



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. • AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

January 12, 2009

Dear Northampton Christmas Bird Count Participants,

The final tally for our 75th Christmas Count, December 14, 2008, is enclosed. It tells the story, better than we can, about all the good work done this year. If you want larger print, go to hampshirebirdclub.org, click on Christmas Count, then on Final Tally.

Bits and pieces from this year:

Owlers, especially the midnight crowd, reported meteor showers.

2,100 robins came into the Mountain Road, Hatfield (almost Whately) roost.

In Whately, 5 flying squirrels were reported jumping between the hanging feeder and the trees, 6-8 PM.

Roads and paths along the Connecticut River were flooded and frozen making night, and day, travel difficult. At Arcadia Meadows the leader had to carry some party members through floodwaters to get to the meadows. And from the hills to our west, north, and east, folks left their icy, powerless world of broken trees and downed power lines to help us with the count. Thank you!

Although we matched the highest species total ever (91), most folks felt (accurately) that the numbers per species were down. But not the number of birders. The 129 total matches our highest count.

Thanks to the Sue Emerson's and her helpers and laptop-operator David Gross, the potluck/compilation logistics were successful and we will return to Hitchcock next year. We are making a list of ways to keep the compilation moving quickly/efficiently. All suggestions are most welcome. (Tell us NOW - before you forget those good ideas.)

And a special thank you to the weather - if you think our cold and windy day was difficult (and have an extra hour to listen), talk to the folks who did counts on the other weekends this year!

Next year's date is **Sunday, December 20**. Why so late? Our count is the first Sunday after the first official day of the CBCs (December 14). We look forward to seeing you then. And thank you again for all your work and good humor.

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