

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 35 (Cincinnati 1975)
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1 (Firelands 1980, Toledo 1987, W. Hamilton Co. 1987)
 Eastern Bluebird, 904 (Millersburg 1999)
 Mountain Bluebird, 1 (Ragersville 1989)
 Townsend's Solitaire, 1 (Toledo 1938)
 Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 (Cincinnati 1947, Lakewood 1976)
 Swainson's Thrush, 2 (Adams Co. 1995)
 Hermit Thrush, 63 (L. Erie Is. 1990)
 Wood Thrush, 1 on seven counts
 American Robin, 15,120 (Cincinnati 1964)
 Varied Thrush, 1 (Mentor 1977, Columbus 1983, Lakewood 1988, Steubenville 1988, Hancock Co. 2000, Toledo 2000)
 Gray Catbird, 4 (Paint Creek 1986, Ragersville 1998)
 Northern Mockingbird, 416 (Cincinnati 1971)
 Brown Thrasher, 3 (Buckeye Lk. 1986)
 European Starling, 612,701 (Dayton 1952)
 American Pipit, 259 (Ragersville 1998)
 Bohemian Waxwing, 10 (Mentor 1926)
 Cedar Waxwing, 2746 (Cincinnati 1989)
 Orange-crowned Warbler, 1 (Columbus 1926, Youngstown 1953)
 Nashville Warbler, 1 (Hamilton-Fairfield 1969)
 Cape May Warbler, 1 on eight counts
 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 538 (Adams Co. 1998)
 Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's") Warbler, 1 (L. Erie Is. 1997)
 Yellow-throated Warbler, 1 (Youngstown 1971, Mansfield 1981)
 Pine Warbler, 2 (Logan 1983)
 Palm Warbler, 5 (Great Bend 1991)
 Black-and-white Warbler, 1 (Cuyahoga Falls 1979, Indian Lake 1998)
 Ovenbird, 1 on six counts
 Northern Waterthrush, 1 on seven counts
 Louisiana Waterthrush, 1 (Portsmouth 1956)
 Common Yellowthroat, 6 (Toledo 1969 & 1975)
 Yellow-breasted Chat, 1 (Buckeye Lk. 1956)
 Summer Tanager, 1 (Hamilton-Fairfield 2000)
 Western Tanager, 1 (Mentor 1971)
 Green-tailed Towhee, 1 (O'Shaughnessy Res. 1963)
 Eastern Towhee, 214 (Cincinnati 1980)
 American Tree Sparrow, 2531 (Millersburg 1998)
 Chipping Sparrow, 46 (Portsmouth 1953, Zanesville 1983)
 Field Sparrow, 193 (Cincinnati 1971)
 Vesper Sparrow, 16 (Dayton 1964)

