

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ALAMOSA/MONTE VISTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
9383 El Rancho Lane  
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

Memorandum

December 19, 2002

To: Participants of the 44<sup>th</sup> Monte Vista NWR Christmas Bird Count (2002)  
From: Kristen Gilbert, Monte Vista NWR 'New' Christmas Bird Count Compiler  
Subject: Results of 44th Monte Vista NWR Christmas Bird Count

Fourteen people spent a total of 46 party hours and covered over 192 miles on the count. Weather conditions during the day were favorable with clear skies and no wind. Temperatures ranged from a cool 3° F to 32° F. Coverage of the count circle was thorough and all habitat types were surveyed.

This year's results were unusually low, most likely due to the dry conditions in the valley. A total of 38 species were documented and 6,044 individuals. This is very low compared to the record high numbers of last year, 63 species and 21,104 individuals. Two Sandhill Cranes record by Mike and Peggy Blenden were a rare find for this time of year. This was the first year in the history of the count that a Gray Jay was seen (reported by Lisa, Alyssa & John Rawinski and Jenny and Molly Nehring). **Thank you to all of you who helped with this year's count, see you next year!**

The following is a summary list of species and individual numbers of each that were documented during the 2002 event:

*Italics:* Species documented for the first time in the history of this count.

**Bold:** Species with record numbers documented on this count

American crow- 39	European. starling-825	Prairie falcon-1
American goldfinch-2	<b>Eur. collared dove-6</b>	Red-tailed hawk-10
American kestrel-4	<i>Gray Jay-1</i>	Red-winged. blackbird-2703
American Tree Sparrow-31	Golden eagle-2	Rock dove-97
Bald eagle-16	Great blue heron-7	Rough-legged hawk-11
Belted kingfisher-1	Great-horned owl-11	Sandhill Cranes-2
Black-billed magpie-152	Green-winged Teal-3	Song sparrow-54
Blk-cpd chickadee-3	Horned lark-161	Turkeys-13
Brown creeper-3	House finch-83	Western meadowlark-21
Canada goose-700	House sparrow-673	White-crowned sparrow-12
Cassin's Finch-5	Mallard-307	White.-breasted nuthatch-3
Common grackle-2	Mountain chickadee-14	Yellow-hd. blackbird-1
Common raven-70	Mourning dove-1	
Common Merganser-3	Northern flicker-7	
Downy woodpecker-1	Northern harrier-6	
Dark-eyed junco-18	Northern shrike-1	