



# WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle Report 2019

Submitted by Nancy Howell, Compiler for the Lakewood Circle

**Date:** Saturday, December 28, 2019

**Results:** 74 Species: 105 Participants

**Time out in the field:** 06:15 to 16:00

**Circle:** Lakewood (OHLK)

**Lat/Long:** 41.4602260000, -81.8576360000

### Summary

The 2019 Lakewood Circle (west side of Cleveland, OHLK) Christmas Bird Count weather was great for walking or driving the Count Circle and coverage of the Circle by participants was very good. Temperatures ranged from the mid 30's at the coolest to the mid 40's at the warmest for the day. Similar to 2018, many participants asked, "where are the birds?" Did the mild weather keep the birds scattered? What happened to the waterfowl and gulls? Even feeder watchers lamented that few birds were visiting. However the list of species doesn't seem to reflect the lack of bird species with 74 species located Count Day. What seems to be lacking is the numbers of certain species, particularly waterfowl and gulls.

Temperatures during late November and early December were colder than normal, but as December progressed, temperatures rose above average which kept ALL water completely open which did not help concentrate waterfowl, gulls and other waterbirds. There was no snow cover nor was any precipitation reported on Count Day. Skies ranged from overcast to partly sunny with little to no wind on most of the count routes.

The 2019 list contains species expected at this time of year and, as always, some nice surprises. The list includes **74 species from count day** and *4 from count week*. As of January 12, 2020, the following are the results of the 2019 Lakewood Circle (OHLK) Christmas Bird Count. Note: Rare, unusual or unexpected species are **bold**, while count week (CW) species are in *italics*.

Following the species list is a commentary on the findings and lastly the list of participants.

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of each species</b>
1.	Canada Goose ( <i>Branta canadensis</i> )	937
2.	Wood Duck ( <i>Aix sponsa</i> )	4
3.	Gadwall ( <i>Mareca strepera</i> )	12
4.	American Wigeon ( <i>Mareca americana</i> )	1
5.	Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	792
6.	American Black Duck ( <i>Anas rubripes</i> )	3
7.	Canvasback ( <i>Aythya valisineria</i> )	1
8.	Redhead ( <i>Aythya americana</i> )	5
9.	Greater Scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> )	5
10.	Lesser Scaup ( <i>Aythya affinis</i> )	2
	Greater/Lesser Scaup	4
<b>11.</b>	<b>Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)</b>	<b>1</b>
12.	Black Scoter ( <i>Melanitta americana</i> )	1
13.	Bufflehead ( <i>Bucephala albeola</i> )	45
14.	Common Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> )	1227
15.	Hooded Merganser ( <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> )	1
16.	Common Merganser ( <i>Mergus merganser</i> )	12
17.	Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> )	73
18.	Wild Turkey ( <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> )	6
19.	Horned Grebe ( <i>Podiceps auritus</i> )	28
	<i>Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps)</i>	CW
20.	Rock Pigeon ( <i>Columba livia</i> )	207
21.	Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )	190

22.	Bonaparte's Gull ( <i>Larus philadelphia</i> )	1
23.	Ring-billed Gull ( <i>Larus delawarensis</i> )	3672
24.	Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	193
	<i>Iceland Gull (Larus glaucoides)</i>	CW
	<i>Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus)</i>	CW
25.	Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> )	16
26.	Common Loon ( <i>Gavia immer</i> )	3
27.	Double-crested Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> )	24
28.	Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> )	21
	<i>Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura)</i>	CW
29.	Sharp-shinned Hawk ( <i>Accipiter striatus</i> )	2
30.	Cooper's Hawk ( <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> )	11
31.	Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	2
32.	Red-tailed hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )	32
33.	Red-shouldered Hawk ( <i>Buteo lineatus</i> )	3
34.	Eastern Screech-Owl ( <i>Megascops asio</i> )	1
35.	Great Horned Owl ( <i>Bubo virginianus</i> )	2
	<i>Snowy Owl (Bubo scandiacus)</i>	CW
36.	Barred Owl ( <i>Strix varia</i> )	3
37.	Belted Kingfisher ( <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i> )	4
38.	Red-headed Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> )	9
39.	Red-bellied Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i> )	154
40.	Downy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides pubescens</i> )	142
41.	Hairy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides villosus</i> )	37

