

# The Glenolden Christmas Bird Count 1922-1996: *A Seventy-five-Year History*

NICK PULCINELLA

In 1996, the Glenolden Christmas Bird Count marked its seventy-fifth year of participation in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts. The count, started in 1922 by Glenolden resident John Gillespie, has a long tradition of being one of the most respected counts in Pennsylvania. It was the first count in Pennsylvania to record more than 100 species and, during a period from the late 1950s through the mid-1970s, it consistently led the state in the number of species found.

The count is centered in Wallingford, Delaware County, and encompasses most of the county except for small sections in the northeast and southwest. The western portion of the count circle is shared with the West Chester CBC. The count circle also includes a small but important section of southwest Philadelphia County that includes the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

## The Early Years: 1922-1949

For the first four years, Gillespie was the count's only participant. On his first count, Gillespie walked from the Glenolden train station to Darby Creek and found eighteen species, including nine Eastern Meadowlarks, a species considered a rarity on present-day Glenolden counts. By 1927, there were five observers, and the count area had been expanded to include Tinicum and Swarthmore.

On the 1927 count, Gillespie notes, "A winter brood of Barn Owls (4 immature, 1 adult) were under observation since Nov. 21 at which time they had been out of the nest about a week. Still dependent on parents for food Dec. 24."

A Northern Mockingbird, an unusual find at the time, was seen two days before the count.

In 1930, forty-eight species were found. Gillespie notes that "the eight observers worked in trios and pairs and used cars for conveyance from one locality to another. Purple Grackle 2, Bronzed Grackle 5, unidentified grackles 30. ... the Ring-billed Gull associated with the Herring Gulls and size comparison readily noted. The identified Purple and Bronzed Grackles were feeding on a lawn and studied from above in good light at close range. A few snipe have wintered, the first to our knowledge here."

In 1931, the "new" reservoir (Springton Reservoir) was included and Meadowlarks numbered 100.

In 1935, Gillespie comments, "The severe winter of 1933-34 is, no doubt, responsible for the absence of the Carolina Wren, now quite scarce in this immediate vicinity." And, in 1936, he continues: "The Carolina Wren formerly a common permanent resident is totally absent in some locations."

The 1937 count jumped to 70 species, including a Holboell's (Red-necked) Grebe and a Snowy Owl. By including the extensive wetlands that existed in Tinicum Township and along the Delaware River, the number of waterfowl recorded is astounding compared to today's figures. For example, in 1938, Black Ducks were estimated at 13,000, and in 1940, Northern Pintails were estimated at

30,000. In 1942, John Gillespie notes only 55 species were found due to war restrictions; "all localities could not be covered, accounting for absence of some common species."

1949 was the first year of the fifteen-mile-diameter circle. Seventy-five species were recorded that year, including seven Rough-legged Hawks, one Greater Yellowlegs, one Great Black-backed Gull, one Mockingbird and a Snowy Owl seen at Tinicum two days later. It was also the year Ted Rigby took over as compiler, the year of the highest number of participants to date, nineteen, and the first year the count was "sponsored" by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

## The Middle Years: 1950-1969

This period in the count's history is characterized by ever-increasing species totals and a notable increase in rare or unusual species. Both of these features can be directly linked to the participation of a young birder named John Miller, who joined the count in 1950. This period is also characterized by better all-around coverage of the count circle and an increase in the number of participants. The count continued to lead all Pennsylvania counts in number of species found.

There were a number of outstanding finds during this period. In 1951, a count of 107,537 Pintails was recorded, a total that seems unreal by today's waterfowl numbers. In 1954, 91 species were found, including the first Ruff to be recorded on a CBC in North America. This individual was first noted in July, and it stayed in the area until January. In 1955, 86 species were found, with the first record for House Finch, when three birds were noted at a feeder in Glenolden. In 1957, 92 species were found, including a very rare Surf Scoter, seven House Wrens and the first count record for Red-bellied Woodpecker. In 1961, an invasion of boreal species brought seven Boreal Chickadees and five Pine Grosbeaks to the count circle.

In 1962, there were 92 species, including a Snowy Owl, 48 Short-eared Owls and a Black-backed Woodpecker. The woodpecker had been present for three weeks at Ridley Creek Park in Media.

In 1963, three Glaucous Gulls, a Laughing Gull, a Boreal Chickadee and five White-winged Crossbills helped to push the count over the century mark for the first time, when 101 species were found. In 1966, despite a twelve-inch snow cover, ninety species were noted, including ten Common Gallinules [Common Moorhens] and fourteen Long-billed Marsh Wrens [Marsh Wrens]. The 1968 count recorded the highest total to date, with 103 species, with Snowy Owl, Loggerhead Shrike and Yellow-headed Blackbird as highlights.

## The Contemporary Years: 1970-1996

This period is characterized by a mixture of veteran birders, an influx of young, sharp, eager birders and a general increase in the popularity of birding throughout the area. These factors were responsible for record-high species totals and numbers of participants. The 1982 count contained 111 participants.

This period is also characterized by increased development throughout the count circle and a general shift in the population out of Philadelphia into the suburbs. Needless to say, this rapid development of the suburbs resulted in loss of habitat as well as a marked decrease in the variety of species. By the end of this period, dabbling duck numbers had dropped to their lowest, and species such as Horned Lark and Eastern Meadowlark had become quite rare.

The 1970 count had 109 species and featured seven species of shorebirds, including Black-bellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstone, along with both Glaucous and Iceland gulls and a cooperative Wood Thrush. The thrush had been frequenting a feeder since November. In 1971, with winds between fif-

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teen and forty miles per hour, counters found 10,291 Ruddy Ducks on the Delaware River, a Snowy Owl at the Philadelphia Airport and the first Black-and-white Warbler for the count.

The 1975 count recorded 109 species, including a large collection of diving ducks on the Delaware River near Tinicum Island. The raft of ducks included 5,000 Greater Scaup, 17,000 Ruddy Ducks and 190 Oldsquaws. Eighty Screech Owls were found with a diligent night effort.

This count also marked the changing of the "Old Guard," when Rigby stepped down as compiler after twenty-six years. Keith Richards became the new compiler.