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Lark Sparrow, 2 (Salem 1978)
 Savannah Sparrow, 50 (Cincinnati 1961)
 Grasshopper Sparrow, 1 (Cincinnati 1947, Oxford 1947, Ashland 1959, Hamilton-Fairfield 1981)
 Henslow's Sparrow, 1 (Steubenville 1949, Elyria-Lorain 1970, E. Fork Lk. 1985)
 Fox Sparrow, 23 (Alliance 1946)
 Song Sparrow, 2353 (Cincinnati 1968)
 Lincoln's Sparrow, 8 (Lakewood 1970)
 Swamp Sparrow, 163 (ONWR 1987, Fremont 1990)
 White-throated Sparrow, 2030 (Cincinnati 1984)
 Harris's Sparrow, 4 (Dayton 1947)
 White-crowned Sparrow, 1071 (Millersburg 1998)
 Dark-eyed Junco, 2609 (Cincinnati 1968)
 Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Junco, 6 (Lakewood 1966)
 Dark-eyed ("White-winged") Junco, 1 (Grand Rapids-Waterville 1985)
 Lapland Longspur, 3034 (W. Hamilton Co. 2000)
 Smith's Longspur, 1 (Tiffin 1956, New Lexington 1977)
 Snow Bunting, 9000 (Grand Rapids-Waterville 1967)
 Northern Cardinal, 3775 (Cincinnati 1970)
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1 (Youngstown 1975, Gypsum 1981, Trumbull Co. 1996)
 Indigo Bunting, 1 (Grand Lake St Marys 1995)
 Dickcissel, 3 (New Lexington 1977)
 Bobolink, 1 (Ashland 1957, Cincinnati 1968)
 Red-winged Blackbird, 15,750 (Toledo 1990)
 Eastern Meadowlark, 387 (Buckeye Lk. 1956)
 Western Meadowlark, 1 (ONWR 1982)
 Yellow-headed Blackbird, 3 (Toledo 1979)
 Rusty Blackbird, 5008 (Buckeye Lk. 1978)
 Brewer's Blackbird, 200 (Oxford 1995)
 Common Grackle, 1,600,592 (Logan 1978)
 Brown-headed Cowbird, 80,098 (Dayton 1980)
 Baltimore Oriole, 3 (Wilmot 1986)
 Pine Grosbeak, 47 (Burton 1961)
 Purple Finch, 300 (Cincinnati 1982)
 House Finch, 2192 (Cuyahoga Falls 1987)
 Red Crossbill, 35 (Grand Rapids-Waterville 1979)
 White-winged Crossbill, 60 (Cleveland 1966)
 Common Redpoll, 253 (Youngstown 1969)
 Hoary Redpoll, 1 (Cleveland 1995)
 Pine Siskin, 500 (Youngstown 1919)
 American Goldfinch, 1859 (Cincinnati 1968)
 Evening Grosbeak, 765 (Logan 1975)
 House Sparrow, 21,356 (Dayton 1953)

The 2000-01 Christmas Bird Counts

by Ned Keller

This year's summary contains reports from the same 62 count circles as last year. Once again, most of the information is now reported via the internet, with only a few circles reporting directly to us. Although we asked to have copies of rare bird documentation forms sent to *The Ohio Cardinal*, we received only a few, which are marked with asterisks in the report. Hopefully, many more documentations were sent to Audubon. As always, we have published all sightings reported to us (except for some exotics), regardless of how well, if at all, they were documented. We have, however, lumped all sightings of a species into one number. For example, some circles reported northern flickers as yellow-shafted, while others did not; all are reported here simply as northern flickers.

We found a total of 148 full species this year, up one from last year. Surprisingly, no other species were added during count weeks. The total number of individual birds declined from 1,087,541 to 705,376. Millersburg and Cincinnati tied for the most species with 82, well below last year's 87 at Millersburg. Other high counts were 78 at Ragersville, and 77 at Dayton and Cleveland.

After unusually warm winters the past few years, winter arrived in December this year. Waterfowl numbers in general were down, probably because more water was frozen. Lapland longspurs and snow buntings made it all the way to the southern counties, with numbers of longspurs in particular way up over last year. But winter finches were nearly absent; and red-breasted nuthatch numbers were also down.

Changes from one year to the next are fun to look at, but seldom mean much in terms of population trends. If you want to learn more about those trends, data from all 101 Christmas Counts are available at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/>. You can view population trend reports, and can also extract the raw data (with a little effort) to test your own hypotheses about winter bird populations.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

