

# ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Trip Report, Christmas Bird Count Summary

**Date:** 12/20/03 (Rescheduled from 12/14/03)

**Weather:** Clear in AM, scattered clouds in PM. Temperatures ranged from 26 to 38°F. Scattered patches of snow. Most inland ponds covered with ice.

**Participants:** Debbie Bell, Eugene Brown, Ruth Carlson, Drew Ciganik, Susan Frieman, Glenys Foster Roberts, Anne French, Padraic French, Joanna Galdone, Tom Harten, Andy Janus, Jamie Janus, Marianne Jenkins, Sarah Johnson, Anna Kaufer, Sara Kaufer, Bonnie Koop, Karl Knoecklein, Veronika Krause, Tom Micelli, Donna Nye, Lorrie Pallant, Stan Pallant, Vince Plogar, Jim Previdi, Joan Totton, Jessie Traband, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells, Della Wells. (26 adults, 4 children)

**Feeder Counters:** William Fahan, Jean Heyl, Laurence Pringle, Nancy Slowik, Mayneal Wayland. The original count date, 12/14/03, unfortunately coincided with a major Nor'Easter. We tried to notify as many participants as possible that the CBC was rescheduled. Some feeder counters did not receive word and counted on the 12/14. While their counts cannot be included in the official report, their efforts are included in the preliminary list below and are greatly appreciated. (Only Laurence Pringle recounted on 12/20/03.)

**Coverage:** 229 miles traveled by car, 31.5 miles traveled by foot (preliminary).

**Results:** A total of 18,961 individuals representing 70 species, were counted by the field observers. An additional 454 individuals were added by the feeder counters. Counts were higher than 2002. During that year, 16,623 individuals from 78 species were counted. 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; and 354 in 2003. (Some of the decline might be explained by changes in counting effort, but it is likely that the West Nile Virus is the major cause.)

**Highlights:** The North Rockland Team finding \$6.11 in cold, hard cash! The good showing of Bald Eagles; at least seven were seen. The North Rockland Team couldn't help admiring the resourcefulness shown by a beaver at Haverstraw County Park (see **Photo 10**).

The Eastern Meadowlark seen at Haverstraw Landfill on Sunday was an exceptional sighting. This is only the second CBC sighting (albeit Count Week, rather than Count Day) since 1971. The last one was seen in 1991. Good spotting Della!



**Photo 1.** Happy North Rockland Counters!



**Photo 2.** Scanning the horizon.



**Photo 3.** Incoming!! Canvasback landing.



**Photo 4.** This year's most abundant species.



**Photo 5.** Piermont Panarama (Photo courtesy of Karl Knoecklein)



**Photo 6.** A smug Ring-billed Gull in second place.



**Photo 7.** In third place, Rockland's feathered finest on parade.





**Photo 8.** Searching for eagles at Stony Point.



**Photo 9.** Found one!.



**Photo 9.** Count Down Pot Luck.



**Photo 10.** One lazy (or impatient) beaver!

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

	Field	Feeder	TOTAL
Canvasback	4,203		4,203
Ring-billed Gull	4,033		4,033
Canada Goose	2,692		2,692
European Starling	2,349	4	2,353
Common Merganser	932		932
Mallard	692		692
Ruddy Duck	450		450
American Crow	354		354
Dark-eyed Junco	350	51	401
Mourning Dove	299	26	325
Rock Pigeon	234		234
House Sparrow	231	56	287
Blue Jay	221	36	257
Red-winged Blackbird	218	22	240
American Goldfinch	172	6	178
White-throated Sparrow	171	46	217
Song Sparrow	119		119
House Finch	109	42	151
Black-capped Chickadee	106	13	119
Tufted Titmouse	102	18	120
American Tree Sparrow	99	36	135
Northern Cardinal	89	36	125
Downy Woodpecker	66	12	78
Turkey Vulture	52	9	61
Northern Mockingbird	51	1	52
American Robin	48	1	49
Hooded Merganser	47		47
Common Grackle	45		45
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	7	51
White-breasted Nuthatch	43	6	49
Red-tailed Hawk	36		36
Bufflehead	34		34
Great Black-backed Gull	28		28
Great Blue Heron	28		28
Herring Gull	28		28
Wild Turkey	22		22
American Black Duck	20		20
Carolina Wren	16	1	17
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16		16
Belted Kingfisher	13		13
Hairy Woodpecker	10	4	14
Northern Flicker	9	1	10
Double-crested Cormorant	7		7
Bald Eagle	7		6
Eastern Screech-Owl	6		6
Fish Crow	5		5
Gray Catbird	5		5
Cooper's Hawk	4		4
Great Horned Owl	4		4

Mute Swan	4		4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	1	5
Common Goldeneye	3		3
Eastern Bluebird	3		3
Eastern Towhee	3	1	4
Green-winged Teal	3		3
Horned Lark	3		3
Northern Harrier	3		3
Brown Creeper	2		2
Common Raven	2		2
Great Cormorant	2		2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	3
American Pipit	1		1
Eastern Meadowlark	1		1
Fox Sparrow	1	17	18
Peregrine Falcon	1		1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1
Swamp Sparrow	1		1
Winter Wren	1		1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		1

### RAS Christmas Bird Count

