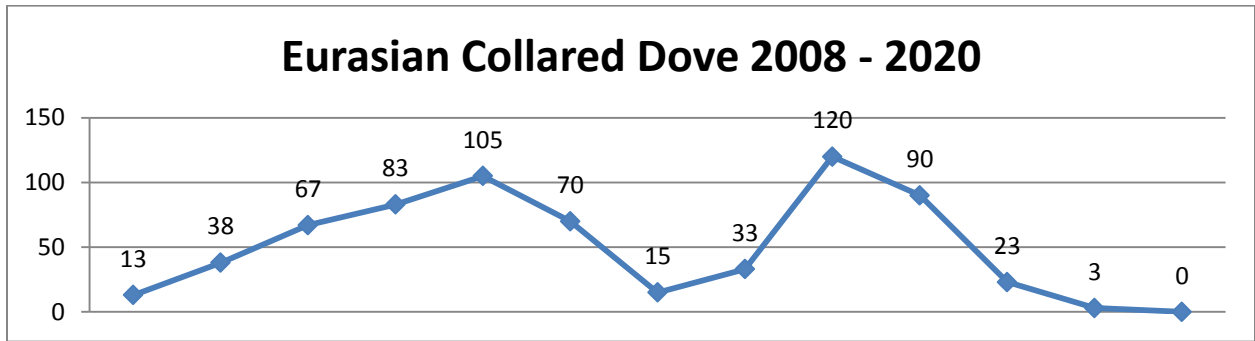


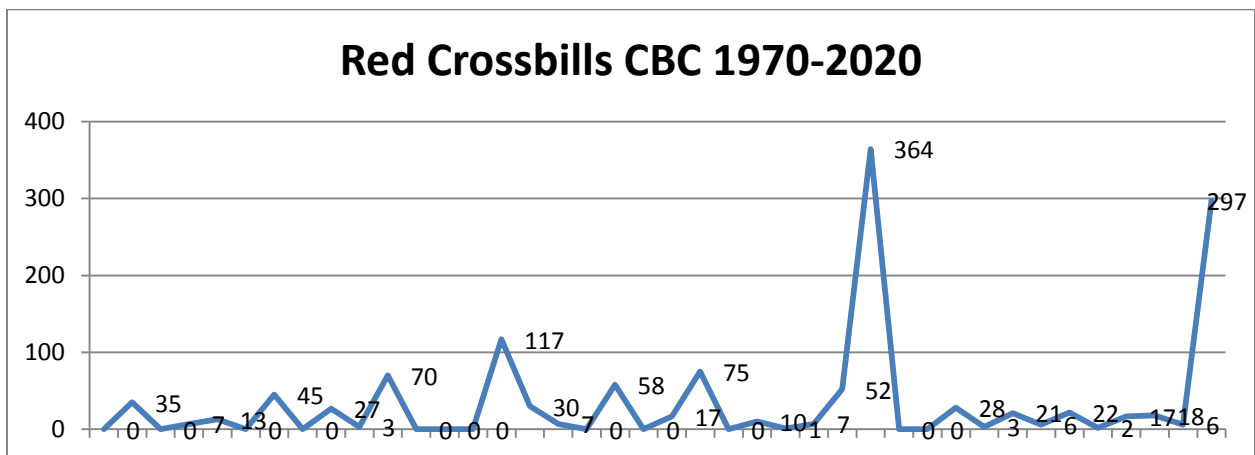
2020 Christmas Bird Count Results

A warm and windy day kept some of the songbirds hidden in the brush but our 66 counters collectively spent 100 hours on December 18 to give us 58 species. The average number of species seen on count day is 53, so we did well. We also picked up 4 species for count week.

Of interest: While no real oddballs came up during the count, only one collared dove was seen, and that wasn't even on count day. This chart shows the trend between 2008, the first year Eurasian Collared Doves were seen on count day, and 2020. What's going on? The climate may not be to their liking after all, they may have moved to other parts of the valley that are not within the count area, or the Northern Goshawks and other predators took their toll. Or they may have a natural population cycle.



Another item of interest lies with the crossbills. Red Crossbills are a parapatetic and irruptive species, going where the food is. The chart below shows two years in which we saw many Red Crossbills. 2020 was an excellent cone year for Douglas-fir, and crossbills – as well as Clark's Nutcrackers – were seen in large flocks, from mid-autumn on, feeding on the seeds. 2008, the highest count year, must have also had great food sources within the count circle. According to information about the many subspecies of Red Crossbill, our area does have the one whose bill is designed to eat Douglas-fir seeds.



Below is the summary of count results in numbers seen by species. "cw" indicates those seen during count week.

CBC 2020

American Coot	3
American Crow	2
American Dipper	16
American Goldfinch	14
American Robin	2
American Widgeon	5
Bald Eagle	65
Barrow's Goldeneye	256
Belted Kingfisher	2
Bl.-capped Chickadee	139
Black-billed Magpie	174
Brown Creeper	1
Bufflehead	17
Canada Goose	13
Canada jay	4
Cassin's Finch	12
Cedar waxwing	16
Chickadee spp	17
Clark's Nutcracker	37
Common Goldeneye	35
Common Merganser	14
Common Raven	568
Common Redpoll	21
Downy Woodpecker	4
Eurasian collared dove	cw
European Starling	16
Evening Grosbeak	110
Gadwall	42
Golden Eagle	3
Great Blue Heron	1
Great Horned Owl	cw
Green-winged Teal	70
Hairy Woodpecker	5
Harris' sparrow	cw
Hooded Merganser	2
House Finch	29
House Sparrow	24

Junco - Oregon	5
Mallard	580
Mountain Chickadee	99
Northern Flicker	6
Northern Goshawk	1
Northern Pigmy Owl	cw
Northern Pintail	25
Northern Shrike	3
Pine Grosbeak	80
Pine Siskin	23
Red Crossbill	297
Red-br. Nuthatch	37
Red-tailed hawk	2
Red-winged Blackbird	12
Ring-necked Duck	20
Rosy Finch (grey-cr)	60
Rough-legged Hawk	2
Ruffed Grouse	1
Sage Grouse	3
Steller's Jay	6
Townsend's Solitaire	4
Trumpeter Swan	87
White-br. Nuthatch	6
White-throated sparrow	1
Wilson's Snipe	1
Mammals seen	
Elk	many
Red squirrel	17
Muskrat	2
Moose	22
Mule deer	5
Coyote	2
White-tailed deer	4
Bighorn sheep	many
River otter	1
Red Fox	cw

Thanks to all who so enthusiastically participated in the count! Let's hope 2021 will allow us to gather for our pre-count breakfast once again.

Susan Marsh
CBC compiler