

2022 Triangle Bird Count Results Summary

- by Jin Bai



Triangle Bird Count

Thanks to our Triangle Bird Count volunteer, we had a successful count this year. A total of 50 volunteers signed up on our website, and 30 volunteers submitted their data. A total of 321 sites were surveyed compared to 232 sites last year! We have documented a total of 3,879 individual birds from 82 species. Below are graphs summarizing various aspects of the data this year.

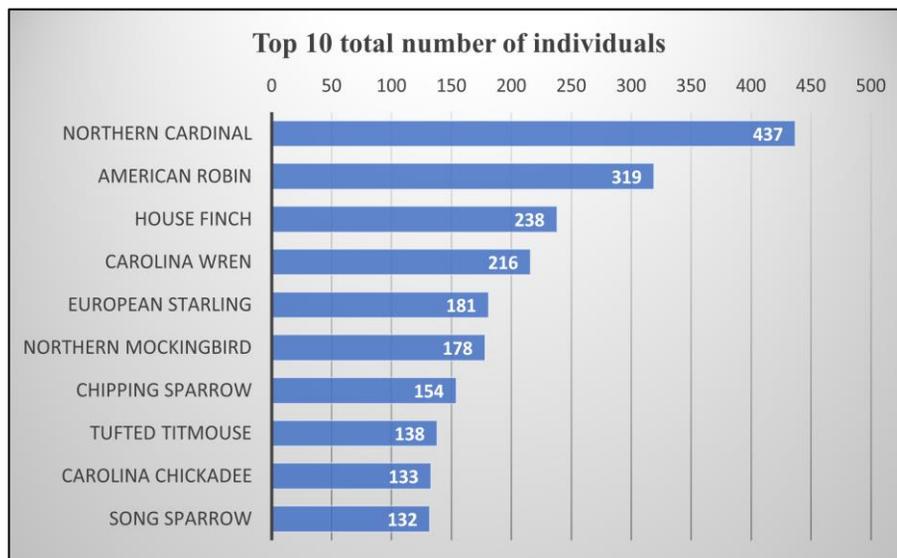


Figure 1. The top 10 most common bird species by the total number of individuals.

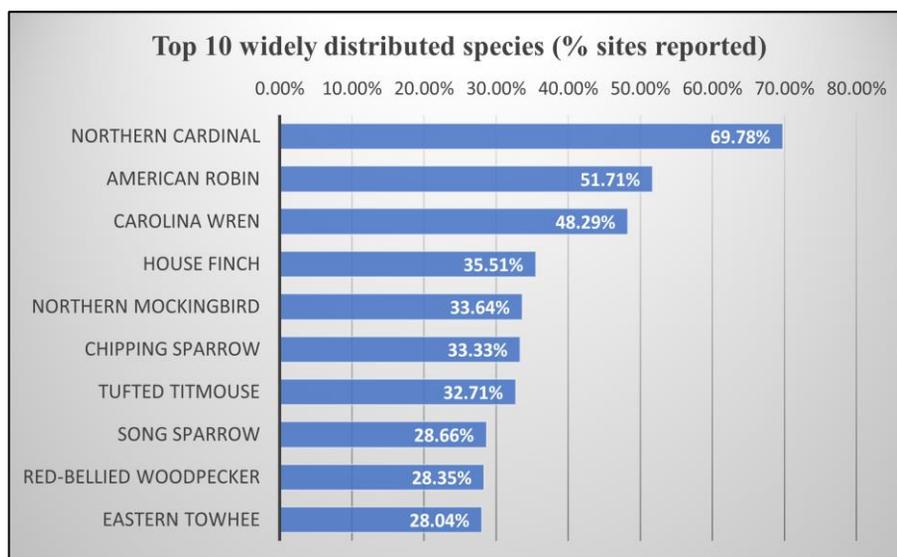


Figure 2. The top 10 most widely distributed bird species by the percentage of sites reported.

A few things to note based on the above figures: 1) species such as European Starlings with relatively high abundance overall do not widely distribute across the triangle; 2) species such as Red-bellied Woodpeckers with relatively lower abundance do widely distribute across the triangle; 3) species such as Northern Cardinals and American Robins have the highest abundance and are widely distributed.

