

## News: Christmas Bird Count Results, 2024 Environmental Grant Deadlines... and More!

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2024-02

### The Results!



Thorn Creek Audubon birders headed out on December 16 for our 52nd year supporting this annual National Audubon community science project. Results are reported to National Audubon Society and the University of Illinois for ongoing comparisons year to year to assess the health of bird populations and help guide conservation action.

*TCAS count coordinator Al Thomas reports:* Our 20 volunteers/observers formed 10 teams to count all the birds staying for winter in the official Thorn Creek Audubon count circle - 7.5-mile radius circle centered at Governors State University in University Park. Our birders walked 20 miles and drove 408 miles looking for birds. Rain persisted most of the day, but our diligent teams were still able to tally 52 species of birds and 8990 total individuals.



**\* Top Ten Species \***

European Starling	4090
Canada Goose	2412
Mourning Dove	554
Mallard	446
House Sparrow	236
American Robin	228
Rock Pigeon	217
Dark-eyed Junco	193
American Tree Sparrow	107
Blue Jay	79

**\* Total Species Tally \***

Greater White-fronted Goose	5	American Kestrel	7
Snow Goose	1	Blue Jay	79
Canada Goose	2412	American Crow	55
Mallard	446	Black-capped Chickadee	35
Northern Pintail	5	Tufted Titmouse	9
Common Merganser	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Great Blue Heron	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	35
Northern Harrier	1	Brown Creeper	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Carolina Wren	6
Bald Eagle	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Hermit Thrush	2
Red-tailed Hawk	21	American Robin	228
American Coot	1	Northern Mockingbird	1
Sandhill Crane	3	European Starling	4090
Ring-billed Gull	9	Cedar Waxwing	1
Rock Pigeon	217	American Tree Sparrow	107
Mourning Dove	554	Dark-eyed Junco	193
Great Horned Owl	3	White-throated Sparrow	2
Barred Owl	2	Song Sparrow	8
Short-eared Owl	2	Swamp Sparrow	3
Belted Kingfisher	1	Eastern Towhee	7
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Northern Cardinal	43
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	House Finch	63
Downy Woodpecker	24	American Goldfinch	27
Hairy Woodpecker	4	House Sparrow	236
Northern Flicker	9		

**THANK YOU** to all our volunteers who counted birds in the field or at their feeders.

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**Coming up in May: Illinois Spring Bird Count** - Our teams are already looking forward to the annual Illinois Spring Bird Count. The 2024 count is Saturday, May 4. Mark your calendar to join us for this fun event. Details will be announced later.

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## **Environmental Grant Application Deadlines for 2024**



Through its annual grant program, Thorn Creek Audubon aims to increase habitat conservation, environmental education, and wild bird appreciation. Local organizations are invited to submit proposals for grants of up to \$500. Grant applications are considered quarterly. **Deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15.**

Details about the Environmental Grants Program and the application are online at: [Thorn Creek Audubon Environmental Grants](#).

If you know of a local organization that might be interested in submitting an application, you can give them a copy of the attached flyer: [Environmental Grants flyer](#)

The Environmental Grant program and other chapter projects are supported by Thorn Creek Audubon member dues and contributions.

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## Global Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21



Calling all birders—the 27th annual Great Backyard Bird Count starts Feb 16! Whether you're a budding birdwatcher or a bird-count veteran, you can use your ID skills to help scientists protect birds and the places they need.

The event is a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon, and Birds Canada. All checklists submitted become part of the massive database used by scientists to track changes in bird populations over time.

Counting isn't limited to backyards. Birders can tally birds anywhere they choose. For all the details, go to > [Great Backyard Bird Count](#).



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