

Greater Akron Audubon Society
20 December 2020
CBC Summary Report
--- 25 January 2021 ---

The 2020 Christmas Bird Count has completed under unique circumstances. In no particular order:

- There was/is a pandemic, making it particularly challenging to manage large crowds, stay at a safe distance, mask up, and, in general, stay safe and not take anything home. It was certainly safer the way we had to do it but we have to ask which rarity was missed due to group size limits?
- You all had to deal with a rookie compiler. I should be more adept next year! (Side note: I am thinking we should rename this "The Marie Morgan Memorial Count.")
- The weather was normal: Weird! Woke up expecting 30 degrees, some wind, rainy. It turned out to be a rather good weather day which, in my view, was just about right for a late December count day.

Besides: We were all still out there spotting birds and what can be better than that? It was a very good CBC, nothing to do with me, but to all of you and your efforts and that of all the members of count teams.

A great thank you for all participants for your time and efforts and your commitment to the annual CBC event.

Please Note:

**The GAAS Christmas Bird Count for 2021 is
19 December 2021**

Write that down!

Details, details:

Total number of species seen:	78	(2019 was 77)
Total number of birds:	37,607	(See commentary later)
Total number of (Field) participants:	80	
Total number of feeder counters:	5	(See commentary later)
Number of hours expended:		
Walking:	141.5	
Driving:	63.5	
Owling:	3.2	
Feeder watch	5.7	

Number of Miles:

Driving:	614.4
Walking:	63.4

Large bird numbers:

Starling:	8883	Common Grackle:	3516
RW Blackbird:	6019	Brown-Headed Cowbird:	1208

American Crow: 1530 Blue Jay: 1070

Three species marked by referees as uncommon in area at season:

Snowy Owl: 1
Winter Wren: 3

(Both these species are marked as Unusual Species-
Not unknown but not normally seen
No Documentation Required.)

I would like to add my personal commentary to all the effort that went into this count:

Thank you for braving the pandemic and the weather to count and submit your findings

Two brief notes regarding #'s:

Number of feeder counters was 1/5th of the previous year. I will be addressing that to better understand it and attempt to reclaim our lost counters.

Number of birds has declined dramatically over the past 5 years This year was about 1/5th of the 2016 count. I will also investigate that when the final world-wide results are in. Any comments would be greatly appreciated.

**Thank You-
It is very much appreciated- by myself but,
more than that, by the National Audubon Society**

I will add one additional thought here, as we practice for the 2021 CBC:

There is a much overused expression that it is currently common, and that is:
Citizen Science.

I just want to say that the CBC, world-wide, is likely the largest Citizen Science project
IN THE WORLD!

The stuff we send them is DATA. It is valuable data. It is used to set country and world decisions and plans. It is incumbent on those of use who are supplying this data to ensure that it is as accurate and structured as possible. I, as the person now responsible for submitting this data, am very grateful to all of you who take the time to provide the basis for the GAAS CBC data. I am proud to represent GAAS in this effort. I am grateful to all of you who take additional time to be sure the data is well documented and structured and ON TIME! You are all Rock Stars in the Birding world.

-Your humble birding servant
Mike Edgington

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