

The 101st Glenolden Christmas Bird Count part of the 121st National Audubon Society CBC was held Saturday December 19, 2020. Our field teams and feeder watchers covered a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Media, Delaware County, PA.

I should clarify that the first CBC named Glen Olden was held on Christmas Eve 1922 and this would be the 99th CBC with the Glenolden name. However the historical data for our CBC includes the results of two counts held before that date called "Delaware County" which would make this the 101st count in our historical record. To complicate it even further the fifteen mile diameter Glenolden circle was not established until 1949. So, pick a number.

A nor'easter a few days prior to count day dumped 3-6 inches of snow followed by heavy sleet on most of our circle which left us with a thick layer of crusty snow to break through on the trails and limited access to some areas traditionally covered. It was a cold morning, 22°F but fortunately little wind. The temperature rose to about 33° in the afternoon which was very tolerable without the wind. The skies were overcast but there was no precipitation on count day.

Although we had the option to forgo, we chose to conduct our CBC in the midst of the raging Covid-19 pandemic. We followed current masking and distancing guidelines, we avoided carpooling and we kept our parties small. Despite the pandemic restrictions folks rallied to the cause and we had an about average 75 field observers in 30 daytime parties. A record high 19 folks kept an eye on 17 feeders for a grand total of 94 participants. We welcomed an amazing 21 new participants, many of them new feeder watchers, to our CBC.

Despite the icy snow cover we logged 139 party-hours in the field which is similar to the last three years but below the recent ten year average of 154 party-hours. We had eight owling parties that logged 22 miles in 10 party-hours.

The total number of birds tallied was 20,135 which is a little below the previous 10 year average of 23,947 individuals. The number of geese is very variable year-to-year so I like to look at the totals minus the geese. This year we counted 12,085 "non-geese" which is lower than the past 10 year average of 16,349 "non-geese". I believe we can blame this on the snow and ice.

Despite pandemic restrictions and less than ideal field conditions we did very well in our species count. We recorded 96 species on count day which is one less than last year but well above our 10 year average species count of 90. The record high total for our circle is 117 species on the 1978 CBC.

Thanks to scouting by our CBC observers and the presence of LOTS of birders looking for the rarities seen in our county 8 count week species were reported this year: **Cackling Goose, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Killdeer, Barred Owl, Brown Thrasher, Evening Grosbeak and Common Redpoll**. Count week species are those missed on count day but found within our circle during the three days before or the three days after the big day. Special thanks to everyone who went out scouting this year.

The big news this year was the addition of three new species to our count: **Tundra Bean-Goose, Allen's Hummingbird and Tennessee Warbler**. The warbler is a seasonal rarity. The bean-goose and Allen's Hummingbird are outstanding rarities any time of the year. Our all

time Glenolden Christmas Bird Count species list now totals 194 species. The complete list is attached at the end of this report.

Tundra Bean-Goose and its close cousin the **Taiga Bean-Goose** breed on the tundra and boreal forests of Eurasia respectively. They are uncommon migrants to western Europe and extremely rare stragglers into North America. There have been a few sightings in eastern Canada but the only other **Tundra Bean-Goose** reported within the United States east of the Pacific coast states is a goose shot by a hunter who was shooting white-fronted geese in Arkansas.

The Delco **Tundra Bean-Goose** was first spotted on Springton Reservoir on December 16 and stayed at least through 12/20. It attracted hordes of birders from far and wide. When our CBC team arrived at Crum Creek Reservoir before sunrise on count day to document the bird for the count the reservoir was already lined with birders, scopes and cameras. It was quite a sight. The only other **Tundra Bean-Goose** ever found on a Christmas Bird Count was an individual on the Corvallis Oregon CBC in 2018. It's interesting to note that based on face and bill markings photographs of a bean-goose in Saskatchewan in March 2020, Ontario in November 2020, and our Delco bird appear to be the same individual.