	Adams Co. (82) 12/16/2000	Ashland (30) 12/16/2000	Ashtribula (25) 12/16/2000	Athens (78) 12/17/2000	Beaver Creek (36) 12/30/2000	Beaver Valley (84) 12/16/2000	Buckeye Lake (56) 12/16/2000	Bucyrus (14) 12/30/2000	Burton (27) 1/1/2001	Cadiz (72) 1/1/2001	Chandlerville (74) 12/30/2000	Cincinnati (65) 12/30/2000	Clark Co. (44) 12/16/2000	Cleveland (23) 12/16/2000
American Robin	2336	CW	1	178	18	275	32	1	3	1	16	9763	92	119
Varied Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Mockingbird	31	—	—	13	1	24	1	—	—	1	3	60	5	8
Brown Thrasher	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
European Starling	3731	1224	332	1162	677	6223	4930	287	287	436	330	12370	1089	556
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	2092	85	22	52	—	76	—	272	—	67	2346	132	108	—
Yellow-rumped Warbler	154	—	—	4	11	42	—	6	—	—	81	—	8	—
warbler sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Summer Tanager	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Towhee	3	CW	—	16	—	14	—	—	—	3	5	64	3	2
American Tree Sparrow	—	47	19	14	235	61	4	62	200	48	69	661	18	131
Chipping Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Field Sparrow	27	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	—	—	2	21	—	—
Savannah Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	8	—	—
Song Sparrow	73	34	2	63	68	129	14	18	16	20	23	650	23	34
Lincoln's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	—	1	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	26	2	1
White-throated Sparrow	43	18	3	33	21	105	4	3	13	4	18	743	92	35
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-crowned Sparrow	67	12	2	18	9	33	5	CW	—	—	42	25	—	4
sparrow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco	203	253	151	166	438	219	30	121	231	105	120	522	92	311
Lapland Longspur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Snow Bunting	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	12	—	—	18
Northern Cardinal	97	137	54	151	262	111	49	80	485	49	88	1189	72	119
Red-winged Blackbird	90	—	2	—	3	8	—	—	1	—	52	—	1	—
Eastern Meadowlark	64	20	—	1	1	21	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	—
Rusty Blackbird	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Brewer's Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
blackbird sp.	—	—	—	—	—	10000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	14	2	—	3	—	15076	—	1	—	—	72	1	—	—
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	3	—	—	CW	6	20	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Purple Finch	5	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	19	—	1	—	1	—
House Finch	57	106	79	43	16	39	24	34	349	5	—	173	60	73
Red Crossbill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Redpoll	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Goldfinch	155	127	34	88	155	226	18	66	185	3	9	392	53	160
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Sparrow	127	700	149	85	374	102	232	123	675	47	109	521	355	254
total species	68	50	63	53	56	61	36	44	47	42	50	82	62	77
total individuals	11227	4301	15073	4337	5788	35285	8019	1473	7324	1614	2712	46675	27598	11410
observers	18	16	8	23	15	20	9	2	24	6	15	67	5	42
+ at feeders	0	2	2	3	3	0	4	14	3	2	0	4	0	0
party hours	53	47	29	55	56	47	16	13	70	30	23	155	25	86

