

The 103rd Glenolden Christmas Bird Count

The 103rd Glenolden Christmas Bird Count, part of the 123rd National Audubon Society CBC, was held Saturday December 17, 2022. Our field teams and feeder watchers covered a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

It was a pleasant early winter day. The temperature ranged from the low 30s to mid 40s Fahrenheit and the skies were variably cloudy. Wind was not a factor.

We had a total of 96 participants in the field and 8 folks kept an eye on 6 feeders throughout the day. This gave us a grand total of 104 participants, 21 of which were taking part in their first Glenolden CBC. This is the second consecutive and the fourth time the number of participants in the Glenolden CBC has surpassed 100 in its history.

Forty-two daylight parties logged 168 party-hours in the field which is significantly higher than our previous 10 year average of 155 party hours. Nice work!! Additionally, 10 owling parties logged 33 miles in 18 party-hours.

We managed to tally 96 species this year which is four more than last year. Our rolling 10 year average species count stands at 91. Our record high species total is 117 reported on the 1978 CBC. There were no unusual rarities found this year and no species were added to our all time list which stands at 194. I found reports of two count week species on eBird: Cackling Goose and Eastern Phoebe.

The total number of birds tallied this year was 35,649 individuals. This is way above our previous 10 year average of 25,254. High numbers of geese accounted for the majority of our above average tally. We tallied a record high 8,878 Snow Geese and 8,069 Canada Geese (record high count for Canada Goose 15,880 in 2008). If you subtract the geese from the total, the count of 18,702 "not-geese" is similar to our previous 10 year average for "not-geese".

Highs

We had a relatively high number of species with counts that surpassed or tied previous records. This occurred especially among the raptors but we'll start with the Snow Geese.

Snow Goose: 8,878 individuals. Previous high: 4,503 in 2019. Snow Geese flying overhead were reported by 13 of our field parties so the possibility of duplication of numbers is real. There was one instance when two parties were communicating and duplication was almost certain. I adjusted the count for that instance but not the others. There was an eBird report of an estimated 33,000 **Snow Geese** over a marsh just across the river in Gloucester County on count day morning as well. Needless to say, there were a lot of Snow Geese in the air that morning.

Bald Eagle: 31 individuals. Previous high: 20 in 2015. Their resurgence continues. Consistent with the well known story, there were sporadic reports of this species on our CBC in the 1940s and 1950s. The real dearth came in the years between 1959 and 1984 when there were only 2 reports of Bald Eagle on the Glenolden CBC. The frequency increased steadily after that and the species has been reported on our count every year since 1998 with one exception (2000).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 26 individuals. Previous high: 24 in 2020. The count of this species has been increasing steadily since 2005.

Barred Owl: 2 individuals ties the previous high of 2 in 2006. This species has been reported on only 8 of our previous CBCs.

Merlin: 10 individuals. Previous high: 5 in 2020. Never common, this species appears to be increasing in our area. This is in contrast to the other small falcon, American Kestrel, which has been in decline. The reasons are likely multiple but our new compiler, Rich Horwitz, raises a good point that the Merlin's food preference for small birds likely gives it an advantage in a highly suburbanized area whereas the Kestrel's preference for rodents and arthropods hunted from perches in open fields renders it subject to decline due to habitat loss.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 individuals ties the high counts on two previous CBCs (2011, 2007).

