

ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

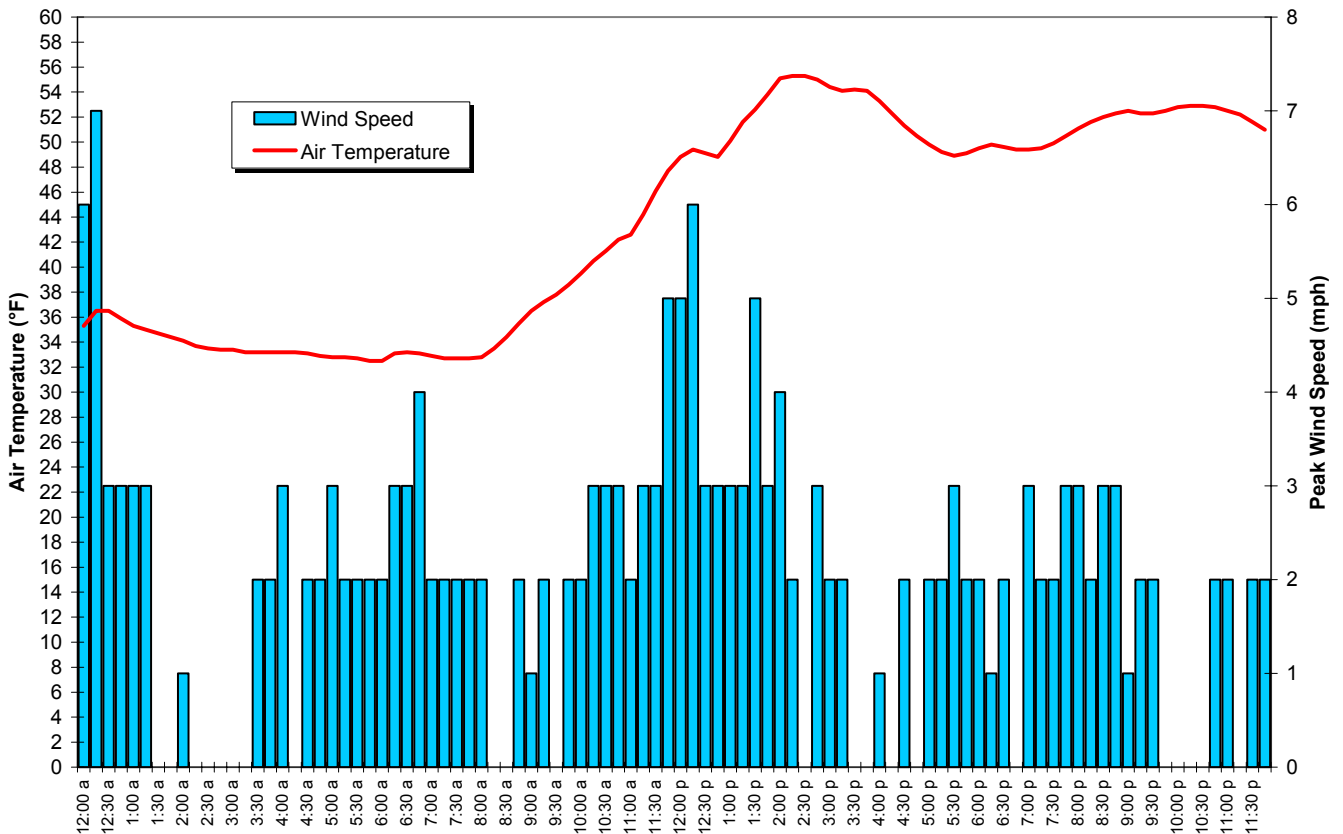
Christmas Bird Count Summary

Date: 12/17/2006

Thanks to all the participants and feeder counters for one of the most successful counts yet! Look for the final results in the next issue of the RAS OBSERVER

Weather: A bit of early morning frost in some areas, but otherwise unseasonably warm; no snow on ground; all ponds, lakes, and running waters open. Temperatures generally ranged between 34-36°F in the morning; then began rising to a peak of approximately 55.3°F at 2:15PM. Temperatures remained mild, about 50°F the remainder of the day and evening. Relative Humidity was approximately 85% throughout the predawn period, then slowly dropped to a low of about 49% at 2:30 PM. Winds were light, generally less than 3-4 mph. No precipitation occurred at any time during the count day.