In 1977, a new high count of 116 species was established with two Loggerhead Shrikes, five Common Yellowthroats and 324 Pine Siskins. In 1978, a new high count was again set with 117 species, including the first record for Double-crested Cormorant, a Black Vulture (an extremely rare bird at the time), a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, one Northern Shrike, three Baltimore Orioles and five warbler species, including an Ovenbird and a Yellow-breasted Chat.

Frank Haas took over the reins as compiler in 1980, and 107 species were found, with five Rough-legged Hawks and a Red-headed Woodpecker as highlights. Under Haas' guidance, the 1983 count recorded 114 species with the first record for Great Cormorant, an Empidonax (species), and six species of warblers, including Orange-crowned, Pine, Black-and-white and Wilson's. The 1984 count was conducted under a balmy 57 degrees and found 101 species, including a Brant, seven Greater Yellowlegs, six Palm Warblers and two Ovenbirds. The highlight of the 1986 count was a Bobolink found by Bill Stocku.

In 1989, Walter Thurber took over as compiler, and the following year, 105 species were found, with a single Lincoln's Sparrow found by Chris Walters' party, as well as the first record for Lesser Black-backed Gull.

In 1991, there was another change in compilers when Thurber moved to Arizona. Nick Pulcinella took over as compiler. The 1991 count found 103 species, including an Ovenbird that had been frequenting a feeder for several days before the count. John Miller continued to pull out exceptional birds when he found an immature Broad-winged Hawk in the Tinicum area.

The 1994 count found ninety-nine species, including Great Egret, a female or immature Black-throated Green Warbler found by Walters' party and a count-week Lincoln's Sparrow. The 1995 count found the first count record for Common Raven when John Freiberg found a single bird in Edgmont Township.

The 1996 count rounds out this seventy-five year period with 106 species containing a record twenty-two Black Vultures, a Yellow-breasted Chat and a Baltimore (Northern) Oriole.

## Total Species

The list below contains the 180 species that have been recorded during the past seventy-five years, with each species' highest count, followed by the year(s) the record was established.

Red-throated Loon 1/53, 60, 86

Common Loon 3/91

Pied-billed Grebe 24/79

Horned Grebe 8/60, 83

Red-necked Grebe 1/37, 60

Great Cormorant 5/92, 96

Double-crested Cormorant 10/95

American Bittern 2/60, 66

Great Blue Heron 96/92

Great Egret 4/79

Green Heron 1/52, 75, 76, 89

Black-crowned Night-Heron 73/83

Tundra Swan 130/74, 76	King Rail 1/50
Mute Swan 3/92, 93, 95	Virginia Rail 1/55, 66, 74 75, 76, 78, 79, 92, 93
Snow Goose 17/93	Common Moorhen 10/66
Brant 1/84	American Coot 241/87
Canada Goose 9,603/85	Black-bellied Plover 3/70
Wood Duck 12/96	Killdeer 313/54
Green-winged Teal 3,000/67	Greater Yellowlegs 8/79
American Black Duck 13,007/38	Lesser Yellowlegs 5/56, 58
Mallard 2,245/75	Ruddy Turnstone 1/70
Northern Pintail 107,537/51	Western Sandpiper 2/67, 81
Blue-winged Teal 7/51	peep species 10/76
Northern Shoveler 295/87	Pectoral Sandpiper 2/53
Gadwall 28/73	Dunlin 40/70
American Wigeon 58/49	Ruff 1/54
Canvasback 435/87	Long-billed Dowitcher 1/58
Redhead 15/75	Common Snipe 77/52
Ring-necked Duck 105/79	American Woodcock 12/74
Greater Scaup 5,000/75	Laughing Gull 5/38
Lesser Scaup 1,627/79	Bonaparte's Gull 75/72
Oldsquaw 190/75	Ring-billed Gull 4,003/83
Black Scoter 1/52	Herring Gull 10,566/70
Surf Scoter 1/57	Iceland Gull 1/64, 67, 70
White-winged Scoter 1/60	Lesser Black-backed Gull 1/90
Common Goldeneye 34/85	Glaucous Gull 3/63
Bufflehead 85/78	Great Black-backed Gull 220/92
Hooded Merganser 48/93	Rock Dove 1,521/92
Common Merganser 335/89	Mourning Dove 1,743/92
Red-breasted Merganser 11/88	Barn Owl 5/27, 81
Ruddy Duck 20,188/56	Eastern Screech Owl 95/76
Black Vulture 22/96	Great Horned Owl 44/88
Turkey Vulture 198/93	Snowy Owl 1/37, 62 68, 71
Bald Eagle 5/50	Barred Owl 1/42, 65 77, 78, 85
Northern Harrier 34/50	Long-eared Owl 10/29
Sharp-shinned Hawk 25/93	Short-eared Owl 48/62
Cooper's Hawk 8/91	Northern Saw-whet Owl 4/78
Northern Goshawk 3/82	Belted Kingfisher 41/92
Red-shouldered Hawk 15/51	Red-headed Woodpecker 2/82
Broad-winged Hawk 1/91	Red-bellied Woodpecker 139/93
Red-tailed Hawk 96/92, 96	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 20/81
Rough-legged Hawk 7/49	Downy Woodpecker 262/81
American Kestrel 66/77	Hairy Woodpecker 48/93
Merlin 1/82 91, 92, 96	Black-backed Woodpecker 1/62
Peregrine Falcon 2/59, 89, 91 92, 93	Northern Flicker 134/84, 91
Ring-necked Pheasant 179/66	Pileated Woodpecker 9/77
Ruffed Grouse 2/74	Empidonax (species) 1/83
Northern Bobwhite 19/73	Eastern Phoebe 2/50, 52 90, 92

