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Over Half a Century of Mammoth Cave National Park Mid-winter Bird Count Data

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Over a Half Century of Mammoth Cave National Park Mid-Winter Bird Count Data

Blaine Ferrell

Abstract

Mid-winter or Christmas Bird Counts have occurred at Mammoth Cave National Park for over 50 years. Twenty-one species of birds have been observed on almost all counts, 10 species have been observed on only one count and another 20 species have been observed on many counts. Six species observed early during the count period are absent on more recent counts and four species that were not observed on earlier counts now are observed with some frequency. The number of species on count day ranges from 30 to 57 species. Factors that impact the number of species observed on counts such as food availability, number of observers, numbers of parties and weather conditions will be mentioned.