

## **2017 Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count**

The 99<sup>th</sup> Ottawa-Gatineau CBC was held on December 17, 2017, with 133 field observers and 28 feeder watchers finding 61 species. The weather was very cold but mostly clear and quite still throughout the day, the temperature ranging from -22.4 to -11.2 C. The highlights included 2 Savannah Sparrows (second record), American Wigeon, a record high of 4 Great Blue Herons, 6 Snowy Owls, and a Gray Catbird.

After two consecutive years of record high numbers, woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch numbers dropped by about a third (about two thirds for Hairy Woodpecker) as most of the dead ash trees have been removed from the city. On the other hand, Red-breasted Nuthatches put in a very strong showing with 111 counted.

American Robins were down over 90 percent from last year's record high.

Counts for Northern Cardinal, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Juncos continue to be high and one wonders if this might be the new normal for these species. Contrasting with this was a near total absence of waxwings (23 Cedar Waxwings) and winter finches (1 Purple Finch and 3 Common Redpolls).

The most abundant bird was, as usual, American Crow. The total of 17,402 is the second highest recorded and comprised 56 % of the 31,031 birds recorded on the count.

The Ottawa-Gatineau CBC is a joint effort of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais. Thank you to all who participated.

Bernie Ladouceur, Compiler

| <b>Species/Espèce</b>                                   | <b>Hull</b> | <b>Aylmer</b> | <b>Gatineau</b> | <b>Britannia</b> | <b>Ottawa</b> | <b>Gloucester</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Canada Goose/<br>Bernache du Canada                     | 0           | 1             | 8               | 4                | 17            | 1                 | <b>31</b>    |
| Wood Duck/<br>Canard branchu                            | 0           | 0             | 0               | 0                | 3             | 0                 | <b>3</b>     |
| American Wigeon/<br>Canard d'Amérique                   | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 0             | 0                 | <b>1</b>     |
| American Black Duck/<br>Canard noir                     | 12          | 19            | 1               | 10               | 167           | 4                 | <b>213</b>   |
| Mallard/<br>Canard colvert                              | 76          | 249           | 89              | 330              | 1,259         | 201               | <b>2,204</b> |
| Canard noir x colvert/<br>American Black Duck x Mallard | [1]         | 0             | 0               | 0                | [4]           | 0                 | <b>[5]</b>   |
| Long-tailed Duck/<br>Harelde kakawi                     | 0           | 1             | 0               | 0                | 0             | 0                 | <b>1</b>     |
| Bufflehead/<br>Petit Garrot                             | 1           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 1             | 0                 | <b>2*</b>    |
| Common Goldeneye/<br>Garrot à œil d'or                  | 230         | 122           | 0               | 81               | 281           | 132               | <b>535*</b>  |
| Barrow's Goldeneye/<br>Garrot d'Islande                 | 0           | 0             | 0               | 0                | 0             | 1                 | <b>1</b>     |
| Hooded Merganser/<br>Harle couronné                     | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 0             | 0                 | <b>1</b>     |
| Common Merganser/<br>Grand Harle                        | 30          | 17            | 0               | 12               | 48            | 0                 | <b>65*</b>   |
| Ruffed Grouse/<br>Gélinotte huppée                      | 2           | 1             | 1               | 0                | 0             | 0                 | <b>4</b>     |
| Wild Turkey/<br>Dindon sauvage                          | 0           | 4             | 8               | 0                | 14            | 58                | <b>84</b>    |

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|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Rock Pigeon/<br>Pigeon biset              | 210         | 71            | 242             | 154              | 467           | 514               | <b>1,658</b> |
| Mourning Dove/<br>Tourterelle triste      | 5           | 12            | 50              | 1                | 36            | 29                | <b>133</b>   |
| Ring-billed Gull/<br>Goéland à bec cerclé | 0           | 1             | 0               | 0                | 4             | 2                 | <b>7</b>     |
| Herring Gull/<br>Goéland argenté          | 0           | 21            | 0               | 7                | 3             | 13                | <b>37*</b>   |
| Iceland Gull/<br>Goéland arctique         | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 0             | 0                 | <b>1</b>     |
| Glaucous Gull/<br>Goéland bourgmestre     | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 1             | 1                 | <b>3</b>     |
| Great Black-backed Gull/<br>Goéland marin | 6           | 14            | 0               | 6                | 17            | 26                | <b>57*</b>   |
| Great Blue Heron/<br>Grand Héron          | 1           | 1             | 1               | 0                | 1             | 0                 | <b>4</b>     |
| Bald Eagle/<br>Pygargue à tête blanche    | 0           | 1             | 1               | 0                | 1             | 0                 | <b>3</b>     |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk/<br>Épervier brun      | 0           | 0             | 1               | 0                | 0             | 1                 | <b>2</b>     |
| Cooper's Hawk/<br>Épervier de Cooper      | 0           | 0             | 2               | 1                | 7             | 4                 | <b>14</b>    |
| Red-tailed Hawk/<br>Buse à queue rousse   | 1           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 6             | 3                 | <b>11</b>    |
| Rough-legged Hawk/<br>Buse pattue         | 0           | 0             | 3               | 0                | 0             | 0                 | <b>3</b>     |
| Eastern Screech Owl/<br>Petit-duc maculé  | 1           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 1             | 0                 | <b>3</b>     |
| Great Horned Owl/<br>Grand-duc d'Amérique | 0           | 0             | 0               | 2                | 1             | 1                 | <b>4</b>     |
| Snowy Owl/<br>Harfang des neiges          | 0           | 1             | 0               | 3                | 2             | 0                 | <b>6</b>     |
| Barred Owl/<br>Chouette rayée             | 1           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 0             | 0                 | <b>2</b>     |