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

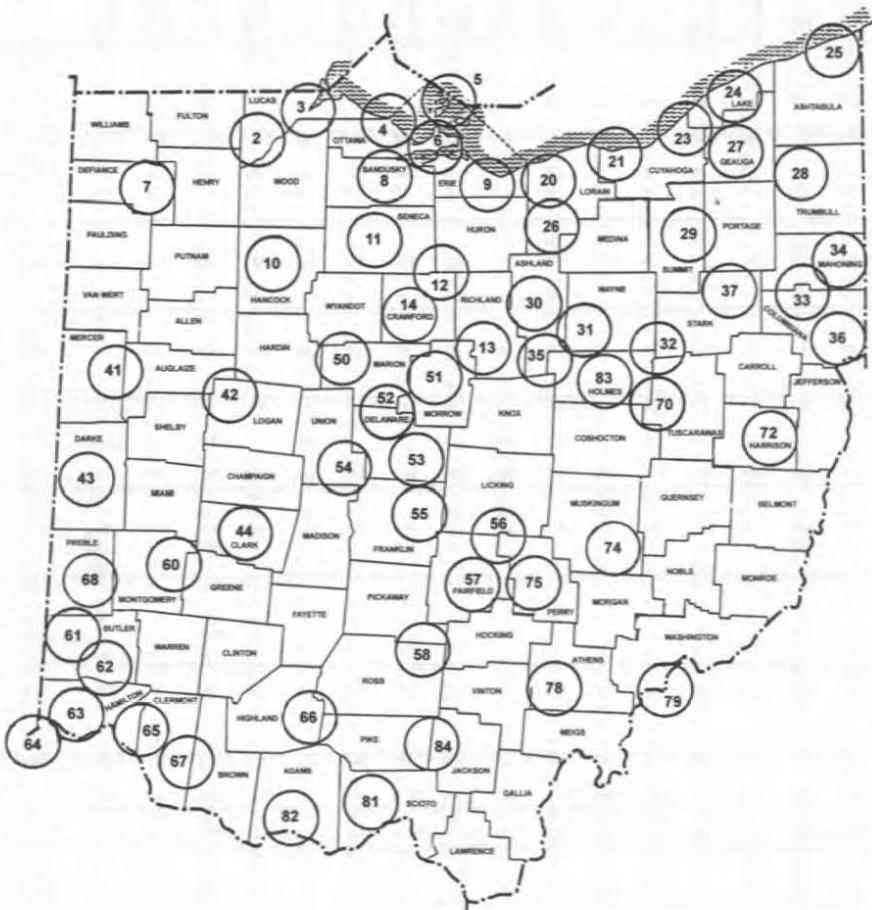
Columbus (55) 12/19/2000	416	53	828	64	126	68	21	4	52	13	19	954	3	18	134
Cuyahoga Falls (29) 12/17/2000	—	CW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dayton (60) 12/21/2000	18	1	11	5	7	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	10	—	—
Delaware Reservoir (52) 12/17/2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Fork Lake S.P. (67) 12/17/2000	2466	2007	2025	5886	1095	9636	1550	89	164	640	615	1427	754	858	1080
Elyria-Lorain (20) 12/16/2000	97	555	101	338	66	203	376	81	162	174	100	344	197	237	9
Firelands (9) 12/16/2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	12	—	—	12	9	—
Fremont (8) 12/23/2000	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Lake St. Marys (41) 12/17/2000	85	82	101	55	69	43	74	14	40	35	96	17	176	27	10
Grand Rapids-Waterville (2) 12/30/2000	4	14	9	—	11	3	8	—	—	—	8	—	2	1	7
Greenville (43) 12/31/2000	222	140	352	49	120	33	63	1	—	16	17	96	195	17	20
Gypsum (6) 12/30/2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	CW	8	99
Hamilton-Fairfield (62) 12/16/2000	25	5	—	16	3	1	29	42	—	1	7	117	1	12	27
Hancock Co. (10) 12/16/2000	445	618	237	464	231	194	313	48	132	416	185	158	45	309	128
Hoover Reservoir (53) 12/16/2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indian Lake (42) 12/16/2000	655	746	451	318	277	124	123	39	31	192	80	208	99	190	133
Killdeer Plains (50) 12/31/2000	62	74	77	54	63	73	68	41	31	474	350	552	142	991	262
Kingston (58) 12/31/2000	108	1485	859	924	51	424	141	270	173	474	350	552	142	464	496
—	62	74	77	54	63	73	68	41	31	70	47	64	70	49	49
12601	18637	12881	12729	8691	36727	28956	2804	2300	7871	4421	12447	7238	6247	4156	6210
30	87	56	26	11	28	22	7	4	34	19	9	17	21	14	14
1	48	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	2
116	188	99	67	32	66	37	13	17	66	23	31	36	??	40	30
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

