

The 99th Glenolden Christmas Bird Count part of the 119th National Audubon Society CBC was held Saturday December 15, 2018. Our field teams and feeder watchers covered a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Media, Delaware County, PA.

The weather story this year was the rain. There was a steady light rain/drizzle all day with some heavier rain at times. Philadelphia Int'l Airport reported 0.44" rain for the day. Temperatures were a steady and warm 48-50 degrees F all day. Wind was not much of a factor and there was no frozen water. The forecast as late as the evening before the count was for more rain than actually occurred so the day was not as bad as many of us anticipated.

Despite the weather participation was good. We had 69 field observers in a maximum of 29 daytime parties and 8 folks kept an eye on 6 feeders for a grand total of 77 participants. We welcomed 13 folks participating in their first Glenolden CBC. Total daytime party hours was 137 which is about 15% lower than our previous 10 year average of 164 party hours. The weather certainly explains this reduced time in the field. Similarly 8 parties covered 20 miles in 7.25 hours of owling. Last year we had 7 parties owling for 11 hours. The dire forecast plus the rain that did fall limited the owling time and therefore the owl totals.

Total number of birds tallied was 15,075. This is roughly 40% below the previous 9 year average of 26,533 individual birds. If you attribute 15% of that drop to reduced party hours that still leaves a lot of birds hiding in the rain. As an example our count of **American Robins** was 2000 birds lower than the previous 9 year average.

Despite the rain, reduced effort and low numbers we managed to report 87 species to Audubon. This is only a little below our previous 10 year average count of 88.5 species. We had six "count week" species: **cackling goose, canvasback, greater scaup, long-tailed duck, orange-crowned warbler and peregrine falcon**. You have to think that at least some of these birds would have been found on count day if we had better weather. That would have made for a pretty decent species count.

We added no new species to our all time list this year. Our grand total for the Glenolden CBC remains at 193 species.

My candidate for most uncommon species found this year was the **American Bittern** at Heinz refuge. This species has been found on only 18 of our previous CBCs and the maximum count was 2 individuals in 1967.

**Common Raven** can no longer be considered rare and has now become an expected find on our CBC. Historically reported on only two prior Glenolden CBCs (1994,1999) **Common Raven** has now been reported on the six consecutive counts since 2013. This year 2 individuals were spotted flying over Crum Meadow on the Swarthmore College campus. Maximum count: 3 **Common Ravens** in 2015.

Not surprisingly we had no high counts for any species this year. We did do pretty well with one winter finch thanks to this winter's irruption. Our 43 **purple finches** is the highest count of this species since 80 individuals were reported in 1987. The record number for this species is 577 in 1977. Back in the 70s and 80s counts of 50-100+ **purple finches** was the usual.

Somewhat surprising to me is our count of only 6 **red-breasted nuthatches** as “everybody” seems to be sporting 1-2 of these in their yard this year. I’ll blame the weather. Our CBC typically gets a few **red-breasted nuthatches** every year. In the irruption year of 2016 we had 12 and in 2012 we tallied 96 individuals. The record: 325 in 1981.

Until this year **American tree sparrow** has been reported on every Glenolden CBC since the 1930s, at times numbering in the thousands (all time record 3700 in 1965). This year our CBC reported zero **American Tree Sparrows**, the first miss since the 1930s. Our experience is consistent with a known general decline in numbers of this species: *Although the American Tree Sparrow is an abundant species that breeds in relatively undisturbed areas and seems to adapt well to human settlements in the overwintering range, the population was estimated to have declined by 53% between 1970 and 2014 (Rosenberg et al. 2016). The reasons for the decline are yet to be determined, but broad-scale changes in land-use (e.g., agricultural intensification and forest maturation) have likely resulted in extensive loss of weedy old-fields and other open habitats used by overwintering birds. (Birds of North America online)*

