

2018 GAAS Christmas Bird Count

Greater Akron Audubon Society
Christmas Bird Count Summary Report
December 16, 2018

The 2018 Christmas Bird Count was conducted under overcast skies. The day started at 6:00 AM with a temperature of 42 degrees F., a 6 mph NE wind, a light drizzle/mist mix and ended with a temperature of 45 degrees F. and an 8 mph W wind. The sun broke through the clouds in the late morning with the afternoon a mix of clouds and sun. Compared to 2017 when the temperature did not rise above 39 degrees F with 1 to 2 inches of snow on the ground, this year was unseasonably warm with no snow cover and with open water.

This year the total number of field and feeder participants was 163, 136 in the field and 27 at the feeders, compared to last year's total of 159 and compared to the total of 146 in 2016. The breaking record of 221 participants was in 2015 with our second highest record of 168 in 2014. For our first Christmas Bird Count in 1939 the participant total was 9. We have come a long way in terms of participant involvement from our first Count. For this year 56 parties spent a total of 157 hours on foot walking 164 miles and 69 traveling 679 miles. 3 parties of individuals spent 4 hours listening/looking for owls which included traveling 14 miles. 22 individuals spent 37 hours counting birds at the feeder compared to 35 individuals who spent 39 hours counting birds at the feeders in 2017. In 2016 we had 46 individuals spending 60 hours counting at the feeders. The milder weather conditions may have been a factor in the decreased number of feeder counters for this year.

Initially, our 2018 total species number of 84 was provisional since we had 5 notable species needing approval from our Regional Editor. The species were American Black Duck x Mallard Hybrid, Osprey, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow. After reviewing the documentations on these 5 species, our Regional Editor rejected the Osprey documentation and rejected the American Black Duck x Mallard Hybrid since it is not considered a species. He did, however, approve the other 3 species, bringing our final species total to 82 which tied our 2017 total of 82 but was less than our 2016 total of 88. This total of 88, by the way, tied our third all time total in 1987. Our second all time record total of 89 was in 2012 and our all time species record was 94 in 1983.

Having so many sightings needing approval is a first in our Christmas Bird Count history. We believe the milder temperatures during the Fall may have caused migrating species to linger in our area longer than usual. Other notable sightings on our Count were Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle Warbler) and Evening Grosbeak. Our total individual number for 2018 is 124,147 compared to the record total of 216,351 individuals in 2017 which was in part a result of the huge flocks of European Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds that roosted in Kent. These flocks still roosted in Kent this year but not in the huge numbers of 2017.

We have come a long way since our first Christmas Bird Count in 1939 when we had 1450 individual birds, 23 species and 9 participants. Our counts could not have grown over the years without the help of our dedicated veteran participants over many, many years and all the new people who have joined us in recent years. We thank you all for your loyalty and participation in counting birds in the field and/or at the feeder. The 2018 Christmas Bird Count is now a part of our Chapter's long history of Counts and we look forward to the 2019 Count that will be on December 15.

Marie Morgan
Bill Osborne
Bert Szabo

2018 GAAS Christmas Bird Count-Bird Species

1. Canada Goose 2809
2. Mute Swan 2
3. Wood Duck 2
4. Gadwall 12
5. American Wigeon 5
6. American Black Duck 44
7. Mallard 993
8. Northern Shoveler 9
9. Redhead 6
10. Ring-necked Duck 18
11. Bufflehead 1
12. Common Goldeneye 1
13. Hooded Merganser 8
14. Common Merganser 1
15. Wild Turkey 11
16. Pied-billed Grebe 1
17. Great Blue Heron 22
18. Northern Harrier 1
19. Sharp-shinned Hawk 4
20. Cooper's Hawk 22
21. Bald Eagle 17
22. Red-shouldered Hawk 35
23. Red-tailed Hawk 95
24. American Coot 68
25. Killdeer 9
26. Ring-billed Gull 359
27. Herring Gull 14
28. Rock Pigeon 421
29. Mourning Dove 734
30. Eastern-screech Owl 2
31. Great Horned Owl 4
32. Barred Owl 10
33. Belted Kingfisher 24
34. Red-bellied Woodpecker 341
35. Downy Woodpecker 325
36. Hairy Woodpecker 98
37. Northern Flicker 47
38. Pileated Woodpecker 42
39. American Kestrel 9
40. Merlin 2
41. Blue Jay 1189
42. American Crow 1790
43. Horned Lark 2
44. Black-capped Chickadee 764
45. Tufted Titmouse 373
46. Red-breasted Nuthatch 67
47. White-breasted Nuthatch 414
48. Brown Creeper 21
49. Winter Wren 3
50. Carolina Wren 190
51. Golden-crowned Kinglet 25
52. Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2
53. Eastern Bluebird 176
54. Hermit Thrush 4
55. American Robin 1803
56. Gray Catbird 1
57. Northern Mockingbird 3
58. European Starling 102821
59. Cedar Waxwing 197
60. Orange-crowned Warbler 1
61. Blackpoll Warbler 1
62. Yellow-rumped Warbler 17
63. American Tree Sparrow 132
64. Chipping Sparrow 4
65. Field Sparrow 6
66. Dark-eyed Junco 392
67. White-crowned Sparrow 9
68. White-throated Sparrow 276
69. Savannah Sparrow 1
70. Song Sparrow 181
71. Swamp Sparrow 23
72. Eastern Towhee 1
73. Northern Cardinal 716
74. Red-winged Blackbird 823
75. Rusty Blackbird 105
76. Common Grackle 1842
77. Brown-headed Cowbird 653
78. House Finch 272
79. Purple Finch 2
80. American Goldfinch 547
81. Evening Grosbeak 2
82. House Sparrow 1668

