

# Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/1/2024

<b>Count Name:</b> Matanuska Valley	<b>Count Code:</b> AKMV	<b>Count Date:</b> 12/17/2023
<b>Organizations &amp; Sponsors:</b> Mat-Su Birders	<b># of Party Hours:</b> 54.60	<b>Species reported on count date:</b> 29

## Compiler(s)

First Name	Last Name	Email	Is Primary Compiler
Tom	Cappiello	matsubirders@gmail.com	No
Robin	Turk	robint@mtaonline.net	Yes

## Start & End Times

Start time	End time
06:00 AM	06:00 PM

## Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 30
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 12
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 30
At Feeders	Total Number: 18

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	10.50	12.00	Miles
Car	40.10	310.70	Miles
Air			
All-Terrain Vehicle			
Bicycle			
Dog Sled			
Golfcart			
Horseback			
Motorized Boat			
Non-Motorized Boat			
Skis/Xc-Skis	4.00	4.80	Miles
Snowmachine			
Snowshoe			
Wheelchair			

Other Time and Distance			
	Hours	Distance	Units

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At Feeders	34.80		
Nocturnal Birding	0.00	0.00	
Total Party	54.60	327.50	Miles

## Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: 20.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 30.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	Calm		
Wind Velocity	Minimum:	Maximum:	
Snow Depth	Minimum:	Maximum:	
Still Water			
Moving Water			
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Cloudy	
AM Rain	None		
AM Snow	Heavy,Light		
PM Rain	None		
PM Snow	Heavy,Light		

## Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Mallard	509		1231/105	44	
Ruffed Grouse	2		8/113	23	
Spruce Grouse	cw		9/100	30	
Bald Eagle	340		351/119	42	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	157		380/101	44	
Great Gray Owl	1		1/124	6	
Short-eared Owl	4		12/118	7	
Downy Woodpecker	20		35/105	44	
Hairy Woodpecker	18		34/116	44	
Northern Shrike	4		10/87	42	
Gray Jay	1		28/116	41	
Black-billed Magpie	141		286/106	44	
Common Raven	366		979/110	44	
Black-capped Chickadee	624		1098/116	44	
Boreal Chickadee	1		53/92	42	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	75		117/118	36	

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Brown Creeper	1		17/86	31	
American Dipper	1		80/107	43	
Townsend's Solitaire	1		1/124	4	
American Robin	5		5/124	11	
European Starling	320		756/119	44	
Bohemian Waxwing	631		4310/123	42	
Snow Bunting	2		308/116	20	
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	1		68/109	27	
Rusty Blackbird	1		36/84	3	
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	36		123/118	8	
Pine Grosbeak	268		497/93	44	
White-winged Crossbill	21		21/124	13	
Common Redpoll	883		2404/105	42	
Total Individuals	4434				
Total Species Reported	29				

cw = Reported count week  
 US = Flagged as an unusual species  
 HC = Flagged as an unusually high count  
 LC = Flagged as an unusually low count

## Species Requiring Rare Bird Reports to be Submitted to Regional Editor

Species

## Special Aspects

Greetings Birders,

Here is a summary of the Matanuska Valley Christmas Bird Count which took place December 17, 2023.

We had 30 field counters, and 18 stationary feeder counters. We counted 29 species and 3930 individual birds. The going was tough, as we had 6-8" of fresh snow and few plowed roads. Temperatures were in the low to high 20s and mostly overcast skies.

There were no new bird species seen however, we did pick up one Townsend's Solitaire which according to our internal records hasn't been seen since 2009 and that may have been the only other sighting. Also a Great Gray Owl was seen on count day, with only two previous sightings in our counts history. A record high of 21 white-winged crossbills was set, the previous high was 12 in 2017. A high of 5 American Robins, the previous record was 3 set in 2007. We also got a rather high, but not record, Bald Eagle count. There was an unusually large "flock" of ~22 Bald Eagles spotted soaring over the Butte Snow Buntings, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owls, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were also counted but, in the past, have been hit or miss.

Conspicuously low counts included Bohemian Waxwings, and Ravens which are only counted until noon, so due to conditions, maybe some of us got a late start and were slow moving. No raptors or other ducks besides Mallards were seen.