

Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count 2025

The 107th Ottawa-Gatineau CBC was held December 14, 2025. Temperatures ranged from -16 to -9 degrees Celsius; skies were most cloudy in the morning and mostly clear in the afternoon; winds ranged from light to moderate; snow cover ranged from 12 to 26 centimetres; waterways were mostly frozen.

150 field observers plus 21 feeder watchers found 77 species and a 45,927 individual birds. American Crow for many years running has been by far our most abundant bird.; this year year's roost count produced a conservative estimate of 28,000 birds.

Highlights included 2 Green-winged Teal (ties record high), Wilson's Snipe, a American Goshawk, record high 12 Barred Owls, **Boreal Owl (third record)**, Northern Saw-whet Owl, 2 Belted Kingfishers (ties record high), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Black-backed Woodpeckers, a white morph Gyrfalcon, **Tufted Titmouse (fourth record)**, Gray Catbird, 87 Pine Grosbeaks, Chipping Sparrow, **2 Fox Sparrows (third record, and a record high)**, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, and a **Eastern Towhee (fifth record)**.

A lack of lingering waterfowl and low numbers for our two regular wintering diving ducks: Common Goldeneye (330) and Common Merganser (23), were almost certainly the result of the big freeze prior to the count. While Mallard (2,214) was slightly over the 10-year average, American Black Duck (61) was less than half the ten-year average of 125. Low counts for Brown Creeper (12) and House Sparrow (585). I suspect that aging birders may have been a factor in the low creeper count.

Except for Pine Grosbeak, winter finches were scarce, Bohemian Waxwings had started to arrive, and there were still small numbers of Cedar Waxwings.

Northern Pintail, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin 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, the crow roost counters, and especially my co-compiler, Daniel Toussaint of the C.O.O.

Bernie Ladouceur

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2025 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Bernache du Canada Canada Goose	3	0	0	77	290	9	302*
Canard branchu Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Canard colvert Mallard	45	455	150	1,233	704	85	2,214*
Canard noir American Black Duck	0	4	1	21	34	1	61
Canard noir X colvert American Black Duck X Mallard	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sarcelle d'hiver Green-winged Teal	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Petit Garrot Bufflehead	6	3	0	4	0	0	6*
Garrot à œil d'or Common Goldeneye	250	38	3	87	73	52	330*
Garrot d'Islande Barrow's Goldeneye	0	1	0	1	2	0	3*
Harle couronné Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	1	5	0	6
Grand Harle Common Merganser	2	6	0	9	6	4	23*
Gélinotte huppée Ruffed Grouse	0	1	1	0	1	0	3

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2025 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Dindon sauvage Wild Turkey	7	11	89	32	10	88	237
Pigeon biset Rock Pigeon	319	65	104	125	1,453	564	2,630
Tourterelle triste Mourning Dove	7	24	97	5	16	16	165
Wilson's Snipe Bécassine de Wilson	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Goéland à bec cerclé Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	9	2	3	12*
Goéland hudsonien Herring Gull	80	120	0	67	3	4	207*
Goéland arctique Iceland Gull	5	2	0	1	0	0	7*
Goéland bourgmestre Glaucous Gull	2	1	0	1	0	0	3*
Goéland marin Great Black-backed Gull	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Épervier brun Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
Épervier de Cooper Cooper's Hawk	2	2	1	2	10	3	18*
Autour d'Amérique American Goshawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pygargue à tête blanche Bald Eagle	1	0	1	1	4	3	7*

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2025 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Buse à queue rousse Red-tailed Hawk	0	3	2	3	3	3	14
Buse pattue Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Petit-duc maculé Eastern Screech Owl	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Grand-duc d'Amérique Great Horned Owl	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Chouette rayée Barred Owl	0	1	2	3	4	2	12
Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique Belted Kingfisher	0	0	0	1	2	0	2*
Nyctale de Tengmalm Boreal Owl	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Petite Nyctale Northern Saw-whet-owl	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pic maculé Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pic à ventre roux Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pic à dos noir Black-backed Woodpecker	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Pic mineur Downy Woodpecker	27	30	34	45	86	34	256
Pic chevelu Hairy Woodpecker	17	31	23	29	29	15	144

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2025 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Grand Pic Pileated Woodpecker	14	7	3	5	10	3	42
Pic flamboyant Northern Flicker	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Faucon émerillon Merlin	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Faucon gerfaut Gyrfalcon	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Faucon pèlerin Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Pie-grièche boréale Northern Shrike	1	0	0	1	1	2	5
Geai bleu Blue Jay	65	54	53	17	42	45	276
Corneille d'Amérique American Crow	145	232	139	478	28,000	922	28,000**
Grand Corbeau Common Raven	25	26	37	9	63	25	165*
Mésange à tête noire Black-capped Chickadee	613	473	424	403	709	490	3,112
Mésange bicolore Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Roitelet à couronne dorée Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sittelle à poitrine rousse Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	5	9	4	21	7	51

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2025 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Sittelle à poitrine blanche White-breasted Nuthatch	72	68	75	67	138	64	484
Grimpereau brun Brown Creeper	0	3	1	2	3	3	12
Troglodyte de Caroline Carolina Wren	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
Étourneau sansonnet European Starling	203	40	75	211	999	509	2,037
Moqueur chat Gray Catbird	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Grive solitaire Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Merle d'Amérique American Robin	16	30	14	143	36	22	261
Jaseur boréal Bohemian Waxwing	530	173	24	42	0	0	769
Jaseur d'Amérique Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	4	26	0	30
Moineau domestique House Sparrow	114	5	69	73	202	122	585
Gros-bec errant Evening Grosbeak	0	19	33	6	0	0	58
Durbec des sapins Pine Grosbeaks	17	17	12	2	14	25	87
Roselin familier House Finch	56	61	93	56	258	83	607

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Roselin pourpré Purple Finch	0	0	2	2	0	0	4
Bec-croisé des sapins Red Crossbill	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Sizerin flammé Common Redpoll	0	0	1	6	7	0	14
Chardonneret jaune American Goldfinch	125	130	194	82	369	184	1,084
Plectrophane des neiges Snow Bunting	0	0	0	3	70	0	73
Bruant familier Chipping Sparrow	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bruant hudsonien American Tree Sparrow	8	9	15	1	2	21	56
Bruant fauve Fox Sparrow	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Junco ardoisé Dark-eyed Junco	72	139	104	104	173	67	659
Bruant à couronne blanche White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Bruant à gorge blanche White-throated Sparrow	9	3	4	2	24	9	51
Bruant chanteur Song Sparrow	1	0	1	3	0	2	7
Tohi à flancs roux Eastern Towhee	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

RON / CBC Ottawa-Gatineau 2025 Espèces / Species	Hull	Aylmer	Gatineau	Britannia	Ottawa	Gloucester	Total
Cardinal rouge Northern Cardinal	105	92	69	131	173	117	687
Individus/ Individuals	2,973	2,390	1,963	3,625	34,095	3,614	45,927*
Espèces/ Species	39	42	39	57	55	41	77

Observateurs/ Field observers	19	20	25	21	36	30	150*
Parties	11	12	13	8	20	17	80*
Observateurs aux mangeoires/ Feeder watchers	3	1	3	6	7	1	21

*Adjusted for overlap

**Number based exclusively on a roost count

Blue indicates a third record for the count

Green indicates a fourth record for the count

Red in bold indicates a record high

Red not in bold indicates ties a record high