Tundra Bean-Goose (Adrian Binns)

A native of the California coast, the **Allen's Hummingbird** was first discovered coming to a feeder at the Springfield home of two CBC participants on December 9th. Thanks to the TLC of the homeowners it stayed through CBC count day but was not seen afterward. Its identity was confirmed at banding and it too provided a thrill for local birders as well as the hordes of birders who travelled to Delco for our two exciting rarities. Previous to this year there have been a total of five Allen's hummingbirds found on CBC's in PA, NJ and DE all between 2000 and 2017-so keep your feeders up until count day.



Allen's Hummingbird (Adrian Binns)

A common migrant but rare winter straggler the **Tennessee Warbler** was at Riverfront Park in Chester. On count day it was identified as the very similar, and more likely in winter, **Orange-crowned Warbler** but photos subsequently confirmed it to be a **Tennessee warbler**. This species is an uncommon winter straggler in the northern United States, found usually along the coasts. However it turns out to be a rare CBC species. I can find only only three previous CBC records of **Tennessee Warbler**. One was in our tri-state region, an individual found on the Cape May CBC in 1969.



Tennessee Warbler (David Eberly)

This year we recorded high counts for five species: 87 **Gadwall** (previous high 78 in 2014, ten year average 22); 24 **Red-shouldered Hawk** (previous high 15 in 1951, ten year average 7.9); 5 **Merlin** (previous high 3 in 2016 and 2002), 12 **Common Raven** (previous high 6 in 2019, first raven on CBC was 1995 and now present on every count since 2013); 28 **Chipping Sparrow** (previous high 19 in 2013, 10 year average 6.3).

Our tally of **Red-shouldered Hawk** has increased dramatically in recent years. According to Cornell's Birds of the World online the species has been expanding its range northward and there is evidence from hawk watches that their numbers are increasing. On our CBC the average count of red-shoulders from 2010 to 2019 was 7.9 per year more than double the 1999 to 2009 average count of 3.6 individuals.

A hopeful find was six **American Kestrels** which is our highest count since 2005. The record tally for this species is 66 in 1977. Once much more numerous, our counts of kestrels have been in the single digits since 2002.

Pine Siskins are around this winter in good numbers. We tallied 60 individuals on the count. The high count for siskins is 324 in 1977. Prior to this year the Glenolden CBC had not recorded **Pine Siskin** since 2015, the longest drought for this species since the circle was defined in 1949. The other "winter finches" **Purple Finch** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen in low average numbers this year. **Common Redpoll** and **Evening Grosbeak** were reported during count week. **Red Crossbill** has been reported in Delco this winter as well but unfortunately none on count day or count week.

So we had a good year despite adverse circumstances. Congratulations to all!

As always I like to list those who participated this year and note their number of years of service as a way of saying thanks. 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 (corrections are not just welcome they are requested):

Josh Angell (1), Debbie Beer (9), Sarah Berrettini (2), **Natalie Berry (5)**, Rob Bierregaard (8), **Adrian Binns (5)**, **Jim Bodine (28)**, Sarah Boucas-Neto (14), **Richard Brenner (5)**, **Kevin Browngoehl (5)**, **Margaret Bue (1)**, Tom Bush (8), **Brian Byrnes (10)**, Mike Cassidy (2), **Donna Chadderton (10)**, Ron Chadderton (4), Bruce Childs (9), **Terri Conway (1)**, **Bill Cranny (10)**, **Nick Crocetto (46)**, Cynthia Curry (19), Emily Dodge (2), **Cathy Dolan (1)**, Dick Eales (7), **David Eberly (30)**, Rob Fergus (3), Kevin Fryberger (12), Cole Gaboriault (6), **Stephanie Gaboriault (10)**, **Deirdre Gibson (1)**, **Blake Goll (5)**, **Ken Goodfellow (1)**, **Al Guarente (44)**, Susan Haidar (2), Brian Hall (2), Linda Healy (2), **Barlow Herbst (1)**, **Darrel Herbst (1)**, Liz Hoffman (6), Patty Holtz (3), **Rich Horwitz (32)**, Lois Hunn (22), **Letitia Jeavons (10)**, **Kristen Johnson (10)**, **Sheryl Johnson (25)**, **Jim Joyce (1)**, **Steve Kapski (26)**, Bob Kelly (12), Noel Kelly (7), Dan Kobza (9), **Francis Landman (1)**, Ann Lane (3), **Chelsea Lucas (10)**, Sue Lucas (13), Laura Matika (3), Dave McDonald (9), **Elizabeth McDonald (1)**, **Joe McDonald (1)**, **Doris McGovern (37)**, Kathy Meermans (12), **Rob Megraw (27)**, Roberta Menapace (3), **Martha**

