

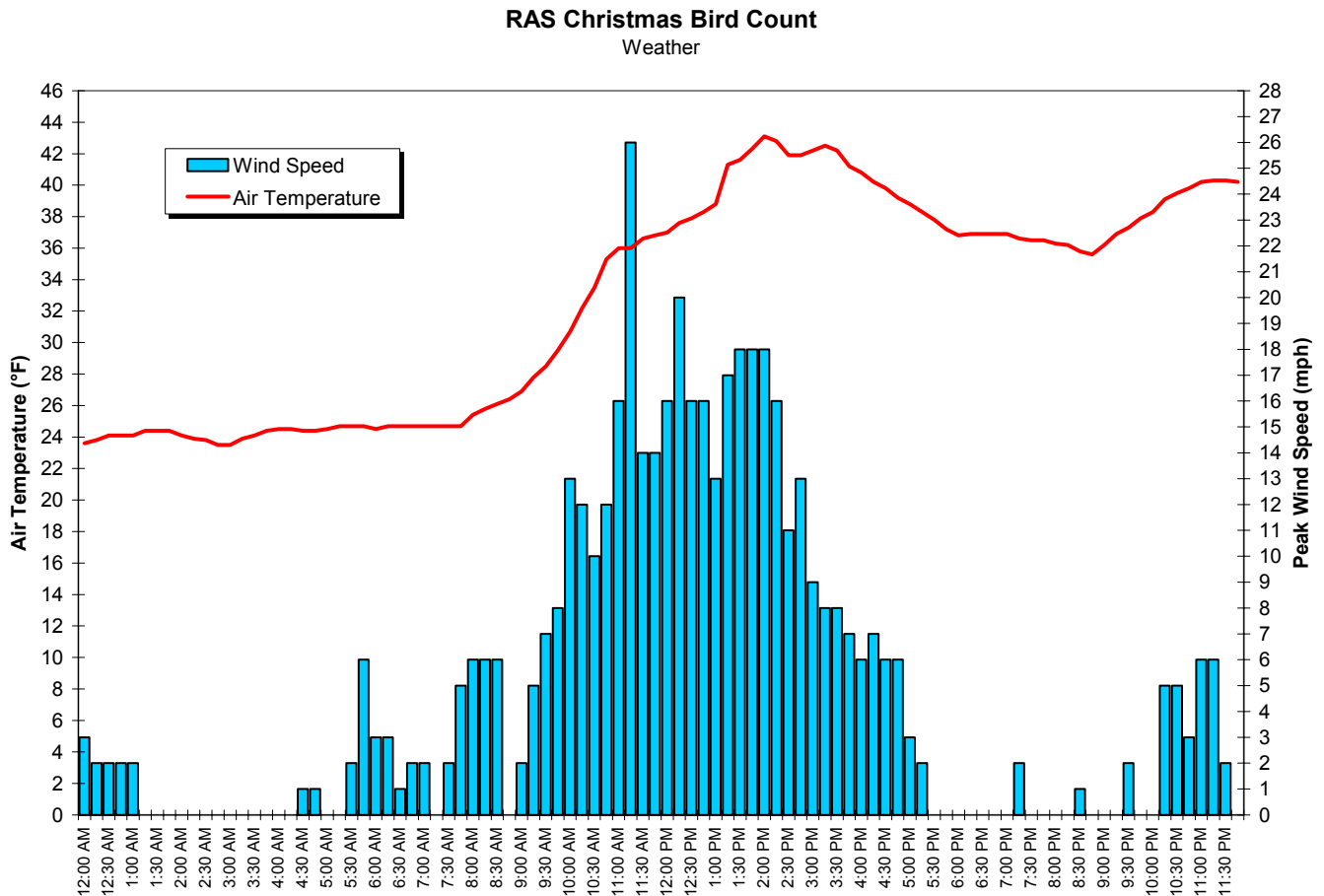
ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

62nd Christmas Bird Count Summary

Date: 12/14/2008

Thanks to all the field participants and feeder watchers for a successful count! Look for the final results in the 62(1) issue of the RAS OBSERVER (to be mailed in January).

