

61st Annal Silver City Bird Count

17 December 2023

Total species count: 94 (78 avg)
Total individuals counted: 6364 (5219 avg)

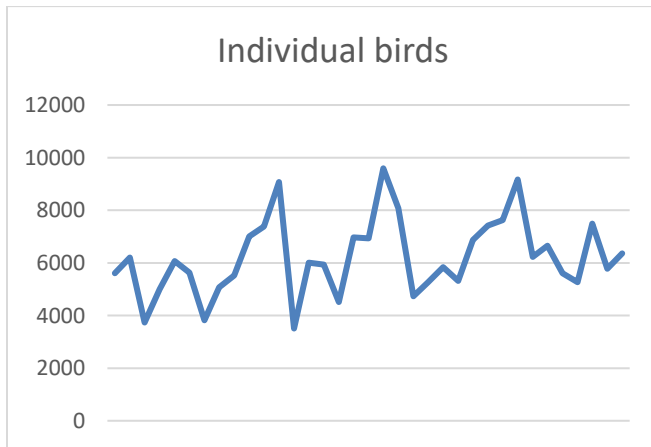
Total route participants: 29
Hours spent on routes: 55.98
People hours on routes: 156.37

Total feeder participants: 13
People hours spent at feeders: 34.8

We had high participation this year with a top 5 number of participants.

In 2021 we had 85 species and 5775 individuals counted so we had a nice jump in numbers this year. I analyzed the last 35 years for species, individuals, and participation to see if our increase in numbers had any correlation to effort. It is an idea fraught with many variables including weather, luck, and an increase in birding skill but the trend for species number has been a steady climb which I highlighted last year.

Participant documentation on the Audubon database changed significantly over the years but it appears sometime around the year 2002 there was a jump in the number of participants and it has stayed at a fairly constant average of about 26 since then.



Species individuals 1988-2022

Graphing individual birds is perhaps the most interesting graph of the three I mentioned. It can range wildly from year to year in a way that doesn't really correlate with the other metrics. This may have to do with explosion years of specific species. The only pattern I noticed was that if our species numbers are up there is a slight uptick in individuals counted.

So in summary, are our numbers increasing due to more survey effort? I think it is too hard to say but I think that the skill and observation abilities of our participants is higher than it has ever been, and this results in more accurate detections. So great job everyone!

Top 10 numerous species

1	White-crowned Sparrow	697
2	Western Bluebird	461
3	Brewer's Blackbird	455
4	Gambel's Quail	440
5	Chipping Sparrow	395
6	House Finch	354
7	Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	250
8	Dark-eyed Junco	232
9	Pinyon Jay	225
10	Raven sp.	167

Rare / Unusual Birds <10% of Counts

1	Peregrine Falcon	1	Last count 2018
2	Hooded Merganser	1	Last count 2021
3	Rufous Hummingbird	1	Last count 2020



Peregrine Falcon eating lunch.
 Courtesy of Karen Beckenbach (Rt. 2 leader)



Rufous Hummingbird
 Courtesy of Beth Leuck (feeder count)

Odd balls

Species	2022	Average	Notes
Dark-eyed Junco	232	584	second lowest count ever (2002)
Mexican Jay	141	49	Record high
Marsh Wren	1	<1	First record since 2006
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	Record High
Black Phoebe	8	2	Record High
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	250	54	Record High
Mexican Jay	141	50	Record High
Rock Wren	14	2	Record High by a lot
Cactus Wren	19	5	Record High by a lot
Townsend's Solitaire	40	9	2 nd highest 44(1980)
Vesper Sparrow	36	7	Record High
Savannah Sparrow	39	7	Record High

Dark-eyed Juncos were well below average this year and seem to be low even in February around my house. They clocked in at the second lowest count ever. However, it was a great year for Jays and Wrens. Many water dependent species were also up such as Kingfishers and Black Phoebes. With all the tall grass this winter I was expecting a great sparrow year. While numbers did increase over dismal previous years a boom year never materialized. Vesper and Savannah Sparrows got the memo and had their best count to date.

Thanks again everyone for your dedication and I look forward to the next CBC!