42.	Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	12
43.	Pileated Woodpecker ( <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> )	7
44.	American Kestrel ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )	4
45.	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )	1
46.	Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	3
47.	Blue Jay ( <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> )	266
48.	American Crow ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )	42
49.	Black-capped Chickadee ( <i>Poecile atricapillus</i> )	193
50.	Tufted Titmouse ( <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i> )	118
51.	Red-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> )	1
52.	White-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> )	135
53.	Brown Creeper ( <i>Certhia americana</i> )	2
54.	Winter Wren ( <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> )	1
55.	Carolina Wren ( <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> )	27
56.	Golden-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus satrapa</i> )	5
57.	Eastern Bluebird ( <i>Sialia sialis</i> )	12
58.	American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )	540
59.	Northern Mockingbird ( <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> )	1
60.	European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	826
61.	House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )	770
62.	House Finch ( <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i> )	89
63.	American Goldfinch ( <i>Spinus tristis</i> )	315
64.	Eastern Towhee ( <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> )	1
65.	American Tree Sparrow ( <i>Spizelloides arborea</i> )	36

66.	<b>Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerina</i>)</b>	<b>1</b>
67.	Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )	38
68.	Swamp Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> )	2
69.	White-throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )	8
70.	Dark-eyed Junco ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )	172
71.	Red-winged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )	15
<b>72.</b>	<b>Pine Warbler (<i>Setophaga pinus</i>)</b>	<b>1</b>
73.	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler ( <i>Setophaga coronata</i> )	1
74.	Northern Cardinal ( <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> )	145

Similar to the previous year, the 2019 Lakewood Count Circle Christmas Bird Count had favorable weather with temperatures in the morning in the mid-30's and by afternoon in the mid-40's. Skies were overcast to partly sunny and almost no wind. No snow was on the ground and no precipitation fell the day of the Count.

All water sources were open which did not concentrate water birds thus leaving duck and gull numbers low. The only geese that were sighted on Count Day were Canada Geese. Dabbling ducks included Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck and Mallard. The Gadwall and American Wigeon were good additions. Diving ducks were scarce and numbers of most species tended to be lower than expected. Single digits of Canvasback, Redhead and both Greater and Lesser Scaup. But wait - surprise! A Harlequin Duck, which had been in the area made an appearance in our Circle, documented and photographed. Common Goldeneye numbers were high and Bufflehead were in good numbers, but the remainder of the big water ducks and mergansers were lower than normal. All 3 species of merganser, Hooded, Red-breasted and Common, were tallied.

Continuing with water birds a nice number of Horned Grebes were found. Pied-billed Grebe did not make the Count Day, but made Count Week. A few Common Loon and a number of Double-crested Cormorant made the list. Gull species made a poor showing with Ring-billed, Herring, Great Black-backed and Bonaparte's Gulls, but not in numbers that should be expected on Lake Erie at the end of December. Both Iceland and Glaucous Gull were noted during Count Week.

A good number of Great Blue Herons were reported as were Belted Kingfisher. Reports of these species came from both Lake Erie as well as inland ponds and rivers.

A local flock of 6 Wild Turkey was noted. A low number like this is always surprising since good sized flocks are around - where were they on Count Day?

Turkey Vultures were noted during Count Week.

The diurnal raptors were a bit scarce with generally lower numbers. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks did okay, but sightings of Bald Eagles, with 3 reported, was low. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks numbers dipped a bit from the previous year. No unusual hawks were found in 2019. All three falcons, American Kestrel, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, were counted this year.

