

The 102nd Glenolden Christmas Bird Count, part of the 122nd National Audubon Society CBC, was held Saturday December 18, 2021. Our field teams and feeder watchers covered a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

The day started off with light to moderate rain which ended for the most part by the time the daylight parties got going. Temperatures started in the low 40s and rose to 50°F in some areas by afternoon. We had heavy overcast skies for the entire day which made for low light viewing conditions. Wind was not a factor. There were a few raindrops in the air later in the afternoon.

Unfortunately, for the second consecutive year the CBC was held under the shadow of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We were experiencing a post-Thanksgiving surge in cases so the field teams were encouraged to follow appropriate precautions. Despite the pandemic, or perhaps because of it, participation this year was nothing short of fantastic. We had 91 field observers in 37 birding parties and 16 participants kept their eyes on feeders at eleven homes. This gave us a grand total of 107 participants, 34 of which were taking part in their first Glenolden CBC. The number of participants in the Glenolden CBC has surpassed 100 only twice before in its history: 121 in 1982 and 108 in 1983. Those numbers are way above the averages at that time. I'm not sure why those two years stand out. Our average number of participants over the previous ten years is 73.

We logged 148 party-hours in the field which is similar to our 10 year average. We had eight owling parties that logged 8.5 miles in 8 party-hours. This is a bit below the average owling effort but can easily be blamed on the morning rain.

Despite the less than ideal viewing conditions, we managed to tally 92 species which nudged our 10 year average count from 90 to 91 species. The record high count-day total for our circle is 117 species recorded on the 1978 CBC. Last year we added three species to our all time circle list. All three were CBC firsts for the state of Pennsylvania as well: Allen's Hummingbird, Tundra Bean-goose and Tennessee Warbler. This year no unusual rarities were found and no species were added to our all time list which stands at 194.

The total number of birds tallied this year was a whopping 50,702 individuals, more than double the previous 10 year average of 23,947 birds. This total was helped in no small part by our tally of 14,775 **Common Grackles**. This count smashed the previous record tally of this species set in 1994 of 9,377 grackles. First reported in our CBC area in the 1920s as Purple Grackle, grackle counts on our CBC have varied widely year to year from the single digits to a few thousand but never anything approaching this number. This is likely not a surprise to regular birders in the area because many have noted huge wandering flocks of grackles this fall. Could the same flock have been counted by more than one observer? I looked at the locations and times of the individual reports and I doubt there was any significant double counting. Of the two largest flocks one was an estimate of 6500, based on a photo, in Kent Park in Springfield. The other was an estimate of 6000, which the observer called a conservative count, nine miles away in Willistown.

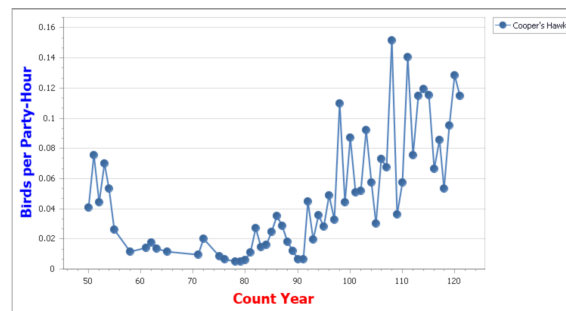
We also had big numbers of other "blackbirds". **Red-winged Blackbirds** weighed in with a tally of 1,364 which more than doubles the ten year average of 530. Similarly the count of 4,864 **European Starlings** was more than twice the recent average of 2,250. Interestingly, we

tallied only one **Brown-headed Cowbird**. This species has been found in six of our previous ten counts but when it is found the number of individuals has averaged in the 50s to 60s.

Why all of the blackbirds this year? This armchair ornithologist wonders if it could be due to a better than average grain and berry crop aided by mild temperatures. It is important to also remember that it is normal for counts of these birds to vary widely and depends to a degree on chance encounters with wandering flocks. Indeed, using the [trends map](#) on the CBC home page we see an overall decline in the number of grackles since 1970.

A non-blackbird that contributed to our big number was a tally of 2,305 **White-throated Sparrows**. These were well above our ten year average of 1,500.

Another high count that will be no surprise to regular birders in our area is a record number of **Cooper's Hawks** (31) besting the previous record of 26 in 2007. This species is clearly on the rise in our circle as this graph from the CBC website shows:



**American Robins** were close to their historic high of 9,867 with a tally this year of 9,396. I'll credit a good berry crop.

