

RESULTS OF 2002 WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The "eighth" annual Christmas Bird Count was held in the Park and surrounding area on December 15, 2002. Winds ranged from 20 -40 mph throughout the day, with a temperature range of 46 - 57 degrees Fahrenheit.

We had 13 participants divided into 6 groups. Total survey miles traveled were 240.3 miles. (Car miles were 218.8 and foot miles traveled were 21.5 miles)

The six survey groups counted **1231 total birds** including **30 species**. This compares to 1510/36 in 2001, 777/27 in 2000, 1542/41 in 1999, 1362/38 in 1998, 1079/35 in 1997, 484/26 in 1996, and 615/27 in 1995. The following is a list of species observed this year.

SPECIES	Wind Cave	Outside Park	TOTALS
Mallard	0	3	3
✓ Bald Eagle <i>haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	2	4	6
Red-tailed Hawk	0	1	1
✓ Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	1	1	2
✓ Golden Eagle <i>aquila chrysaetos</i>	2	7	9
✓ Sharp-tailed Grouse <i>pedioecetes phasianellus</i>	0	15	15
Wild Turkey <i>meleagris gallopavo</i>	0	64	64
✓ Common Snipe <i>gallinago gallinago</i>	2	0	2
✓ Rock Dove <i>columba livia</i>	0	30	30
Downy Woodpecker	0	2	2
— Hairy Woodpecker <i>Picoides villosus</i>	2	0	2
✓ Northern Flicker <i>colaptes auratus</i>	2	1	3
✓ Gray Jay <i>perisoreus canadensis</i>	1	3	4
✓ Black-billed Magpie <i>pica pica</i>	2	3	5
✓ American Crow <i>corvus brachy</i>	26	340	366
✓ Black-capped Chickadee <i>parus atricapillus</i>	20	49	69
✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch <i>sitta canadensis</i>	1	32	33
✓ White-breasted Nuthatch	3	12	15
Not in Specimen — Brown Creeper	1	1	2
✓ Canyon Wren	2	0	2
✓ Townsend's Solitaire <i>myadestes</i>	7	1	8
✓ American Robin	4	0	4
— European Starling	0	58	58
✓ American Tree Sparrow	8	1	9
✓ Dark-eyed Junco (WW)	94	379	473
✓ American Goldfinch	13	6	19
— House Sparrow	0	14	14
✓ Merlin (new) <i>falco columbarius</i>	1	0	1
— Pygmy Nuthatch (new)	0	8	8
Not in Specimen — Ferruginous Hawk (new)	1	0	1
(unknown buteo)	1	-	(1)

Bibkey: 548999
Scanned 11/10/03
Entered

Not in Specimen

Not in Specimen

Some interesting observations of this years count:

- * 30 Rock Doves, the most observed during our counts
- * 14 house sparrows, the most observed during our counts
- * 69 black-capped chickadees, the fewest observed during our counts
- * The first year no shrikes were observed
- * First year to observe merlin, pygmy nuthatches and ferruginous hawk

Thanks to all those who participated in the 2002 Christmas Bird Count: Juli Ames-Curtis, Jocie Baker, Jerry Bloomer, Phil Heckman, Todd Jensen, Mike Laycock, Jim Pizarowicz, Dan Roddy, Karen Rosga, Jaret Sievers, Jimmy Taylor, Sandy Taylor, and Andy Thorstensen.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations, or thoughts on how we can improve our Christmas Bird count experience, we would appreciate hearing them.

We look forward to seeing all of you again next year at the Wind Cave National Park Christmas Bird Count. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 14, 2003**. See you there!

Additional information on the bird count(s) can be obtained from Dan (745-1157) or Barb (745-1150) in the Wind Cave National Park Resource Management Office.