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Horned Lark 526/58	Wilson's Warbler 1/83
Blue Jay 1,158/81	Yellow-breasted Chat 2/53
American Crow 4,164/92	Northern Cardinal 967/88
Fish Crow 220/69	Dickcissel 2/69
Common Raven 1/95	Eastern Towhee 58/77
Black-capped Chickadee 530/80	American Tree Sparrow 3,705/65
Carolina Chickadee 1,045/81	Chipping Sparrow 9/79
Boreal Chickadee 7/61	Field Sparrow 325/66
Tufted Titmouse 605/82	Vesper Sparrow 2/50, 53, 59
Red-breasted Nuthatch 325/81	Savannah Sparrow 68/58
White-breasted Nuthatch 242/82	Fox Sparrow 248/58
Brown Creeper 45/82	Song Sparrow 3,624/65
Carolina Wren 401/92	Lincoln's Sparrow 1/59, 90
House Wren 7/57	Swamp Sparrow 524/65
Winter Wren 36/94	White-throated Sparrow 2,926/57
Marsh Wren 14/66	White-crowned Sparrow 87/74
Golden-crowned Kinglet 123/92	Dark-eyed Junco 2,071/81
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 33/72	Lapland Longspur 12/60
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1/78, 81, 87	Snow Bunting 250/70
Eastern Bluebird 84/88	Bobolink 1/86
Hermit Thrush 24/76	Red-winged Blackbird 6,310/65
Wood Thrush 1/70	Eastern Meadowlark 100/31
American Robin 7,063/91	Yellow-headed Blackbird 1/68
Gray Catbird 23/84	Rusty Blackbird 400/40
Northern Mockingbird 284/82	Brewer's Blackbird 1/58
Brown Thrasher 10/70	Common Grackle 9,377/94
American Pipit 50/32	Brown-headed Cowbird 1,559/70
Cedar Waxwing 4,649/85	Baltimore Oriole 3/78
Northern Shrike 1/78	Pine Grosbeak 5/61
Loggerhead Shrike 2/77	Purple Finch 537/77
European Starling 19,123/70	House Finch 2,673/93
Orange-crowned Warbler 1/52, 79, 83	Red Crossbill 50/77
Yellow-rumped Warbler 63/84	White-winged Crossbill 12/54
Black-throated Green Warbler 1/94	Common Redpoll 15/93
Pine Warbler 2/95	Pine Siskin 324/77
Palm Warbler 6/84	American Goldfinch 1,400/61
Black-and-white Warbler 1/71, 83	Evening Grosbeak 67/78
Ovenbird 2/84	House Sparrow 1,679/71
Common Yellowthroat 9/84	

The following species have been recorded three times or less in the seventy-five years of the Glenolden CBC.

Red-throated Loon 3	Orange-crowned Warbler 3
Iceland Gull 3	Red-necked Grebe 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3	Black-bellied Plover 2

Western Sandpiper 2  
 Pectoral Sandpiper 2  
 Boreal Chickadee 2  
 Black-and-white Warbler 2  
 Lincoln's Sparrow 2  
 White-winged Crossbill 2  
 Brant 1  
 Black Scoter 1  
 Surf Scoter 1  
 White-winged Scoter 1  
 Broad-winged Hawk 1  
 Ruffed Grouse 1  
 King Rail 1  
 Ruddy Turnstone 1  
 Ruff 1

Long-billed Dowitcher 1  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull 1  
 Black-backed Woodpecker 1  
 Empidonax (species) 1  
 Common Raven 1  
 Wood Thrush 1  
 Northern Shrike 1  
 Black-throated Green Warbler 1  
 Wilson's Warbler 1  
 Dickcissel 1  
 Bobolink 1  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird 1  
 Brewer's Blackbird 1  
 Pine Grosbeak 1

## Participants

The tradition of routinely being one of the top CBCs in Pennsylvania every year has a lot to do with the quality of participants this count has had. In its seventy-five year history, 408 birders have participated on the count, with most coming from the ranks of the DVOC. Some participated for a year or two, others for longer stints and a rugged few individuals for thirty or more years. An inspection of the list will reveal a few individuals who have gone on to make their marks in ornithology both locally and internationally.

The following is a list of those individuals who participated in the count from its inception in 1922 through 1996. The number preceding their name is the first year they participated. Those marked with an asterisk continue to be active on the count.

72 Ellis Akers*	76 Trina Barnett	69 Walton Brand
69 Horace Alexander	72 Paul Beach	83 Dan Brauning
93 Judith Amand	27 Richard Bender	87 Marcia Brauning
93 Wilbur Amand	80 Ray Black	93 Mike Brawley
77 Fred Arnold	83 Eric van Blunk	87 Erica Brendel*
64 C.U. Atkinson	76 Barry Blust	71 Kate Brethwaite*
55 John Aull	77 M Blust	54 R.J. Brooke
49 John Austin	75 R Blye	64 Schl Brooks
49 J. Harold Austin	72 Bob Bodine*	96 Kevin Browngoehl*
81 Joyce Baker	89 James Bodine*	81 Dorothy Bryson
83 Cindy Baldvieso	82 Jean Boell	81 John Bryson
58 Clara Barker	62 Emmerson Bowes	38 R.B. Burke
85 Wyatt Barnes	69 Betty Brand	94 Jackie Burns*



