

Delaware County Bird Club NEWSLETTER



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Jan. 26 Program: Bats – What You Didn't Learn Watching Batman

Join Marne Titchenell for an informative discussion on the lives of Ohio's bats. Topics will include habitat use, behavior, unique ecological roles, current threats to bat populations, and actions you can take to support bat conservation in Ohio.

Marne Titchenell serves as the Extension Wildlife Program Director at The Ohio State University. She works in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Marne provides a variety of educational programs, workshops, conferences, and publications centered on wildlife ecology and biology, habitat management for wildlife, and managing nuisance wildlife species. Her favorite outreach topic is bats, the subject of her graduate work. She works to lead the Ohio Bat Working Group, a group of professionals working with bats around Ohio, to collaborate on bat-related research,
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Marne Titchnell with a leadback form of the Red-backed Salamander.

DELAWARE COUNTY BIRD CLUB PROGRAMS

The Delaware County Bird Club in-person meetings and program presentations have resumed. They take place on the fourth Monday of each month, September through April, except in November and December when they are held on alternate days to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Meetings are held in the lodge at Deer Haven Park at 4183 Liberty Road, Delaware Ohio, 43015. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., programs begin at 7 p.m., and are followed by reports of local bird sightings and socializing. Meeting dates can also be found on the Preservation Parks of Delaware County calendar at this link: <https://preservationparks.recdesk.com/Community/Calendar>

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2025 Delaware Reservoir CBC summary

By Rich Bradley

The weather this year on Sunday 14, December was frightful. We had a relatively warm autumn, but this all changed on the night of December 13th. First the snow, falling heavily and causing there to be a level-1 snow emergency declared in Delaware County. Briefly, near dawn it was actually a level-2. The snowfall amounts varied across the count circle, but averaged about six inches. I know that in several places where our group walked, it had piled up to over a foot. Then during the middle of the night the temperatures plummeted. At dawn it was 40F! It did “warm” up a bit during the day, but the high temperature reported by most parties was only 12oF. Then there was wind, gusts of up to 20mph. At least in sheltered areas, and in the woods the wind was minimal for much of the day. But it was most definitely cold.

One interesting thing was that since it had been so warm, then cooled so quickly, a few areas of still water, and many areas of flowing water were still unfrozen. As a result we were lucky to have a situation where some waterfowl, herons, and Kingfishers had not left completely.

I'm so grateful to all of the intrepid birders who ventured



A few of the 2025 CBC participants.

out on a very cold Sunday to count birds. The Christmas Bird Count depends upon their dedication, and I really appreciate it! We had 33 observers in the field, and an additional four “feeder watchers” who submitted lists.

We had a great count, with 76 species seen, well above the average of 64. Also, amazing in terms of the rare birds found this year. Nearly every group found something unusual. Two species were found for the first time this year... so read on.

First, there were Sandhill Cranes, lots of them! This year we had 49 cranes, only the second time that we have had many cranes for our count. Back in 2013 a flock of 100 were seen. But for 33 of the 37 years we had none. This year Ben Warner's group had 28, Tania Perry's group had 17, and Corinna Honscheid & Beth Lenoble found four (residents?) in the wildlife area.

Probably because the weather changed from normal to frigid in such a short time, there was still some open water and that meant that waterfowl were still evident. Many swans, both Tundra and Trumpeter! We had a healthy number of Canada Geese, and eight species of ducks! We also had four species of gulls.

Ben, Lauren Blyth & Amber Miller not only had those 28 Sandhill Cranes, they saw a nice variety of waterfowl, including 10 Ring-necked Ducks and even an American Coot (both quite unusual on our count). They detected two American Black Duck/Mallard hybrids.

Tania, Linda Crosby, Cam Lee, and Randy Zibell found 17 Sandhill Cranes, and a great variety of raptors; five species of hawks, including a Rough-legged Hawk, both Merlin and Kestrel, an eagle, and two Black Vultures! Their northern part of the count circle attracted flocks of both Lapland Longspurs (70) and Snow Buntings (49) as well as 127 Horned Larks.

Three groups covered the eastern shores. Dustin Reichard,
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2025 CBC after-party.

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Dan Fink, and Ramon Carreno had a Rough-legged Hawk and 13 Tundra Swan. Corinna and Beth, in addition to the aforementioned cranes, found 90 Tundra Swan. At the far north end, Suzan & Tod Jervey had a nice variety of field birds.

Dan Bobb's large group (Karen Deighton, David Johnson, Todd, Silas, and Julia Jolliff) found a bunch of great birds in the western shores area; including three more Black Vultures, and the first records for our count for an American White Pelican, and Lesser Black-backed Gull (2). Among their list of waterfowl were a Red-breasted Merganser and five Ruddy Ducks, both quite unusual.