2018 GAAS Christmas Bird Count-Field Participants

Jay Abercrombie (46)

Barb Aldrich
Deedra Allen Zwisler
Jennifer Allison
Claudia Anders
Ken Andrews
Gautam Apte
Kayla Arnold
Dot Bambach
Greg Bean
Justin Bean
Pam Bean
Peg Bobel
Rob Bobel
Tori Bonoan

Mike Bowler (34)

Pete Bowler
Sandy Brown
Ellen Brown-Armstrong
Bob Burns
Sherilynn Burns
Ann Burris
Lisa Cellura
Joe Cellura

Dwight Chasar (49)

Kay Clark
Frank Comodeca
Kim Cook
Patricia Cook
Jeff Cordi
Sharon Cordi
Elizabeth Counts
Matt Courtman

Vicky Croisant (24&35)

Greg Cudworth
Mark Demyan
Lindsey DeNelsky
Keith Devlin
Noah DiFiore
Michelle DiFiore
Cherly Dinklebach
Fred Dinkelbach
Meghan Doran
Aerin Doughty
Cristy Doughty
Chris Driver

Troy Dunn

Mike Edgington (33)

Mary Farkas
Craig Griffin
Arlene Crohl
Bill Gruber
Ann Gulbransen
Marty Gulbransen
Emily Halderman
Mark Hancock
Jackie Hillman
Ted Hoorg
Nancy Howell
Mary Lou Hura
Betty Indriolo
Diane Johnson
Keith Kohnke
Wendy Kohnke
Gene Kovach
Linda Kovach
Jeff Kraus
Marian Kraus
Duane Kurapka
Rita Labbe
Karen Lakus
Pat Lanese
Fred Losi
Dale McCain
Rosemary McCain
Jim McCarty
Liz McQuaid
Art Miller
Jerry Miller

Kathy Mock (34)

Fred Montague
Marie Morgan (45)
Sophia Morton
Nicole Moscellis
Sue Nelson
Rich Nicholls
George Novosel

Bill Osborne (38)

Joyce Pelz
Wolfgang Pelz (24)

Kevin Perozeni

Pat Pickard (22)

Ed Pierce

Tonya Poling
Tina Post
Charles Purrenhage
James Rawdon

James Reyda (48)

Amanda Reynolds
Renell Roebuck
Mary Ann Romito

Larry Rosche (55)

Rose Roulette
Autumn Russell
Ron Salisbury
Michelle Schisler
Tina Schoch
Carmen Schwab
Paul Schweigert
Judy Semroc
Marty Sickinger
Eileen Simon
Rosemary Stangel
Claire Staples
Dave Stover
Esther Stover
Joe Sudomir
Rob Swaney

Bert Szabo (27)

Brian Tinker
Dan Toth

Steve VanAuken (21)

Jared VanWagener

Doug Vogus (38)

Michelle Vogus
Jeff Wert

Janet Wertz (33)

Bob White
Peggy White

John Wilkinson (26)

Judy Wilkinson
Joe Wojnarowski
Jackie Zassick
Karen Zimlich
Eileen Zimlich

Territory Leaders and their Territory Totals are in Bold

2018 GAAS Christmas Bird Count - Feeder Participants

Susan Bielinis
Mandy Brooks
Alan Casanova
Debbie Casanova
Cecil Dobbins
Joann Dobbins
Craig Griffin
Annemarie Hansen
Barbara Klewe
Lyman Klewe
Gail Manning
Bill Meyers
Elizabeth Miloscia
Bill Miloscia
Becky Monegan
Lew Monegan
Sophia Morton
Kathy Richards
Grace Rymer
Paul Schweigert
Anita Szegvari
Tim Verdoun
Doug Vogus
Michelle Vogus
Janet Wertz
John Wilkinson
Judy Wilkinson