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|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Downy Woodpecker/<br>Pic mineur                         | 31          | 36            | 44              | 22               | 60            | 32                | <b>225</b>     |
| Hairy Woodpecker/<br>Pic chevelu                        | 28          | 19            | 28              | 10               | 32            | 24                | <b>141</b>     |
| Pileated Woodpecker/<br>Grand Pic                       | 13          | 6             | 11              | 6                | 8             | 9                 | <b>53</b>      |
| Merlin/<br>Faucon émerillon                             | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 2             | 1                 | <b>4</b>       |
| Peregrine Falcon/<br>Faucon pèlerin                     | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 2             | 1                 | <b>3*</b>      |
| Northern Shrike/<br>Pie-grièche boréale                 | 0           | 0             | 1               | 1                | 0             | 1                 | <b>3</b>       |
| Blue Jay/<br>Geai bleu                                  | 67          | 88            | 114             | 9                | 53            | 44                | <b>375</b>     |
| American Crow/<br>Corneille d'Amérique                  | 262         | 200           | 123             | 755              | 9,279         | 10,000            | <b>17,402*</b> |
| Common Raven/<br>Grand Corbeau                          | 20          | 19            | 17              | 8                | 7             | 11                | <b>82</b>      |
| Black-capped Chickadee/<br>Mésange à tête noire         | 595         | 381           | 400             | 184              | 589           | 462               | <b>2,611</b>   |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch/<br>Sittelle à poitrine rousse    | 32          | 6             | 30              | 3                | 29            | 11                | <b>111</b>     |
| White-breasted Nuthatch/<br>Sittelle à poitrine blanche | 85          | 63            | 70              | 19               | 84            | 77                | <b>398</b>     |
| Brown Creeper/<br>Grimpereau brun                       | 7           | 4             | 9               | 2                | 4             | 5                 | <b>31</b>      |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet/<br>Roitelet à couronne dorée    | 2           | 0             | 0               | 4                | 8             | 0                 | <b>14</b>      |
| Hermit Thrush/<br>Grive solitaire                       | 0           | 0             | 0               | 1                | 0             | 0                 | <b>1</b>       |
| American Robin/<br>Merle d'Amérique                     | 4           | 6             | 4               | 7                | 27            | 22                | <b>70</b>      |
| Gray Catbird/<br>Moqueur chat                           | 0           | 0             | 0               | 0                | 1             | 0                 | <b>1</b>       |

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|---|--------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| European Starling/<br>Étourneau sansonnet             | 99           | 173           | 109             | 35               | 257           | 353               | <b>1,026</b>   |
| Cedar Waxwing/<br>Jaseur d'Amérique                   | 3            | 0             | 0               | 20               | 0             | 0                 | <b>23</b>      |
| House Sparrow/<br>Moineau domestique                  | 118          | 7             | 76              | 59               | 258           | 237               | <b>755</b>     |
| House Finch/<br>Roselin familier                      | 89           | 16            | 69              | 39               | 116           | 66                | <b>395</b>     |
| Purple Finch/<br>Roselin pourpré                      | 0            | 1             | 0               | 0                | 0             | 0                 | <b>1</b>       |
| Common Redpoll/<br>Sizerin flammé                     | 0            | 0             | 3               | 0                | 0             | 0                 | <b>3</b>       |
| American Goldfinch/<br>Chardonneret jaune             | 136          | 149           | 144             | 73               | 97            | 97                | <b>696</b>     |
| Snow Bunting/<br>Plectrophane des neiges              | 0            | 1             | 135             | 3                | 30            | 121               | <b>290</b>     |
| American Tree Sparrow/<br>Bruant hudsonien            | 16           | 10            | 50              | 2                | 28            | 49                | <b>155</b>     |
| <a href="#">Savannah Sparrow/<br/>Bruant des prés</a> | 0            | 0             | 2               | 0                | 0             | 0                 | <b>2</b>       |
| Song Sparrow/<br>Bruant chanteur                      | 1            | 0             | 0               | 1                | 1             | 0                 | <b>3</b>       |
| White-throated Sparrow/<br>Bruant à gorge blanche     | 6            | 4             | 2               | 4                | 2             | 8                 | <b>26</b>      |
| Dark-eyed Junco/<br>Junco ardoisé                     | 129          | 111           | 137             | 26               | 71            | 55                | <b>529</b>     |
| Northern Cardinal/<br>Cardinal rouge                  | 80           | 88            | 74              | 38               | 104           | 120               | <b>504</b>     |
|   |              |               |                 |                  |               |                   |                |
| Individuals/Individus                                 | <b>2,400</b> | <b>1,924</b>  | <b>2,059</b>    | <b>1,952</b>     | <b>13,490</b> | <b>12,797</b>     | <b>31,031*</b> |
| Species/Espèces                                       | <b>35</b>    | <b>37</b>     | <b>35</b>       | <b>47</b>        | <b>46</b>     | <b>39</b>         | <b>61</b>      |
|   |              |               |                 |                  |               |                   |                |
| Parties/Groups  | <b>11</b>    | <b>14</b>     | <b>8</b>        | <b>6</b>         | <b>21</b>     | <b>11</b>         | <b>71</b>      |
| Field observers/Observateurs                          | <b>22</b>    | <b>27</b>     | <b>17</b>       | <b>12</b>        | <b>33</b>     | <b>24</b>         | <b>133*</b>    |

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|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Feeder watchers/<br>Observateurs aux mangeoires | <b>2</b>    | <b>1</b>      | <b>11</b>       | <b>6</b>         | <b>3</b>      | <b>5</b>          | <b>28</b>    |

\* 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 **Dark Blue** = second record

**Total** in **Red** = record high