Milligan (1), Mike Morell (2), **Mike Mostello (1)**, **Michael Mostello Jr (1)**, **Nelson Lathrop (1)**, **Matt Olesky (1)**, **Patrick Olesky (1)**, Damon Orsetti (8), Peter Patton (2), **Teresa Pegan (1)**, Andrew Pesthy (4), Mariana Pesthy (4), Jason Porter (9), Chris Pugliese (12), Jamie Pugliese (2), Brian Quindlen (14), Frank Roman (3), Lynn Roman (6), Chuck Root (2), **Marcy Seminoff (5)**, Karen Serwatka (4), **Win Shafer (15)**, Alan Simon (3), **Marilyn Smith (5)**, **Kristen Snyder (1)**, **Carol Storey (15)**, **Kendra Sultzer (1)**, **Marcia Tate (10)**, **Gloria Todor (15)**, Mark Wallace (6), Zoe Warner (2), **Sharon West (1)**. Thank you all.

Current and historical results for our count and all CBCs are available on the CBC website christmasbirdcount.org. The reports of all CBCs in North America are published in the online version of **American Birds** magazine. This is available on the National Audubon Society website. Voluntary donations to help keep the CBC running are always welcome and they are especially needed in this difficult year. Information is on the website.

Once again thank you one and all for your participation. Mark your calendars! **The 102nd Glenolden Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday December 18, 2021.** The official count period starts on December 14 of every year. Our CBC is traditionally scheduled on the first Saturday of the count period.

Below is the report I submitted to Audubon. It includes the species list for this year's count. The column labelled "Max" has created some confusion. The first number is the highest number recorded for that species and the second number is the count in which the high number was recorded. Count #1 was in 1900. This year is count #121. I have also attached our updated all time historical species list for your perusal.

Please let me know if you have any corrections or questions.

Stay well and good birding,
Dave

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Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/10/2021

Count Name: Delaware County (Glenolden)	Count Code: PAGL	Count Date: 12/19/2020
Organizations & Sponsors:	# of Party Hours: 139.00	Species reported on count date: 96

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	04:00 PM
10:00 PM	10:15 PM

Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 75
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 1
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 30
At Feeders	Total Number: 19

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	106.75	84.00	Miles
Car	32.25	214.50	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

Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/10/2021

At Feeders	60.00		
Nocturnal Birding	10.25	22.25	Miles
Total Party	139.00	298.50	Miles

Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: 22.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 33.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	Variable		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 3.00 Miles/hour	Maximum: 6.00 Miles/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum: 2.00 Inches	Maximum: 6.00 Inches	
Still Water	Partly Frozen		
Moving Water	Open		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Cloudy	
AM Rain	None		
AM Snow	None		
PM Rain	None		
PM Snow	None		

Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Tundra Bean-Goose	1	US,	1/121	1	
Snow Goose	828		4503/120	43	
Cackling Goose	cw		5/105	5	
Canada Goose	7222		15880/109	73	
Mute Swan	10		17/120	30	
Tundra Swan	30		172/114	48	
Wood Duck	2		13/102	46	
Gadwall	87	HC,	87/121	48	
American Wigeon	5		58/50	57	
American Black Duck	58		13007/39	91	
Mallard	268		2245/76	89	
Northern Shoveler	125		314/115	58	
Northern Pintail	116		107537/52	83	
Green-winged Teal	35		2000/76	46	
Ring-necked Duck	39		105/80	62	
Lesser Scaup	1		1627/80	40	
Bufflehead	22		85/79	74	

