

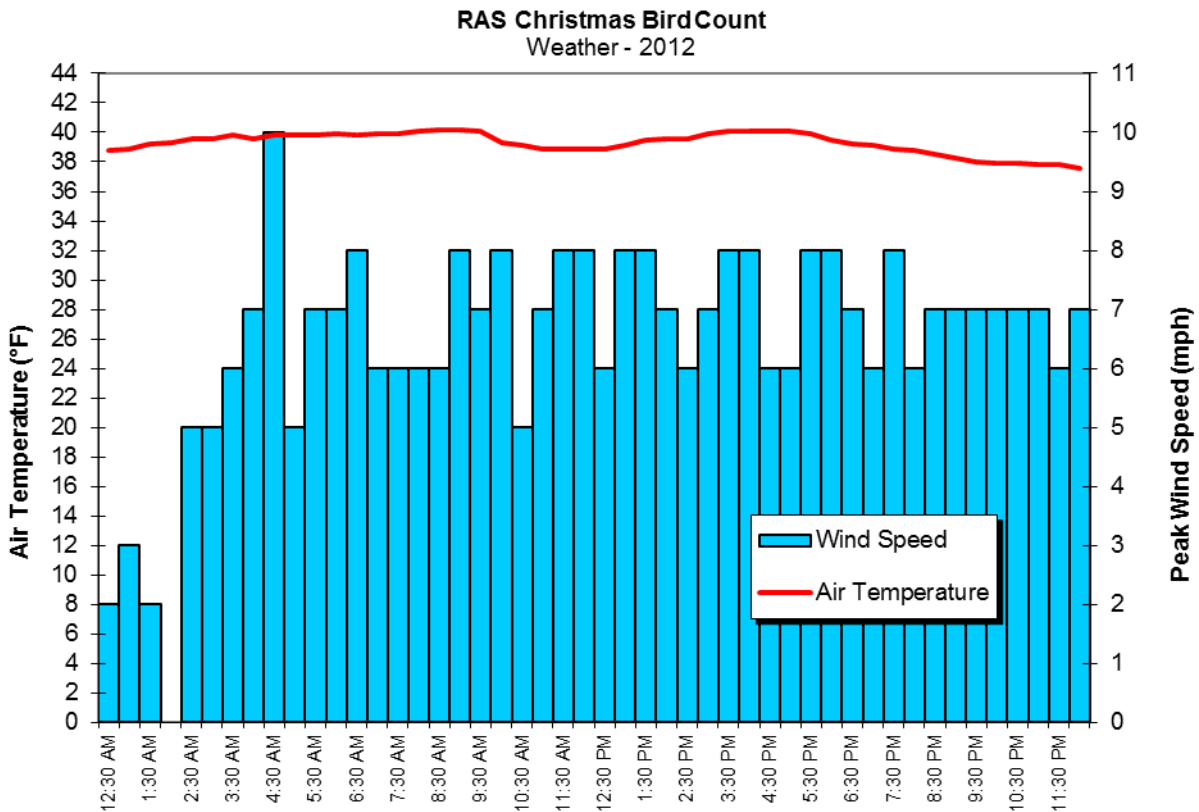
ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

66th Christmas Bird Count Summary

Date: 12/16/2012

Thanks to all our field counters and feeder watchers!

Weather: Skies were heavily overcast throughout the day with a light rain beginning about 9 AM. Sporadic periods of light rain continued through the day with a total accumulation of approximately 0.25 inches. Air temperatures remained remarkably constant throughout the day, averaging about 39.5°F. The dew point temperatures ranged from 34°F at 6 AM to 38.5°F at 5 PM. Average wind speeds ranged from 1-2 mpg with maximum gusts to 6-8 mph from the E to NE. There was a nearly complete absence of snow throughout the count area and all ponds, streams, and rivers, including the Hudson, were ice free. Throughout the count area, severe damage from Hurricane Sandy on October 28 was evident. Some previously counted areas were inaccessible while other areas suffered extensive habitat destruction.