	Lake Erie Islands (6) 12/20/2000	Lakewood (21) 12/30/2000	Lancaster (13) 12/16/2000	Mansfield (67) 12/23/2000	Mentor (24) 12/16/2000	Millersburg (63) 12/16/2000	Nichigan State Forest (35) 12/20/2000	Mt. Gilead (51) 12/16/2000	New Lexington (75) 12/17/2000	Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) (64) 12/16/2000	O'Shaughnessy Res. (44) 12/17/2000	Ottawa N.W.R. (4) 12/3/2000	Orkney Lake (7) 12/30/2000	Oxford (61) 12/16/2000
American Robin	35	166	21	14	34	236	36	—	5	307	18	3	—	493
Variety Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Catbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Northern Mockingbird	—	2	9	—	1	40	3	2	2	16	7	CW	—	12
Brown Thrasher	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
European Starling	706	266	877	455	494	663	397	209	216	898	2319	1844	2178	1910
American Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	50	1	31	31	—	111	349	50	2	67	—	135	137	129
Yellow-rumped Warbler	31	—	12	2	—	20	2	—	5	11	1	3	32	2
warbler sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Summer Tanager	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Towhee	—	—	16	1	—	62	12	—	5	14	—	—	—	2
American Tree Sparrow	942	34	49	117	70	548	447	7	12	154	3	1434	44	49
Chipping Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Field Sparrow	—	—	1	9	—	9	3	—	—	21	—	—	—	—
Savannah Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fox Sparrow	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3	—	1
Song Sparrow	151	13	65	82	17	543	62	12	19	230	29	157	2	9
Lincoln's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	31	—	—	2	—	20	2	—	—	35	—	26	—	—
White-throated Sparrow	158	18	48	7	5	137	44	—	11	142	2	3	—	40
Harris's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-crowned Sparrow	1	—	3	18	2	190	45	12	—	33	—	15	—	5
sparrow sp.	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed Junco	447	165	385	495	125	629	592	29	166	125	87	220	64	96
Laplard Longspur	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	254	—	20	—	CW
Snow Bunting	698	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—	3	230	—	—	CW
Northern Cardinal	281	88	197	227	101	823	282	24	117	346	88	231	58	97
Red-winged Blackbird	2	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	17	20	75	1	—
Eastern Meadowlark	—	—	—	7	—	26	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Brewer's Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
blackbird sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	3	—	—	12	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	—	—	—	4	—	52	—	—	—	22	—	—	—
Purple Finch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	1	—	—	—
House Finch	70	199	74	211	48	155	140	38	19	23	67	55	36	52
Red Crossbill	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Redpoll	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	6	—	1	—	1	—	12	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
American Goldfinch	60	182	51	232	33	232	260	17	95	118	76	242	12	82
Evening Grosbeak	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Sparrow	564	491	180	540	268	828	223	16	99	59	225	3442	270	609
total species	66	60	55	63	64	82	67	33	40	71	48	72	43	56
total individuals	9533	15937	4780	16340	4691	11370	6521	597	1268	8519	4754	15718	4707	5913
observers	10	26	30	15	??	64	15	3	7	10	7	25	9	16
+ at feeders	0	2	9	28	??	0	6	3	1	0	0	0	2	6
party hours	41	37	45	61	30	159	59	9	19	35	27	40	28	112