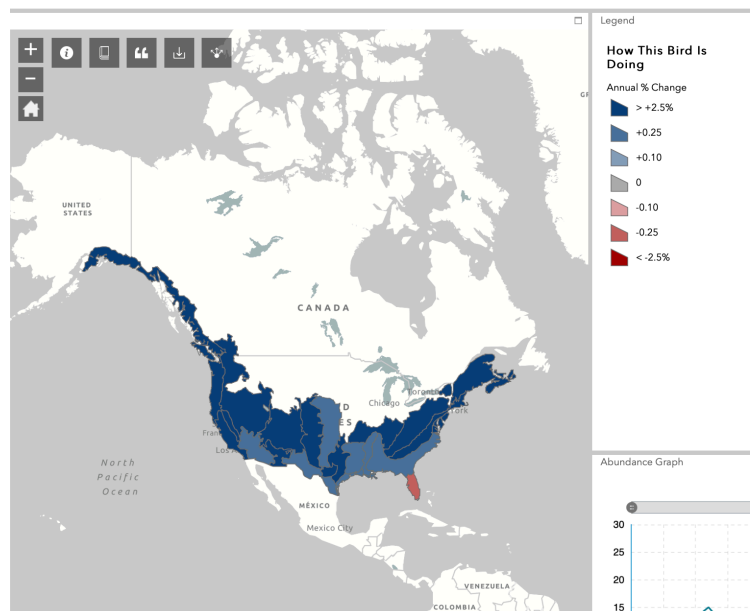
Pileated Woodpecker: 20 individuals. Previous high: 17 in 2007. The abundance of this species is also trending upward in the Northeast. This is generally attributed to reforestation. There is also speculation that woodpeckers, and ash trees, may be benefitting from woodpeckers feasting on the Emerald Ash Borer. Perhaps for similar reasons, our count of 59 **Hairy Woodpeckers** was just two shy of the record high 61 we tallied last year.

Fish Crow: 364 individuals. Previous high: 291 in 2021. This traditional resident of the tidewaters of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast coasts is known to be expanding its range into populated areas as it becomes more adapted to humans.

Eastern Bluebird: 142 individuals. Previous high 132 in 2005. The success of the repopulation efforts for this beloved species is well documented.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 4 individuals. Previous high 2 found in 1998 and 1999. This species has been found on eleven of our previous CBCs. Ten of the twelve reports of this species have occurred since 1980. Orange-crowned Warbler breeds in Canada and the western United States. It migrates to Mexico, the Gulf Coast and eastern US in winter. The [CBC Trends Map](#) displayed below indicates their winter range is extending northward and decreasing in Florida. My guess is this is an example, at least in part, of the birds "shortstopping" on migration due to warmer temperatures.

CBC trends: Orange-crowned Warbler



Unusual Species

Two grassland species that were once much more common on the Glenolden CBC were located this year. Fifteen **Horned Larks** and 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found along Hog Island Road behind the Philadelphia International Airport. Both species were regularly found on our count in the 1950s and early 1960s but declined rapidly, likely due to habitat loss. **Horned Lark** has been found on 56 of our previous CBCs. The record high count is 526 individuals tallied on the 1958 CBC. **Eastern Meadowlark** has been found on 40 previous Glenolden CBCs. The record high count is 98 in 1956.

A complete species list of this year's count is attached below. eBird has introduced a new feature called Trip Reports. They are a convenient way to review the results and see where the birds were found. You can view this year's eBird Trip Report by clicking this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/90288>. You do not need an eBird account to view the report.

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):

