

The 97th Glenolden Christmas Bird Count part of the 117th National Audubon CBC was held Saturday December 17, 2016. Our field teams and feeder watchers covered a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Media, Delaware County, PA.

The big story of this year's CBC has to be the weather. Actually we have been pretty lucky weather-wise in recent years. Except for count number 110 which was rescheduled to 1/2/10 because of a 22" snowfall on the scheduled count day in December we have to go back to 1996 when there was "heavy morning snow" and 1991 when there was "steady morning rain" to find dates that precipitation impacted the count.

We had a little bit of everything through the day. Conditions can vary within our circle but I suspect our experience in Swarthmore was pretty typical. Our day started at 4:30 am with owling in Little Crum Creek Park in a steady moderate snowfall. It was cold, 26 degrees, but windless and quiet in the early morning hour. The ambient light was just enough to highlight the fresh snow on the tree branches. It was a beautiful scene. Somewhat to our surprise we managed to call in two pairs of screech owls with our recording. Maybe the day wouldn't be so bad after all. But it went downhill from there. By the time we finished in the park the snow had turned to freezing rain with only an inch or two of wet snow on the ground. We were able to drive around town to our usual stops but found no more owls except one very distant great horned owl calling. When we stopped at Dunkin Donuts at 7:00 the roads were icing up which created no small amount of concern but by the time we left a half hour later we were driving in wet slush and a light rain. That's pretty much how the day continued with intermittent light rain and drizzle. The snow on the trees was replaced with ice crystals, also quite pretty, but we had to take care walking on the slopes in the wet woods. We are kind of in the lowlands of the county in Swarthmore so I suspect the snow and ice may have lasted a bit longer "up-county" but I heard more comments about the wet than the ice from our area captains.

Despite the weather the area captains were up to the task and every one of the expected 26 parties went out-at least for a while. We had 54 field observers in those 26 parties and 9 folks kept an eye on 6 feeders for a total of 63 participants. This contrasts with 96 participants on last year's count. However the past 10 year average number of participants is 73-so not bad for a lousy weather day.

As expected party-hours were down (128.6) relative to the previous 10 year average (172) and the total number of birds counted (16,807) was down 40% from the past 10 year average (27,472).

Despite this we managed a species count that was average!! Hooray! It's a testament to everyone's hard work. We tallied 88 species on count day. Although somewhat lower than the past 10 year average (92) it is one better than last year's species count (87) and one less than our 2014 count (89). Adding the four species noted during count week (**snow goose, lesser scaup, common goldeneye, fish crow**) we had a total of 92 species. No new species were added to our grand total which stands at 195.

Somewhat surprisingly we did have one species that tied a previous high. **Merlins** have a reputation for being tough little guys and the weather didn't seem to bother them. Three **Merlins** were found: Smedley Park, Merion Golf Club and the Havertown area. This tied the previous count of 3 in 2002. **Merlin** has been reported on 24 previous counts.

Speaking of raptors the 5 **Northern Harriers** were a nice find. Only 1 or 2 per CBC have been recorded over the past 10 years.

The most unusual bird of the count was an **orange-crowned warbler** well described by Jim McConnell. He got good long looks in the Delco portion of Heinz refuge. Jim has been birding in the area for a number of years. This is his first CBC. Welcome Jim! Also not too shabby was the **lesser scaup** found by Al Guarente at Crum Reservoir on count week. That was probably a one day wonder as it was not recorded subsequently.