Weather: Skies were mostly sunny in the morning with increasing clouds throughout the day. Temperatures ranged from below freezing in the morning (24°F) to a high of nearly 43 °F at 2 PM. Average wind speed was less than 2 mph in the morning and reaching 6-8 mph by midday. Peak gusts during midday generally reached 15-28 mph. Wind direction was SW-SSW. No measurable precipitation occurred at any time during the count day. There was no snow cover. Lakes and ponds were largely frozen, but generally included some open water. Running waters were almost entirely open. The Hudson River was entirely ice-free.



Field Observers (40 adults, 2 fledglings, a.k.a. children.): **Group 1:** Alan Wells, Della Wells, Phil Faurot, Julia Warger, John Tyler; **Group 2:** Gene Herskovics, Tom Fuller, Elyse Fuller **Group 3:** Jessie Traband, Frank Kemmer **Group 4:** Bonnie Koop, Helen Russell, Donna Nye, Debbie Bell, Joanna Goldone; **Group 5:** Susan Freiman, Pat Murray, Gloria North, Karen D'Alessandri; **Group 6:** Stephanie Garber, Michael Garber, Glenys Foster Roberts, Veronika Krause; **Group 7:** Carol Weiss, Joan Totton, Marsha Meyer, Ken McNichol, Sandy Mattson; **Group 8:** Jim Previdi, Larrie Goetz, Gene Brown, Dan Albantides, Ron Conzo, Jeremy Pardo; **Group 9:** Vince Plogar, Frank Bonanno, Drew Ciganek, Tom Harten, Karl Knoecklein, Tom Dow, Susan Dow, Chris Healy.

Feeder Counters (4): Nancy Slowik, Caroline McDonald, John & Jane Lampkin, the Pardo Family.

Coverage (Preliminary): 328 miles traveled by car, 59 miles traveled by foot.

Results: The 62nd Rockland Audubon Christmas Bird count was held December 14, a week earlier than usual. A total of 42 people participated in the field compared to 36 in 2007. A total of 21,566 individual birds, representing 92 species were counted by the field observers. An additional 269 individuals were added by the feeder counters. Feeder counters tallied 28 species, one of which, Gray Catbird, was not observed by the field counters. Four additional species, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Long-tailed Duck and Green-winged Teal, were reported during count week (three days before and three days after count day). Overall, the number of species counted (96) was the highest ever recorded in the 62-year history of the RAS count. The total number of individuals was similar to those observed during the last 7-8 years. The top five species—European Starling (5,840), Canada Goose (4,049), Common Merganser (2,237), Ring-billed Gull (1,447), and Mallard (868)—made up 66% of the total number observed. Bald Eagle sightings (18) were the second highest in the RAS count history, behind the 29 counted in 2007.

Highlights: Several unusual sighting occurred this year, including: Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Merlin, American Pipit, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Vulture, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Redpoll. Killdeer and Cedar Waxwing were a surprising misses.



Photo 1. Christmas Bird Count Sunrise over Haverstraw Bay, Hudson River.



Photo 2. John Tyler spotted this young Merlin having breakfast near Bowline Pond. This was only the sixth time a Merlin has been recorded on the RAS CBC.



Photo 3. Best Buds! This odd pair of Haverstraw Landfill geese were seemingly inseparable.



Photo 4. This lone Horned Lark was spotted by Phil Faurot at the Haverstraw Landfill. So where were the rest of them?



Photo 5. This Mallard x American Black Duck hybrid was discovered and photographed on a small pond at Letchworth Village on 12/13/08 during a pre-CBC scouting expedition. It was still present on count day.



Photo 6. Hundreds of Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were found at Stony Point Battlefield the day before the count. On count day, they were gone!