Don Abramowitz (1), Ellen Abramowitz (1), Bill Ackerman (2), Jane Battaglia (2), **Bob Bedell (1),** Debbie Beer (11), Natalie Berry (7), **Rob Bierregaard (10),** Adrian Binns (7), **Jim Bodine (30),** Sarah Boucas-Neto (16), Kevin Browngoehl (7), Nancy Bruce (2), Margaret Bue (3), **Tom Bush (10),** Brian Byrnes (12), Mike Cassidy (3), Bruce Childs (11), Katrina Clark (2), Terri Conway (3), Aaron Coolman (2), Elizabeth Coulter (2), Virginia Coulter (2), Bill Cranny (12), Alan Crawford III (13), **Nick Crocetto (48),** Cynthia Curry (21), Noelle Daniels (2), **Ellen Dearborn (5), Fran Demillion (1),** Emily Dodge (4), **Manny Dominguez (1),** Dick Eales (8), **David Eberly (32),** John Ehlen (2), **Julia Ehrhardt (1),** Kristy Eleftheriou (2), Linda Emory (2), **Rob Fergus (5),** Kevin Fryberger (14), Stephanie Gaboriault (12), **Sean Gallagher (1), Al Guarente (46),** Brian Hall (4), **Jane Harrington (1), Matt Horner (1), Rich Horwitz (34), Oliver James (1),** Letitia Jeavons (12), **Karl Johnson (1), Sheryl Johnson (27), Ethan Kang (1), Steve Kapski (28), Virginia Kapski (5),** Bob Kelly (14), Noel Kelly (9), **Dan Kobza (10), Pat Lalli (1),** Ann Lane (4), Laura Matika (6), Jim McConnell (2), Dave McDonald (11), **Doris McGovern (39),** Pat McGovern (6), **Art McMorris (10), Rob Megraw (29), Roberta Menapace (5), Shane Murphy (1),** Lathrop Nelson (3), **Beverly Norton (1), Damon Orsetti (10),** Andrew Pesthy (6), Mariana Pesthy (6), Jason Porter (11), Chris Pugliese (14), Jim Purtill (6), **Ashley Rathman (1), Frank Reis (1),** Lynn Roman (8), Chuck Root (4), Margie Rostron (2), Karen Serwatka (6), **Win Shafer (17), Karen Shull-Archer (1), Alan Simon (5),** Marilyn Smith (7), Frank Steinmiller (2), **Brian Storey (1), Carol Storey (17), Kathy Strohm (1),** Marcia Tate (12), **Gloria Todor (17),** Karyl Weber (2), **Paige Worth (1),** Rich Ziegler (2), John Zygmunt (3).

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. 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 104th Glenolden Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday December 16, 2023.** 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.

A personal note. After 14 years I've decided to pass the hat to a new compiler. Starting next year Rich Horwitz will be taking over the running of the Glenolden CBC. Rich is a scientist at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and has participated in 34 of our CBCs. I'm leaving you in good hands. It has been wonderful working with you all and an invaluable learning experience for me. Special thanks to the area leaders, my captains! The CBC doesn't happen without them.

Stay well and good birding,
Dave

David Eberly
112 S Princeton Ave
Swarthmore, PA 19081
david.eberly@gmail.com

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 #123.

Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/12/2023

Count Name: Delaware County (Glenolden)	Count Code: PAGL	Count Date: 12/17/2022
Organizations & Sponsors:	# of Party Hours: 168.00	Species reported on count date: 96

Compiler(s)

First Name	Last Name	Email	Is Primary Compiler
David	Eberly	david.eberly@gmail.com	Yes
Rich	Horwitz	rjh78@drexel.edu	No

Start & End Times

Start time	End time
04:30 AM	07:45 PM

Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 96
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 1
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 42
At Feeders	Total Number: 11

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	132.00	150.00	Miles
Car	36.00	230.00	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

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At Feeders	19.00		
Nocturnal Birding	18.25	33.25	Miles
Total Party	168.00	380.00	Miles

Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: 34.0 Fahrenheit	Maximum: 43.0 Fahrenheit	
Wind Direction	West		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 0.00 Miles/hour	Maximum: 15.00 Miles/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum:	Maximum:	
Still Water	Open		
Moving Water	Open		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Partly Cloudy	PM: Partly 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.
Snow Goose	8878	HC,	8878/123	44	
Cackling Goose	cw		5/105	7	
Canada Goose	8069		15880/109	75	
Mute Swan	6		57/122	32	
Tundra Swan	5		172/114	50	
Wood Duck	9		22/122	48	
Gadwall	141		141/123	50	
American Black Duck	36		13007/39	93	
Mallard	695		2245/76	91	
American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid)	1		1/123	2	
Northern Shoveler	160		314/115	60	
Northern Pintail	682		107537/52	85	
Green-winged Teal	256		2000/76	48	
Ring-necked Duck	1		105/80	64	
Greater Scaup	1		5000/76	42	
Bufflehead	6		85/79	76	