93 Christine Bush	50 Howard Donaghy	72 Al Guarente*
81 Nancy Caldwell	66 Tom Dougherty	88 John Guarnaccia
91 Donna Calio	75 Wesley Doughty*	82 Margaret Gundesen
81 Charles Cameron*	87 Michael Drake	80 Paul Guris
82 Gladys Carlin	84 Al Driscoll	75 Barbara Haas
81 Jimi Carney	82 Nada Dugan	75 Frank Haas
65 James Carroll	93 Andrew Eberly*	83 Udo Haeckel
58 C. W. Carter	89 Chris Eberly	82 Dorothy Hallman
69 Peter Chamberlain	83 David Eberly*	58 Frank Hamilton
81 Bill Church*	81 Barbara Ebersole	59 H.T. Hammel
55 Richard Coles	81 Gene Ebersole	80 Stephen Hannaford
82 Wilmer Coles	82 John Engler	80 John Harding
75 Alva Collins	82 Jane Evermon	80 Justin Harding
67 Dale Coman	32 Robert Fagan	87 Bonnie Harper
82 Roger Conant*	81 George Faix	50 James Harvey
81 Sara Conner	81. Grace Felton	49 Thomas Harvey
81 Eunice Conron	81 Ed Fingerhood*	76 G. Hebbard
44 Albert Conway	93 Phyllis Fingerhood*	92 C. Hecksher
81 Dorrit Cook	90 Charles Finkbiner	63 Stevens Hecksher
94 Andrew Coombs	96 Ted Floyd*	45 William Heed
52 Dale Corbett	81 Delilah Foldes	80 David Heilig
46 F. P. Corbett	48 James Fowler	72 Margo Heilig*
80 Paul Cornelius	63 Witson Fowler	94 Robert Heinly*
51 Walter Corson	85 Robert Fredrickson	93 Betty Helwig
52 Doris Cortelyou	74 John Freiberg*	93 Joe Helwig
52 Charles Craig	74 Joe Freiberg*	81 George Herpel
87 Jane Crastley	83 Paul Freiberg	82 June Herpel
44 Alan Crawford	59 Ron French	85 Pam Hesler
91 Walt Cressler	96 Ruth Furman	58 C. A. Hetzel
52 Emlen Cresson	48 Gerhard Gassdorf	44 Stanley Hibberd
75 Alvera Crocetto*	82 Sara Garroway	29 Earl Higgons
71 Anthony Crocetto*	39 L. Gauthey	76 Armas Hill
72 Nick Crocetto*	71 Blake Gibson	80 Frank Hohenleitner
68 Maria Currin	75 Frank Gill	82 Ann Holm
50 David Cutler	38 J. A. Gillespie Jr.	87 Jane Horwitz
54 Herb Cutler	22 John Gillespie	87 Richard Horwitz*
51 Paul D'Aoun	27 Mabel Gillespie	48 Nelson Hoy
51 Richard Darby	76 John Ginaven*	35 Louise Howard
70 Henry Darlington	76 Peggy Ginaven	96 Lois Hunn
61 J Davis	83 George Glenn	94 Andrew Ingersoll
83 Evelyn Day	82 Margaret Goettle	31 James Irvin
88 Richard Dean	50 Leon Goff	91 Yoshinori Ito
27 Anna Debes	71 Carl Grace	50 Bill Jay
27 Victor Debes	70 Jesse Grantham	82 Sam James
81 Marcia Demarest	88 Michael Greenwalt	82 Ruth Jenkins
65 Joe Devlin	82 John Grimes	44 Lamar Johnson

81 Mark Johnson	96 Judy Lockyer*	61 Frank Moody
96 Sheryl Johnson*	84 Mike Logan	77 Ruth Moody
81 Adalyn Jones	92 Alice Long*	81 Harold Morrin
81 Edmund Jones	93 Jan Long*	80 Jane Morrison
57 Richard Joos	91 Betty McCormack	94 Lou Morucci
95 Mike Kaczanski*	82 Grace McCoy	90 Alison Mostrom*
80 Carol Kahler	82 Georgian McDonald	81 Helen Mueller
80 Charley Kahler	82 James McDonald	79 Jane Mullins
93 Gi Kapski*	58 Peter McGlaughlin	96 Ray Murphy
93 Stephen Kapski*	81 Jim McGrath	91 Charles Myers
82 Stella Kavalovich	82 Doris McGovern*	81 Dan Negus
78 J Keating	82 Robert McLaughlin	81 Suzanne Negus
78 Allan Keith	95 Tom McParland*	81 Jamie Newlin
81 John Kell	69 Helen McWilliams*	82 Margaret Nilsson
83 Liz Kellog	81 Andy Mack	64 Anne Northwood
74 Kevin Kelly*	82 Waker Mackey	64 d'Arcy Northwood
85 Ruth Kennedy	51 William Macmurtric	82 Ed Norton
82 Mari Killian	92 Richard Mahnke	82 Fran Norton
91 Rich Kimmel	82 Howard Maloney	49 Bruce Oakley
76 Renee Kirk	82 Margaret Maloney	81 CJ O'Brien*
74 Evelyn Kopf*	51 Ed Manners	53 William O'Connell
75 George Kopf	58 E. Wayne Marshall	88 Ann O'Leary
74 Jon Kopf	69 Elizabeth Marshall	61 Al Openshaw
74 Stephen Kopf	69 Wayne Marshall	82 Mike Orndorff
75 Tom Kopf	44 Paul Martin	80 Patrick Orr
48 Quinton Kramer	57 T. Norman Mason	53 Sam Orr*
74 Andy Kraynik	44 Sam Matson	94 Gary Parchman
86 Mary Ellen Krober*	51 Walter Meagher	82 Florence Parker
44 R. A. Kroon	58 Fred Mears	85 Marian Passaro
82 Annette Laird	76 Crawford Mechum	83 Tracy Pedersen
50 Jesse Lamplugh	89 Rob Megraw*	52 Howell Peniston
81 Theresa Land	78 Joe Meloney	91 Carl Perretta*
82 Edward Lane	78 Lee Meloney	83 Carl Perry
81 Sue Lawless	73 William Meyer	90 Ann Pettigrew
29 David Leas	88 Barry Middleburg	62 Jean Piatt
92 Larry Lewis	51 Will Middleton	62 Marybelle Piatt
44 Marple Lewis	50 John Miller*	76 Liz Porter
90 Bert Lindsay	95 Marlene Miller*	81 Kathryn Potts
90 Lawrence Lindsay	93 Raymond Miller*	82 Ralph Preston
82 George Link	49 Richard Miller	38 Charles Price
82 Isabele Link	55 Robert Miller*	51 Gertrude Price
87 Sarah Lippincott	51 William Miller	69 Nick Pulcinella*
81 Sidney Lipshutz	76 S Milichap	73 Steve Putnam
62 Michael Lister	81 Janet Millison	64 Leilani Pyle
37 Phillip Livingston	76 Lynn Mitchell	64 Robert Pyle
82 Jim Lockyer*	67 S A Montgomery	64 Peter Pyle