As always I like to list all of our participants, particularly solid this year, as a thank you. For special recognition those in their first year, 5 year anniversaries, and those who have contributed 25 years or more are listed in bold type (as always, corrections are welcome): **Ellis Akers (45)**, Gary Becker (13), **Debbie Beer (5)**, Rob Bierregaard (4), **Sarah Boucas-Neto (10)**, Kevin Browngoehl (3), **Sarah Busch (1)**, Tom Bush (4), Brian Byrnes (8), Donna Chadderton (8), Ron Chadderton (2), **Bruce Childs (5)**, Bill Cranny (6), Alan Crawford III (8), Nicholas Crocetto (4), **Nick Crocetto (42)**, **Cynthia Curry (15)**, Dick Eales (3), Andrew Eberly (12), **David Eberly (26)**, Phyllis Fingerhood (22), Kevin Fryberger (8), Cole Gaboriault (3), Stephanie Gaboriault (6), Blake Goll (2), **Al Guarente (41)**, Liz Hoffman (3), **Rich Horwitz (28)**, Lois Hunn (18), Letitia Jeavons (6), Kristen Johnson (6), Sheryl Johnson (21), Steve Kapski (22), Bob Kelly (8), **Dan Kobza (5)**, **Mary Ellen Krober (30)**, Chelsea Lucas (8), Sue Lucas (9), **Jim McConnell (1)**, **Dave McDonald (5)**, **Doris McGovern (33)**, Pat McGovern (3), **Kathy Meermans (10)**, Rob Megraw (23), **Alison Mostrom (25)**, Damon Orsetti (4), Andrew Pesthy (2), Mariana Pesthy (2), **Jason Porter (5)**, Chris Pugliese (8), **Nick Pulcinella (47)**, **Brian Quindlen (10)**, Marcy Seminoff (2), Charles Smith (9), Marilyn Smith (3), Max Smith (3), **Gary Stolz (10)**, Carol Storey (11), Don Storey (2), Marca Tate (6), Gloria Todor (11), Mark Wallace (2), **Wing Yi (1)**.

Once again thank you one and all for your participation, particularly in this challenging year. Mark your calendars! Next year's CBC will be held Saturday December 16, 2017.

Below is the report I submitted to Audubon. Please let me know if you have any corrections or questions

Dave

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Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/14/2017

Count Name: Delaware County (Glenolden)	Count Code: PAGL	Count Date: 12/17/2016
Organizations & Sponsors:	# of Party Hours: 128.60	Species reported on count date: 88

Compiler(s)

First Name	Last Name	Email	Is Primary Compiler
David	Eberly	david.eberly@gmail.com	Yes

Start & End Times

Start time	End time
04:30 AM	05:00 PM

Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 54
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 26
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 29
At Feeders	Total Number: 9

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	92.60	63.40	Miles
Car	36.00	265.00	Miles
Air			
All-Terrain Vehicle			
Bicycle			
Dog Sled			
Golfcart			
Horseback			
Motorized Boat			
Non-Motorized Boat			
Skis/Xc-Skis			
Snowmachine			
Snowshoe			
Wheelchair			

Other Time and Distance			
	Hours	Distance	Units
At Feeders	26.25		

Count Summary Report

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Nocturnal Birding	6.75	23.25	Miles
Total Party	128.60	328.40	Miles

Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: 24.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 34.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	South		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 0.00 Miles/hour	Maximum: 4.00 Miles/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum: 0.00 Inches	Maximum: 0.50 Inches	
Still Water	Partly Open		
Moving Water	Partly Frozen		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Cloudy	
AM Rain	Light		
AM Snow	Light		
PM Rain	None		
PM Snow	None		

Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Snow Goose	cw		2115/112	39	
Canada Goose	3973		15880/109	69	
Mute Swan	1		12/113	27	
Tundra Swan	76		172/114	44	
Wood Duck	8		13/102	42	
Gadwall	16		82/102	44	
American Black Duck	86		13007/39	87	
Mallard	442		2245/76	85	
Northern Pintail	3		107537/52	80	
Green-winged Teal	6		2000/76	44	
Ring-necked Duck	10		105/80	58	
Lesser Scaup	cw		1627/80	38	
Bufflehead	30		85/79	70	
Common Goldeneye	cw		34/86	50	
Hooded Merganser	49		95/114	54	
Common Merganser	109		335/90	85	
Ruddy Duck	10		20188/57	74	
Wild Turkey	5		22/116	10	

