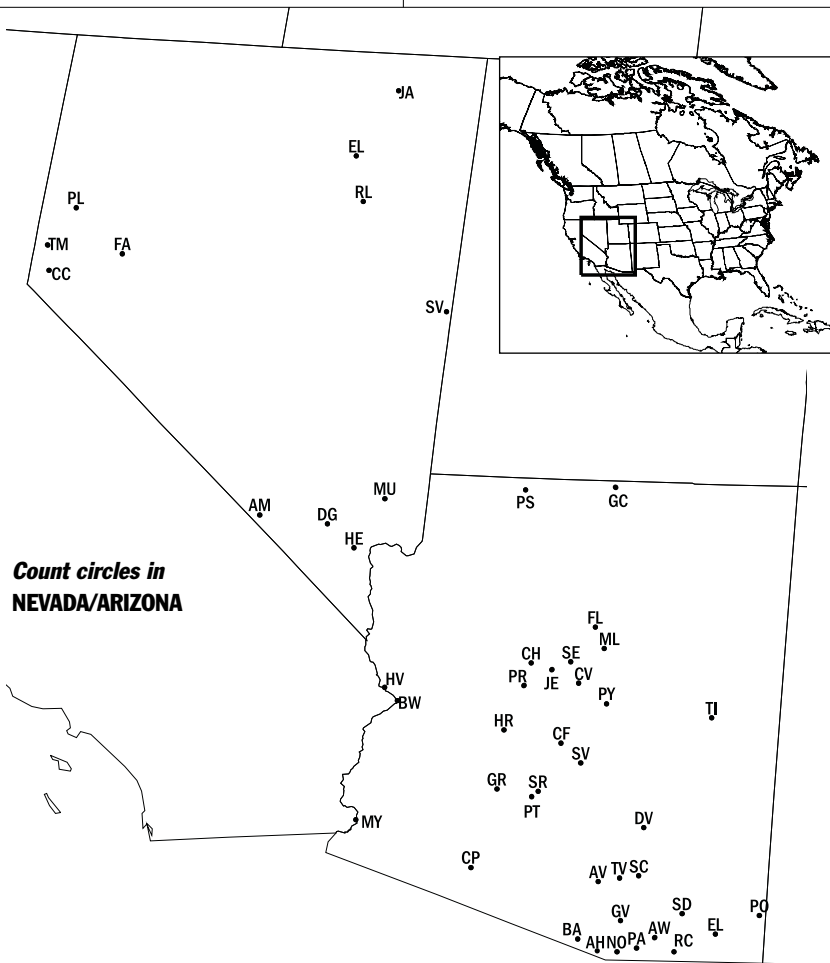
Most counts had good weather and good numbers of participants. Mormon Lake probably had the most extreme conditions with a 4 degree Fahrenheit start and only an 18 degree high.

Quite a few highlights were among this year's counts. Eurasian Wigeon have been hard to find the last few years, but there were two this year, one in Sedona and one on the Glen Canyon Count.

Glen Canyon also had the only Long-tailed Duck. This was a good year for Montezuma Quail, with 446 seen on eight counts—the Atascosa Highlands accounted for more than half. Yellow-billed Loon is getting to be almost regular on the Colorado River with one on the Bill Williams count this year.

White-tailed Kites have been up and down in numbers over the years, and only one was found this year on Madera-Green Valley. Ruddy Ground-Doves are starting to increase again, with seven seen. Williamson's Sapsuckers were found at lower-than-usual elevation and on eight counts. Black-capped Gnatcatchers are still increasing, with 11 spread over three counts.

Warblers were a big highlight this season, with 20 species found, a nice variety including several eastern species that are



not often found in Arizona at any time of year. Not bad results for the desert with no coastal habitat! There was a Blackburnian (AZTV), two Chestnut-sided Warblers (AZSR, AZJE), one Black-throated Green Warbler (AZPO), one Kentucky Warbler, three Rufous-capped Warblers (AZGV), two Louisiana Waterthrush (AZNO, AZRC), and three Northern Parula (AZPT, AZSV, AZPO). Even the species that we normally get were found in higher than usual numbers—8 Wilson's Warblers, 68 Black-throated Gray Warblers, and 84 Townsends Warblers!

Overall, sparrows were a little down in numbers this year, but there were a few good finds. It has been a while since we have had a Five-striped Sparrow, and one was counted at Atascosa Highlands. Golden-crowned Sparrows put on a good show with six birds found on six different counts.

There were no real irruptive species invasions this season. Only four Lawrence's Goldfinches were counted, and 31 of the 35 counts had Eurasian Collared-Doves. Will next year be 100 percent for these invading doves?

Thanks to all of the compilers and participants for their time and effort. For next year, I urge you to bring a digital camera along on your count—it sure helps to have a photo, even a bad one!