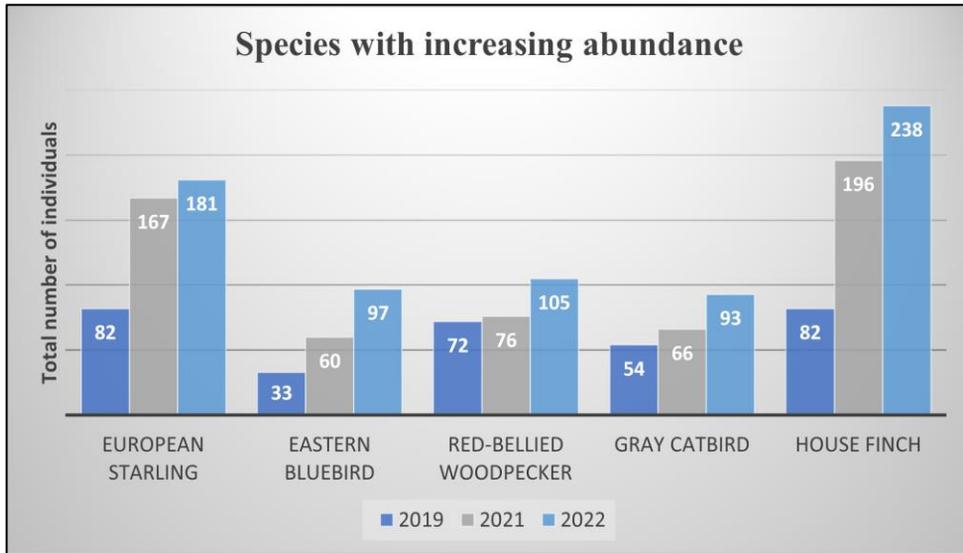


Figure 3. A highlight of a group of species that increased their abundance since 2019.

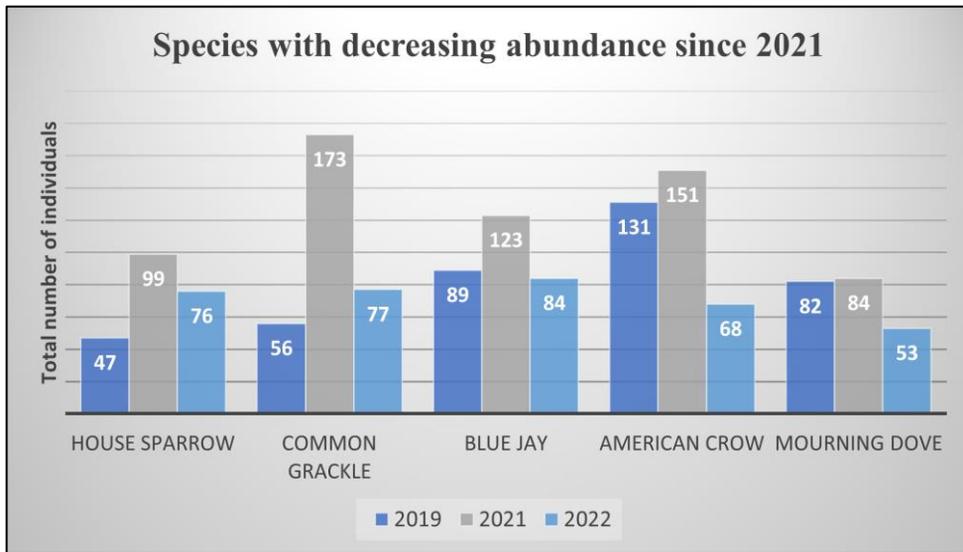


Figure 4. A highlight of a group of species that decreased their abundance since 2021.

Without controlling surveying efforts across years, these above figures (Figures 3 & 4) show that some species, such as Eastern Bluebirds and Gray Catbirds, increased their abundance over the past few years. On the other hand, some common species, such as Common Grackles and American Crows, decreased their abundance since last year.

There are also uncommon sightings for our count: 1) a Brown Creeper, our winter resident species, was reported on April 28th, which is uncommon given the time of year; 2) Spotted Sandpipers and Solitary Sandpipers were reported in an urban wetland, and a retention pond, which highlights the ecological benefits of urban wetlands and retention ponds for waterbirds and shorebirds.

We documented a variety of warbler species in our urban bird count. Figure 5 below shows the total abundance of all warbler species reported this year. Species such as Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Prothonotary Warbler are uncommon for our count.