Field Observers (37 adults, 2 fledgling, a.k.a. 18 or younger.): **District 1:** Alan Wells, Della Wells, John Tyler; **District 2:** No coverage; **District 3:** Frank Kemmer, Caroline McDonald; **District 4:** Bonnie Koop, Joanna Galdone; **District 5:** Susan Freiman, Pat Murray, Peter Johnson, Zenon Bachir, Lorrie Pallant, Stan Pallant; **District 6:** Stephanie Garber, Michael Garber, Veronika Krause, Walter Barclays, Suzanne Barclays, Anita Gosset, Ronnie Smith; **District 7:** Carol Weiss, Ken McNichol, Bernie Doyle, John Lampkin, Pat Lutter, Simon Streatfeild; **District 8:** Jim Previdi, Dan Albantides, Jeremy Pardo, Gene Brown, Ron Conzo; **District 9:** Vince Plogar, Tom Harten, Tom Dow, Chris Healy, Drew Ciganek, Karl Knocklein, Nena Bardusco, Marcello Bardusco.

Feeder Counters (3 Locations): Doris Metraux, The Pardo Family, Caroline McDonald.

Coverage (Preliminary): 282 miles traveled by car, 38 miles traveled by foot.

Results: The 66th Rockland Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held Sunday, December 16, 2012. A total of 39 people participated in the field compared to 48 in 2011. A total of 13,837 individual birds, representing 87 species were counted by the field observers. An additional 383 individuals were added by the feeder counters at three locations. Feeder counters tallied 21 species, all of which were observed by the field counters. One additional species, American Wigeon, was reported during count week (three days before and three days after count day). Overall, the number of species counted (88) is typical of recent years. The total number of individuals, 14,220, was the lowest recorded since 1976. However, the missing counts from Area 2 accounts for much of the undercount. (*Note: During 2007-2011 Area 2 averaged 1,812 individuals. Adding this number to the 2012 total brings the count to 16,032, a value still on the low side.*) The top five species— European Starling (3,568), Canada Goose (3,207), Ring-billed Gull (1,403), Common Merganser (840), and Mallard (718)—made up 68% of the total number observed.

Some Highlights:

Increases

Northern Shoveler – 2012 was the highest recorded count, 133 compared to the previous high of 94 in 2011.

Great Blue Heron – the 2012 count of 53 surpassed the previous high of 42 in 1999.

Bald Eagle – the 2012 count of 44 individuals (18 juveniles and 26 adults) topped the old record of 29 established in 2007.

Decreases

Canvasback – continues to decline; only 16 seen in 2012 compared to the average 181 (1947-2011).

Herring Gull – seven seen in 2012 compared to the average 914 from 1947 through 2011. Numbers have declined substantially since about 2000, likely the result of capping and other waste management practices at the Clarkstown and Haverstraw landfills.

American Crow – 260 seen in 2012. This was the 12th lowest count since 1947 and the lowest count since 1970.

Red-winged Blackbird – 26 seen in 2012. The average for the entire 1947-2011 period is 678.

Common Grackle – 40 seen in 2012 compared to the 1947-2011 average of 360. The large roosting flocks typically found in Piermont Marsh were not evident this year.

Misses

Yellow-rumped Warbler – seen in 51 of 65 years; none in 2012.

Field Sparrow - seen in 55 of 65 years; none in 2012.

Swamp Sparrow - seen in 58 of 65 years; none in 2012.

Purple Finch - seen in 58 of 65 years; none in 2012.

Other counts of note

Brant – four seen at Haverstraw Bay County Park. This is only the third time since 1947 that Brant have found their way onto the Rockland count.

Red-throated Loon – the three seen in 2012 (one in Haverstraw Bay and two near Piermont) equal the total number seen in the previous 65 years (one in 1952, one in 1970, and one count week bird in 2006).

Wilson's Warbler – single individual seen on count day as well as on the two days preceding the count. Present in the backyard of a private residence near Piermont. This species is rare in Rockland even in the Spring and Summer, but there is at least one record from Rockland County as late as December 19 dating back to 1961.