As always I like to list all of our participants and their years of service 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): Allison Barnes (7), **Jane Battaglia (1)**, **Gary Becker (15)**, Debbie Beer (7), Natalie Berry (3), Rob Bierregaard (6), Adrien Binns (4), **Jim Bodine (26)**, Sarah Boucas-Neto (12), **Bel Broadley (1)**, Kevin Browngoehl (4), Tom Bush (6), **Brian Byrnes (10)**, Donna Chadderton (9), Ron Chadderton (3), Bruce Childs (7), **Mike Coll (1)**, Bill Cranny (8), **Alan Crawford III (10)**, Nicholas Crocetto (6), **Nick Crocetto (44)**, Cynthia Curry (17), John Damico (18), Susan Damico (18), **Ellen Dearborn (1)**, **Dick Eales (5)**, **David Eberly (28)**, **Rob Fergus (1)**, **Kevin Fryberger (10)**, Stephanie Gaboriault (8), Blake Goll (3), **Danielle Gowen (1)**, **Al Guarente (43)**, **Liz Hoffman (5)**, **Rich Horwitz (30)**, **Lois Hunn (20)**, Letitia Jeavons (8), Kristen Johnson (8), Sheryl Johnson (23), Steve Kapski (24), Virginia Kapski (4), **Bob Kelly (10)**, **Noel Kelly (5)**, **Brian Kirk (1)**, Dan Kobza (7), **Mary Ellen Krober (32)**, Bill Lucas (3), Chelsea Lucas (9), **Jacey Lucas (1)**, **Shep Lucas (1)**, Sue Lucas (11), **Ted Lucas (1)**, Dave McDonald (7), **Doris McGovern (35)**, **Pat McGovern (4)**, Art McMorris (7), **Rob Megraw (25)**, **Roberta Menapace (1)**, **Bob Michener (1)**, **Alison Mostrom (27)**, Damon Orsetti (6), Jason Porter (7), **Chris Pugliese (10)**, Brian Quindlen (12), **Tom Reeves (43)**, Navin Sasikumar (2), Marcy Seminoff (4), Karen Serwatka (2), Win Shafer (13), **Alan Simon (1)**, Carol Storey (13), Don Storey (4), Marca Tate (8), Gloria Todor (13), Pat Trelvelino (13), Geoff Veith (3), Mark Wallace (4).

Historical results for our count and all CBCs are available on the CBC website [christmasbirdcount.org](http://christmasbirdcount.org). In the past the CBC collected a \$5 fee from all participants. Thankfully they ended that practice a few years ago. In lieu of the fee they now only publish the national CBC report in the online version of **American Birds** magazine. This is available on the National Audubon website. Of course voluntary donations to help keep the CBC running are always welcome.

Once again thank you one and all for your participation. Mark your calendars! **The 100th Glenolden Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday December 14, 2019. Let's go for 100 species for the 100th!**

Below is the report I submitted to Audubon. Please let me know if you have any corrections or questions. I have also attached our all time historical species list for your interest.

Dave

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# Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/19/2019

<b>Count Name:</b>	Delaware County (Glenolden)	<b>Count Code:</b>	PAGL	<b>Count Date:</b>	12/15/2018
<b>Organizations &amp; Sponsors:</b>		<b># of Party Hours:</b>	136.72	<b>Species reported on count date:</b>	87

## 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	04:30 PM

## Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 69
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 29
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 29
At Feeders	Total Number: 8

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	93.17	98.15	Miles
Car	43.55	333.80	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	26.50		

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Nocturnal Birding	7.25	19.75	Miles
Total Party	136.72	431.95	Miles

## Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: 48.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 50.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	Northeast		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 3.00 Miles/hour	Maximum: 15.00 Miles/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum: 0.00 Inches	Maximum: 0.00 Inches	
Still Water	Open		
Moving Water	Open		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Cloudy	
AM Rain	Heavy,Light		
AM Snow	None		
PM Rain	Heavy,Light		
PM Snow	None		

## Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Snow Goose	1		2115/112	41	
Cackling Goose	cw		5/105	4	
Canada Goose	4396		15880/109	71	
Mute Swan	7		12/113	28	
Tundra Swan	32		172/114	46	
Wood Duck	2		13/102	44	
Gadwall	4		82/102	46	
American Black Duck	39		13007/39	89	
Mallard	214		2245/76	87	
Mallard (Domestic type)	1		1/119	1	
American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid)	1		1/119	1	
Northern Shoveler	90		314/115	56	
Canvasback	cw		435/88	26	
Ring-necked Duck	12		105/80	60	
Greater Scaup	cw		5000/76	41	
Long-tailed Duck	cw		190/76	29	
Bufflehead	19		85/79	72	