	Paint Creek Area (66) 12/17/2000	Parkersburg (79) 12/30/2000	Plymouth (12) 12/30/2000	Portsmouth (81) 12/16/2000	Prairie Co. (68) 12/21/2000	Quail Hollow-Hartville (37) 12/16/2000	Ragerville (70) 12/27/2000	Salem (33) 12/30/2000	Tiffin (11) 12/16/2000	Toledo (3) 12/17/2000	Trumbull Co. (26) 12/17/2000	Wellington (26) 12/30/2000	Western Hamilton Co. (63) 12/23/2000	Wilmet (32) 12/16/2000	Wooster (31) 12/23/2000	Youngstown (34) 12/16/2000	Total Individuals	Number of Counts
13	76	—	318	106	—	179	20	2	22	—	—	1639	7	51	20	19434	53	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2		
CW	58	—	38	—	—	124	4	1	—	—	—	45	40	3	1	656	43	
811	3489	86	3328	274	508	3107	859	2554	5636	257	1884	22360	2161	545	413	132922	62	
1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	6	
72	—	3	56	15	37	128	—	37	162	70	—	124	34	24	33	11011	52	
29	20	4	32	—	1	35	5	5	16	4	4	7	16	—	—	752	46	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	
3	52	—	16	—	85	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	4	1	445	32	
64	12	251	4	84	133	1158	393	532	441	230	632	489	198	526	50	15201	61	
—	13	—	5	20	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	1	16	2	—	241	25	
—	—	—	5	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	CW	—	—	31	8	
—	8	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	CW	1	—	38	19	
21	261	11	135	21	33	1055	67	63	60	27	28	350	128	94	14	6154	62	
—	—	24	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
41	181	—	133	15	4	267	17	43	38	5	1	347	14	43	21	4368	58	
3	6	8	59	1	8	373	33	22	4	2	26	7	194	24	5	1707	52	
—	521	204	225	156	222	1314	327	934	262	235	648	404	265	292	71	17264	61	
—	—	—	—	15	CW	48	—	—	—	—	—	3034	—	—	—	3540	17	
—	—	8	—	13	CW	25	105	20	—	4	47	12	66	—	—	1958	31	
83	589	27	230	91	163	1455	325	333	256	195	219	672	485	272	88	15550	62	
—	—	22	—	—	—	2	—	—	59	—	—	—	2012	4	1	2529	26	
11	3	11	19	—	1	40	—	—	—	2	9	5	28	—	—	345	25	
—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	347	—	—	409	9	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
2	1	—	60	—	3	CW	2	9	—	—	—	—	227	—	—	10259	4	
—	—	4	—	2	—	83	—	—	266	3	5	26	—	—	—	28586	35	
—	—	8	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	3	—	—	—	826	27	
13	398	104	99	41	217	426	67	306	156	111	66	38	184	69	108	7395	61	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	4	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	34	7
21	326	58	158	14	183	663	97	178	150	247	296	174	308	172	63	8880	62	
13	322	156	200	282	494	1720	687	1154	1379	167	677	1177	1696	503	98	32738	62	
56	66	44	67	44	50	78	48	59	72	61	49	69	66	66	51	148	148	
3269	10781	2106	7848	2450	5549	21229												



The 2000-01 Christmas Bird Count areas. Numbers within circles correspond to count numbers in the preceding article.

Short Note: Cedars and Waxwings

On a clear, calm day in April 2000, we received four calls from Adams County residents living around our Edge of Appalachia Preserve. This 13,000-acre preserve has been owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy and the Cincinnati Museum Center for the past 40 years, and consists in large part of heavily-forested rugged terrain and associated habitats. Our callers were concerned that some one was apparently setting fires along the hillsides in our Wilderness Preserve. They seemed genuinely alarmed, and the conditions were such that we decided to respond quickly. Chris Bedel of the Cincinnati Museum Center and I donned our Nomex (fire-resistant clothing) and helmets, and loaded tools in the truck to go out to see what we could do, and whether it would be better to call the Fire Department.

As we approached the area we could clearly see smoke rising from the hillsides and drifting upslope. As we came closer we noticed the smoke was rising from the red cedars *Juniperus virginiana* for the most part, and upon closer inspection we found that these cedars were not in fact in flames, but pollinating at an astounding rate! Between us we had 18 years of experience in this habitat, and we had never seen anything like this. Throughout the year these familiar trees of the limestone soils of the local Bluegrass region went on to produce a truly amazing fruit crop. Later, they were literally covered in the small blue berries (actually cones) typical of the species, so much so that the trees appeared more blue than green.

It should not perhaps have surprised us that when this year's Christmas Bird Count took place on 16 December, we had the highest count of cedar waxwings ever recorded in our 26-year history of counting—an astounding 2092 birds! Our previous high had been 542 waxwings in 1998. I should also note that our count also encountered some of the worst weather on record, with heavy rain throughout, conditions which kept our out-of-car hours way down, so who knows how many waxwings we might have counted on a clear day? Not only that, but don't we have to ask how the waxwings knew we had such a crop?

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The all-time Ohio high for a CBC count of this species is 2746 birds, tallied in Cincinnati in 1989, perhaps under similar conditions (see Tom Kemp's article in this issue). This winter, D. Brinkman found 1389 in nearby East Fork State Park on the following day (17 December) with far better weather, as did the Cincinnati CBC with better weather on 30 December with 2346 waxwings.—Ed.