

2017 Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count

The 99th Ottawa-Gatineau CBC was held on December 17, 2017, with 133 field observers and 28 feeder watchers finding 60 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 an American Wigeon, 6 Snowy Owls, a Gray Catbird, and a record high of 4 Great Blue Herons.

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 1 Common Redpoll).

The most abundant bird was, as usual, American Crow. The total of 17,402 is the second highest recorded and comprised 56 % of the 31,025 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

Species/Espèce	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Canada Goose/ Bernache du Canada	0	1	8	4	17	1	31
Wood Duck/ Canard branchu	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
American Wigeon/ Canard d'Amérique	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
American Black Duck/ Canard noir	12	19	1	10	167	4	213
Mallard/ Canard colvert	76	249	89	330	1,259	201	2,204
Canard noir x colvert/ American Black Duck x Mallard	[1]	0	0	0	[4]	0	[5]
Long-tailed Duck/ Harelde kakawi	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bufflehead/ Petit Garrot	1	0	0	1	1	0	2*
Common Goldeneye/ Garrot à œil d'or	230	122	0	81	281	132	535*
Barrow's Goldeneye/ Garrot d'Islande	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hooded Merganser/ Harle couronné	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Common Merganser/ Grand Harle	30	17	0	12	48	0	65*
Ruffed Grouse/ Gélinotte huppée	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
Wild Turkey/ Dindon sauvage	0	4	8	0	14	58	84
Rock Pigeon/ Pigeon biset	210	71	242	154	467	514	1,658
Mourning Dove/ Tourterelle triste	5	12	50	1	36	29	133
Ring-billed Gull/ Goéland à bec cerclé	0	1	0	0	4	2	7
Herring Gull/ Goéland argenté	0	21	0	7	3	13	37*
Iceland Gull/ Goéland arctique	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Glaucous Gull/ Goéland bourgmestre	0	0	0	1	1	1	3

Species/Espèce	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Great Black-backed Gull/ Goéland marin	6	14	0	6	17	26	57*
Great Blue Heron/ Grand Héron	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Bald Eagle/ Pygargue à tête blanche	0	1	1	0	1	0	2*
Sharp-shinned Hawk/ Épervier brun	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Cooper's Hawk/ Épervier de Cooper	0	0	2	1	6	4	13
Red-tailed Hawk/ Buse à queue rousse	1	0	0	1	6	3	11
Rough-legged Hawk/ Buse pattue	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Eastern Screech Owl/ Petit-duc maculé	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Great Horned Owl/ Grand-duc d'Amérique	0	0	0	2	1	1	4
Snowy Owl/ Harfang des neiges	0	1	0	3	2	0	6
Barred Owl/ Chouette rayée	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker/ Pic mineur	31	36	44	22	60	32	225
Hairy Woodpecker/ Pic chevelu	28	19	28	10	32	24	141
Pileated Woodpecker/ Grand Pic	13	6	11	6	8	9	53
Merlin/ Faucon émerillon	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Peregrine Falcon/ Faucon pèlerin	0	0	0	1	2	1	3*
Northern Shrike/ Pie-grièche boréale	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Blue Jay/ Geai bleu	67	88	114	9	53	44	375
American Crow/ Corneille d'Amérique	262	200	123	755	9,279	10,000	17,402*
Common Raven/ Grand Corbeau	20	19	17	8	7	11	82

Species/Espèce	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Black-capped Chickadee/ Mésange à tête noire	595	381	400	184	589	462	2,611
Red-breasted Nuthatch/ Sittelle à poitrine rousse	32	6	30	3	29	11	111
White-breasted Nuthatch/ Sittelle à poitrine blanche	85	63	70	19	84	77	398
Brown Creeper/ Grimpereau brun	7	4	9	2	4	5	31
Golden-crowned Kinglet/ Roitelet à couronne dorée	2	0	0	4	8	0	14
Hermit Thrush/ Grive solitaire	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
American Robin/ Merle d'Amérique	4	6	4	7	27	22	70
Gray Catbird/ Moqueur chat	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
European Starling/ Étourneau sansonnet	99	173	109	35	257	353	1,026
Cedar Waxwing/ Jaseur d'Amérique	3	0	0	20	0	0	23
House Sparrow/ Moineau domestique	118	7	76	59	258	237	755
House Finch/ Roselin familier	89	16	69	39	116	66	395
Purple Finch/ Roselin pourpré	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Common Redpoll/ Sizerin flammé	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch/ Chardonneret jaune	136	149	144	73	97	97	696
Snow Bunting/ Plectrophane des neiges	0	1	135	3	30	121	290
American Tree Sparrow/ Bruant hudsonien	16	10	50	2	28	49	155

Species/Espèce	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Song Sparrow/ Bruant chanteur	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
White-throated Sparrow/ Bruant à gorge blanche	6	4	2	4	2	8	26
Dark-eyed Junco/ Junco ardoisé	129	111	137	26	71	55	529
Northern Cardinal/ Cardinal rouge	80	88	74	38	104	120	504
Individuals/Individus	2,400	1,924	2,055	1,952	13,489	12,797	31,025*
Species/Espèces	35	37	34	47	46	39	60
Parties/Groups	11	14	8	6	21	11	71
Field observers/Observateurs	22	27	17	12	33	24	133*
Feeder watchers/ Observateurs aux mangeoires	2	1	11	6	3	5	28

* 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.

Total in **Red** = record high