Dan Roddy
Barbara Muenchau

WIND CAVE N.P. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

DATE: 12/15/2002

NAME (S) 13 Participants

START TIME: 0800 (owling 0500-0630) STOP TIME: 1630

WEATHER: Mostly sunny AM, Mostly cloudy PM, Temp. 46 to 57 F, 20 - 40 mph winds, 30% RH

ROUTE (S): 6 driving/walking groups

MILES TRAVELED: Total 240.3 miles CAR 218.8 miles FOOT 21.5 miles

										SPECIES	WIND CAVE	OTHER	TOTAL
95/	96/	97/	98/	99/	00/	01/							
11	00	00	00	83	00	00				Canada Goose			0
00	00	02	06	17	09	24				Mallard		3	3
02	05	02	14	04	04	10				Bald Eagle	2	4	6
00	01	00	01	00	00	01				Sharp-shinned Hawk			0
01	00	01	00	01	00	00				Cooper's hawk			0
00	01	00	00	00	00	00				Northern Goshawk			0
00	01	01	02	01	00	02				Red-tailed Hawk		1	1
00	01	00	06	01	01	01				Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	2
04	06	12	18	08	11	26				Golden Eagle	2	7	9
00	00	00	00	01	00	00				American Kestrel			0
00	02	00	00	00	01	01				Prairie falcon			0
00	00	00	00	06	00	00				Gray Partridge			0
00	00	00	00	02	00	00				Ring-necked Pheasant			0
05	21	79	60	57	65	00				Sharp-tailed Grouse	15		15
18	23	55	09	129	49	93				Wild Turkey		64	64
05	00	01	01	01	00	02				Common Snipe	2		2
02	22	00	15	08	08	22				Rock Dove		30	30
02	00	03	01	01	00	01				Great Horned Owl			0
00	00	01	01	01	00	02				Northern Saw-whet Owl			0
00	00	00	01	01	00	00				Belted Kingfisher			0
03	01	06	08	10	03	20				Downy Woodpecker		2	2
10	03	10	11	04	05	15				Hairy Woodpecker	2		2
03	01	00	01	00	00	01				Black-backed Woodpecker			0
02	00	01	05	05	03	05				Northern Flicker	2	1	3
00	04	24	00	00	00	00				Horned Lark			0
00	03	02	05	00	02	03				Gray Jay	1	3	4
08	00	00	46	01	00	00				Pinyon Jay			0
00	00	04	01	00	00	00				Clark's Nutcracker			0
09	05	10	25	16	09	16				Black-billed Magpie	2	3	5
21	161	26	71	464	250	299				American Crow	26	340	366
146	115	188	236	213	137	121				Black-capped Chickadee	20	49	69
35	14	36	82	35	12	87				Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	32	33
21	11	17	22	22	11	15				White-breasted Nuthatch	3	12	15
03	01	01	11	02	02	06				Brown Creeper	1	1	2
00	00	00	00	03	02	01				Canyon Wren	2		2
00	00	01	14	16	01	03				Golden-crowned Kinglet			0
00	01	00	00	00	00	00				Mountain Bluebird			0
10	06	09	18	20	10	27				Townsend's Solitaire	7	1	8
01	00	09	00	12	00	01				American Robin	4		4
02	01	03	01	08	05	05				Northern Shrike			0
00	00	02	17	69	21	209				European Starling		58	58

SPECIES							WIND CAVE	OTHER	TOTAL	
95/	96/	97/	98/	99/	00/	01				
00	00	00	01	00	00	00	Spotted Towhee		0	
00	00	06	05	18	02	05	Am. Tree Sparrow	8	1	9
00	00	01	01	00	00	00	Song Sparrow			0
00	00	01	00	00	00	00	Lincoln's sparrow			0
220	72	486	290	238	140	249	Dark-eyed Junco	94	379	473
00	01	00	00	00	00	00	Snow Bunting			0
00	00	00	00	02	00	00	Western Meadowlark			0
00	00	00	00	00	00	01	Brewers Blackbird			0
38	00	55	337	01	00	175	Red Crossbill			0
13	00	00	00	20	00	00	Common Redpoll			0
20	00	02	04	09	00	15	Pine Siskin			0
00	00	18	03	28	02	42	American Goldfinch	13	6	19
00	00	04	10	04	12	03	House Sparrow		14	14
TOTAL SPECIES										
27	26	35	38	41	27	36	New species observed			
							Merlin	1		1
							Ferruginous	1		1
(BlueBell Lodge area)							Pygmy Nuthatch		8	8
							Unknown Buteo	1		1