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Horned Grebe	2		8/84	38	
Double-crested Cormorant	21		90/115	35	
Great Cormorant	2		5/97	20	
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	18		96/93	77	
Black Vulture	54		191/111	30	
Turkey Vulture	60		322/111	73	
Northern Harrier	5		34/51	86	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6		45/102	65	
Cooper's Hawk	11		26/108	75	
Bald Eagle	12		20/116	37	
Red-shouldered Hawk	6		15/52	84	
Red-tailed Hawk	35		117/102	97	
American Coot	1		241/88	65	
Ring-billed Gull	833		4003/84	85	
Herring Gull	113		10000/71	91	
Great Black-backed Gull	39		220/93	68	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	103		1521/93	49	
Mourning Dove	279		1743/93	81	
Eastern Screech-Owl	15		66/83	35	
Great Horned Owl	3		44/89	66	
Belted Kingfisher	7		41/99	76	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	68		205/112	60	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8		25/116	56	
Downy Woodpecker	103		262/82	96	
Hairy Woodpecker	28		50/108	93	
Northern Flicker	32		134/85	27	
Pileated Woodpecker	8		17/108	51	
American Kestrel	2		66/78	92	
Merlin	3		3/117	24	
Peregrine Falcon	2		3/112	34	
Blue Jay	163		1158/82	91	
American Crow	194		4164/93	73	
Fish Crow	cw		220/70	75	
crow sp.	5		1500/31	28	
Common Raven	1		3/116	6	
Carolina Chickadee	216		1045/82	76	
Black-capped Chickadee	2		530/81	74	
chickadee sp.	2		55/40	13	

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Tufted Titmouse	157		605/83	92	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12		325/82	70	
White-breasted Nuthatch	60		242/83	93	
Brown Creeper	5		45/83	90	
Winter Wren	14		40/113	8	
Carolina Wren	101		401/93	94	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23		123/93	86	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5		33/73	69	
Eastern Bluebird	87		132/106	71	
Hermit Thrush	6		29/108	75	
American Robin	1640		9867/102	82	
Brown Thrasher	1		10/71	47	
Northern Mockingbird	26		284/83	71	
European Starling	1423		19000/71	96	
Cedar Waxwing	9		4649/86	71	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	US,	2/100	8	
American Tree Sparrow	10		3700/66	97	
Chipping Sparrow	7		19/114	44	
Field Sparrow	47		320/67	93	
Fox Sparrow	10		248/59	87	
Dark-eyed Junco	840		1604/85	6	
White-throated Sparrow	900		2926/58	96	
Savannah Sparrow	1		68/59	73	
Song Sparrow	455		3600/67	96	
Swamp Sparrow	28		520/66	89	
Eastern Towhee	5		136/112	42	
Northern Cardinal	302		967/89	97	
Red-winged Blackbird	575		6300/66	93	
Rusty Blackbird	40		400/41	70	
Common Grackle	2080		9377/95	58	
Brown-headed Cowbird	150		1500/71	64	
blackbird sp.	7		50/98	7	
House Finch	162		2673/94	59	
Purple Finch	2		557/78	86	
American Goldfinch	112		1400/62	70	
House Sparrow	218		1600/72	87	
Total Individuals	16807				
Total Species Reported	88				

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<p>cw = Reported count week US = Flagged as an unusual species HC = Flagged as an unusually high count LC = Flagged as an unusually low count</p>	
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Species Requiring Rare Bird Reports to be Submitted to Regional Editor

Species
Orange-crowned Warbler [Oreothlypis celata]

Special Aspects

Orange crowned warbler found by Jim McConnell in the Delaware Co section of John Heinz NWR Tinicum.

Here is Jim's description:

fabulous close extended looks at this warbler at the weed edge near the little pond by the little footbridge not too far from the new boardwalk, warbler bill, warbler size and shape, drab olive-green completely all over with slightly grayer head and a thin dark line through the eye, slightly yellowish undertail coverts