

Summary of 2023 Delaware County, Pennsylvania CBC

by Richard J. Horwitz, March 9, 2024

The 2023 (124th) Delaware County Christmas Bird Count (formerly Glenolden; NAS code PAGL) was held on December 16, 2023. The count was very good in many respects. I thank the participation, enthusiasm, local knowledge and skill of the many participants. There were 94 field observers and five feeder/yard watchers at four feeders. This number is similar to last year's effort (96 field observers plus eight watchers at six feeders) but less than historical highs (maximum of 121 in 1982). My estimate of total party-hours, 167.5 field hours plus 11 feeder hours, was also high, though not as notable. Once again, I owe Dave Eberly massive thanks for turning over a count in great shape, helping me get started, and advising me from count preparation through reporting steps. The eBird trip report for the count (<https://ebird.org/tripreport/182340>) shows individual checklists and a map of locations. Earlier trip reports are at <https://ebird.org/tripreport/90288> (count 123, 2022) and <https://ebird.org/tripreport/22251> (count 122, 2021).

The total number of species was higher than any year since 2012 (also 99 species). The first ever Ash-throated Flycatcher and the second ever Nashville Warbler were reported on the count. Many species often missed (which I defined as missed on 7 or more of the last 15 counts, i.e., median count of 0) were seen: Common Gallinule, Horned Grebe, Barred Owl, American Wigeon, Eastern Phoebe, and Orange-crowned, Pine and Palm Warblers. Only two species with median observation rates greater than 0 were missed: Mute Swan (seen in count week) and Wild Turkey. Among species regularly found (median observation rate >0), 66 species were more abundant in 2023 than the median, 4 equaled the median, and 19 were less than the median.

2023 Effort	Hours	Miles
Owling	11.9	12.42
day car	25.6	189.6
day foot	141.9	124.6
Total Day	167.5	314.2
Feeder	11.0	
Total number of parties	41	
Maximum number in party	17	
Participants		
traveling	94	
feeder only	5	
Total	99	

Species which were notably common were several ducks (Gadwall, Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked, and Ruddy), Coot, Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing and several half-hardies (e.g., Hermit Thrush, Gray

Catbird and Yellow-rumped Warbler), Purple Finch and blackbirds (Red-winged and Common Grackle). I defined notably common as count/party-hour approximately 3 times greater in 2023 than the 15-year median. By the same criterion, only Common Merganser and American Tree Sparrow were notably less common. Several species were seen at all-time highs (see count summary)

I think these results reflect several factors:

- 1) Weather near and on count day. Though the day started cool with some ice on the ground and some ponds, the temperature warmed to well over 50°F (56-57° F in places). There was open water at Heinz, Springton and small ponds, reflected in the abundance and occurrence of waterbirds. Birds were active all day, helping observation, and previous weather had not been particularly severe, helping the survival and detection of many landbirds.
- 2) Longer-term climate change. I think year-year weather differences and count-day conditions mask many long-term trends. The abundance of some of the land birds may reflect generally warmer winters, but a look at the full count record is better to observe these changes. I've started that analysis and present results in a separate document.
- 3) Individual species trends. As with effects of climate change, some of these trends are more evident from the full count record. Purple Finch was notably abundant this year, although there were no other irruptive finches. There was no evidence of irruptions of Red-breasted Nuthatches (only one seen) or owls.
- 4) Individual effort. The large number of participants certainly helped species detection.

Here are the count totals for 2023, followed by a breakdown by area. I've put some sub-areas and feeder counts at the end, only to make the area table more readable. I also have the breakdown by individuals, but these large tables are a pain to get into a document, so if anyone wants this summary, I'll send a stand-alone table, as I did before.

I lumped subspecies into species, rounded some counts, and made some decisions about "sp"s (all crow species were Fish Crow or American Crow, the blackbird species were within estimation error and rounding for Red-winged Blackbird and Grackle). These are the totals I've submitted to NAS. I've included the raw totals as well. I lumped all the subspecies records (Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red Fox Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, etc.), but I'm open to being convinced to use the subspecific form in the future.

