

Elizabeth Doherty

From: Debbie Matthews
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Elizabeth Doherty
Subject: Fw: Our Christmas Bird Count results
Attachments: 2020 Ramsey CBC_Territory A results_Tuxedo Park.docx

Please forward to the BOT for their information.

Thank you.
Debbie

From: Hugh Carola <hughcarola@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Debbie Matthews <dmatthews@tuxedopark-ny.gov>
Subject: Our Christmas Bird Count results

Good morning Debbie,

First off, this is my new personal email address which I'll be using going forward (and which won't be affected by any future Internet/TV/phone providers). Despite the cold, Dan, Ivan and I had an enjoyable day on the 2020 CBC. Unfortunately, Dave was unable to join us.

As is typical, we spent just over 2 hours in the Village; arriving at the Main Gate about 10:15 and leaving by the South Gate around 12:25PM. There are three main areas that we bird, the largest of course being the lake and its adjacent environs including the Clubhouse and Boat Club. The other two are the Racetrack (with the village's only grassland habitat) and the area around the school. Because of the snow there was a lot of bird activity along the roads - mostly Juncos and White-throated Sparrows - which we counted as we drove.

Tuxedo Lake itself is BY FAR the most important habitat within our entire Territory simply by virtue of the number and species diversity of birds we encounter there. Nowhere else - not Lake Sebago, not Sterling Lake, not any of the smaller lakes & ponds - do we find what we do on Tuxedo Lake. It is our "Ace in the hole" for increasing our species count but more importantly it gives us an accurate count of the birds - specifically waterfowl - in our Count Circle on the CBC day. One oddity was that we counted NO Mallards (the most common duck in North America) on your lake.

That being said, we did find a total of six species we found *nowhere else* but in Tuxedo Park; the doc shows them with asterisks but the are: Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Field Sparrow.

Some numbers:

42 bird species recorded, 26 in Tuxedo Park (61.9% of the total). The 6 species above represented 14.3% - a not insignificant amount.

1,131 individuals counted, 451 in Tuxedo Park (39.8% of the total). That is an HUGE number and as such, very important to the whole CBC effort.

I've attached a Word doc with our results of the day and the list specific to the birds we counted in Tuxedo Park.

**The Fyke Nature Association
 Ramsey Christmas Bird Count Results / Territory A
 December 19, 2020**

Species / Total number counted	Number counted in Tuxedo Park/locale
Canada Goose / 68	18 / Lake
Mute Swan / 3	
Mallard / 15	
Ring-necked Duck / 84*	84 / Lake
Bufflehead / 13*	13 / Lake
Common Goldeneye / 1	
Hooded Merganser / 105	101 / Lake
Common Merganser / 130	128 / Lake
Ruddy Duck / 10*	10 / Lake
Bald Eagle / 1*	1 / Lake
Sharp-shinned Hawk / 1	
Red-tailed Hawk / 13	2 / 1 Lake, 1 School
Wild Turkey / 8	
Ring-billed Gull / 6	2 / Lake
Rock Pigeon / 119	
Mourning Dove / 1	
Belted Kingfisher / 4	1 / Lake
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker / 1*	1 / Lake, along Turtle Point Rd.
Downy Woodpecker / 9	1 / Racetrack
Hairy Woodpecker / 4	
Pileated Woodpecker / 5	
Blue Jay / 1	
American Crow / 13	9 / 6 Lake, 3 School
Common Raven / 6	1 / School
Black-capped Chickadee / 15	3 / School
Tufted Titmouse / 6	3 / 1 Lake, 2 School
White-breasted Nuthatch / 17	6 / 1 Racetrack / 5 School
Carolina Wren / 7	1 / School
Eastern Bluebird / 6	3 / Near school, along Potucket Rd.
American Robin / 5	
Northern Mockingbird / 1	
European Starling / 144	1 / School
Northern Cardinal / 15	
American Tree Sparrow / 7	2 / Racetrack
Field Sparrow / 1*	1 / Racetrack
Song Sparrow / 28	7 / 2 Racetrack, 3 Lake, 2 School
White-throated Sparrow / 40	5 / 2 Lake, 3 near school, along Potucket Rd.
Dark-eyed Junco / 190	43 / 9 Racetrack, 17 Lake, 17 School & area
House Finch / 3	
American Goldfinch / 2	
House Sparrow / 12	4 / 2 Racetrack, 2 School
42 Species / 1131 individuals	26 species / 451 individuals

THE FYKE NATURE ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1952

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MICHAEL LIMATOLA, PRESIDENT
MOLLY GARDENER, RECORDING SECRETARY
HUGH M. CAROLA, LAND TRUST DIRECTOR



November 11, 2020

Mayor David C. McFadden
VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
80 Lorillard Road
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

Dear Mayor McFadden:

I hope this letter finds you and your fellow citizens well, especially at this most difficult time. As I've done so many times in the past, I write to request permission for a small group of volunteers from the Bergen County, NJ-based Fyke Nature Association to access the Village of Tuxedo Park during National Audubon Society's annual CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC). Since 1955 Fyke has surveyed a fifteen-mile diameter "count circle" that includes the Village, its woodlands and lakes. Now, more than ever, crucial to the accuracy of our data collection is the ability to bird within your community and its various habitats.

This year marks my twenty-third year (!) as a CBC team leader, helping to compile a one-day "snapshot" of the birds of North America. Over those years, my colleagues and I have had nothing but exceeding gratitude for the hospitality and support that your predecessors, Village Chiefs of Police, and especially Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Matthews have extended to us over the years.

Mr. Mayor, I respectfully request your permission to enter the Village of Tuxedo Park for approximately two hours on Saturday, December 19, 2020. My son Daniel Carola, Esq. of Hackensack, NJ would travel with me in one car as we are in a "pod" and *if* it is agreeable to you, we would have one or both of our longtime colleagues (David Kaplan of Parsippany, NJ and/or Ivan Kossak of Lincoln Park, NJ) join us in separate vehicle(s). As usual, we would expect to reach the Front Gate House by about 10AM and leave the Village via the South Gate around noon. Know that we always confine our birding to the public areas of the Village and show the utmost respect for the privacy and property of your fellow residents. We will also comport with *all* NY State, Orange County and local COVID-19 safety requirements.

It is my sincere hope that we will once again be allowed the privilege of birding in Tuxedo Park and that the relationship between the Village and The Fyke Nature Association will continue to the mutual benefit and good will of all. If you have any questions about me, Fyke, the Christmas Bird Count or to inform me of your and the Board's decision, I can be reached at home (201-457-1582), via cell (201-403-1992) or by e-mail at hcarola@verizon.net. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, please accept my fondest regards to you and all your neighbors in Tuxedo Park for an enjoyable, safe and healthy Holiday Season.

Yours in conservation & public service,

Hugh

Hugh M. Carola

CC: Ms. Deborah A. Matthews, Village Clerk-Treasurer;
Chief David Conklin, Tuxedo Park Police Department

*PS - Thank you very
much for your kind
consideration -
Hugh*

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