Most Disappointing Find

Barred Owl – a freshly killed individual found on the road near Haverstraw Bay County Park. This species was previously unknown from this area of the County.



Photo 1. Wilson's Warbler found in near Piermont, a Rockland CBC first! (Photo Credit: Elda Dow).



Photo 2. One of four Brant found in Haverstraw Bay County Park.



Photo 3. Canvasback, typically one of the most abundant species, was nearly absent this year.



Photo 4. Two of 25 American Black Duck from Letchworth Village, Area 1.



Photo 5. A new Rockland CBC record was established for Bald Eagle, most were from the Lake Tappan area.



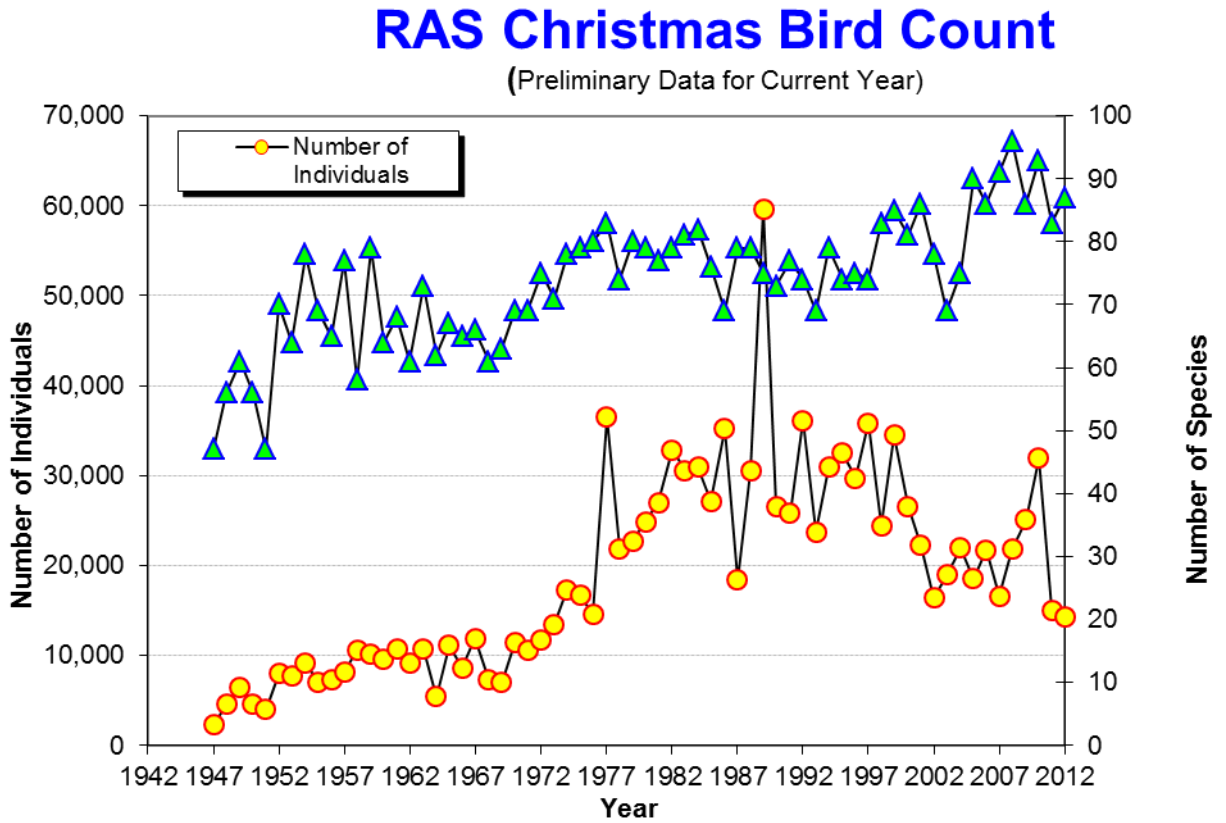
Photo 6. Bald Eagle (likely first winter) from Lake Tappan.



Photo 7. Bald Eagle (likely third winter) from Lake Tappan.