2023 (124) Delaware (Glenolden) CBC Summary (page 1 of 2)

Common Name	Total for NAS	Total	Notes (HC=High count)
American Black Duck	60	60	
American Coot	70	70	
American Crow	784	784	
American Goldfinch	206	206	
American Kestrel	3	3	
American Pipit	cw	cw	Cobbs Creek
American Robin	5858	5858	
American Tree Sparrow	1	1	Waterloo Mills
American Wigeon	14	14	
American/Fish Crow	111	4	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	1	First Record; Heinz Impoundment
Bald Eagle	17	17	
Barred Owl	2	2	HC; 2nd record (1st 2022; cw 2020, cw 2021); Waterloo Mills, Pennock Woods
Belted Kingfisher	18	18	
Black Vulture	157	157	
blackbird sp.	0	75	
Blue Jay	525	525	
Brown Creeper	17	17	
Brown Thrasher	5	5	
Brown-headed Cowbird	26	26	
Bufflehead	14	14	
Cackling/Canada Goose	1	1	
Canada Goose	7371	7371	
Carolina Chickadee	237	237	
Carolina Wren	319	319	
Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee	4	4	
Cedar Waxwing	137	137	
Chipping Sparrow	24	24	
Common Gallinule	1	1	Heinz Impoundment
Common Goldeneye	cw	cw	Springton Reservoir
Common Grackle	3200	3146	
Common Grackle (Florida/Purple)	0	1	
Common Merganser	26	26	
Common Raven	13	13	HC
Cooper's Hawk	21	21	
crow sp.	0	107	
Dark-eyed Junco	805	497	
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	0	308	
Domestic goose sp. x Canada Goose (hybrid)	0	2	Not on NAS list
Double-crested Cormorant	29	29	Heinz wetlands and Delaware R sites
Downy Woodpecker	196	173	
Downy Woodpecker (Eastern)	0	23	
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	
Eastern Bluebird	136	136	
Eastern Phoebe	2	2	HC; 2nd record; Haddington Woods, Newtown Square
Eastern Screech-Owl	31	31	
Eastern Towhee	86	86	
European Starling	4155	4155	
falcon sp.	1	1	
Field Sparrow	47	47	
Fish Crow	637	637	HC; 450 Linvilla Orchards
Fox Sparrow	34	32	
Fox Sparrow (Red)	0	2	
Gadwall	76	76	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	40	40	
Gray Catbird	7	7	
Great Black-backed Gull	11	11	
Great Blue Heron	30	27	
Great Blue Heron (Great Blue)	0	3	
Great Egret	10	10	HC; Heinz Imp. and wetlands

Common Name	Total for NAS	Total	Notes
Great Horned Owl	11	11	
Greater Scaup	cw	cw	Heinz Impoundment
Green-winged Teal	302	302	
gull sp.	2	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	83	76	HC
Hairy Woodpecker (Eastern)	0	7	
Hermit Thrush	36	36	HC
Herring Gull	74	74	
Hooded Merganser	62	62	
Horned Grebe	1	1	Heinz Impoundment
House Finch	382	382	
House Sparrow	530	530	
House Wren	cw	cw	Cobbs Creek
Killdeer	2	2	Heinz wetlands
Lesser Scaup	cw	cw	Heinz Impoundment
Mallard	815	815	
Marsh Wren	1	1	Heinz Impoundment
Merlin	5	5	
Mourning Dove	535	535	
Mute Swan	cw	cw	Heinz Impoundment
Nashville Warbler	1	1	2nd record (1st 1999); Heinz Imp.
new world sparrow sp.	1	1	
Northern Cardinal	453	453	
Northern Flicker	95	65	
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	0	30	
Northern Harrier	3	3	Heinz Imp. And wetlands; Hog Island R.
Northern Mockingbird	57	57	
Northern Pintail	318	318	
Northern Shoveler	109	109	
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	2	Heinz Impoundment
Palm Warbler	2	1	Hog Island Road
Palm Warbler (Western)	0	1	Clayton Memorial P.
Peregrine Falcon	2	2	Pennock Woods P., Heinz Imp.
Pied-billed Grebe	3	3	
Pileated Woodpecker	27	27	HC
Pine Siskin	1	1	Newtown Square
Pine Warbler	1	1	Clayton Memorial P.
Purple Finch	65	65	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	253	253	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	Pennock Woods P.
Red-shouldered Hawk	31	31	HC
Red-tailed Hawk	77	74	
Red-tailed Hawk (borealis)	0	3	
Red-winged Blackbird	3900	3700	
Red-winged Blackbird (Red-winged)	0	167	
Ring-billed Gull	497	497	
Ring-necked Duck	82	82	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	321	321	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	46	46	HC
Ruddy Duck	130	130	
Rusty Blackbird	13	13	Heinz Imp. and wetlands; Indian Rock P.
Savannah Sparrow	2	2	Waterloo Mills
Saw-whet Owl	cw	cw	Guarante home
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	8	
Song Sparrow	751	748	
Song Sparrow (melodia/atlantica)	0	3	
Swamp Sparrow	75	75	
Tufted Titmouse	220	220	
Tundra Swan	15	15	Governor Printz Park
Turkey Vulture	184	184	
White-breasted Nuthatch	189	160	
White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern)	0	29	
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	Heinz wetlands
White-throated Sparrow	2090	2090	
Winter Wren	35	35	
Wood Duck	16	16	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	48	48	HC
Yellow-rumped Warbler	11	10	
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	0	1	
TOTAL	38492	38481	

