

ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Christmas Bird Count Summary

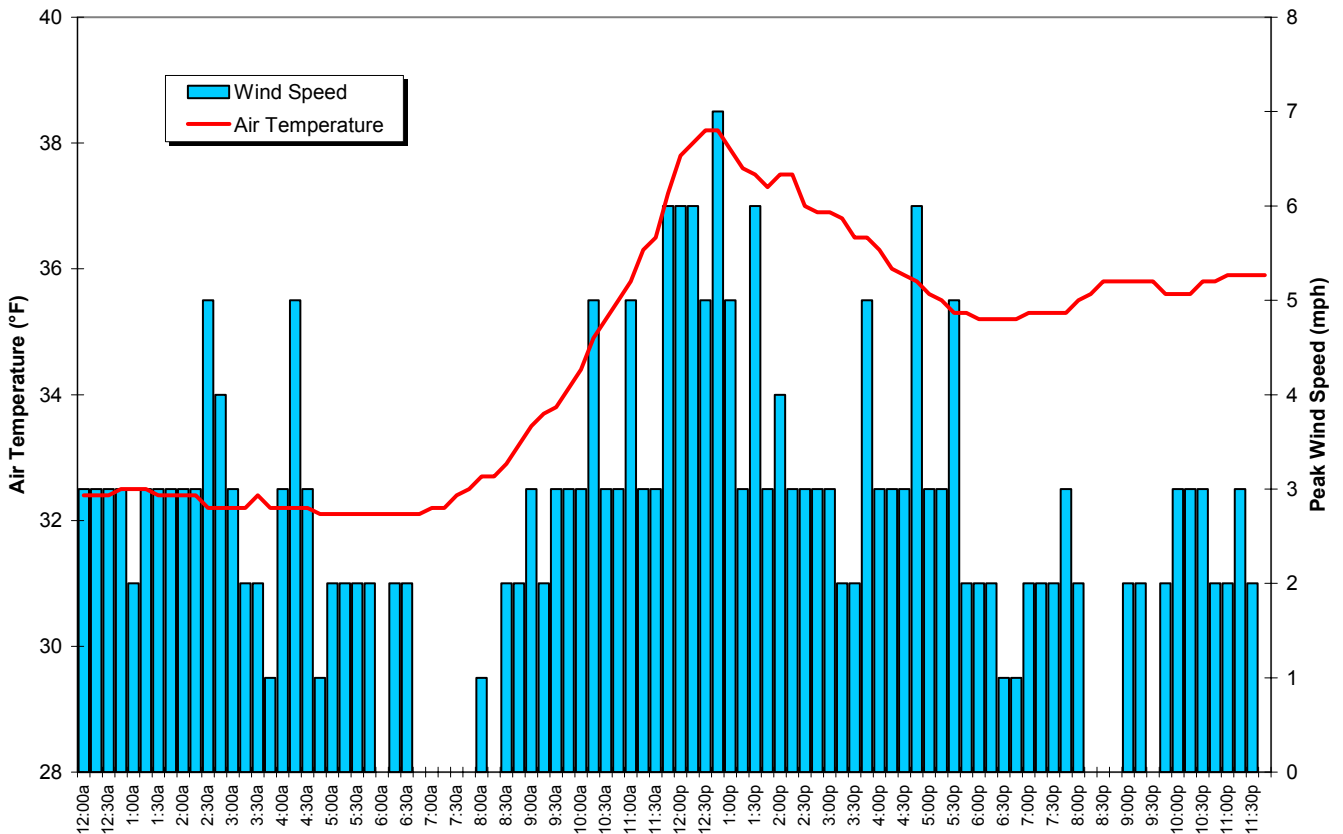
Date: 12/22/2007

Thanks to all the field participants and feeder watchers for a successful count! Look for the final results in the May issue of the RAS OBSERVER

Weather: Gray overcast skies throughout the day. Temperatures ranged from just above freezing in the morning to a high of 38 °F at noon. From noon, temperatures dropped steadily to about 35 °F around 6 PM. Winds in the morning averaged less than 1 mph from the NE with gusts to about 5 mph. In the afternoon, sustained winds were less than 2 mph with ENE gusts to 7 mph. No measurable precipitation occurred at any time during the count day. Most areas had 1-2 inches of snow cover. Lakes and ponds were largely frozen, but generally included some open water. Running waters were almost entirely open. The Hudson River was almost entirely ice-free.

RAS Christmas Bird Count

Weather



Field Observers (32 adults, 1 fledglings, a.k.a. child.): **Group 1:** Alan Wells, Della Wells, Phil Faurot; **Group 2:** Gene Herskovics; **Group 3:** Jessie Trabant; **Group 4:** Anne French, Padraic French, Bonnie Koop, Tom Micelli, Helen Russell; **Group 5:** Susan Freiman, Pat Murray, Veronika Krause, Karen D'Alessandri; **Group 6:** Anita Gossett, Ronnie Smith; **Group 7:** Carol Weiss, Joan Totton, Ken McNichol, Barry Babcock, Bernie Doyle; **Group 8:** Jim Previdi, Larrie Goetz, Gene Brown, Dan Albantides, Tom Rowe; **Group 9:** Vince Plogar, Frank Bonanno, Drew Ciganek, Karl Knoecklein, Tom Dow, Susan Dow, Chris Healy.