Photo 7. Phil Faurot, John Tyler, Della Wells, and Julia Warger search a hedgerow at Haverstraw Bay County Park (Region 1) without much success.



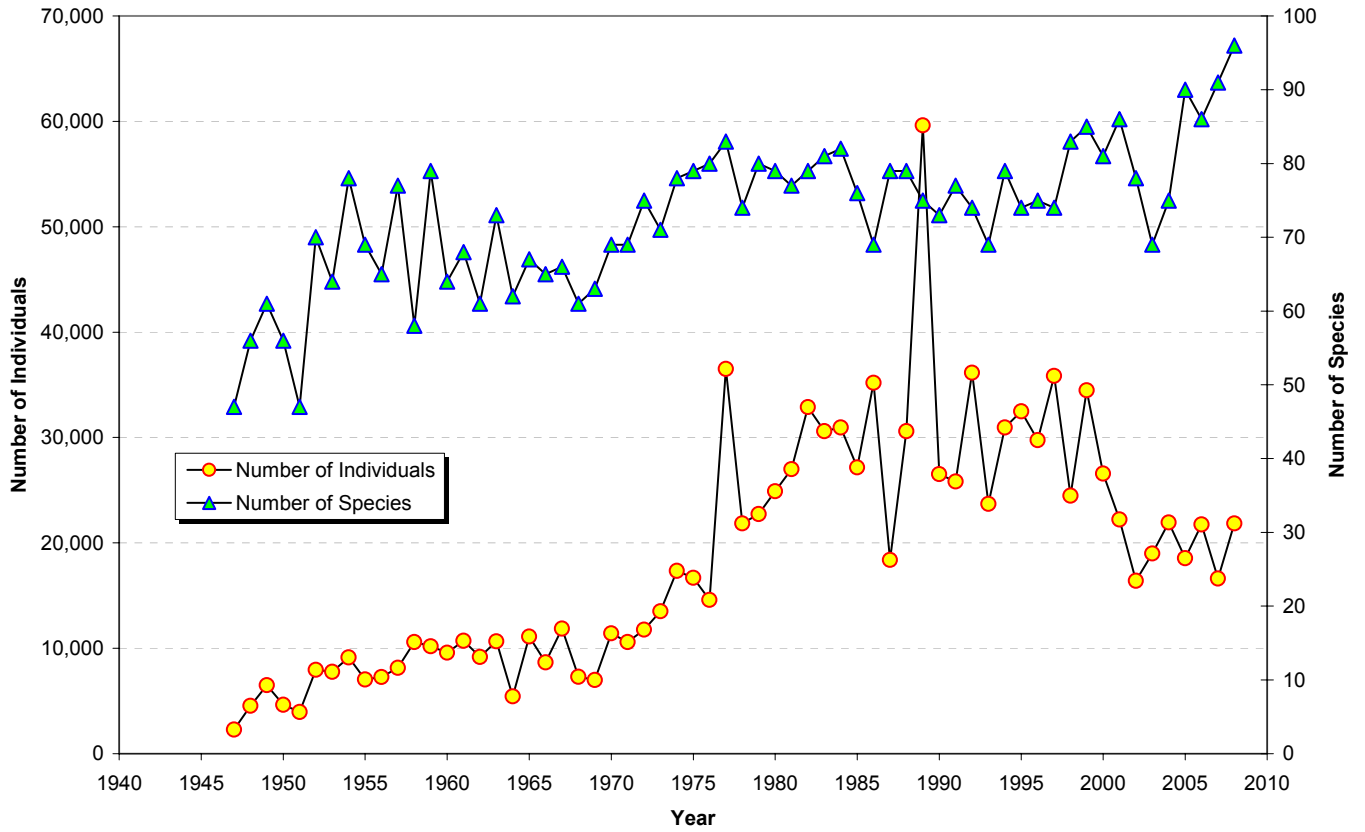
Photo 8. Drew Ciganek digiscoped this Greater Yellowlegs at Piermont Pier (Region 9). This is the first time this species has appeared on the RAS CBC.



