

## 2020 Christmas Bird Count Results

Below is a quick summary of the 2020 Christmas Bird Count. This information was presented at the February meeting, but is reproduced here for those who couldn't attend. Data from 2020 and 2019 are below (figures in parentheses represent data from 2019 for comparison):

Total Species: 125 (115)

Total Birds: 20,857 (17,209)

Observers In Field: 32 (35)

Feeder-watchers: 9 (4)

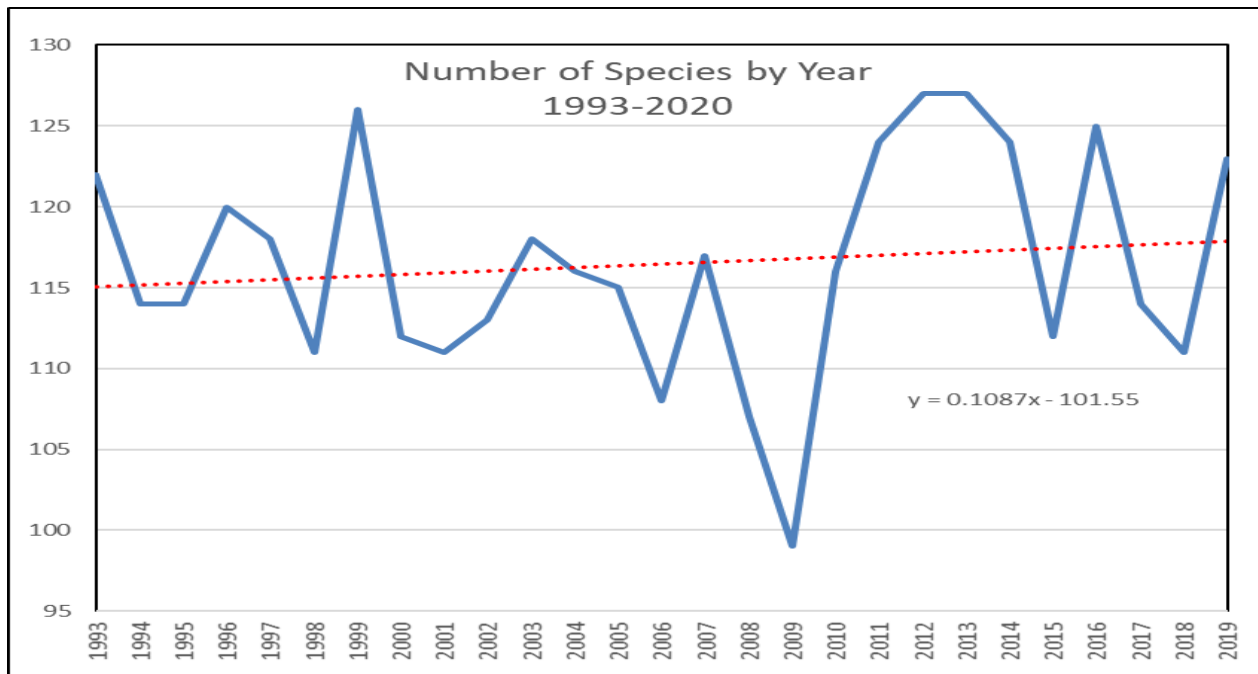
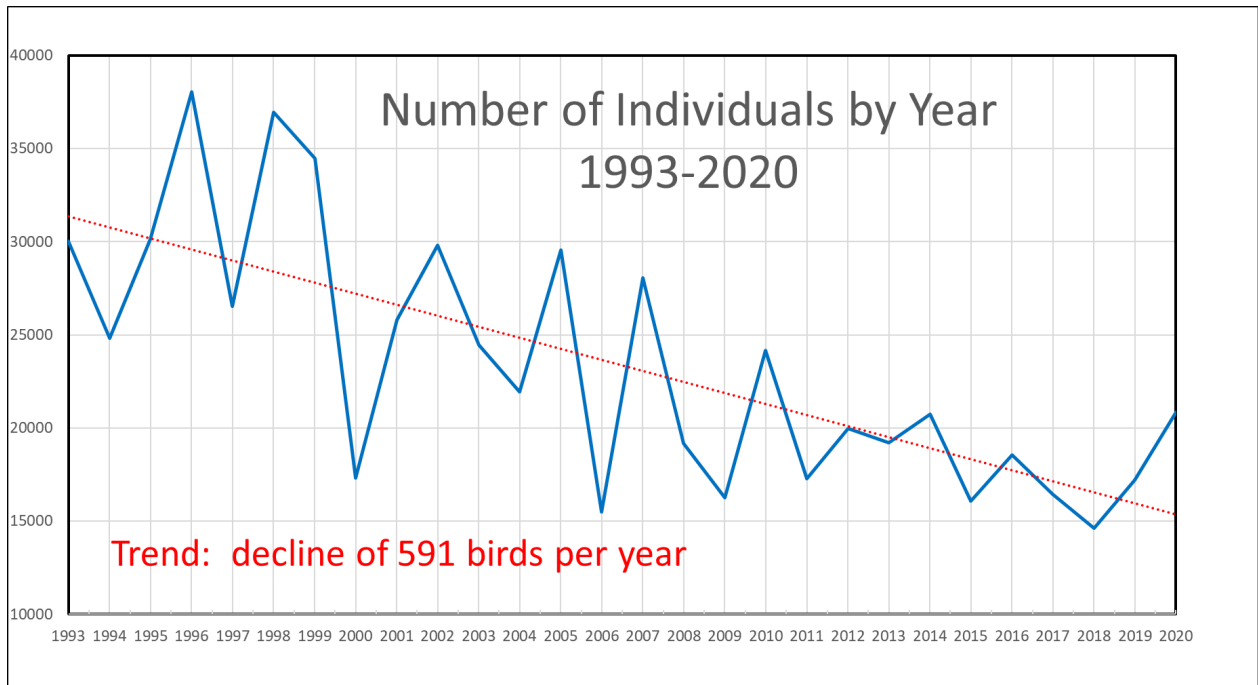
### 2020 (2019) Bird Count—Effort