59 Richard Quinn	55 Harold Saxon	83 Walter Thurber
81 Peggy Rakula	93 Peg Schlairet*	63 Harry Todd*
81 Dorothy Reed	81 Drew Schmidt	43 Charles Tracy
81 Jean Reed	75 Bob Schutsky	89 Eunice Ullman
82 Louis Reeps	45 Paul Schwalbe	82 Claire Victorious
81 Rebecca Reese	50 Glenna Schwalbe	82 Barbara Vitello
73 Tom Reeves*	57 Grace Selser	92 Jim Waldie*
90 Mike Resch	57 S. Severinghaus	92 Linda Waldie*
76 Charlotte Richards	83 Steve Shea	81 Greg Walls
69 Keith Richards	81 Sandra Sherman*	75 R Walter
74 Micheal Richmond	82 Nancy Shmidheiser	78 Chris Walters*
84 Robert Ridgely	83 Teri Simon	92 Joan Walters
37 James Rigby	83 Robert Small	33 Asa Way
69 Jeffrey Rigby	96 Kate Somerville*	64 Winston Wayne
55 Reba Rigby	82 Sandy Sparrow	31 F. West
37 Ted Rigby	83 David Spawn	82 James Whibley
44 Ted Rigby III	76 Phil Spear	61 Christopher White
70 Brian Risley	79 D Spector	77 E Widmayer
52 George Ritchie	82 Loraine Springer	95 Bob Wilkins
82 Domenic Roberti	76 Stan Stahl	82 Margaret Williams
82 Mark Robbins	65 Ron Staley	82 Jeanne Witham
90 Doman Roberts	77 Tim Sterrett	82 Lori Witham
90 Rowena Roberts	81 Julie Stirl	72 John Wolf
76 Debbie Robinson	88 Jim Stasz	81 Peter Wolhurst
96 Paul Rodewald	78 Bill Stocku	30 Douglas Wood
54 Grace Rotzel	78 Mark Stocku	55 C. Brooke Worth
63 Robert Rude	48 Phillips Street	55 Douglas Worth
92 Keith Russell*	83 Gloria Tatios	28 Burrirt Wright
73 James Sands	89 Neal Thorpe	54 J. Kenneth Wright
92 Steve Santner	83 Andy Thurber	85 Cindy Zimmerman
49 Hugh Sargent	86 Frances Thurber	96 Joseph Zurouchak

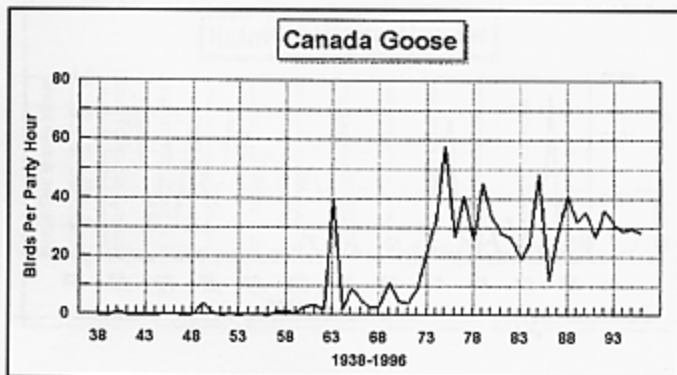
## Notes on Selected Species

In 1938, the National Audubon Society began to collect data for each Christmas Bird Count regarding total party hours, total party miles, etc. I used the total party hours for counts from 1938 to 1996 to try to show any significant trends, either positive or negative, for a few selected species.

As with most CBC data, I don't think any hard and fast scientific conclusions can be made by utilizing one determining factor — in this case birds per party hour. Even though total party hours reflect the overall effort of the count participants, it doesn't take into account such factors as weather conditions or participant competency. Keeping this in mind, I still think that some broad general conclusions can be made using birds per party hour as a measurement tool for the Glenolden CBC.

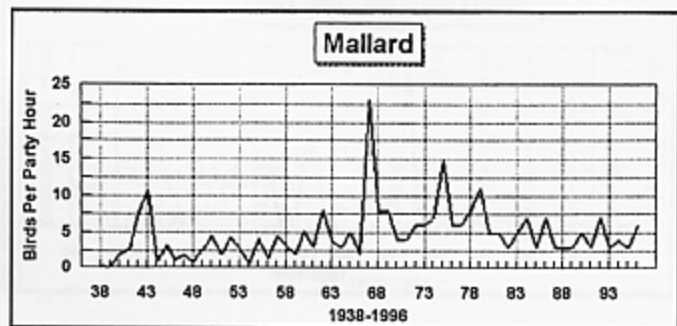
## Canada Goose

During the early and middle years of the count, this species was found only in small numbers through the winter. In the mid-1970s, a continent-wide population explosion of this species occurred and is reflected in the consistently high numbers found since 1975.



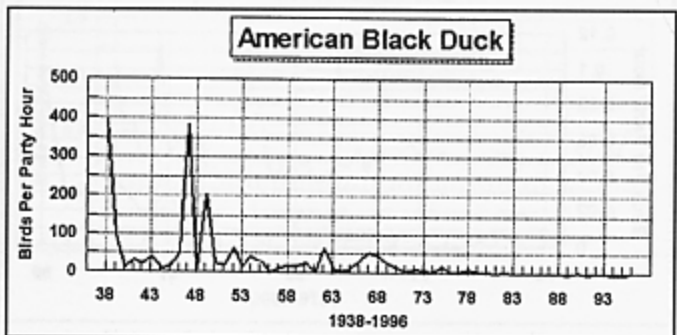
## Mallard

This species' numbers have fluctuated throughout the past 58 years, but have shown a gradual increase. Today, it is the most common winter dabbler within the count circle.

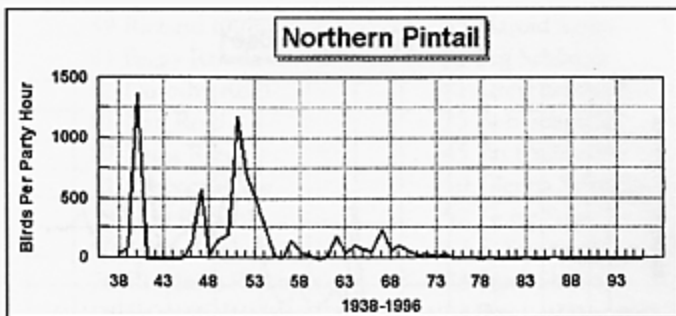


## American Black Duck

During the early years of the count, this species was one of the most common puddle ducks in the Tincum marshes. The decrease in numbers since the 1950s reflects the ever-increasing number of Mallards that have been slowly replacing this species within the count circle.