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Common Goldeneye	1		34/86	52	
Hooded Merganser	30		95/114	56	
Common Merganser	187		335/90	87	
Ruddy Duck	80		20188/57	75	
duck sp.	12		13/118	3	
Double-crested Cormorant	42		90/115	37	
American Bittern	1		2/67	18	
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	17		96/93	79	
Black Vulture	34		191/111	32	
Turkey Vulture	22		322/111	75	
Northern Harrier	1		34/51	88	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8		45/102	67	
Cooper's Hawk	13		26/108	77	
Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk	1		1/119	1	
Accipiter sp.	1		2/107	8	
Bald Eagle	9		20/116	39	
Red-shouldered Hawk	7		15/52	86	
Red-tailed Hawk	28		117/102	99	
hawk sp.	1		1/119	1	
American Coot	6		241/88	66	
Killdeer	1		313/55	84	
Black-headed Gull	1		1/119	2	
Ring-billed Gull	517		4003/84	87	
Herring Gull	14		10000/71	93	
Great Black-backed Gull	6		220/93	70	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	152		1521/93	51	
Mourning Dove	363		1743/93	83	
Eastern Screech-Owl	6		66/83	37	
Great Horned Owl	3		44/89	68	
Belted Kingfisher	12		41/99	78	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	72		205/112	62	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5		40/118	58	
Downy Woodpecker	107		262/82	98	
Hairy Woodpecker	23		50/108	95	
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker	4		4/119	1	
Northern Flicker	59		134/85	29	
Pileated Woodpecker	9		17/108	53	

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American Kestrel	2		66/78	94	
Merlin	2		3/117	26	
Peregrine Falcon	cw		3/112	36	
Eastern Phoebe	1		2/93	28	
Blue Jay	63		1158/82	93	
American Crow	159		4164/93	75	
Fish Crow	1		261/118	77	
crow sp.	11		1500/31	30	
Common Raven	2		3/116	8	
Carolina Chickadee	197		1045/82	78	
Black-capped Chickadee	1		530/81	75	
Tufted Titmouse	134		605/83	94	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6		325/82	71	
White-breasted Nuthatch	102		242/83	95	
Brown Creeper	16		45/83	92	
House Wren	1		7/58	38	
Winter Wren	20		40/113	10	
Marsh Wren	1		14/67	27	
Carolina Wren	166		401/93	96	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	36		123/93	88	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		33/73	71	
kinglet sp.	2		2/119	1	
Eastern Bluebird	39		132/106	73	
Hermit Thrush	3		29/108	77	
American Robin	1221		9867/102	84	
Gray Catbird	4		23/85	71	
Northern Mockingbird	29		284/83	73	
European Starling	2458		19000/71	98	
Cedar Waxwing	10		4649/86	73	
Orange-crowned Warbler	cw		2/100	9	
Chipping Sparrow	3		19/114	46	
Field Sparrow	35		320/67	95	
Fox Sparrow	16		248/59	89	
Dark-eyed Junco	645		1604/85	8	
White-crowned Sparrow	2		87/75	57	
White-throated Sparrow	1549		2926/58	98	
Savannah Sparrow	1		68/59	75	
Song Sparrow	394		3600/67	98	
Swamp Sparrow	28		520/66	91	
Eastern Towhee	13		136/112	44	

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Northern Cardinal	322		967/89	99	
Red-winged Blackbird	207		6300/66	95	
Rusty Blackbird	2		400/41	72	
Common Grackle	19		9377/95	60	
House Finch	187		2673/94	61	
Purple Finch	43		557/78	87	
American Goldfinch	143		1400/62	72	
House Sparrow	104		1600/72	89	
Total Individuals	15075				
Total Species Reported	87				

cw = Reported count week  
US = Flagged as an unusual species  
HC = Flagged as an unusually high count  
LC = Flagged as an unusually low count

## Species Requiring Rare Bird Reports to be Submitted to Regional Editor

Species

### Special Aspects

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