RAS Christmas Bird Count
Weather



Field Observers: **Group 1:** Alan Wells, Della Wells, Phil Faurot, Donna Nye, Debbie Bell; **Group 2:** Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Bob Wei, David Kaplan, Andy Helcke; **Group 3:** Marianne Jenkins, Jessie Traband, Anna Kaufer, Sara Kaufer, Sam Kaufer; **Group 4:** Anne French, Padraic French, Bonnie Koop, Joanna Galdone, Tom Micelli, Helen Russell, **Group 5:** Ruth Carlson, Susan Freiman, Don Smith, Pat Murray, Lorrie Pallant, **Group 6:** Anita Gossett, Stephanie Garber, Michael Garber, Glenys Foster Roberts, Veronika Krause, Ronnie Smith, **Group 7:** Carol Weiss, Stan Pallant, Joan Totton, Valerie von Volz, Marsha Meyer, Ken McNichol, John Lampkin, Bob Celander, **Group 8:** Jim Previdi, Larry Goetz, Gene Brown, Dan Albantides, Tom Rowe, **Group 9:** Vince Plogar, Frank Bonanno, Tom Harten, Drew Ciganek, Karl Knoecklein, Tom Dow, Susan Dow, Chris Healy, (49 adults, 4 fledglings, a.k.a. children)

Feeder Counters: John Deans, Pat Murray, Mayneal Wayland, Laurence Pringle, Nancy Slowik, Vicki Beaumont, Marianne Jenkins, Jack Hecht, Howard Meiner (9 feeder counters).

Coverage (Preliminary): 268 miles traveled by car, 69.5 miles traveled by foot.

Results: A total of 21,296 individuals, representing 84 species, was counted by the field observers. An additional 455 individuals were added by the feeder counters. Feeder counters tallied 32 species, two of which were not observed by the counters in the field (Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow). Four additional species, Red-throated Loon, Merlin, Hermit Thrush, and Brown-headed Cowbird, were reported by Drew Ciganik and Carol Weiss from the count week (three days before to three days after the count day). Counts were similar to 2002 (16,797 and 76 species), 2003 (18,983 and 69 species), 2004 (21,034 and 75 species), 2005 (18,546 and 90 species). Based on previous results (see below), the number of individuals and species are within historic ranges. Of note, however, are the numbers of American Crow. Their numbers have declined sharply over recent years: 15,523 in 2000, 3,935 in 2001, 1,769 in 2002, 354 in 2003, 275 in 2004, and 1124 in 2005. This year's count of 358 is among the lowest and suggests that the population has not recovered.

Highlights: The fantastic participation in the 2006 Count. For our 60th Christmas Count, we set a goal of 60 participants. We surpassed that number with two to spare!



Photo 1. Haverstraw Bay in the pre-dawn light. Della and Phil scanning for waterfowl.



Photo 2. Great Horned Owl. I know this is a terrible picture (red-eye, stray branches and all) and I normally would not include a picture like this. However, I felt obligated to demonstrate to all those who braved (for naught) the cold during the December 2nd owl prowling that there really are owls at Stony Point Battlefield!



Photo 3. Common Merganser was the most abundant species in 2006. This female was photographed at Rockland Lake shortly after the count.



Photo 4. Black Vultures are moving into the county in rapidly increasing numbers. It was first recorded in 1995 with 3 individuals. Two were seen in 2001, 2002, and 2003. In 2005 a record 16 were seen. This year's 53 more than tripled the 2005 record.