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Common Goldeneye	1		34/86	53	
Hooded Merganser	32		95/114	58	
Common Merganser	105		335/90	89	
Red-breasted Merganser	1		11/89	33	
Ruddy Duck	104		20188/57	77	
Common Loon	cw		4/102	33	
Pied-billed Grebe	cw		24/80	61	
Double-crested Cormorant	50		90/115	39	
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	17		96/93	81	
Black Vulture	51		191/111	34	
Turkey Vulture	59		322/111	77	
Northern Harrier	1		34/51	90	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6		45/102	69	
Cooper's Hawk	16		26/108	79	
Bald Eagle	16		20/116	41	
Red-shouldered Hawk	24	HC,	24/121	88	
Red-tailed Hawk	64		117/102	101	
American Coot	85		241/88	68	
Killdeer	cw		313/55	85	
Wilson's Snipe	9		11/105	7	
Ring-billed Gull	700		4003/84	89	
Herring Gull	24		10000/71	95	
Great Black-backed Gull	7		220/93	72	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	71		1521/93	53	
Mourning Dove	359		1743/93	85	
Eastern Screech-Owl	21		66/83	39	
Great Horned Owl	6		44/89	70	
Barred Owl	cw		2/107	9	
Allen's Hummingbird	1	US,	1/121	1	
Belted Kingfisher	9		41/99	80	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	100		205/112	64	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	31		40/118	60	
Downy Woodpecker	187		262/82	100	
Hairy Woodpecker	33		50/108	97	
Northern Flicker	41		134/85	31	
Pileated Woodpecker	12		17/108	55	
American Kestrel	6		66/78	96	
Merlin	5	HC,	5/121	28	

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Peregrine Falcon	1		3/112	38	
Eastern Phoebe	2		2/121	30	
Blue Jay	143		1158/82	95	
American Crow	470		4164/93	77	
Fish Crow	45		261/118	79	
Common Raven	12	HC,	12/121	10	
Carolina Chickadee	205		1045/82	80	
Black-capped Chickadee	1		530/81	76	
Tufted Titmouse	154		605/83	96	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10		325/82	73	
White-breasted Nuthatch	136		242/83	97	
Brown Creeper	15		45/83	94	
Winter Wren	26		40/113	12	
Carolina Wren	236		401/93	98	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	20		123/93	90	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	15		33/73	73	
Eastern Bluebird	72		132/106	75	
Hermit Thrush	16		29/108	79	
American Robin	874		9867/102	86	
Gray Catbird	4		23/85	73	
Brown Thrasher	cw		10/71	49	
Northern Mockingbird	49		284/83	75	
European Starling	823		19000/71	100	
American Pipit	8		50/33	34	
Cedar Waxwing	8		4649/86	75	
Tennessee Warbler	1		1/121	1	
Common Yellowthroat	1		9/85	35	
American Tree Sparrow	13		3700/66	100	
Chipping Sparrow	28	HC,	28/121	48	
Field Sparrow	54		320/67	97	
Fox Sparrow	16		248/59	91	
Dark-eyed Junco	1320		1604/85	10	
White-throated Sparrow	2055		2926/58	100	
Savannah Sparrow	2		68/59	77	
Song Sparrow	724		3600/67	100	
Swamp Sparrow	26		520/66	93	
Eastern Towhee	11		136/112	46	
Northern Cardinal	358		967/89	101	
Red-winged Blackbird	199		6300/66	97	
Rusty Blackbird	13		400/41	74	

Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/10/2021

Common Grackle	28		9377/95	62	
Brown-headed Cowbird	2		1500/71	67	
House Finch	226		2673/94	63	
Purple Finch	18		557/78	89	
Common Redpoll	cw		30/108	13	
Pine Siskin	60		324/78	47	
American Goldfinch	177		1400/62	74	
Evening Grosbeak	cw		67/79	28	
House Sparrow	355		1600/72	91	
Total Individuals	20135				
Total Species Reported	96				

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

Tundra Bean-Goose [*Anser serrirostris*]

Allen's Hummingbird [*Selasphorus sasin*]

Special Aspects

The Tundra Bean-goose, Allen's Hummingbird and Tennessee Warbler are all documented with photos on ebird.

