

CdA Audubon YARDLIST CHALLENGE - 2015

Welcome to the 2015 compilation of the Great CdA Audubon Yard List Challenge. We received lists for ten (10) yards this year, despite my lack of “advertising”, which is a good turnout. On that note, if you did keep track at your place last year, but didn’t get the memo, please feel free to send your list to me (dougward@frontier.com) and I can append the summary table for the website.

While the total number of species reported this year (2015) was about average (114 vs. 5-year avg. of 115), there are always some good ones. First, the basic statistics. Six (6) species were seen by everyone this year, including Calliope Hummingbirds and Pine Siskins, both of which were kind of a surprise to me (Calliope Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin). On the flip side, twenty-five (25) species were seen in only one yard, so some good diversity. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their invasion with five (5) yards reporting them around; the first one was only four years ago!

As mentioned previously, everyone saw at least one of those “fun” species that keeps us peering out the window. Probably the craziest story came from Judy Waring who turned in the only Northern Pygmy Owl in her house list (literally!); if you haven’t heard the tale, ask her. The most unusual bird to show up this year was a Clay-colored Sparrow that came in briefly this fall with some White-crowns to the Ward’s front yard. The Wards also had a couple of Anna’s Hummingbirds spend the winter. Alan Robertson up in Bonner County had a Least Flycatcher, a first for our Yard List Challenge. Janet Callen saved us from getting skunked with the only Varied Thrush of the year. The Hanson’s always contribute several from down on the Chain Lakes including American White Pelican and Mountain Bluebirds, but their best one was a Vesper Sparrow which was also new to the Challenge. Speaking of bluebirds, Western’s were reported from a record three (3) yards (the Buchler’s, Moen’s & Ward’s). The Moen’s Grey Jay returned again as did a White-breasted Nuthatch, neither of which are easy around here. Several folks have views of the water so turn up some good ones including the Sturts’ Common Loon and the Buchler’s Red-necked Grebe. Lisa Hardy had both Common Nighthawks and Vaux’s Swifts at her “suburban” place. Lastly, I’m guessing the Sheridan’s keep that Blue Jay in a cage as it showed again this year – definitely one of those “fun” ones!

Here’s a summary table of what everybody saw at their places this year (2015). Good luck in 2016!

6 – All Yards (Calliope Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco & Pine Siskin)

25 – Only in one yard

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Summary Table

<i>Species</i>	Buchler	Callen	Hanson	Hardy	Moen	Robertson	Sheridan	Sturts	Ward	Waring	All Yards
1 Canada Goose	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	8
2 Tundra Swan			X	X							2
3 Mallard	X							X	X		3
4 Bufflehead	X										1
5 Common Goldeneye	X								X		2
6 Common Merganser	X							X	X		3
7 California Quail	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	8
8 Ring-necked Pheasant			X						X		2
9 Ruffed Grouse	X		X		X	X		X			5
10 Wild Turkey	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	7
11 Common Loon								X			1
12 Red-necked Grebe	X										1
13 Double-crested Cormorant	X		X					X	X		4
14 American White Pelican			X								1
15 Great Blue Heron	X		X					X			3
16 Turkey Vulture	X				X				X	X	4
17 Osprey	X		X					X	X	X	5
18 Sharp-shinned Hawk	X	X		X					X		4
19 Cooper's Hawk	X	X	X						X		4
20 Bald Eagle	X		X					X	X		4
21 Red-tailed Hawk	X	X			X				X	X	5
22 American Coot			X								1
23 Killdeer						X			X		2
24 Spotted Sandpiper								X			1
25 Ring-billed Gull	X							X	X		3
gull sp.										X	1
26 Rock Pigeon		X									1
27 Eurasian Collared-Dove		X	X	X			X			X	5
28 Mourning Dove	X	X			X			X	X	X	6
29 Great Horned Owl			X		X				X		3
30 Northern Pygmy Owl										X	1
31 Common Nighthawk				X	X						2

32	Vaux's Swift			X	X							2
33	Black-chinned Hummingbird	X				X	X		X	X		5
34	Anna's Hummingbird									X		1
35	Rufous Hummingbird	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	8
36	Calliope Hummingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
37	Belted Kingfisher			X					X			2
38	Red-naped Sapsucker	X					X			X		3
39	Downy Woodpecker		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		7
40	Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	7
41	Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
42	Pileated Woodpecker	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		7
43	Merlin									X		1
44	Western Wood-Pewee	X								X		2
45	Willow Flycatcher						X					1
46	Least Flycatcher						X					1
47	Western Flycatcher	X		X	X	X			X	X		6
48	Eastern Kingbird			X			X					2
49	Cassin's Vireo	X				X				X		3
50	Warbling Vireo	X		X		X	X			X		5
51	Gray Jay					X						1
52	Steller's Jay	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
53	Blue Jay							X				1
54	Black-billed Magpie	X	X	X		X			X	X		6
55	American Crow	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	8
56	Common Raven	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		7
57	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			X								1
58	Tree Swallow			X	X	X	X					4
59	Violet-green Swallow	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	8
60	Barn Swallow			X								1
61	Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
62	Mountain Chickadee	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	8
63	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	X				X	X		X	X	X	6
64	Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	9

- "Slate-colored"								X	X		2
99 Western Tanager	X		X	X	X	X			X		6
100 Black-headed Grosbeak	X		X		X			X	X	X	6
101 Lazuli Bunting	X				X				X		3
102 Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X			X		X			5
103 Brewer's Blackbird		X	X						X		3
104 Brown-headed Cowbird	X		X					X	X		4
105 Bullock's Oriole			X			X					2
106 Pine Grosbeak				X		X			X		3
107 House Finch	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	9
108 Cassin's Finch	X				X			X	X		4
109 Red Crossbill	X	X			X				X	X	5
110 Common Redpoll		X		X					X	X	4
111 Pine Siskin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
112 American Goldfinch	X	X	X			X		X	X		6
113 Evening Grosbeak	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		7
114 House Sparrow		X		X			X			X	4
<i>Total species</i>	70	37	61	41	48	46	21	43	79	31	114