

## **Elizabeth Stakenborg**

[the-village-birders] Christmas Bird Count Results

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Hi all - In case you may have missed our January Brownwood Birders meeting, I thought you may be interested in the results of our third annual The Villages/Lake Panasofkee Christmas Bird Count! We had a wonderful day with 59 volunteers counting birds on a pretty chilly (42 degrees to start), but mostly sunny day. We saw a total of 118 species on our count day plus an additional 6 birds that were seen during our count week.

I want to thank our team leaders who did an incredible job scouting their areas ahead of time and covering the various areas in our circle - Paul Nistico, Bob Cole, Linda and Jerry Bell, Wendy Milstein, Mike Brady, Tom and Gisele Russano, Stan Lavender, Ron Hodgson, Candi Wallace, Tom Hince, Steven and Darcy Shaddix, Beth Sharlow and Sue Bonzey. We also had some great eBirders including Norm Pillsbury (stepping in for Sue Pepper who was sick on count day but helped immensely), Pete Stafford, Jack Habiak, Ren Elliot, Ann Anderson, Stacie Grove and Kathryn Kintzing. Because of your efforts the compiling was a breeze - thanks to all of you! Thank you to all of our team members who joined us to make this such a successful count!!! You are so appreciated!

Our count produced some new birds that we have not seen on our prior two years including Green-winged Teal (Jerry and Linda, Tom Hince, and Paul Nistico), Redhead (Tom and Gisele) Rock Pigeon (Tom and Gisele), Eastern Screech Owl (Tom Hince), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Bob Cole and Wendy Milstein), Red-headed Woodpecker (Beth Sharlow), European Starling (Candi Wallace and Tom Hince), Northern Waterthrush (Tom Hince), and Vesper Sparrow (Steven and Darcy and Tom Hince.)

We also had two additional birds that we had not seen previously during our count week - an American Avocet (Candi Wallace) and American Pipit (Ann Anderson.)

Other count week birds that do not appear on our trip report include Wild Turkey (Ren Elliot), Black-crowned Night Heron (Stan Lavender), Long-billed Dowitcher (Candi Wallace) and House Sparrow (Mike Brady.)

There were a few birds that we have seen on prior counts, but eluded us this year including Snow Goose, Canada Goose (!), Horned Grebe, Roseate Spoonbill, Virginia Rail, Northern Parula and Grasshopper Sparrow.

We traveled 29 miles by foot, 168 miles by car, 5 miles by ATV, 10.5 by golfcart and 6.3 by kayak and spent nearly 70 hours in the field. We counted over 30,000 individuals!! Our largest number of one species was the Tree Swallow! There were over 8000 soaring over Lake Panasofkee plus nearly 1000 more over our count area! I am attaching some slides created by Stan Lavender for our Brownwood Birders recap meeting as well! Thank you Stan!

I am also attaching a copy of our trip report so you can see the species that we observed as well as the various areas that were covered.

Mark your calendars for January 3, 2026 - our 4th Annual Christmas Bird Count!!

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/298341>

*Take care,*  
*Liz*