Sadly, we recorded only one **American Tree Sparrow**. This declining species was missed for the first time ever in 2019 and found in low numbers the past two years. The trends maps on the CBC website confirm continued significant declines in **American Tree Sparrow** throughout North America.

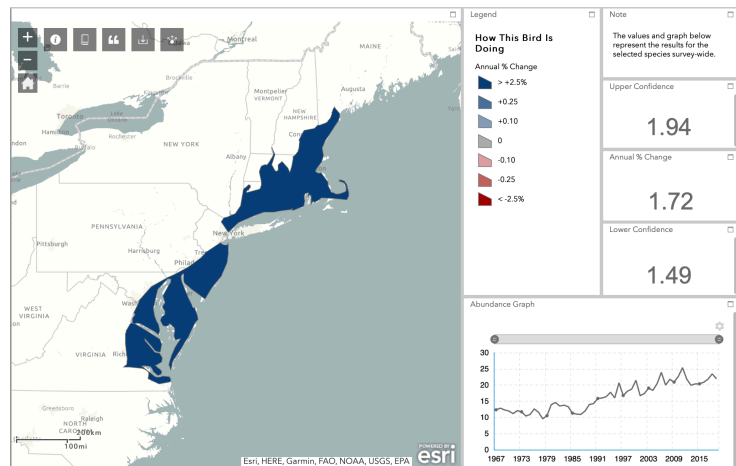
Last year we were inundated with **Pine Siskins** and even tallied a few other uncommon winter finches. Other than a decent showing of **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** (11 this year, 10 last year) and an average number of **Purple Finches** (also 11), we had no other "winter finches" this year.

Thanks to the absence of frozen water our waterfowl numbers were consistent with recent averages. These are of course nowhere near historical numbers. On the attached species list note 107,000 **Northern Pintail** in 1951.

We had reports of two **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. This species has been reported in 34 of our previous CBCs but with decreasing frequency. The species was last found in 2014 and the last time more than one individual was reported was when three were tallied in 2003. Our high count for this species is four individuals in 1978.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** is an uncommon species in our area that seems to be appearing more frequently. One was found this year in the Delco portion of Heinz refuge. There have been ten previous sightings of this species in the 102 year history of our count, six of those sightings have been since 1998.

A CBC trends map [available on the CBC website](#) shows **Orange-crowned Warbler** increasing along the Atlantic coastal plain.



Orange-crowned Warbler

We had eleven count week species this year. Count week species are those reported on the three days before or on the three days after count day, but not on count day. It's a way of tallying our near misses and the records do not go into the CBC database. This year's count-week species were **Cackling Goose, Redhead, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Killdeer, Iceland Gull, Barred Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Common Yellowthroat,** and a **Dickcissel** which had been hanging out around a feeder for about a week and decided to disappear the day before the count. The **Iceland Gull** and the **Dickcissel** are particularly frustrating misses. **Iceland Gull** has been seen on only three previous counts, last 1970, and the **Dickcissel** on only two previous counts, last 1999.

A complete species list of this year's count is attached to this summary. eBird has introduced a new feature called Trip Reports. All of our sighting records from this year's CBC can be found in this report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/22251>. Unfortunately there appears to be a glitch and photos are not automatically appearing in the report. I suspect this will be addressed in the future.

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):