2023 (124) Delaware (Glenolden) count results by area; page 3 of 3.

Common Name	Subtotal	02F Cynthia Curry	10F Doris McGovern	13F Storeys	17Aspp St. Peter and Paul Cemetery	20HC Haverford College	20LN Nelson Lathrop	20MB Haverford Reserve & feeder	20Mc Merion Golf Club	20RB Remington Detention Basin	20SJ Owling	22-11F Pennock Woods
American Crow	34			6	9	2	2	4	9			2
American Goldfinch	16				1	4	2	2	5			2
American Robin	250			125	28	25	6	32	20	10		4
Barred Owl	1											1
Belted Kingfisher	1								1			
Black Vulture	3				2				1			
blackbird sp.	50					50						
Blue Jay	36			2	8	7	2	6	5	1		5
Brown Creeper	1						1					
Canada Goose	16						7					9
Carolina Chickadee	21	6		6	1	3	1	1				3
Carolina Wren	12			4	2	3	1			1		1
Cedar Waxwing	8				5	3						
Chipping Sparrow	1				1							
Common Grackle	1252			2					1250			
Common Raven	1											1
Cooper's Hawk	2			1	1							
Dark-eyed Junco	75			10	21		2	4	30	2		6
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	36				10	26						
Downy Woodpecker	14			5			2	2	2	1		2
Downy Woodpecker (Eastern)	2				2							
Eastern Bluebird	4						2		2			
Eastern Screech-Owl	4					1					3	
Eastern Towhee	3				3							
European Starling	96			25	20	27	1	22	1			
Field Sparrow	2				2							
Fox Sparrow	1				1							
Great Blue Heron	1									1		
Great Horned Owl	2		2									
Hairy Woodpecker	6			2					2			2
Hairy Woodpecker (Eastern)	1					1						
Hooded Merganser	2					2						
House Finch	88	20		32	5		4	6	10			11
House Sparrow	103	30		13			10	28	15			7
Mallard	14					13				1		
Merlin	1				1							
Mourning Dove	95			17	5	33	3	1	28			8
Northern Cardinal	50	4		4	6	6	2	8	12	2		6
Northern Flicker	1											1
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	2				2							
Northern Mockingbird	6				2			1	3			
Peregrine Falcon	1											1
Pileated Woodpecker	2			1								1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14			2	5		1		3	1		2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1											1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2				2							
Red-tailed Hawk	3								2	1		
Red-winged Blackbird	2								2			
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	8	4			1				3			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3				2	1						
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1											1
Song Sparrow	33				16	4	1	4	4	3		1
Song Sparrow (melodia/atlantica)	3					3						
Swamp Sparrow	1				1							
Tufted Titmouse	12			3			2	3	1	1		2
Turkey Vulture	7				3				4			
White-breasted Nuthatch	12			4	1		1	3	1			2
White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern)	3				1	2						
White-throated Sparrow	74			1	34	7	4	10	7	7		4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5				2				2			1
Total			2	265	206	223	57	137	1425	32	3	87

Participants in 2023 Delaware (Glenolden) CBC and number of counts in which each person has contributed.