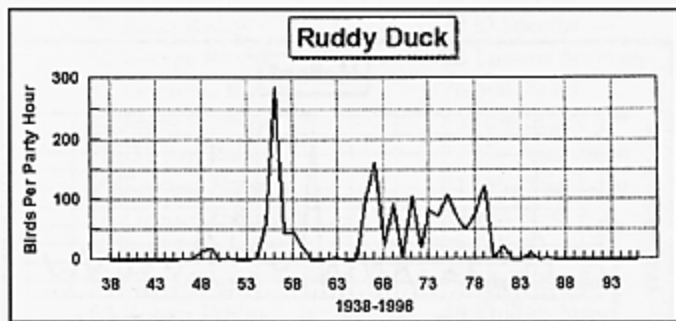


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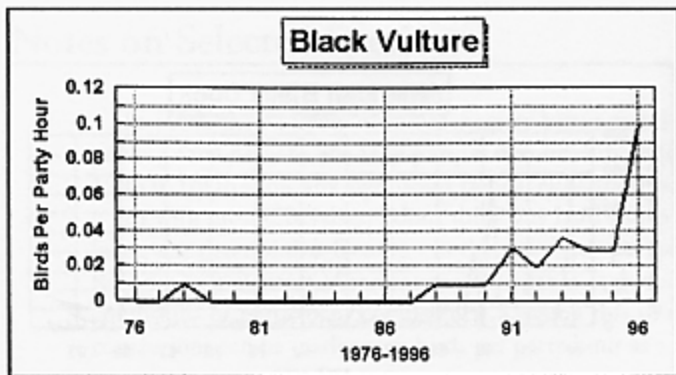
### Northern Pintail

At one time, this was the most abundant duck of the freshwater marshes of Tinicum. This species could be found in high numbers except in very harsh winters when the marshes froze over for extended periods of time. Present numbers have declined dramatically with loss of healthy wintering habitat.



### Ruddy Duck

This species' numbers fluctuated during the 1950s but then could be found consistently in the thousands during the late 1960s and '70s on the Delaware River below Philadelphia. In the early 1980s, there was a drastic local decline in Ruddy Ducks. Some in the birding community attribute the decline to several consecutive winters of oil spills, while others maintain that the "cleaning up" of the river through anti-pollution measures had rendered the river "sterile." Whatever the cause, only a handful of Ruddies can be found on the Glenolden count today.



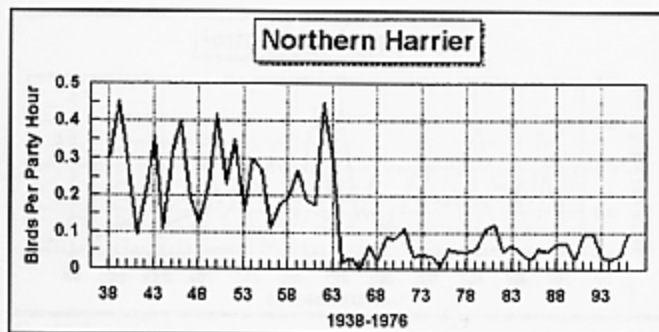
### Black Vulture

A new species to the count circle since 1978. Numbers have gradually increased, and new records highs are set with each consecutive CBC.

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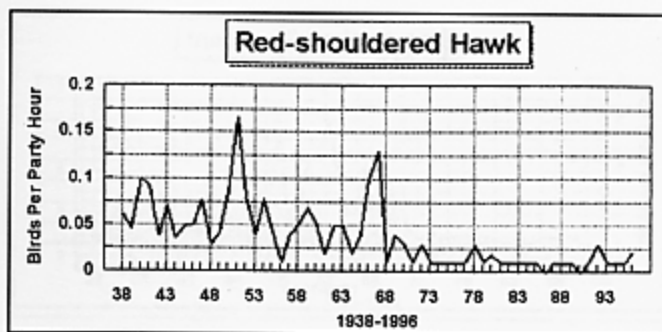
### Northern Harrier

A species that was once found throughout the count circle. The decrease in numbers reflects the gradual loss of suitable wintering habitat. Since the 1960s, wintering birds can be found in only a few select areas of the circle.



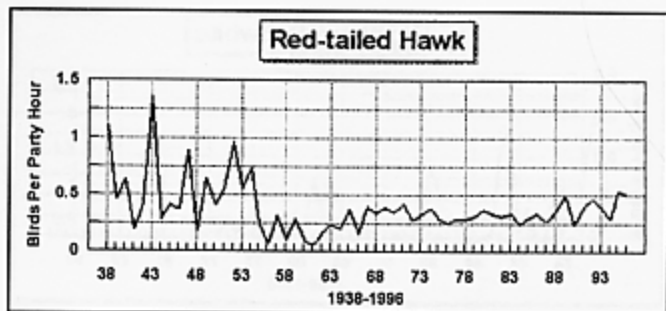
### Red-Shouldered Hawk

Another species whose decrease in numbers reflects the loss of proper wintering habitat. Only one or two birds are found annually now.



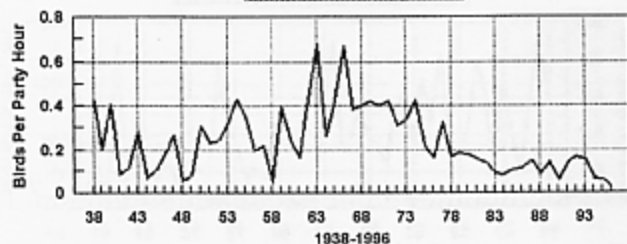
### Red-tailed Hawk

A species that has not seemed to suffer from the loss of open areas. Numbers are increasing yearly and can be found throughout the count circle.