**Bill Ackerman (1)**, Josh Angell (2), **Kathy Angell (1)**, Allison Barnes (8), **Debbie Beer (10)**, Natalie Berry (6), Rob Bierregaard (9), Adrien Binns (6), **Jim Bodine (29)**, Sarah Boucas-Neto (15), **Bel Broadley (1)**, Kevin Browngoehl (6), **Nancy Bruce (1)**, Margaret Bue (2), Tom Bush (9), Brian Byrnes (11), **Carol Carmon (1)**, **Ann Castimore (1)**, Donna Chadderton (11), **Ron Chadderton (5)**, **Bruce Childs (10)**, **Katrina Clark (1)**, Terri Conway (2), **Aaron Coolman**, **Elizabeth Coulter (1)**, **Virginia Coulter (1)**, Bill Cranny (11), Alan Crawford III (12), **Nick Crocetto (47)**, **Cynthia Curry (20)**, John D'Amico (19), Susan D'Amico (19), **Susan Daubner (1)**, Ellen Dearborn (4), Emily Dodge (3), **David Eberly (31)**, **John Ehlen (1)**, **Kristy Eleftheriou (1)**, **Linda Emory (1)**, Rob Fergus (4), **Ben Filreis (1)**, **Paul Fitzpatrick (1)**, Kevin Fryberger (13), Stephanie Gaboriault (11), Deirdre Gibson (2), **Judith Gold (1)**, **Al Guarente (45)**, Susan Haidar (3), Brian Hall (3), **Peter Hamner (1)**, **Maddie Hewitt (1)**, **Rich Horwitz (33)**, Lois Hunn (23), Letitia Jeavons (11), Kristen Johnson (11), **Sheryl Johnson (26)**, Jim Joyce (2), **Steve Kapski (27)**, Bob Kelly (13), Noel Kelly (8), **Thomas Koger (1)**, **Zoe Korpi (1)**, **Mary Ellen Krober (33)**, **Lauren Longbottom (1)**, **Steve Longbottom (1)**, Chelsea Lucas (11), Sue Lucas (14), Bill Lucas (4), **Paula Marone (1)**, **Laura Matika (5)**, **Dave McDonald (10)**, **Doris McGovern (38)**, Art McMorris (9), **Rob Megraw (28)**, Roberta Menapace (4), Lathrop Nelson (2), **Amy Noelle (1)**, **Julia O'Lynn (1)**, **Owen O'Lynn (1)**, Damon Orsetti (9), Peter Patton (3), **Andrew Pesthy (5)**, **Mariana Pesthy (5)**, **Jason Porter (10)**, **Tristan Potter (1)**, Chris Pugliese (13), Brian Quindlen (15), Lynn Roman (7), Chuck Root (3), **Margie Rostron (1)**, **Karen Serwatka (5)**, Win Shafer (16), Nathaniel Sharp (3), Alan Simon (4), Marilyn Smith (6), Kirsten Snyder (3), **Frank Steinmiller (1)**, Carol Storey (16), **Lawrence Szmulowicz (1)**, Marcia Tate (11), Gloria Todor (16), **Surabhi Walavalkar (1)**, Mark Wallace (7), Zoe Warner (4), **Karyl Weber (1)**, **Rich Ziegler (1)**, John Zygmunt (2).

I thank you all!! And if I missed your name please let me know.

Current and historical results for our count and all CBCs are available on the CBC website [christmasbirdcount.org](http://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 requested. Information is on the website.

Once again, thank you one and all for your participation. Mark your calendars! **The 103rd Glenolden Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday December 17, 2022.** The official count period starts on December 14 of every year. Our CBC is traditionally scheduled on the first Saturday of the count period.

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

Stay well and good birding,  
Dave

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Attached is the report I submitted to Audubon. It includes the species list for this year's count. The numbers in the column labelled "Max" has created confusion. The first number is the highest number recorded for that species and the second number is the count number for the year in which the high number was recorded. Count #1 was in 1900. This year is count #122.

# Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/3/2022

<b>Count Name:</b> Delaware County (Glenolden)	<b>Count Code:</b> PAGL	<b>Count Date:</b> 12/18/2021
<b>Organizations &amp; Sponsors:</b>	<b># of Party Hours:</b> 147.75	<b>Species reported on count date:</b> 92

## Compiler(s)

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

## Start & End Times

Start time	End time
04:45 AM	10:00 PM

## Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 91
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 20
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 37
At Feeders	Total Number: 16

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	113.25	118.50	Miles
Car	34.50	247.50	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
At Feeders	36.00		

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Nocturnal Birding	8.50	8.75	Miles
Total Party	147.75	366.00	Miles

## Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: 41.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 43.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	East		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 0.00 Miles/hour	Maximum: 10.00 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	Light		
AM Snow	None		
PM Rain	Light		
PM Snow	None		

## Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Cackling Goose	cw	US,	5/105	6	
Canada Goose	7222		15880/109	74	
Mute Swan	57		57/122	31	
Tundra Swan	19		172/114	49	
Wood Duck	22		22/122	47	
Gadwall	133		133/122	49	
American Wigeon	30		58/50	58	
American Black Duck	176		13007/39	92	
Mallard	362		2245/76	90	
Blue-winged Teal	4		7/52	16	
Northern Shoveler	166		314/115	59	
Northern Pintail	284		107537/52	84	
Green-winged Teal	295		2000/76	47	
Redhead	cw		15/76	16	
Ring-necked Duck	72		105/80	63	
Lesser Scaup	3		1627/80	41	
Long-tailed Duck	cw		190/76	30	
Bufflehead	19		85/79	75	

