

2016 Christmas Bird Count

The Ottawa-Gatineau CBC was held on December 18, 2016. The cold temperatures that preceded the count led to one of the lower count totals in the last two decades.

The morning weather conditions were somewhat difficult (particularly in the eastern part of count area) with multiple snow flurries mixed at times with snow pellets, rain, and even fog. Skies cleared in the afternoon but wind speed increased from between 9 and 26 km/h to between 17 and 36 km/h. The temperature ranged from minus 10.6 to minus 6.2 C; waterways were partly open and there was between 22 and 42 cm of snow on the ground.

129 observers in 69 parties plus 38 feeder watchers found 68 species. There were no first records but it was just the third record for Fox Sparrow. Other highlight species included 2 Harlequin Ducks and a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

There were two record highs; the big story being the total of 1,047 American Robins that more than doubled the previous high count. The other record high was a count of 445 Cedar Waxwings, another winter fruit eating species. Four record highs were tied including 8 Bufflehead, once a very rare bird in the winter here.

Woodpecker numbers, especially Hairy Woodpecker numbers, dropped again from the record highs established two years ago with the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer; however, Downy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch were still recorded in well above average numbers; and a record-tying high of 5 Northern Flickers was exceptional, which was probably more due to the fruit crop than the ash borer. Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow were also found in above average numbers, although below the totals of the last two years. On the other hand, winter finch numbers were very low.

The total number of birds observed was 24,405. American Crow (9,722) comprised almost 40% of this total.

	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Canada Goose/ Bernache du Canada	0	4	7	1	4	0	16
Wood Duck/ Canard branchu	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
American Black Duck/ Canard noir	3	26	7	8	45	8	97
Mallard/ Canard colvert	20	187	125	466	775	245	1,818
[American Black Duck x Mallard]/ [Canard noir x colvert]	0	[1]	0	0	[2]	0	[3]
Ring-necked Duck/ Fuligule à collier	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lesser Scaup/ Petit Fuligule	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Harlequin Duck/ Arlequin Plongeur	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Long-tailed Duck/ Harelde kakawi	1	0	0	1	0	0	1*
Bufflehead/ Petit Garrot	0	1	0	7	2	0	8*
Common Goldeneye/ Garrot à œil d'or	450	90	1	157	529	103	596*
Barrow's Goldeneye/ Garrot d'Islande	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Hooded Merganser/ Harle couronné	0	0	4	1	4	0	9
Common Merganser/ Grand Harle	8	7	0	10	39	4	43*

	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Red-breasted Merganser/ Harle huppé	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ruffed Grouse/ Gélinotte huppée	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Wild Turkey/ Dindon sauvage	54	16	35	1	0	1	107
Sharp-shinned Hawk/ Épervier brun	0	0	3	0	1	1	5
Cooper's Hawk/ Épervier de Cooper	1	0	1	1	3	1	7
Northern Goshawk/ Autour des palombes	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Bald Eagle/ Pygargue à tête blanche	1	1	3	1	2	2	6*
Red-tailed Hawk/ Buse à queue rousse	1	2	1	1	5	3	13
Rough-legged Hawk/ Buse pattue	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ring-billed Gull/ Goéland à bec cerclé	0	2	0	1	1	3	7
Herring Gull/ Goéland argenté	1	2	0	14	13	8	38
Thayer's/Iceland Gull/ Goéland de Thayer/arctique	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Glaucous Gull/ Goéland bourgmestre	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Great Black-backed Gull/ Goéland marin	3	2	0	6	10	15	36
Rock Pigeon/ Pigeon biset	155	60	365	91	351	338	1,360

	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Mourning Dove/ Tourterelle triste	6	5	26	2	33	8	80
Eastern Screech Owl/ Petit-duc maculé	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Great Horned Owl/ Grand-duc d'Amérique	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Snowy Owl/ Harfang des neiges	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Barred Owl/ Chouette rayée	0	3	0	1	0	0	4
Northern Saw-whet-Owl/ Petite Nyctale	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker/ Pic à ventre roux	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker/ Pic mineur	53	22	37	19	61	35	227
Hairy Woodpecker/ Pic chevelu	29	20	23	10	18	22	122
Northern Flicker/ Pic flamboyant	0	3	1	0	1	0	5
Pileated Woodpecker/ Grand Pic	7	4	5	5	7	4	32
Merlin/ Faucon émerillon	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Peregrine Falcon/ Faucon pèlerin	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Northern Shrike/ Pie-grièche grise	1	2	1	0	0	2	6
Blue Jay/ Geai bleu	62	27	45	9	31	22	196

	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
American Crow/ Corneille d'Amérique	319	239	271	757	7,418	2,033	9,722*
Common Raven/ Grand Corbeau	17	7	25	4	13	6	72
Black-capped Chickadee/ Mésange à tête noire	442	396	280	195	431	353	2,097
Red-breasted Nuthatch/ Sittelle à poitrine rousse	1	2	4	1	1	2	11
White-breasted Nuthatch/ Sittelle à poitrine blanche	71	55	55	41	88	74	384
Brown Creeper/ Grimpereau brun	0	2	2	0	2	0	6
Hermit Thrush/ Grive solitaire	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin/ Merle d'Amérique	109	105	47	197	248	351	1,057
European Starling/ Étourneau sansonnet	328	290	416	119	441	589	2,183
Bohemian Waxwing/ Jaseur boréal	53	12	174	0	0	0	239
Cedar Waxwing/ Jaseur d'Amérique	33	104	0	34	144	130	445
Snow Bunting/ Plectrophane des neiges	0	1	92	5	101	5	204
American Tree Sparrow/ Bruant hudsonien	16	7	37	2	25	45	132
Fox Sparrow/ Bruant fauve	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Song Sparrow/ Bruant chanteur	0	0	0	1	3	1	5

	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Parties/ Groups	10	11	11	7	21	9	69
Field observers/ Observateurs	21	19	20	15	37	19	129*
Feeder watchers/ Observateurs aux mangeoires	12	0	12	3	7	4	38

* total adjusted to account for overlap

(#) = additional subspecies, race or variant; or a bird not identified to the species level or a hybrid that does not add to the total species count.

Species in **Pale Blue** = third record

Total in **Red** = record high

Total in **Dark Blue** = ties record high