Photo 8. Some of the counters at the countdown potluck dinner.



Common Name	Region Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Total	Rank
European Starling	3568	0	0	3568	1
Canada Goose	3015	192	0	3207	2
Ring-billed Gull	1403	0	0	1403	3
Common Merganser	840	0	0	840	4
Mallard	718	0	0	718	5
Snow Goose	504	0	0	504	6
Dark-eyed Junco	480	19	0	499	7
White-throated Sparrow	396	4	0	400	8
House Sparrow	233	49	0	282	9
American Crow	260	8	0	268	10
Rock Pigeon	185	0	0	185	11
Black-capped Chickadee	146	15	0	161	12
American Coot	145	0	0	145	13
Northern Shoveler	133	0	0	133	14
American Robin	132	0	0	132	15
Northern Cardinal	109	22	0	131	16
Hooded Merganser	123	0	0	123	17
Mourning Dove	114	9	0	123	17
Tufted Titmouse	98	14	0	112	19
Song Sparrow	101	2	0	103	20
Blue Jay	73	7	0	80	21
Downy Woodpecker	60	8	0	68	22
Ruddy Duck	64	0	0	64	23
American Black Duck	63	0	0	63	24
Gadwall	55	0	0	55	25
Great Blue Heron	53	0	0	53	26
Bufflehead	52	0	0	52	27
Black Vulture	49	0	0	49	28
American Goldfinch	46	3	0	49	28
Bald Eagle (A=Adult)	44	0	0	44	30
White-breasted Nuthatch	35	6	0	41	31
Common Grackle	40	0	0	40	32
Wild Turkey	37	0	0	37	33
Northern Mockingbird	36	1	0	37	33
Carolina Wren	26	3	0	29	35
American Tree Sparrow	26	0	0	26	36
Red-winged Blackbird	26	0	0	26	36
Red-tailed Hawk	25	0	0	25	38
Red-bellied Woodpecker	23	2	0	25	38
House Finch	12	12	0	24	40
Eastern Screech-Owl	20	0	0	20	41
Mute Swan	19	0	0	19	42
Double-crested Cormorant	19	0	0	19	42
Scaup spp.	18	0	0	18	44
Canvasback	16	0	0	16	45
Fish Crow	14	0	0	14	46
Pied-billed Grebe	13	0	0	13	47
Great Black-backed Gull	13	0	0	13	47

Belted Kingfisher	13	0	0	13	47
Hairy Woodpecker	12	0	0	12	50
Cooper's Hawk	8	2	0	10	51
American Green-winged Teal	9	0	0	9	52
Turkey Vulture	7	2	0	9	52
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	3	0	9	52
Ring-necked Duck	8	0	0	8	55
Herring Gull	7	0	0	7	56
Northern Flicker	7	0	0	7	56
Common Raven	7	0	0	7	56
Great Horned Owl	6	0	0	6	59
Common Goldeneye	5	0	0	5	60
Winter Wren	5	0	0	5	60
American Pipit	5	0	0	5	60
Brant	4	0	0	4	63
Wood Duck	4	0	0	4	63
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	0	0	4	63
Cedar Waxwing	4	0	0	4	63
Red-throated Loon	3	0	0	3	67
Common Loon	3	0	0	3	67
Pileated Woodpecker	3	0	0	3	67
Brown Creeper	3	0	0	3	67
Gray Catbird	3	0	0	3	67
Killdeer	2	0	0	2	72
Barred Owl	2	0	0	2	72
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	0	0	2	72
Eastern Towhee	2	0	0	2	72
Fox Sparrow	2	0	0	2	72
Mallard × American Black Duck	1	0	0	1	77
Long-tailed Duck	1	0	0	1	77
Red-breasted Merganser	1	0	0	1	77
Great Cormorant	1	0	0	1	77
Northern Harrier	1	0	0	1	77
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	1	77
American Kestrel	1	0	0	1	77
Merlin	1	0	0	1	77
Peregrine Falcon	1	0	0	1	77
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	1	77
Wilson's Warbler	1	0	0	1	77