

# 2023 GAAS Christmas Bird Count

Greater Akron Audubon Society  
Christmas Bird Count Summary  
Count Date: December 17, 2023

The 2023 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was conducted under cloudy, cold and rainy conditions. Cold temperatures coupled with light to medium rain and gusting winds climbing up to 30mph made for a hard day of birding. Some sectors had more difficult times finding individuals, while others had no issue. Most water bodies were open which helped some sectors pick up some additional species. Temperatures varied from a low of 39 to a high of 47. It is a wonder that with the continued change in our winter climate, we will continue to get these rainy count days and that rising temps will open our area up to more unusual species in the future.

Despite the sub-optimal weather conditions, the species list had a good variety. 16 species of waterfowl, 8 raptor species, all 7 species of woodpeckers on the checklist, 8 (native) species of sparrows were among the highlights. We only had one species of warbler on this years' count: Yellow-rumped warbler. Total species counted increased this year, 84, from the previous years' count of 79. The count this year had high counts of Ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*), European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Total number of individuals (135,351) was up immensely from the previous year (16,661). Large flocks counted in area #3 gave the total numbers a giant boost. We had a few species that needed rare bird forms filled out to help rule out other potential species. Chipping sparrow, fish crows, and trumpeter swans were these species. After reports were submitted all species were accepted!

Participation in the field was down a small amount from the previous year, probably due to the weather conditions on the day of the count. Thank you for your continued dedication, loyalty, and willingness to get out and count those birds, whether that be in the field or at the feeder, especially in unfavorable conditions. The counts could not have grown and continued to be successful without your dedication and knowledge. We look forward to 2024 count, hopefully under better conditions, that will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>.