CODE_LF	NameLast_First	# of Counts	CODE_LF	NameLast_First	# of Counts
ACWI	Ackerman, William	3	JOKR	Johnson, Kristen	12
ANJO	Angell, Joshua	1	JOSH	Johnson, Sheryl	28
BERO	Bedell, Robert	2	JOJI	Joyce, Jim	3
BEDE	Beer, Debbie	12	KAET	Kang, Ethan	2
BIRO	Bierregaard, Rob	11	KAGI	Kapski, Gi	9
BOJI	Bodine, Jim	31	KAST	Kapski, Steve	29
BOTE	Boppana, Teg	1	KEBO	Kelly, Bob	15
BOSA	Boucas-Neto, Sarah	17	KNAA	Knight, Aaron	1
BRKE	Browngoehl, Kevin	8	KODA	Kobza, Daniel	11
BRNA	Bruce, Nancy	3	KUBE	Kurtz, Beth	1
BUMA	Bue, Margaret	4	LAAN	Lane, Ann	5
BUTO	Bush, Tom	11	MALA	Matika, Laura	7
BYBR	Byrnes, Brian	15	MCDA	McDonald, Dave	12
CHBR	Childs, Bruce	12	MCDO	McGovern, Doris	40
CLKA	Clark, Kartina	3	MERO	Megraw, Robert	30
CLBR	Clauser, Brian	1	MEDA	Mehta, Darshan	1
COMA	Cohen, Matt	1	MENRO	Menapace, Roberta	6
CRBI	Cranny, Bill	13	MOSMI	Mostello, Michael	2
CRAL	Crawford, Alan III	14	MOMIJ	Mostello, Mike Jr.	2
CRNI	Crocetto, Nick	49	MUSH	Murphy, Shane	2
CUCY	Curry, Cynthia	22	NASI	Namdeo, Sid	1
DASU	Damico, Susan	20	NELA	Nelson, Lathrop	4
DEEL	Dearborn, Ellen	5	ORDA	Orsetti, Damon	11
DOEM	Dodge, Emily	5	POJA	Porter, Jason	13
DORA	Dole, Randy	1	PUCH	Pugliese, Chris	15
DOMA	Dominguez, Manny	2	PUJI	Purtill, Jim	7
DRJO	Drake, John	1	QUMA	Quan, Marian	1
EBDA	Eberly, David	33	QURO	Queenan, Robin	1
EHJO	Ehlen, John	3	QUBR	Quindlen, Brian	16
ELKR	Eleftheriou, Kristy	3	RADI	Rainer, Dick	2
FADE	Falk, Deborah	1	RAAS	Rathman, Ashley	2
FERO	Fergus, Rob	6	ROLY	Roman, Lynn	9
FRKE	Fryberger, Kevin	15	ROCH	Root, Chuck	5
GACO	Gaboriault, Cole	6	ROMA	Rostron, Margie	3
GAST	Gaboriault, Stephanie	13	SEKA	Serwatka, Karen	7
GASE	Gallagher, Sean	2	SHWI	Shafer, Win	18
GABR	Gavaghan, Bridget	1	SIAL	Simon, Alan	6
GIJI	Gillespie, Jimi	1	STFR	Steinmiller, Frank	3
GRHE	Gray, Heather	1	STCA	Storey, Carol	18
GRLE	Green, Leigh	1	STDO	Storey, Donald	6
GUAL	Guarente, Al	47	TAMA	Tate, Marcia	13
HABR	Hall, Brian	5	TOGL	Todor, Gloria	18
HAPE	Hamner, Peter	1	WAMAY	Walkowiak, Mary	1
HAJA	Harrington, Jane	2	WAMA	Wallace, Mark	8
HAEM	Hartung, Emil	1	WAZO	Warner, Zoe	4
HOLI	Hoffman, Liz	7	WEKA	Weber, Karyl	3
HOMA	Horner, Matt	2	WOPA	Worth, Paige	2
HORI	Horwitz, Rich	35	ZIRI	Ziegler, Rich	3
JAOL	James, Oliver	2	ZYJO	Zygmunt, John	4
JELE	Jeavons, Letitia	13			

I derived the number of counts for each person from Dave Eberly's summaries of previous counts (123 and 110) and the NAS database (which only has participants for about the last 20 years). These are generally in agreement, but there were some discrepancies, so let me know if any are wrong.

I highlighted first-timers in the participant table. It's great to have new faces, and I hope many of them participate in future counts. Naturally, it's wonderful to count on those people who've been on 40 or more counts-- Nick Crocetto, Al Guarente and Doris McGovern--, as well as the many who've led groups or held town territories (I suppose this sounds like Wyatt Earp, but the similarity ends there). In compiling count numbers, I tallied those long-timers of previous years, including, of course, Nick Pulcinella (47), and Ellie Akers (46), Tom Reeves (43), Alvera Crocetto (41) and Chris Walters (36).

If I ever get good at compiling counts, I may go back to the early Audubon Field Notes to get more information on participants and effort.

The count is held on the third Saturday in December. In 2024, the date will be December 21. See you there!