Photo 5. American Tree Sparrow has been seen during all 60 RAS Christmas Counts.



Photo 6. Fish Crows can be nearly impossible to distinguish from the American Crows. Luckily the “uh-uh” call of this species is very distinctive!



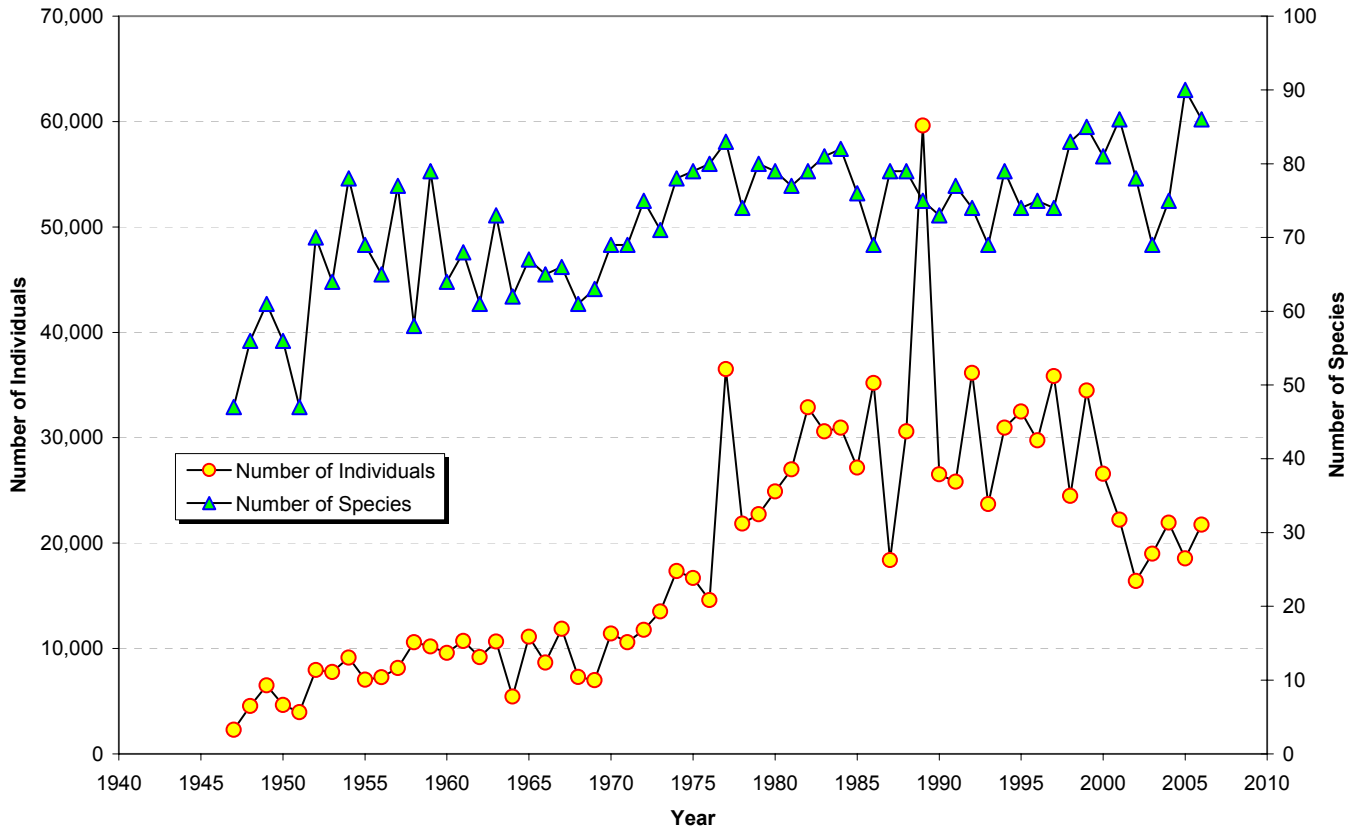
Photo 7. Drew added a Red-throated Loon during the count week period.