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Common Goldeneye	cw		34/86	54	
Hooded Merganser	70		95/114	59	
Common Merganser	39		335/90	90	
Ruddy Duck	45		20188/57	78	
duck sp.	1		200/120	5	
Pied-billed Grebe	2		24/80	62	
Horned Grebe	cw		8/84	39	
Double-crested Cormorant	22		90/115	40	
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	34		96/93	82	
Black Vulture	80		191/111	35	
Turkey Vulture	105		322/111	78	
Northern Harrier	3		34/51	91	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8		45/102	70	
Cooper's Hawk	31		31/122	80	
Accipiter sp.	2		2/122	9	
Bald Eagle	12		20/116	42	
Red-shouldered Hawk	12		24/121	89	
Red-tailed Hawk	51		117/102	102	
hawk sp.	2		2/122	2	
American Coot	81		241/88	69	
Killdeer	cw		313/55	86	
Wilson's Snipe	7		11/105	8	
Ring-billed Gull	775		4003/84	90	
Herring Gull	10		10000/71	96	
Iceland Gull	cw		1/71	4	
Great Black-backed Gull	4		220/93	73	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	357		1521/93	54	
Mourning Dove	700		1743/93	86	
Eastern Screech-Owl	20		66/83	40	
Great Horned Owl	8		44/89	71	
Barred Owl	cw		2/107	10	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2		4/79	35	
Belted Kingfisher	22		41/99	81	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	258	HC,	258/122	65	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	47	HC,	47/122	61	
Downy Woodpecker	211		262/82	101	
Hairy Woodpecker	61		61/122	98	



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Downy/Hairy Woodpecker	1		4/119	2	
Northern Flicker	96		134/85	32	
Pileated Woodpecker	12		17/108	56	
American Kestrel	1		66/78	97	
Merlin	1		5/121	29	
Peregrine Falcon	2		3/112	39	
Eastern Phoebe	cw		2/121	31	
Blue Jay	556		1158/82	96	
American Crow	486		4164/93	78	
Fish Crow	291	HC,	291/122	80	
crow sp.	18		1500/31	32	
Common Raven	3		12/121	11	
Carolina Chickadee	249		1045/82	81	
Tufted Titmouse	164		605/83	97	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11		325/82	74	
White-breasted Nuthatch	162		242/83	98	
Brown Creeper	35		45/83	95	
Winter Wren	24		40/113	13	
Carolina Wren	286		401/93	99	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	30		123/93	91	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	36	HC,	36/122	74	
Eastern Bluebird	130		132/106	76	
Hermit Thrush	23		29/108	80	
American Robin	9396		9867/102	87	
Gray Catbird	11		23/85	74	
Brown Thrasher	3		10/71	50	
Northern Mockingbird	46		284/83	76	
European Starling	4864		19000/71	101	
Cedar Waxwing	98		4649/86	76	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1		2/100	10	
Common Yellowthroat	cw		9/85	36	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2		63/85	12	
American Tree Sparrow	1		3700/66	101	
Chipping Sparrow	17		28/121	49	
Field Sparrow	24		320/67	98	
Fox Sparrow	53		248/59	92	
Dark-eyed Junco	708		1604/85	11	
White-crowned Sparrow	1		87/75	59	
White-throated Sparrow	2305		2926/58	101	

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Savannah Sparrow	1		68/59	78	
Song Sparrow	596		3600/67	101	
Swamp Sparrow	30		520/66	94	
Eastern Towhee	103		136/112	47	
Northern Cardinal	431		967/89	102	
Dickcissel	cw	US,	2/70	3	
Red-winged Blackbird	1364		6300/66	98	
Rusty Blackbird	28		400/41	75	
Common Grackle	14775	HC,	14775/122	63	
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	LC	1500/71	68	
blackbird sp.	400		400/122	10	
House Finch	391		2673/94	64	
Purple Finch	11		557/78	90	
American Goldfinch	156		1400/62	75	
House Sparrow	354		1600/72	92	
Total Individuals	50736				
Total Species Reported	92				

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**

Cackling Goose [*Branta hutchinsii*]

Dickcissel [*Spiza americana*]

### Special Aspects