

Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count 2023

The 105th Ottawa-Gatineau CBC was held December 17, 2023. Temperatures ranged from minus 1.5 to plus 4.5 degrees Celsius, with cloudy skies throughout the day. Except for one cold snap, temperatures were mild leading up to the count; however, with the rivers being so open, water birds weren't all forced into the count circle area as is the case in most years.

161 field observers plus 32 feeder watchers found 77 species and a record high 54,598 individual birds. Highlights included a first record for **Western Tanager**, a second record for **Wood Thrush**, and a fifth record for **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Other highlights included Cackling Goose, Green-winged Teal, 2 Harlequin Ducks, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Goshawk (this used not to be a highlight bird), Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and 2 Red Crossbills.

As usual, the most abundant bird was American Crow producing a record-high roost count of 31,602. Thanks to Aaron Hywarren, Jamie Spence, and Marcel Gahbauer for their efforts counting crows

Feeder birds beware because record highs were set for both Cooper's Hawk (23) and Merlin (9). Record highs were also set for Bufflehead (20), Winter Wren (3), American Goldfinch (1,604), Dark-eyed Junco (980), and Northern Cardinal (829). Common Raven (160) fell just four short of a record. There were 11 Red-tailed Hawks observed but Rough-legged Hawk was completely absent for the second year in a row. Both waxwings and winter finches were in scarce supply.

There appears to be a continuing trend of small numbers of certain species such as Northern Flicker, Winter Wren, and Hermit thrush attempting (often successfully) to overwinter. In the past, these were all very rare in the winter. Our Carolina Wren population is doing well too with six found on the count (one short of a record), and several others during the count period

Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Red-winged Blackbird were observed during the count week but not on the count day itself.

The Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count is a joint effort of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) and the Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais (COO). My thanks to the participants, the sector leaders, and especially my co-compiler, Daniel Toussaint of the COO.

Bernie Ladouceur

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2023 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Cackling Goose/ Bernache de Hutchins	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canada Goose/ Bernache du Canada	11	149	2	528	453	5	1,061*
Wood Duck/ Canard branchu	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mallard/ Canard colvert	104	537	100	345	901	198	2,185
American Black Duck/ Canard noir	8	30	0	9	25	9	81
[American Black Duck X Mallard]/ [Canard noir X Canard colvert]	0	[1]	0	0	[3]	0	[4]
Green-winged Teal/ Sarcelle d'hiver	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ring-necked Duck/ Fuligule à collier	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lesser Scaup/ Petit Fuligule	0	5	0	5	0	0	5*
Harlequin Duck/ Arlequin plongeur	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Long-tailed Duck/ Harelde kakawi	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bufflehead/ Petit Garrot	3	7	20	0	0	0	20*
Common Goldeneye/ Garrot à œil d'or	96	148	10	32	79	94	386*

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2023 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Barrow's Goldeneye/ Garrot d'Islande	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Hooded Merganser/ Harle couronné	2	16	0	0	4	4	26
Common Merganser/ Grand Harle	1	11	1	18	39	17	76*
Red-breasted Merganser/ Harle huppé	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Ruffed Grouse/ Gélinotte huppée	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Wild Turkey/ Dindon sauvage	20	11	122	0	47	98	298
Rock Pigeon/ Pigeon biset	264	122	600	174	957	731	2,848
Mourning Dove/ Tourterelle triste	13	12	43	13	71	36	188
Ring-billed Gull/ Goéland à bec cerclé	25	5	11	26	21	31	119
Herring Gull/ Goéland argenté	26	46	0	1,250	147	50	1,473*
Iceland Gull/ Goéland arctique	0	0	0	6	0	1	7
Lesser Black-backed Gull/ Goéland brun	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Glaucous Gull/ Goéland bourgmestre	0	0	0	2	0	0	2