John

2022 Silver City CBC Bird List

SNOW GOOSE	0
Canada Goose	0
Wood Duck	0
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	0
Northern Shoveler	11
Gadwall	0
American Wigeon	77
Mallard	50
Mexican Duck	27
Northern Pintail	0
Green-winged Teal	2
Canvasback	0
Redhead	0
Ring-necked Duck	0
Lesser Scaup	0
Bufflehead	12
COMMON GOLDENEYE	0
HOODED MERGANSER	1
Common Merganser	1
Ruddy Duck	0
Scaled Quail	20
Gambel's Quail	440
Montezuma Quail	1
Wild Turkey	0
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Eared Grebe	0
Rock Pigeon	38
BAND-TAILED PIGEON	0
Eurasian Collared-Dove	11
Inca Dove	0
COMMON GROUND-DOVE	0
White-winged Dove	93
Mourning Dove	130
Greater Roadrunner	7
Rivoli's Hummingbird	0
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD	0
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD	0
COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD	0
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD	1

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD	0
BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD	0
<i>hummingbird sp.</i>	0
SORA	0
American Coot	6
SANDHILL CRANE	0
Killdeer	2
WILSON'S SNIPE	0
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	0
Ring-billed Gull	0
Great Blue Heron	4
GREEN HERON	0
Northern Harrier	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Cooper's Hawk	4
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	0
<i>accipiter sp.</i>	1
Golden Eagle	0
BALD EAGLE	0
Red-tailed Hawk	39
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	0
Ferruginous Hawk	0
<i>buteo sp.</i>	0
BARN OWL	0
Western Screech-Owl	1
Great Horned Owl	1
NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL	0
Long-eared Owl	0
Belted Kingfisher	4
Lewis's Woodpecker	0
Acorn Woodpecker	34
Williamson's Sapsucker	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0
Red-naped Sapsucker	6
Downy Woodpecker	0
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	23
Hairy Woodpecker	14
Northern Flicker	99
American Kestrel	18
Merlin	0
PEREGRINE FALCON	1

PRAIRIE FALCON	0
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD	0
WESTERN KINGBIRD	0
Black Phoebe	8
EASTERN PHOEBE	0
Say's Phoebe	21
VERMILLION FLYCATCHER	0
HUTTON'S VIREO	0
Loggerhead Shrike	10
Pinyon Jay	225
Steller's Jay	4
BLUE JAY	0
Woodhouse (Western) Scrub-Jay	250
Mexican Jay	141
CLARK'S NUTCRACKER	0
American Crow	28
Chihuahuan Raven	88
Common Raven	93
<i>raven sp.</i>	167
VERDIN	0
Mountain Chickadee	8
Bridled Titmouse	15
Juniper Titmouse	43
Horned Lark	0
Bushtit	124
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	76
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	0
Cedar Waxwing	0
Phainopepla	38
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	28
Pygmy Nuthatch	0
Brown Creeper	0
Rock Wren	14
CANYON WREN	0
Cactus Wren	19
Bewick's Wren	13
House Wren	2
PACIFIC WREN	0
Marsh Wren	1
<i>wren sp.</i>	0

Curve-billed Thrasher	73
BROWN THRASHER	0
BENDIRE'S THRASHER	0
Crissal Thrasher	1
Sage Thrasher	0
Northern Mockingbird	1
European Starling	2
Eastern Bluebird	0
Western Bluebird	461
Mountain Bluebird	29
Townsend's Solitaire	40
Hermit Thrush	3
American Robin	96
OLIVE WARBLER	0
House Sparrow	114
American Pipit	0
Evening Grosbeak	0
House Finch	354
Cassin's Finch	26
RED CROSSBILL	0
Pine Siskin	84
Lesser Goldfinch	18
LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH	0
American Goldfinch	0
Chestnut-collard Longspur	0
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	0
Black-throated Sparrow	36
Lark Sparrow	0
Lark Bunting	0
Chipping Sparrow	395
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW	0
Black-Chinned Sparrow	0
Brewer's Sparrow	47
FOX SPARROW	0
Dark-eyed Junco	232
YELLOW-EYED JUNCO	0
White-crowned Sparrow	697
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	0
HARRIS'S SPARROW	0
White-throated Sparrow	0

Sagebrush Sparrow	0
Vesper Sparrow	36
Savannah Sparrow	39
Song Sparrow	11
Lincoln's Sparrow	9
Swamp Sparrow	0
Canyon Towhee	86
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1
Green-tailed Towhee	1
Spotted Towhee	77
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	0
Chihuahuan Meadowlark	16
Western Meadowlark	69
Eastern / Chihuahuan Meadowlark	9
Meadowlark sp.	13
Red-winged Blackbird	102
Brown-Headed Cowbird	12
Brewer's Blackbird	455
Great-tailed Grackle	61
<i>blackbird sp.</i>	0
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	0
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	74
WILSON'S WARBLER	0
HEPATIC TANAGER	0
NORTHERN CARDINAL	0
Pyrrhuloxia	1
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK	0