Glenolden CBC All-Time Species List (update 2020)

Snow Goose	Long-tailed Duck	Turkey Vulture	Long-billed Dowitcher	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Creeper	Common Yellowthroat	Bobolink
Ross's Goose	Bufflehead	Osprey	Wilson's Snipe	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	House Wren	American Redstart	Red-winged Blackbird
Tundra Bean Goose	Common Goldeneye	Northern Harrier	American Woodcock	Downy Woodpecker	Winter Wren	Northern Parula	Eastern Meadowlark
Brant	Hooded Merganser	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull	Hairy Woodpecker	Marsh Wren	Palm Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Cackling Goose	Common Merganser	Cooper's Hawk	Black-headed Gull	Black-backed Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Pine Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Canada Goose	Red-breasted Merganser	Northern Goshawk	Laughing Gull	Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
Mute Swan	Ruddy Duck	Bald Eagle	Ring-billed Gull	Pileated Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Black-throated Green Warbler	Common Grackle
Tundra Swan	Northern Bobwhite	Red-shouldered Hawk	Herring Gull	American Kestrel	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Wilson's Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wood Duck	Ring-necked Pheasant	Broad-winged Hawk	Iceland Gull	Merlin	Eastern Bluebird	Yellow-breasted Chat	Baltimore Oriole
Gadwall	Ruffed Grouse	Red-tailed Hawk	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Peregrine Falcon	Hermit Thrush	Le Conte's Sparrow	Pine Grosbeak
American Wigeon	Wild Turkey	Rough-legged Hawk	Glaucous Gull	Eastern Phoebe	Wood Thrush	American Tree Sparrow	House Finch
American Black Duck	Red-throated Loon	King Rail	Great Black-backed Gull	Loggerhead Shrike	American Robin	Chipping Sparrow	Purple Finch
Mallard	Common Loon	Virginia Rail	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Northern Shrike	Gray Catbird	Field Sparrow	Red Crossbill
Blue-winged Teal	Pied-billed Grebe	Common Gallinule	Mourning Dove	Blue-headed Vireo	Brown Thrasher	Fox Sparrow	White-winged Crossbill
Northern Shoveler	Horned Grebe	American Coot	Allen's Hummingbird	Blue Jay	Northern Mockingbird	Dark-eyed Junco	Common Redpoll
Northern Pintail	Red-necked Grebe	Black-bellied Plover	Barn Owl	American Crow	European Starling	White-crowned Sparrow	Pine Siskin
Green-winged Teal	Double-crested Cormorant	Killdeer	Eastern Screech-Owl	Fish Crow	American Pipit	White-throated Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Canvasback	Great Cormorant	Greater Yellowlegs	Great Horned Owl	Common Raven	Cedar Waxwing	Vesper Sparrow	Evening Grosbeak
Redhead	American Bittern	Lesser Yellowlegs	Snowy Owl	Horned Lark	Lapland Longspur	Savannah Sparrow	House Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Great Blue Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Barred Owl	Carolina Chickadee	Snow Bunting	Song Sparrow	
Greater Scaup	Great Egret	Ruff	Long-eared Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	Ovenbird	Lincoln's Sparrow	Count week only species
Lesser Scaup	Green Heron	Dunlin	Short-eared Owl	Boreal Chickadee	Black-and-white Warbler	Swamp Sparrow	Rufous Hummingbird
Surf Scoter	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Pectoral Sandpiper	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Orange-crowned Warbler	Eastern Towhee	Clay-colored Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Glossy Ibis	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Tennessee Warbler	Northern Cardinal	
Black Scoter	Black Vulture	Western Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Nashville Warbler	Dickcissel	