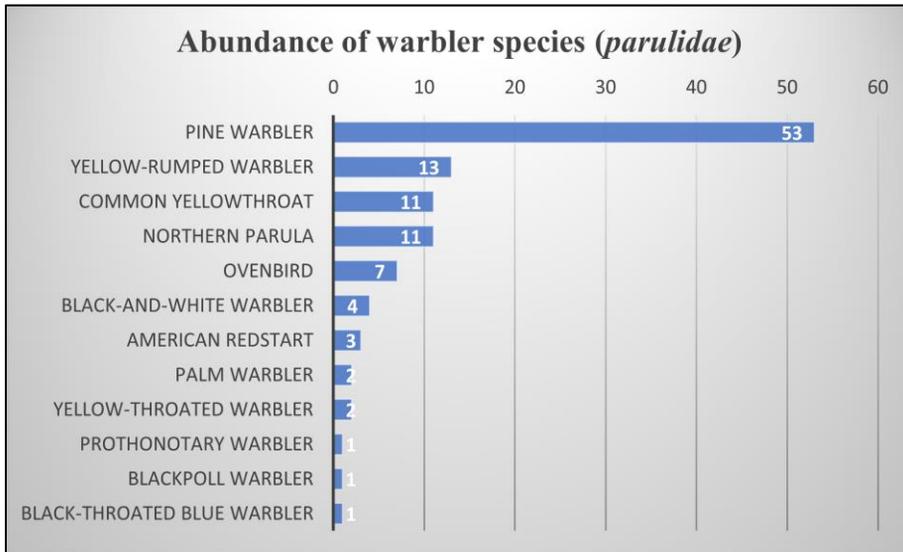


Figure 5. The abundance of all warbler species that were reported this year.

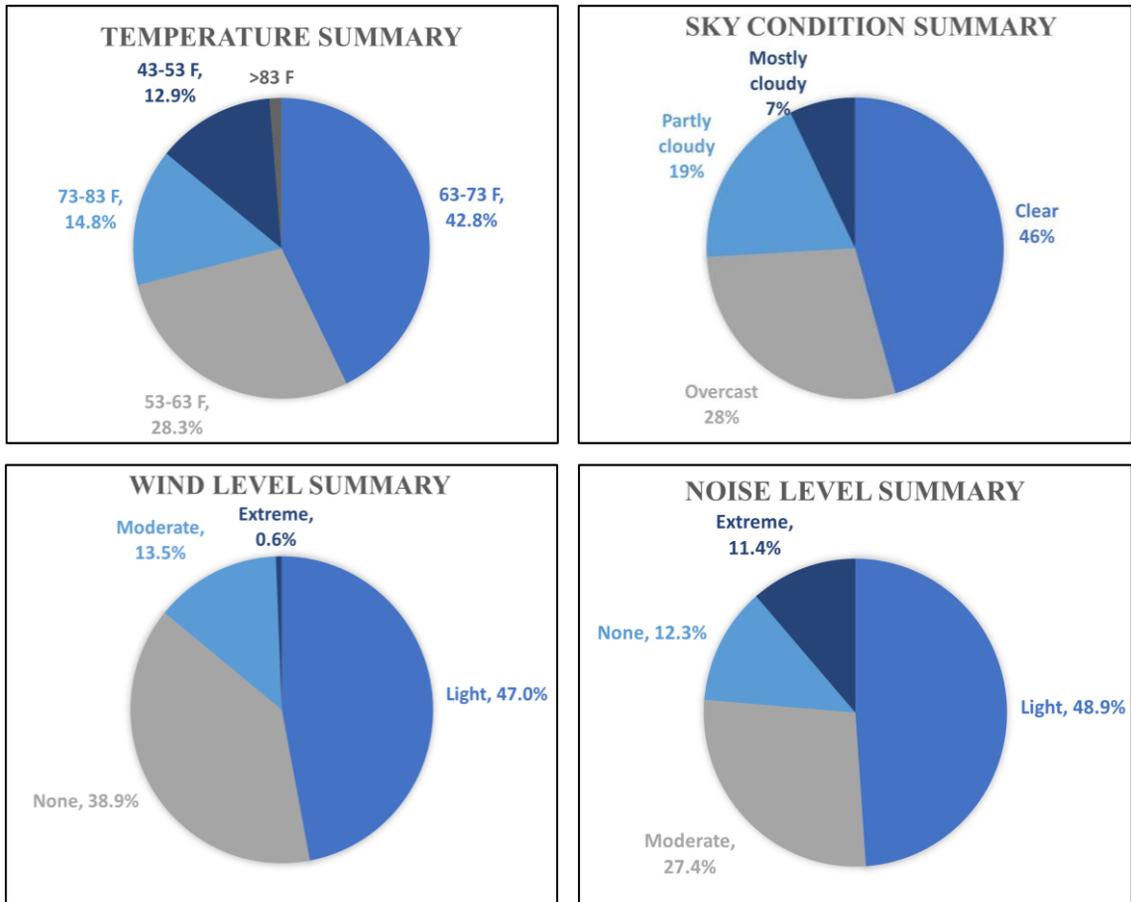


Figure 6. Environmental conditions summary for sites surveyed in 2022.

Figure 6 summarizes the environmental conditions for temperature, sky conditions, wind, and noise levels for all sites surveyed in 2022. One of the challenges of an urban bird count is the higher noise levels in the cities. Indeed, as the pie chart of the noise level summary shows, light and moderate noise levels were the norms for our counts.

Thank you for the Triangle Bird Count volunteers' contributions! We will keep updating the latest findings and publications to TriBC volunteers. Check out our website for an update of the complete species list this year. See you in the 2023 Triangle Bird Count!



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