## The Glenolden Christmas Bird Count 1922-1996

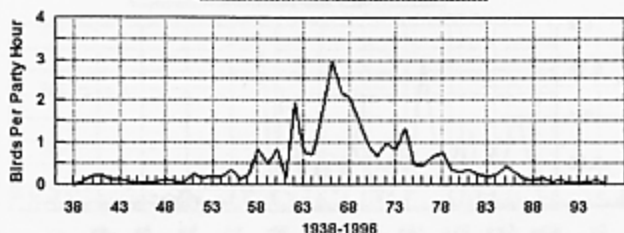
American Kestrel



### American Kestrel

A species that has declined drastically with the loss of open areas. Once found throughout the count circle, it now can be located only in localized areas.

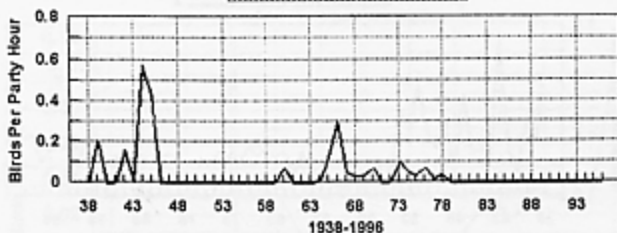
Ring-necked Pheasant



### Ring-necked Pheasant

An introduced species that was once a common gamebird in the count area; numbers have gradually decreased with the loss of open areas and farmland.

Northern Bobwhite



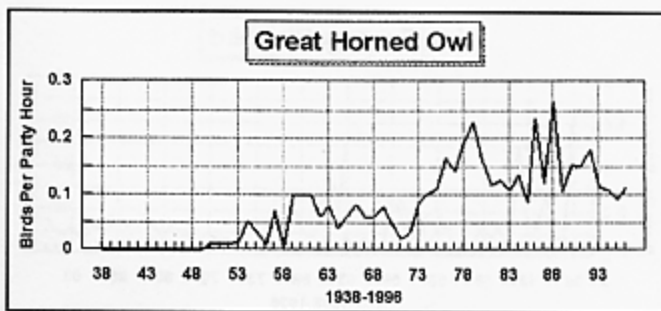
### Northern Bobwhite

A species whose numbers fluctuated yearly, especially during years of harsh weather, Bobwhite has gradually disappeared from the count area in winter, probably due to loss of habitat and an increase in the red fox population. Last recorded on the 1978 count.

## The Glenolden Christmas Bird Count 1922-1996

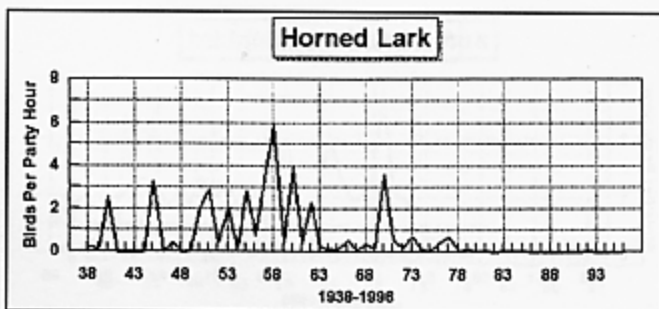
### Great Horned Owl

Numbers of this species have been gradually increasing within the count circle, a trend not necessarily related to any increase in night coverage. This increase mirrors the species' areawide increase in recent years.



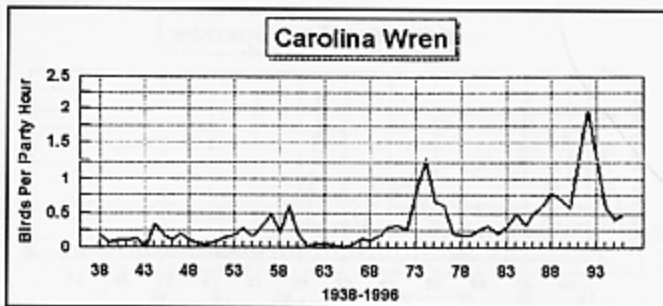
### Horned Lark

A once-common bird throughout the count circle. Numbers have decreased considerably in the past 30 years due to habitat loss.



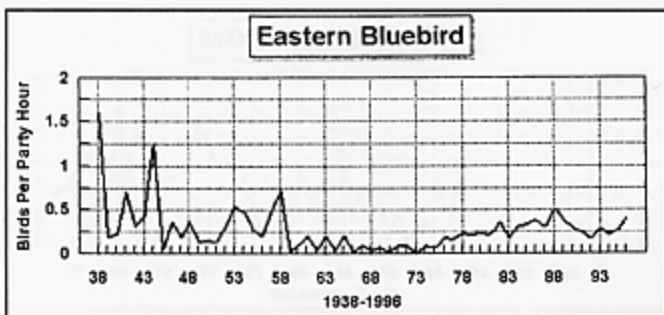
### Carolina Wren

A species whose numbers are greatly affected by severe winters, especially persistent cold temperatures and freezing conditions. Cycles of gradual increase can be seen when numbers are plotted on a graph, followed by population crashes caused by several consecutive years of harsh winter weather.



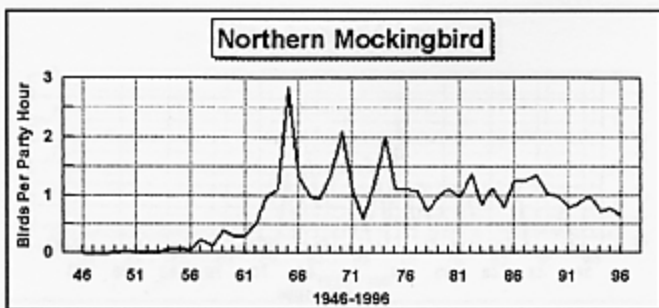


## The Glenolden Christmas Bird Count 1922-1996



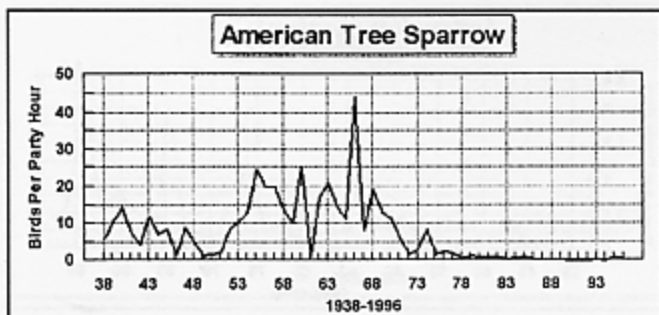
### Eastern Bluebird

A common species during the early years of the count, when there was much open habitat available. Bluebird populations can be affected by prolonged cold winters, and its numbers declined during the early 1960s due to successive cold winters accompanied by a loss in wintering habitat. An extensive nest-box program started by a few dedicated individuals in the late 1960s, and continued today, has helped this species regain some of its earlier losses.