Feeder Counters (4): Laurence Pringle, Nancy Slowik, William Fahn, Ruth Carlson.

Coverage (Preliminary): 241 miles traveled by car, 45 miles traveled by foot.

Results: The 61st Rockland Audubon Christmas Bird count was originally scheduled for December 16. However, a forecasted storm forced us to reschedule the count to December 22. This last minute rescheduling resulted in the loss of several of our veteran counters. A total of 36 people participated compared to 62 in 2006. A total of 16,331 individual birds, representing 90 species were counted by the field observers. An additional 294 individuals were added by the feeder counters. Feeder counters tallied 23 species, one of which, Fox Sparrow, was not observed by the field counters. Three additional species, Atlantic Brant, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Great Egret, were reported during count week (three days before and three days after count day). Overall, number counted was the second lowest since 1976; only 2002 was lower at 16,397. However, the 2007 count of 91 species was the highest number of species in the 61 year history of the Rockland count. American Crow, with 353 individuals, was one of the lowest (16th) in the 61 year history. Bald Eagle sightings were, by far, the highest in the RAS count history.

Highlights: Despite low overall numbers, we had several outstanding species, including a new addition to the count-- Eurasian Wigeon. Other highlights were Glaucous Gull, Redhead, and Short-eared Owl.



Photo 1. Della counting assorted waterfowl at Peck's Pond, Haverstraw.



Photo 2. This drake Eurasian Wigeon at Rockland Lake has been since early November. Photo taken on November 16, 2007.



Photo 3. Luckily it stayed to be included in the RAS CBC. This was the first time that this species has occurred on our Christmas count. Photo taken on December 29, 2007.



Photo 4. A group of Redheads also took up temporary residence at Rockland Lake just in time to be included. Photo taken December 25, 2007.



Photo 5. Pileated Woodpecker, such as this one at Rockland Lake, are a treat to see. Only four were reported for this year's count. Photo taken December 28, 2007.



Photo 6. Bald Eagles are becoming common winter visitors to the lower Hudson Valley. This year's count of 29 was an all-time high count for RAS, shattering the previous high of 11 reported in 2006. Photo taken January 6, 2008.



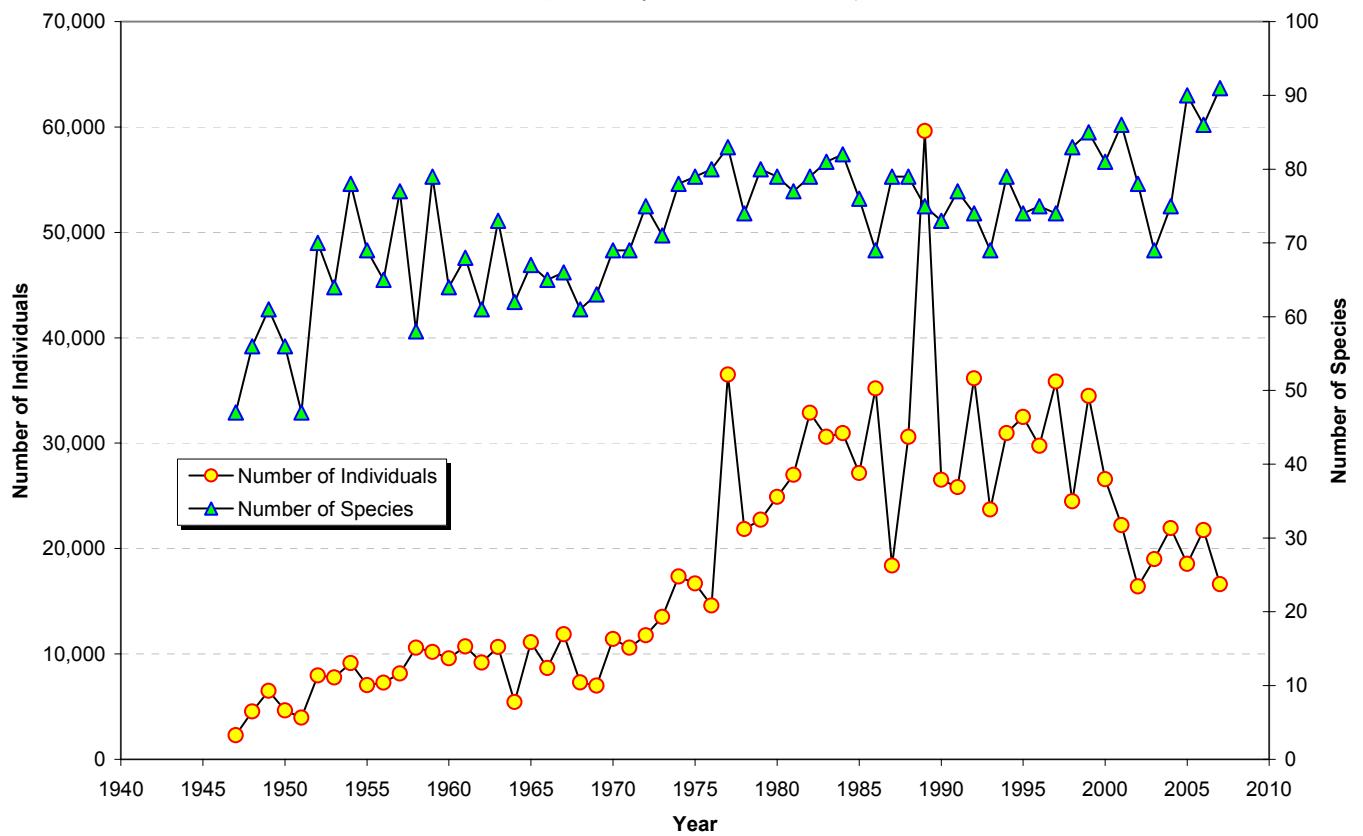
Photo 7. Group 1 got repeated, but distant views of a white-winged gull species. It was initially identified as an immature Iceland Gull, but based on a series of poor photos, several reviewers concluded that it was an immature Glaucous Gull. (Sometimes a poor photo is all you get!).