Means	Hours	Distance (Miles)
On Foot	70.4 (67.0)	49.5 (46.5)
By Car	39.3 (36.8)	280.8 (290.8)
At feeders	37.0 (8.8)	N/A
Owling	1.3 (0)	2.3(0)
Totals	148.0 (112.6)	332.6 (337.3)

#### General Comments:

- Weather was cold (30 to 42 degrees) and mostly clear, with light winds, and no precipitation.
- 1<sup>st</sup> ever Ash-throated Flycatcher (observed by Marc Nichols, Harpersville Sector, at Sandy Bottom).
- Nine feederwatchers—big uptick since last year (there were four)

Below graphs depict trends over time since 1993 (I chose to start the data trend analysis at 1993 since all thirteen sectors have been covered consistently since then):



2020 Christmas Bird Count Participants. Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who participated—obviously without them, there is no count! Below is the list of participants.

Airport

Walt Harris\*  
Gwen Harris\*

Lorraine Austin  
C.L. Tanner

Chesapeake Ave.

Ellis Maxey\*  
Wendy Maxey\*

Ft. Monroe	Langley	Tabb
Bryan Barmore*	Mark Sopko*	Andy Hawkins*
Sharon Burton*	William Boeh	Marilee Hawkins*
Grandview	Mariner's Museum	
Pete Peterman*	Elisa Flanders*	Feeder Watchers:
Stuart Sweetman	Peggy Waterfield	Barb Abraham
Bill Williams	Mercury North	Mary Copeland
Hampton	Dave Youker*	Shawn Dash
Dave Brown*	Tracy Tate	Bettye Fields
Cary Koronas	Newport News	Phyllis Simonetta
Harpersville	Michael Meyer*	David Singletary
Jane Frigo*	Poquoson	Vicki Cooper
Marc Nichols	Betsy Garrett*	Melanie Paul
Harwoods Mill	Holly Horton	Tom Charlock
Meredith Bell*	Andrew Horton	
Lee Bell*	Wally Horton	
John Adair	Marjorie Schenck	
Marilyn Adair		

A list of the number of birds observed by species, as well as a more comprehensive report (generated by Audubon) will be posted on the HRBC website.

Finally, Audubon has launched a new online analysis tool—the Christmas Bird Count Trends Viewer (<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/where-have-all-birds-gone>). Users can input a target species, target area (down to the state level), and target time period (year range). The tool will yield the annual per cent change in the species population in the target area over the target time period. Some sobering results can be found here. For example, the American Bittern population in Virginia declined by -3.5% annually since 1970, and abundance declined from just over 15 million to just over 3 million.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dolphrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphrog1@yahoo.com).