Photo 8. Yeeee Hawww! Git along little dogies, we haven't got all day!

RAS Christmas Bird Count

(Preliminary Data for Current Year)



Preliminary Results

Common Name	Region Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Rank
Common Merganser	5700	0	0	1
Canada Goose	3435	9	0	2
European Starling	2077	32	0	3
Red-winged Blackbird	1713	1	0	4
Ring-billed Gull	1036	0	0	5
Rock Dove	691	12	0	6
Dark-eyed Junco	646	23	0	7
American Robin	620	0	0	8
House Sparrow	566	35	0	9
Mourning Dove	437	75	0	10
Mallard	464	0	0	11
American Crow	358	4	0	12
Herring Gull	351	0	0	13
Blue Jay	308	33	0	14
White-throated Sparrow	297	32	0	15
American Goldfinch	208	5	0	16
Black-capped Chickadee	165	26	0	17
Tufted Titmouse	159	30	0	18
Song Sparrow	164	6	0	19
Canvasback	167	0	0	20
Ruddy Duck	156	0	0	21
Northern Cardinal	121	22	0	22
Downy Woodpecker	115	18	0	23
White-breasted Nuthatch	98	15	0	24
Gadwall	90	0	0	25
House Finch	56	29	0	26
Northern Mockingbird	80	3	0	27
Turkey Vulture	74	0	0	28
Red-bellied Woodpecker	66	6	0	29
American Tree Sparrow	63	3	0	30
American Coot	63	0	0	31
Carolina Wren	55	4	0	32
Bufflehead	57	0	0	33
American Black Duck	56	0	0	34
Red-tailed Hawk	53	3	0	34
Black Vulture	53	0	0	36
Hooded Merganser	45	0	0	37
Wood Duck	42	0	0	38
Wild Turkey	28	12	0	39
Mute Swan	38	0	0	40
Fish Crow	38	0	0	40
Northern Shoveler	35	0	0	42
Double-crested Cormorant	31	0	0	43
Hairy Woodpecker	18	8	0	44
Great Black-backed Gull	17	0	0	45
Common Goldeneye	13	0	0	46
Great Blue Heron	13	0	0	46
Bald Eagle (A=Adult)	11	0	0	48
Eastern Screech-Owl	11	0	0	48
Northern Flicker	9	2	0	48
American Pipit	11	0	0	48
American Green-winged Teal	10	0	0	52
Belted Kingfisher	9	0	0	53
Pileated Woodpecker	8	1	0	53
Winter Wren	8	1	0	53
Eastern Bluebird	9	0	0	53
Savannah Sparrow	9	0	0	53
Great Horned Owl	6	0	0	58
Fox Sparrow	5	1	0	58
Pied-billed Grebe	5	0	0	60
Cooper's Hawk	5	0	0	60
Peregrine Falcon	5	0	0	60
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	0	0	63

Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	0	0	63
Brown Creeper	3	0	0	65
Common Grackle	2	1	0	65
American Wigeon	2	0	0	67
Osprey	2	0	0	67
Northern Harrier	2	0	0	67
Killdeer	2	0	0	67
Common Raven	2	0	0	67
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	0	0	67
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	0	0	67
Swamp Sparrow	2	0	0	67
White-crowned Sparrow	0	2	0	67
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	0	0	76
Ring-necked Duck	1	0	0	76
Great Cormorant	1	0	0	76
American Woodcock	1	0	0	76
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	76
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	76
Brown Thrasher	1	0	0	76
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	0	76
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	0	0	76
Chipping Sparrow	0	1	0	76
Field Sparrow	1	0	0	76

COUNT WEEK ADDITIONS

Red-throated Loon
Merlin
Hermit Thrush
Brown-headed Cowbird