Photo 8. Two Great Egrets were seen by Carol Weiss, Bernie Doyle, and Ken McNichol during their pre-count day scouting. The out of season occurrence warranted an Unusual Species report for a count week sighting.

RAS Christmas Bird Count

(Preliminary Data for Current Year)



Preliminary Results

Common Name	Region Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Rank
Red-winged Blackbird	2686	9	0	1
Ring-billed Gull	2630	0	0	2
Canada Goose	1798	0	0	3
European Starling	1609	0	0	4
Mallard	1011	0	0	5
Dark-eyed Junco	505	31	0	6
House Sparrow	501	23	0	7
Rock Pigeon	485	0	0	8
White-throated Sparrow	426	13	0	9
Common Merganser	425	0	0	10
Mourning Dove	405	10	0	11
Blue Jay	369	11	0	12
American Crow	353	0	0	13
American Robin	314	1	0	14
Ruddy Duck	297	0	0	15
Black-capped Chickadee	238	13	0	16
Tufted Titmouse	201	12	0	17
Gadwall	181	0	0	18
Song Sparrow	154	1	0	19
Canvasback	145	0	0	20
Northern Cardinal	140	10	0	21
Downy Woodpecker	126	4	0	22
American Coot	106	0	0	23
American Goldfinch	95	15	0	24
White-breasted Nuthatch	82	5	0	25
Hooded Merganser	81	0	0	26
Red-bellied Woodpecker	81	4	0	26
House Finch	76	29	0	28
Mute Swan	71	0	0	29
Wild Turkey	66	23	0	30
Herring Gull	60	0	0	31
Turkey Vulture	59	0	0	32
Red-tailed Hawk	59	0	0	32
American Tree Sparrow	57	9	0	34
Black Vulture	54	0	0	35
Northern Mockingbird	49	0	0	36
American Black Duck	44	0	0	37
Cedar Waxwing	43	10	0	38
Horned Lark	40	0	0	39
Northern Shoveler	36	0	0	40
Bufflehead	36	0	0	40
Ring-necked Duck	35	0	0	42
Great Blue Heron	35	0	0	42
Carolina Wren	33	1	0	44
Northern Flicker	31	1	0	45
Bald Eagle	29	0	0	46
Great Black-backed Gull	25	0	0	47
Belted Kingfisher	15	0	0	48
Hairy Woodpecker	15	1	0	48
Wood Duck	12	0	0	50
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	0	0	51
Cooper's Hawk	9	0	0	52
Fish Crow	8	0	0	53
Winter Wren	8	0	0	53
Eastern Screech-Owl	7	0	0	55
American Wigeon	6	0	0	56
American Pipit	6	0	0	56
Great Horned Owl	5	0	0	58
Hermit Thrush	5	0	0	58
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	0	0	58
Redhead	4	0	0	61

Preliminary Results

Common Name	Region Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Rank
Northern Harrier	4	0	0	61
Pileated Woodpecker	4	0	0	61
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	0	0	61
Eastern Bluebird	4	0	0	61
Barred Owl	3	0	0	66
Common Raven	3	0	0	66
Fox Sparrow	3	3	0	66
Swamp Sparrow	3	0	0	66
Common Grackle	3	0	0	66
Pine Siskin	3	0	0	66
Double-crested Cormorant	2	0	0	72
Great Cormorant	2	0	0	72
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0	0	72
Gray Catbird	2	0	0	72
Field Sparrow	2	0	0	72
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	72
Purple Finch	2	0	0	72
Eurasian Wigeon	1	0	0	79
Common Goldeneye	1	0	0	79
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0	0	79
American Kestrel	1	0	0	79
Peregrine Falcon	1	0	0	79
Wilson's Snipe	1	0	0	79
Glaucous Gull	1	0	0	79
Short-eared Owl	1	0	0	79
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	79
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	79
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	79
Snow Bunting	1	0	0	79
Common Redpoll	1	0	0	79
Brant	0	0	1	92
Great Egret	0	0	1	92
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	1	92