Nocturnal raptors included Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned and Barred Owls. A Snowy Owl hanging around Cleveland Hopkins International Airport did not materialize on Count Day but was indicated during Count Week.

Woodpeckers and perching birds, generally found in parks, yards and feeders, were present, but many species with lower numbers. Most fruiting trees and shrubs had been stripped of fruits by the time of this Count. Perhaps the colder temperatures in November and early December caused fruit eaters to feed on fruits early?

Woodpeckers were reported with fairly normal numbers for the time of year. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Northern Flicker numbers did bump up a little.

Blue Jay numbers were good, but American Crow numbers dropped quite a bit from last year. Feeder favorites; Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse and White-breasted Nuthatch were widely reported. A single Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported. Two Brown Creeper made the list as did a single Winter Wren. Carolina Wren numbers were slightly lower than other years. Five Golden-crowned Kinglets made the list as did a nice number of Eastern Bluebirds. The number of American Robins was lower than previous years and a single Northern Mockingbird was found. European Starlings were in good numbers, unfortunately.

House Sparrows were tallied on most lists that came in. No problem with them.

This was not an irruptive northern finch year. The usual House Finch and American Goldfinch were located and tallied in good numbers but no other northern finches despite looking through flocks of American Goldfinch.

Sparrows were a little difficult to find. A single Eastern Towhee was good. Other species included American Tree, Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrows. A single Chipping Sparrow, which is not common in the winter, was noted. A good number of Dark-eyed Juncos were located too.

Red-winged Blackbirds were scarce with 12 reported. No other blackbirds were tallied.

A single Pine Warbler, was well documented and a nice surprise for the list. One Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was also tallied. Can't forget the Northern Cardinal whose numbers seemed to hold steady.

## **Volunteers**

Many, many thanks go out to more than 100 birders and friends who helped locate the birds on this list. Whether birding by car, on foot, watching feeders or owling, everyone's hard work was

truly appreciated. *Plan ahead and mark your calendar for the Lakewood Circle Christmas Count on **Sunday, December 27, 2020.***

Claudia Anders, Ken and Lois Ballas, Buster Banish and 6 “Bird Nerds”, Mary Bartos, Kit Birch, Sarah Blakeley, Donna Bretz, Nancy Brewer, Michelle Brosius, Lori Brumbaugh, Bob Budzilek, Diane Busch, Craig Caldwell, Lee and Sue Cavano, Lenore Charmingo, Tim Colborn, Frank Comodeca, Patti Donnellan, Chantal Dothey, Maria and Rick Finchum, Katie Fleming, Lisa Gerbec, Rose and Doug Gilchrist, Joanne and Terry Gorges, Sharon Hanse, Jim Heflich, Ann Heidenreich, Tom and Marie Herr, Gary Hietala, Hubert Ho, Nancy Howell, Kathy and Rose Jakischa, Josh Jeffi and daughter, Debra Jesionowski, Rachel Kaiser, Rich and Karen Kassouf, Patti Kellner, Scott Kersey, Matt Knittel, Julie Kostanis, Jess Kowalski, Anna Kozlenko, Jeff and Marian Kraus, Tim Krynak, JoAnn Kubicki, Duane and Jeanne Kurapka, Ray Kutnar, Tom Leiden, Jim and Maureen Lindway, Fred Losi, Paula Lozano, Matt Madgar, Michelle Manzo, Terri Martincic, Matt Matlack, Jim McCarty, Liz McQuaid, Anita Morris, Michael Murray, Penny O’Connor, Bill Ohlsen, Earl and Martha Peck, Rayka Petkova, Laurie and Matt Philips, Chris Pierce, Jeff Platz, Allen Rand, Helen Rhynard, Chris and Chad Saladin, Jean Sammon, Jeff Sanfilippo, Kim Schraitle, Linda Sekura, Thomas and Maryann Sendry, Mark Shaver, Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr., Helena Souffant, Kent Starrett, Diana Steele, Debra Sweeney, Nancy Valente, Eric Watts, and Hilton Young.