Adriana & Maria Losey, Ethan McCullough, and Susan Wasmund (Whetstone wetlands area) found another pair of Black Vultures, a Fox Sparrow, and five Rusty Blackbirds. They tallied three Lapland Longspurs and 51 Snow Buntings.

My group (Bob Klips, Joseph Lautenbach, Chris Roshan) had a Winter Wren. That wren was found in the very same location that one has been found on many recent counts. Maybe the same individual? Bob Klips showed us a very-cold-looking Hermit Thrush. In addition to the wren and thrush we had the only Red-headed Woodpeckers (4) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (2). Driving roads in the afternoon we had another two Lapland Longspurs among 62 Snow Buntings and 69 Horned Larks. Logan Dunn and Liz Neroni counted in the area just north of ours, they had two Northern Mockingbirds as well as two of our four Brown-headed Cowbirds.

In the Delaware vicinity area Amy Winningham, Geoff Winningham, Megan Shoemaker, and Jenn Butterfield braved the weather and town drivers on slick roads to record 17 species.

Four groups found Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 3, 3, 3, and 1 for a total of 10! This is twice the previous high count.

Three groups found flocks of Snow Buntings, and four groups found Lapland Longspurs, so appropriate for the weather. This is the first winter with buntings on the count since back in 2016. Along the same snowy roads a respectable total of 483 Horned Larks. Of the nine people who provided guesses, mine (359) was the closest, so once again I'm the lucky "Horned Lark Award" winner. You can join the fun again next year, the only requirement is that you provide your estimate by the Friday prior to the count.

Once again the feeder counters (Louis Iverson, Jason Krnc, Amy Tovar, and Chris Voice) contributed valuable data, including most of our Red-breasted Nuthatches (3 reports) and our only Screech Owl (Louis Iverson).

A nice group of counters showed up to thaw out at the 'after party' at Taqueria Ay Caramba (see attached photo).

The list: Species 2025

American White Pelican	1
Great Blue Heron	29
Tundra Swan	118
Trumpeter Swan	22
Swan spp.	3
Canada Goose	1236
American Black Duck	3
Mallard	87
Am.BlackDuck/Mallard hybrid	2
Gadwall	4
Am. Wigeon	1
Ring-necked Duck	10
Lesser Scaup	3
Red-breasted Merganser	1
Ruddy Duck	5
Black Vulture	7
Northern Harrier	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	8
Bald Eagle	32
Red-shouldered Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	11
Rough-legged Hawk	2
Buteo spp.	1
Merlin	1
American Kestrel	18
Killdeer	5
Bonaparte's Gull	4
Ring-billed Gull	101
Herring Gull	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2
gull spp?	11
Rock Pigeon	129
Mourning Dove	315
American Coot	1
Sandhill Crane	49
Eastern Screech Owl	1
Barred Owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	48
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10
Downy Woodpecker	62
Hairy Woodpecker	11
Northern Flicker	24
Horned Lark	483
Blue Jay	85
Am. Crow	64
Carolina Chickadee	76
Tufted Titmouse	23
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	41
Brown Creeper	9

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January Program

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management, and outreach initiatives that provide both public and professional education on bat ecology and conservation. She was fortunate to discover her passion for wildlife conservation and outreach education early in her career and now works to spark interest and love of nature in Ohioans of all ages. At home, she gets her inspiration from her own two little nature-enthusiasts, her daughters, Cora and Isla.



A Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*).

Can you identify this?



Answer will be in our next issue. The mystery bird photo for January was taken at Delaware Wildlife Area in June of 2024.

Last month's answer: The mystery bird for December (2025) was a Rusty Blackbird, taken by Rich Bradley on February 20, 2025 at Goose Pond Indiana.

CBC

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Carolina Wren	28	
Winter Wren	1	
Golden-cwnd. Kinglet	15	
Eastern Bluebird	22	
American Robin	86	
Hermit Thrush	1	
Northern Mockingbird	2	
Cedar Waxwing	3	
European Starling	2658	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	
American Tree Sparrow	288	
Fox Sparrow	1	
Song Sparrow	43	
Swamp Sparrow	3	
White-thoated Sparrow	109	
White-crowned Sparrow	7	
Dark-eyed Junco	501	
Lapland Longspur	77	
Snow Bunting	162	
Northern Cardinal	213	
Red-winged Blackbird	20	
Rusty Blackbird	5	
Common Grackle	9	
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	
House Finch	92	
American Goldfinch	84	
House Sparrow	407	

Total individuals 8034

Total species	76
Observers	33
Parties	10
Total party hr.	59.3