Photo 9. Micheal Garber photographed this posing Northern Mockingbird in Region 6.

RAS Christmas Bird Count

(Preliminary Data for Current Year)



Preliminary Results

Common Name	Region Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Rank
European Starling	5840	34	0	1
Canada Goose	4049	20	0	2
Common Merganser	2237	0	0	3
Ring-billed Gull	1447	0	0	4
Mallard	868	0	0	5
Dark-eyed Junco	649	16	0	6
Canvasback	654	0	0	7
American Crow	608	2	0	8
House Sparrow	552	36	0	9
American Robin	444	2	0	10
Red-winged Blackbird	415	0	0	11
Rock Pigeon	359	3	0	12
American Goldfinch	351	2	0	13
Ruddy Duck	314	0	0	14
White-throated Sparrow	269	25	0	15
Blue Jay	223	13	0	16
Mourning Dove	196	18	0	17
Tufted Titmouse	191	15	0	18
Black-capped Chickadee	176	13	0	19
Northern Cardinal	169	11	0	20
Song Sparrow	142	6	0	21
Northern Mockingbird	103	1	0	22
Downy Woodpecker	97	3	0	23
Common Grackle	76	0	0	24
Northern Shoveler	71	0	0	25
Turkey Vulture	67	3	0	26
Common Goldeneye	69	0	0	27
Red-tailed Hawk	67	1	0	28
House Finch	42	20	0	29
Wild Turkey	55	0	0	30
Hooded Merganser	54	0	0	31
Black Vulture	51	0	0	32
White-breasted Nuthatch	43	7	0	33
Bufflehead	49	0	0	34
Carolina Wren	48	1	0	34
American Black Duck	43	0	0	36
Red-bellied Woodpecker	39	4	0	36
Gadwall	34	0	0	38
Great Black-backed Gull	33	0	0	39
American Coot	26	0	0	40
Double-crested Cormorant	25	0	0	41
Northern Flicker	25	0	0	41
American Tree Sparrow	20	4	0	43
Hairy Woodpecker	19	2	0	44
Golden-crowned Kinglet	20	0	0	45
Bald Eagle (A=Adult)	18	0	0	46
Herring Gull	16	0	0	47
American Pipit	15	0	0	48
Mute Swan	14	0	0	49
Great Blue Heron	14	0	0	49
Eastern Screech-Owl	12	0	0	51

Belted Kingfisher	12	0	0	51
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	0	0	53
Hermit Thrush	11	0	0	53
Great Horned Owl	7	2	0	55
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	0	0	55
Wood Duck	8	0	0	57
Cooper's Hawk	8	0	0	57
Pileated Woodpecker	8	0	0	57
Eastern Bluebird	8	0	0	57
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	0	0	57
Brown Creeper	6	0	0	62
Savannah Sparrow	6	0	0	62
Fox Sparrow	1	4	0	64
Ring-necked Duck	3	0	0	65
Northern Harrier	3	0	0	65
Common Raven	3	0	0	65
Winter Wren	3	0	0	65
Swamp Sparrow	3	0	0	65
Purple Finch	3	0	0	65
Snow Goose	2	0	0	71
Osprey	2	0	0	71
Merlin	2	0	0	71
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0	0	71
Fish Crow	2	0	0	71
Pine Siskin	2	0	0	71
Mallard × American Black Duck	1	0	0	77
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	0	0	77
Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	0	77
American Kestrel	1	0	0	77
Peregrine Falcon	1	0	0	77
Greater Yellowlegs	1	0	0	77
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	0	0	77
Wilson's Snipe	1	0	0	77
Barred Owl	1	0	0	77
Horned Lark	1	0	0	77
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	77
Gray Catbird	0	1	0	77
Eastern Towhee	1	0	0	77
Rusty Blackbird	1	0	0	77
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	0	77
Common Redpoll	1	0	0	77

Plus Count Week: Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Long-tailed Duck, and Green-winged Teal.