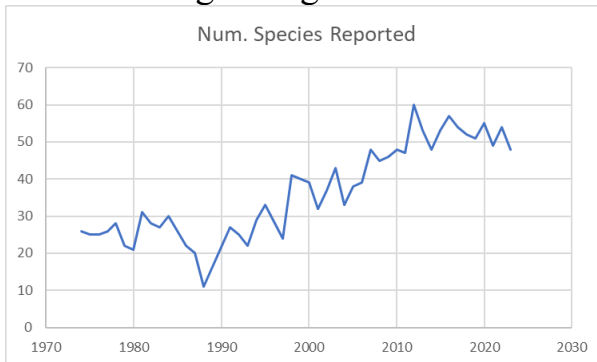




## 2023-24 Clyde Count Courier

Another successful Clyde Christmas bird count though many commented on the slow start to the day. Like last year, we had 9 separate parties scouring the countryside. As always, the different teams always seem to complement each other's tallies. This year, the northern section people fared better than the southern areas, though I'm sure it's not related to their birding skills 😊. This year, we totaled 51 species, with some great sightings (sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, scaup, merganser, shrikes, red-winged blackbird) and a few notable absent birds (golden eagles, cooper's hawk and pine siskins). Luckily, we got the count in before the snow and cold arrived. Below are the totals going back to the mid 70's. Year 2012 was the highest count at 60 species. You can see a trend of increased species count as we've enlisted some sharp birders, although we're starting to plateau now. We'll see what climate change brings us in the future.



Thank you all for participating in this year's count. Even though a few of the regular participants couldn't make it for this late season count, we still had a great turnout (13 people) and it was fun to share stories with our traditional drink and holiday cheer at the bar. Great to finally meet Aaron Holschbach in person and welcome our newest member, Leo Nolan. Thanks for your dedication and taking a day out of your busy schedules to participate. I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Steve