

## Worcester Christmas Count 2021

On Saturday Dec. 18, 2021, 37 CBCers and feederwatchers scoured the Worcester area as part of the 70th Worcester Christmas Count. Originally, the forecast was supposed to be fine, and then it was supposed to be 3-5 inches of snow. In the end, it was just cloudy in the morning, followed by a bit of snow and freezing rain in the afternoon. It turned out to be a good count, with 79 species recorded (plus a hybrid, a possible 80th species, and a count week species). All water was open, which certainly made this year's count different from the past several years. Here is the list:

Canada Goose - 1263  
Mute Swan - 56 (new high)  
Wood Duck - 4  
American Wigeon - 1  
American Black Duck - 77  
Mallard - 573  
Green-winged Teal - 12  
Ring-necked Duck - 32  
Greater Scaup - 118  
Lesser Scaup - 3  
Bufflehead - 16  
Common Goldeneye - 85  
Hooded Merganser - 253  
Common Merganser - 279  
Red-breasted Merganser - 1 (Wachusett Reservoir)  
Ruffed Grouse - 2  
Wild Turkey - 9  
Red-throated Loon - 1 (3rd record for the count; Wachusett Reservoir)  
Common Loon - 11  
Great Blue Heron - 8  
Turkey Vulture - 1 (3rd record for the count; given the presence of this species in the area throughout much of the year, this is likely to become a more regular occurrence on the count)  
Bald Eagle - 3  
Northern Harrier - count week (Wachusett Reservoir)  
Cooper's Hawk - 8  
Northern Goshawk - 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk - 4 (new high)  
Red-tailed Hawk - 44  
R-shouldered/R-tailed hybrid - 1 (has been recorded for the past several years in the same area)  
Ring-billed Gull - 644

Herring Gull - 98  
Great Black-backed Gull - 4  
Rock Pigeon - 259  
Mourning Dove - 359  
Eastern Screech-Owl - 5  
Great Horned Owl - 23 (new high)  
Barred Owl - 5  
Northern Saw-whet Owl - 2  
Belted Kingfisher - 9  
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 77  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1  
Downy Woodpecker - 161  
Hairy Woodpecker - 37  
Northern Flicker - 10  
Pileated Woodpecker - 9  
Peregrine Falcon - 2 (pair in downtown Worcester)  
Northern Shrike - 1  
Blue Jay - 810  
American Crow - 235  
Fish Crow - 1  
Common Raven - 7  
Horned Lark - 11  
Black-capped Chickadee - 638  
Tufted Titmouse - 342  
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1  
White-breasted Nuthatch - 186  
Brown Creeper - 10  
Carolina Wren - 38  
Winter Wren - 6  
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 24  
Eastern Bluebird - 61  
"Catharus" species - 1 (possible Swainson's)  
Hermit Thrush - 3  
American Robin - 1014  
Gray Catbird - 1  
Northern Mockingbird - 10  
European Starling - 4004  
American Pipit - 16 (3rd record for the count; the group has been hanging around the rocks of the dike at Wachusett Reservoir)  
Cedar Waxwing - 60  
American Tree Sparrow - 44  
Field Sparrow - 1

Song Sparrow - 97  
Swamp Sparrow - 3  
White-throated Sparrow - 109  
Dark-eyed Junco - 869  
Snow Bunting - 16  
Northern Cardinal - 142  
Red-winged Blackbird - 32  
Common Grackle - 1 (BTW: we had a flock of over 1000 invade our yard in Grafton the next day)  
Brown-headed Cowbird - 14  
House Finch - 201  
American Goldfinch - 338  
House Sparrow - 869

(report from compiler John Liller)