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2023 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Great Black-backed Gull/ Goéland marin	0	3	0	44	16	2	62*
Double-crested Cormorant/ Cormoran à aigrettes	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Great Blue Heron/ Grand Héron	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk/ Épervier brun	0	1	3	1	0	1	6
Cooper's Hawk/ Épervier de Cooper	3	2	3	3	11	4	23*
Northern Goshawk/ Autour des palombes	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
[<i>Accipiter</i> (species)]/ [<i>Accipiter</i> (espèce)]	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]	[2]
Bald Eagle/ Pygargue à tête blanche	1	1	0	1	1	4	5*
Red-shouldered Hawk/ Buse à épaulettes	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Red-tailed Hawk/ Buse à queue rousse	0	0	1	2	4	4	11
Eastern Screech Owl/ Petit-duc maculé	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Great Horned Owl/ Grand-duc d'Amérique	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Barred Owl/ Chouette rayée	0	1	0	1	0	1	3

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2023 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Belted Kingfisher/ Martin-pêcheur	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Downy Woodpecker/ Pic mineur	29	54	50	20	74	33	260
Hairy Woodpecker/ Pic chevelu	27	24	15	24	38	25	153
Pileated Woodpecker/ Grand Pic	9	22	13	3	7	5	59
Northern Flicker/ Pic flamboyant	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Merlin/ Faucon émerillon	1	3	0	0	3	2	9
Peregrine Falcon/ Faucon pèlerin	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Northern Shrike/ Pie-grièche boréale	0	2	1	0	1	1	5
Blue Jay/ Geai bleu	108	111	98	50	96	48	511
American Crow/ Corneille d'Amérique	207	1,138	283	733	1,499	31,602**	31,602**
Common Raven/ Grand Corbeau	34	54	21	9	30	12	160
Black-capped Chickadee/ Mésange à tête noire	613	655	380	237	921	414	3,220
Golden-crowned Kinglet/ Roitelet à couronne dorée	0	4	0	0	3	1	8

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2023 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Red-breasted Nuthatch/ Sittelle à poitrine rousse	20	10	20	8	18	7	83
White-breasted Nuthatch/ Sittelle à poitrine blanche	87	84	60	43	124	70	468
Brown Creeper/ Grimpereau brun	6	7	7	8	1	6	35
Winter Wren/ Troglodyte des forêts	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Carolina Wren/ Troglodyte de Caroline	1	3	1	0	1	0	6
European Starling/ Étourneau sansonnet	237	167	464	623	944	546	2,981
Hermit Thrush/ Grive solitaire	1	2	0	0	0	2	5
Wood Thrush/ Grive des bois	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
American Robin/ Merle d'Amérique	47	29	54	57	78	142	407
Gray Catbird/ Moqueur chat	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brown Thrasher/ Moqueur roux	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bohemian Waxwing/ Jaseur boréal	28	0	0	0	0	0	28
Cedar Waxwing/ Jaseur d'Amérique	13	0	0	3	0	6	22

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[waxwing (species)]/ [jaseur (espèce)]	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
House Sparrow/ Moineau domestique	159	48	159	30	568	289	1,253
House Finch/ Roselin familier	93	110	62	95	237	58	655
Common Redpoll/ Sizerin flammé	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red Crossbill/ Bec-croisé des sapins	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Pine Siskin/ Tarin des pins	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
American Goldfinch/ Chardonneret jaune	297	250	246	101	399	311	1,604
Snow Bunting/ Plectrophane des neiges	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Chipping Sparrow/ Bruant familier	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
American Tree Sparrow/ Bruant hudsonien	27	27	24	1	33	59	171
Dark-eyed Junco/ Junco ardoisé	179	174	160	92	328	47	980
White-throated Sparrow/ Bruant à gorge blanche	13	8	2	2	4	1	30
Song Sparrow/ Bruant chanteur	1	2	0	0	2	2	7

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2023 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Western Tanager/ Piranga à tête rouge	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Northern Cardinal/ Cardinal rouge	171	147	81	85	251	94	829
Individuals/ Individus	2,990	4,268	3,118	4,692	8,549	35,082	54,598*
Species/ Espèces	43	54	34	45	48	47	77
Field observers/ Observateurs	27	28	15	23	38	35	161*
Parties	15	12	5	11	28	16	87
Feeder watchers/ Observateurs aux mangeoires	1	2	11	7	6	5	32

*Adjusted for overlap

**Number based exclusively on a roost count

[#] not included in the total species count

Blue indicates a first record for the count

Green indicates a second record for the count

Red in bold indicates a record high

Red not in bold indicates ties a record high