

**From:** Corey Finger <10000birdsblogger@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Tentative Results of the Queens County Christmas Bird Count

**Date:** December 20, 2021 at 6:02:38 PM EST

**To:** Corey Finger <10000birdsblogger@gmail.com>

QCCBCers,

We had a great day yesterday with a record number of participants and a near-record number of species. While we thought we had 123 species at the compilation last night we actually had 124 as somehow we inadvertently left Horned Lark off the checklist.

### Highlights

Best bird of the count clearly goes to Avery Scott's discovery of a Black-and-white Warbler at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, a new species for the count!

Having three sectors find Turkey Vultures in the same count is amazing, and the 3 is a new high count for Turkey Vulture for the QCCBC.

A new CBC participant, Sara Aguia, had three saves for the count at her feeders - Baltimore Oriole, Brown Thrasher, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at World's Fair Marina, first found by John Keane, cooperated to stick around for count day. This is only the fourth occurrence on the count.

The Glaucous Gull found by Richard Aracil on the beach in the Rockaways was only the 11th occurrence of this species.

The Laughing Gull found in the Jamaica Bay sector by Mack Chitelescu was the 24th occurrence of this species.

The Eastern Screech-Owl in the Valley Stream sector was a heck of a save and, amazingly, only the 7th occurrence of this species.

The Palm Warbler and Eastern Phoebe pairing found together by Meryl, Mike, and TK at Idlewild Park was a great combo of write-in saves!

### High Counts

226 Double-crested Cormorants crushed our previous high count.

18 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was one off our all-time high.

Three Bald Eagles tied our all time high count.

The previously mentioned Turkey Vultures were a high count.

Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls tied our all time high count.

428 Tree Swallows absolutely destroyed our previous high count of 3. (Neither of those numbers are typos.)

760 American Robins is our new high count, beating our previous record by exactly 1. That is ridiculous.

70 American Pipits is our new high count, beating the previous record of 50.

28 Eastern Meadowlarks is the highest count in years, but well off our all time record of 50 from 72 years ago.

## Low numbers

Seaducks were very scarce with a total of 29 scoters of all species, no eiders, and low numbers of everything else.

2 Purple Finch and 74 American Goldfinch were it for "winter finches," expected in what is clearly not a flight year on the east coast.

1 Red-breasted Nuthatch is additional evidence of a lack of a flight this year.

13 Black-capped Chickadees and 11 Tufted Titmice were both very low numbers.

We missed Rusty Blackbird, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ring-necked Pheasant, Bonaparte's Gull, all alcids. The blackbird, pheasant, and gull are all indicative of long downward trends. The wrens and alcids are just bad luck and/or conditions, I think.

## Count Week Birds

The three lousy Black Vultures showed up again today, seen by several observers. First ever for the count, but only as "count week."

Eric Miller found a Tennessee Warbler at Meadow Lake and a Common Yellowthroat at Willow Lake today, making two count sectors kick themselves. Damn you, Eric! (Lol)

The Snowy Owl at World's Fair Marina made it to count week but perished before count day. Fortunately, its body was recovered.

The Common Merganser (the only one to arrive so far this winter in our count circle) was seen both before and after count day.

Many thanks to Steve Walter for stepping up and leading Flushingham Sector for the second year in a row - it may be yours now, Steve. More thanks to Avery Scott and his family for leading the beginner/family birding walk. Even more thanks to Nancy Tognan for entering all the numbers in the spreadsheet during the compilation Zoom. And, most of all, thanks to everyone who participated and made this year's count one of our best ever. Now all of you have to go out and recruit one more birder to participate next year so we can have 120+ people on the count. Think of how many birds we would find!

Good (Christmas Bird Count) Birding,

Corey Finger

Queens County CBC Compiler

PS - I'll share the spreadsheet once the count period is over.