

2022 GAAS Christmas Bird Count

Greater Akron Audubon Society
Christmas Bird Count Summary
Count Date: December 18, 2022

The 2022 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was conducted under cloudy, cold and snowy conditions. Cold temperatures and gusting winds climbing up to 25mph made for a hard day. Most water bodies were ice covered and the combination of snow fall, and strong winds seemed to make most species hunker down or move very little. Temperatures hovered at 26-27 degrees throughout the day.

Total species counted increased this year, 79, from the previous year's count of 65. The count this year had high counts of Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*), and Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). Two new species were observed this count; Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) and Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*), which should be down in central America at this time of year. Total number of individuals (16,661) was down from the previous year (72,922).

Participation in the field was up this year, which is encouraging to see, and hopefully this trend continues next year. Feeder count participation was unfortunately down, but we are hopeful that this will improve next year. The great naturalist and conservationist Aldo Leopold once said, "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.". You are those who cannot. It is because of your appreciation and love for the natural world that these species persist and thrive and that we have these natural spaces to enjoy them in. Thank you for your continued dedication and willingness to get out and count those birds. We look forward to 2023 count that will be on December 17th.