### Northern Mockingbird

A rare species during the early years of the count. Numbers shot up during the early 1960s as the species spread northward. Recently, numbers have been slowly declining, probably due to a loss of edge-type habitat.



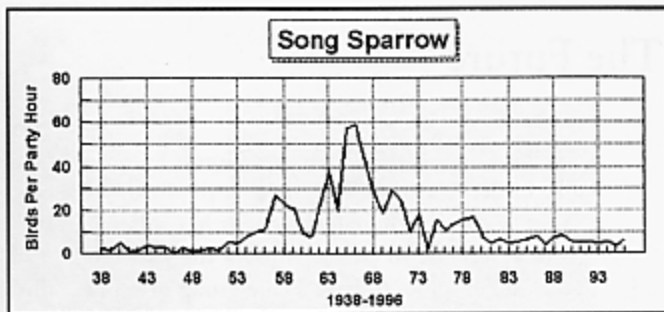
### American Tree Sparrow

A formerly common to abundant wintering sparrow. Numbers decreased throughout the Northeast in the 1970s, and this is reflected locally in the low numbers in recent years.

## The Glenolden Christmas Bird Count 1922-1996

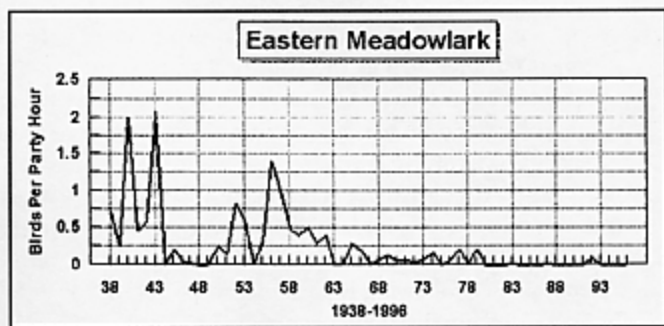
### Song Sparrow

Another once-abundant wintering sparrow. For several years in the mid-1960s and early 1970s, the Glenolden CBC had the nation's highest totals for Song Sparrows. The gradual decline in numbers reflects the loss of suitable wintering habitat.



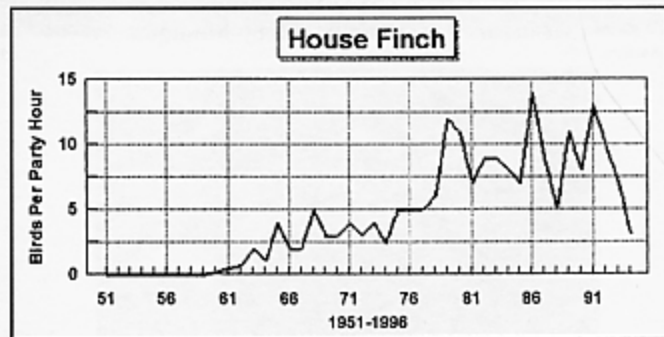
### Eastern Meadowlark

During the early years of the Glenolden CBC, this was one of the most common species on the count. Numbers have dwindled with the loss of open areas in the western part of the count circle.



### House Finch

A species introduced to the East Coast; first recorded on the count in 1955. Numbers increased by leaps and bounds until they seemed to peak in 1986. Since then, the population has fluctuated. In 1993, numbers dropped dramatically, probably due to an outbreak of avian conjunctivitis that spread rapidly through the species.



## The Future

The Glenolden Christmas Count is now under the capable leadership of Roger "Skip" Conant. Though the count has suffered from a decrease in participants in the past ten years, it continues to have a core group of experienced veteran birders who have been able to keep up the count's fine tradition of thorough and excellent coverage of the count circle. There continues to be a steady increase in land development, especially housing tracts, throughout the count circle, but there is also an increase in general awareness of its effects on the bird life. In some cases, new construction is being carried out in conjunction with conservation-minded organizations such as the Natural Lands Trust and the Brandywine Conservancy. It is hoped that there will be less of a decline in bird numbers than in previous years.

Even though there have been 180 species found on the Glenolden CBC, it is always fun to speculate on what new birds may yet be found. The following is a list of ten species that have the potential of occurring on a future count.

1. **Tree Swallow:** It's hard to believe that this species has yet to be found on the count, as Tree Swallows can sometimes be found into late November in the count circle and are found annually on some of the nearby coastal counts.

2. **White-fronted Goose:** Another species that occurs frequently in nearby Montgomery

County, Pennsylvania and may accompany the large numbers of Canada Geese that are found at Springton Reservoir.

3. **Eared Grebe:** There is still no record for this species in Delaware County, but it occurs annually in the Philadelphia area and has been recorded at Tinicum.

4. **Rufous Hummingbird:** With the apparent increase in winter hummingbird feeding in the Delaware Valley and the resulting increase in wintering hummers, a Rufous or other hummingbird species is quite possible.

5. **Western Kingbird:** A late-fall straggler to the east; a December bird is possible.

6. **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** With many late fall and early winter records in nearby New Jersey, an early-winter bird is possible.

7. **Forster's Tern:** Small numbers of this species can be found along the Delaware River in early November. In a mild winter, a straggler into December is possible.

8. **Eurasian Wigeon:** There are already a few records from Tinicum.

9. **Golden Eagle:** Another species that is sometimes found in the count circle in late November, so a potential winter bird is possible.

10. **Black-headed Gull:** A long shot, but it has been found in nearby Chester County, Pennsylvania, and Cumberland County, New Jersey, in winter.