WASHINGTON/OREGON

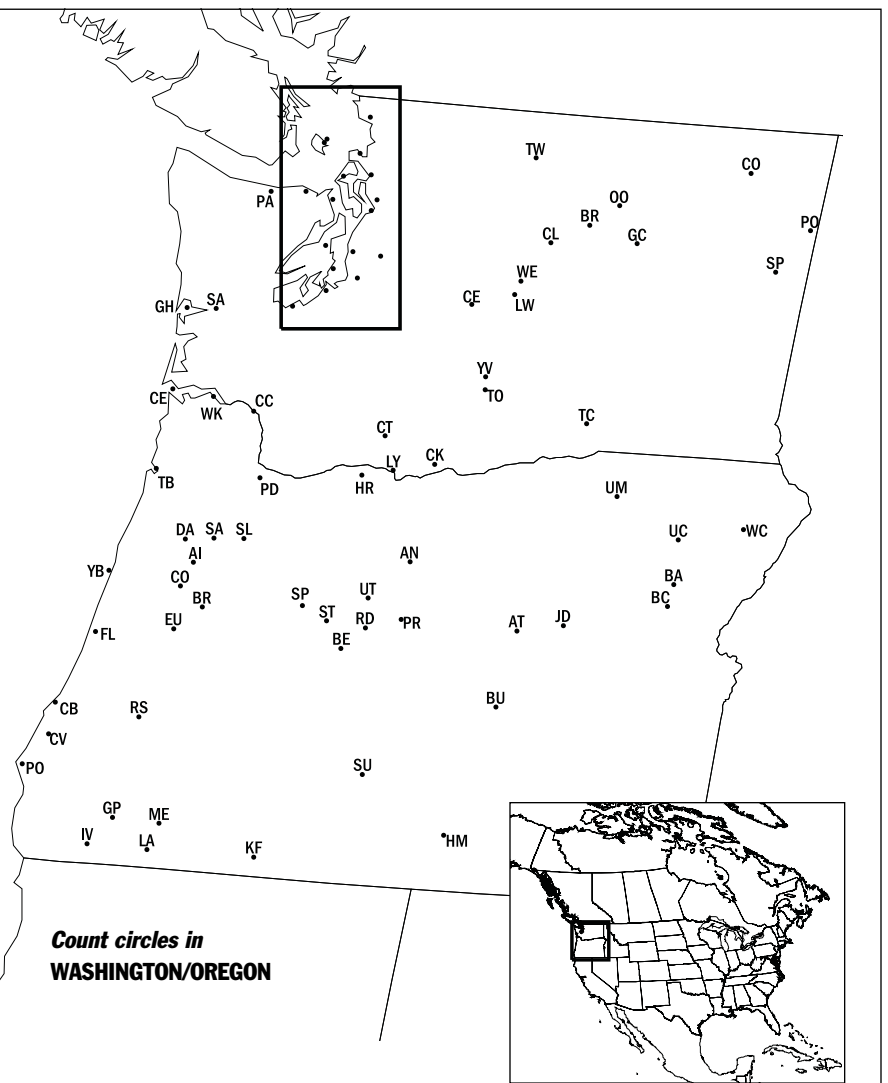
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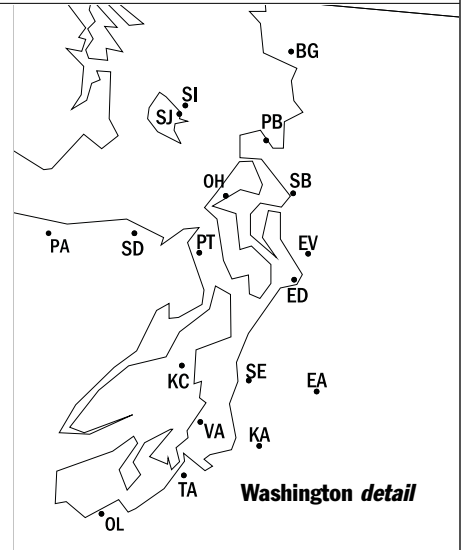
A very cold arctic air mass moved into the region late in the afternoon of the first day of the 109th Christmas Bird Count period, and it didn't really move out until the end of the count period. The system brought up to 15 inches of snow to parts of a region that rarely sees more than a light dusting. The sudden change in the weather caught most communities by surprise. Roads were closed and travel to out-of-the-way counts became nearly impossible. As a result, several counts



Count circles in WASHINGTON/OREGON

were forced to cancel or reschedule, and many that were able to run did so with many fewer participants than usual.

The most interesting report of the season was of a Jack Snipe in Eugene, OR, seen by a very reliable observer. The bird was described as “notably smaller [with] long, yellowish stripes on the back [that] were especially contrasting... wings were rounded, which made it fly in a more fluttery manner than Wilson's Snipe. [It flew in a] low straight course and dropped into the grass, short of 50 ft. away.” There are two accepted records for **Jack Snipe** in Oregon, both were birds shot by hunters. Jack Snipe are notoriously difficult to find even within their expected range, so it is not surprising that subsequent effort to relocate this bird failed. The current report is under review by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.



Washington detail

A Slaty-backed Gull was reported from Everett, WA. It was seen by several observers and was photographed. This species has become nearly annual in the region, but reports are rare before mid-January, missing the Christmas Bird