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Hooded Merganser	25		95/114	60	
Common Merganser	16		335/90	91	
Ruddy Duck	24		20188/57	79	
Double-crested Cormorant	17		90/115	41	
Great Cormorant	1		5/97	21	
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	36		96/93	83	
Great Egret	3	US,	6/107	15	
Black Vulture	113		191/111	36	
Turkey Vulture	299		322/111	79	
Northern Harrier	3		34/51	92	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11		45/102	71	
Cooper's Hawk	18		31/122	81	
Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk	1		1/123	3	
Accipiter sp.	1		2/122	10	
Bald Eagle	31	HC,	31/123	43	
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	HC,	26/123	90	
Red-tailed Hawk	89		117/102	103	
hawk sp.	3		3/123	3	
Killdeer	47		313/55	87	
Ring-billed Gull	892		4003/84	91	
Herring Gull	134		10000/71	97	
Great Black-backed Gull	48		220/93	74	
gull sp.	54		70/98	3	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	174		1521/93	55	
Mourning Dove	404		1743/93	87	
Eastern Screech-Owl	30		66/83	41	
Great Horned Owl	6		44/89	72	
Barred Owl	2	US, HC,	2/123	11	
Belted Kingfisher	17		41/99	82	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	160		258/122	66	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	29		47/122	62	
Downy Woodpecker	171		262/82	102	
Hairy Woodpecker	59	HC,	61/122	99	
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker	1		4/119	3	
Northern Flicker	68		134/85	33	
Pileated Woodpecker	20	HC,	20/123	57	
American Kestrel	2		66/78	98	

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Merlin	10	HC,	10/123	30	
Peregrine Falcon	3	HC,	3/123	40	
diurnal raptor sp.	3		10/31	2	
Eastern Phoebe	cw	LC	2/121	32	
Blue Jay	187		1158/82	97	
American Crow	669		4164/93	79	
Fish Crow	364	HC,	364/123	81	
crow sp.	65		1500/31	33	
Common Raven	5		12/121	12	
Horned Lark	15	US,	526/59	56	
Carolina Chickadee	211		1045/82	82	
Black-capped Chickadee	3		530/81	77	
Tufted Titmouse	124		605/83	98	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7		325/82	75	
White-breasted Nuthatch	162		242/83	99	
Brown Creeper	19		45/83	96	
Winter Wren	14		40/113	14	
Carolina Wren	281		401/93	100	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16		123/93	92	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	24		36/122	75	
Eastern Bluebird	142	HC,	142/123	77	
Hermit Thrush	10		29/108	81	
American Robin	2506		9867/102	88	
Gray Catbird	5		23/85	75	
Brown Thrasher	3		10/71	51	
Northern Mockingbird	50		284/83	77	
European Starling	1627		19000/71	102	
Cedar Waxwing	20		4649/86	77	
Orange-crowned Warbler	4	HC,	4/123	11	
Common Yellowthroat	1		9/85	37	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		63/85	13	
American Tree Sparrow	6		3700/66	102	
Chipping Sparrow	5		28/121	50	
Field Sparrow	17		320/67	99	
Fox Sparrow	15		248/59	93	
Dark-eyed Junco	793		1604/85	12	
White-crowned Sparrow	1		87/75	60	
White-throated Sparrow	1551		2926/58	102	
Savannah Sparrow	4		68/59	79	
Song Sparrow	514		3600/67	102	

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Swamp Sparrow	23		520/66	95	
Eastern Towhee	16		136/112	48	
Northern Cardinal	473		967/89	103	
Red-winged Blackbird	857		6300/66	99	
Eastern Meadowlark	6	US,	98/57	40	
Rusty Blackbird	23		400/41	76	
Common Grackle	48		14775/122	64	
Brown-headed Cowbird	6		1500/71	69	
blackbird sp.	1807		1807/123	11	
House Finch	333		2673/94	65	
Purple Finch	6		557/78	91	
Pine Siskin	1		324/78	48	
American Goldfinch	190		1400/62	76	
House Sparrow	422		1600/72	93	
Total Individuals	35649				
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

Great Egret [Ardea alba]

Barred Owl [Strix varia]

Horned Lark [Eremophila alpestris]

Eastern Meadowlark [Sturnella magna]

Special Aspects