

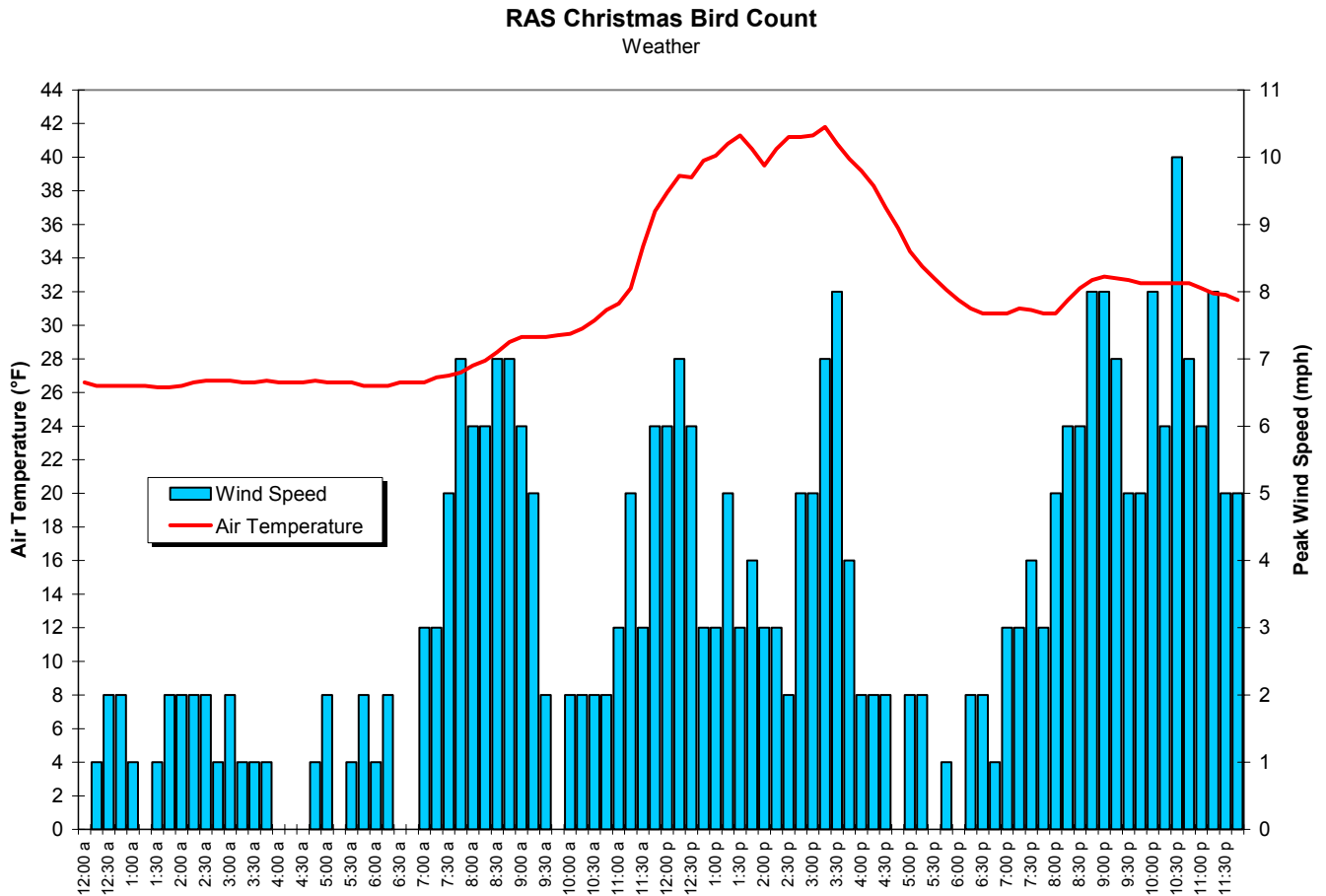
ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Christmas Bird Count Summary

Date: 12/18/05

Thanks to all the participants and feeder counters for another successful count! Look for the final results in the next issue of the RAS OBSERVER

Weather: Slight overcast in AM followed by clear blue skies later in the day; patchy snow on ground; ponds frozen over but running waters open. Temperatures generally ranged between 27-30°F in the morning; then began rising to a peak of approximately 42.0°F at 12:30PM. Temperatures then slowly declined to about 30.0°F by 6:00PM. Relative Humidity was approximately 80% throughout the predawn period, then slowly dropped to a low of 38% at 3:15 PM. Wind periodically gusted to 7-10 mph. No precipitation at any time during the count day.



Field Observers: Frank Bonanno, Eugene Brown, Ruth Carlson, Drew Ciganik, Del Esposito, Glenys Foster Roberts, Susan Freiman; Anne French, Padraic French, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Joanna Galdone, Stephanie Garber, Michael Garber, Anita Gossett, Larrie Goetz, Tom Harten, Gene Herskovics, Marianne Jenkins, Anna Kaufer, Sara Kaufer, Sam Kaufer, Karl Knoecklein, Bonnie Koop, Veronika Krause, Ken McNichol, Marsha Meyer, Stan Pallant, Vince Plogar, Jim Previdi, Joan Totton, Jessie Traband, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells, Della Wells. (32 adults, 3 fledglings, a.k.a. children)

Feeder Counters: Marianne Jenkins, John Lampkin, Laurence Pringle, Nancy Slowik, Mayneal Wayland, Irving Wolfe.

Coverage (Preliminary): 246.5 miles traveled by car, 48 miles traveled by foot.

Results: A total of 18,570 individuals, representing 90 species, were counted by the field observers. An additional 458 individuals were added by the feeder counters. Feeder counters tallied 28 species, one of which was not observed by the counters in the field (Pine Siskin). One additional species, Snow Goose, was reported by Drew Ciganik 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), and 2004 (21,034 and 75 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 and 275 in 2004. This year's count of 1124 suggests a slight rebound.

Highlights: What better way to enjoy the predawn darkness than with a face-to-face encounter with an angry Great Horned Owl? So help me, it had yellow eyes! Things could have been worse as Joanna can attest. While driving through Davenport Preserve, she jumped out of her car to locate a calling owl, leaving her keys and dog behind. I guess the dog was excited to see the owl as well, jumping up and down at the window, accidentally (one would hope!) pressing the door lock, (oops!). It must have been a long, cold walk home. Glenys almost experienced a similar hike. A precautionary note for all drivers during future counts: PLEASE conduct a head count BEFORE leaving a site! Counters are difficult enough to recruit; we don't want to abandon them at the side of the road!

The highlight of the day for the West Orangetown team was the peregrine falcon attack. The unfortunate dove (?) exploded in a cloud of feathers. The highlight of the day for the Haverstraw-Stony Point team was attacking the new Kickin' Burgers at Hogan's Dinner. It may not have been a healthy lunch choice, but it was certainly a tasty choice!



Photo 1. Haverstraw-Stony Point team checking Haverstraw Bay County Park.



Photo 2. Back by popular demand, this year's top recorded species was European Starling.



Photo 3. Ring-billed Gull came in at a respectable #4 this year.



Photo 4. The fifteen Black Vultures recorded in the Haverstraw-Stony Point district was a new high for this species.



Photo 5. Fox Sparrow was seen in only three districts and at one feeder.



Photo 6. Six Eastern Bluebirds at Letchworth Village were a fortunate find for the Haverstraw-Stony Point team.



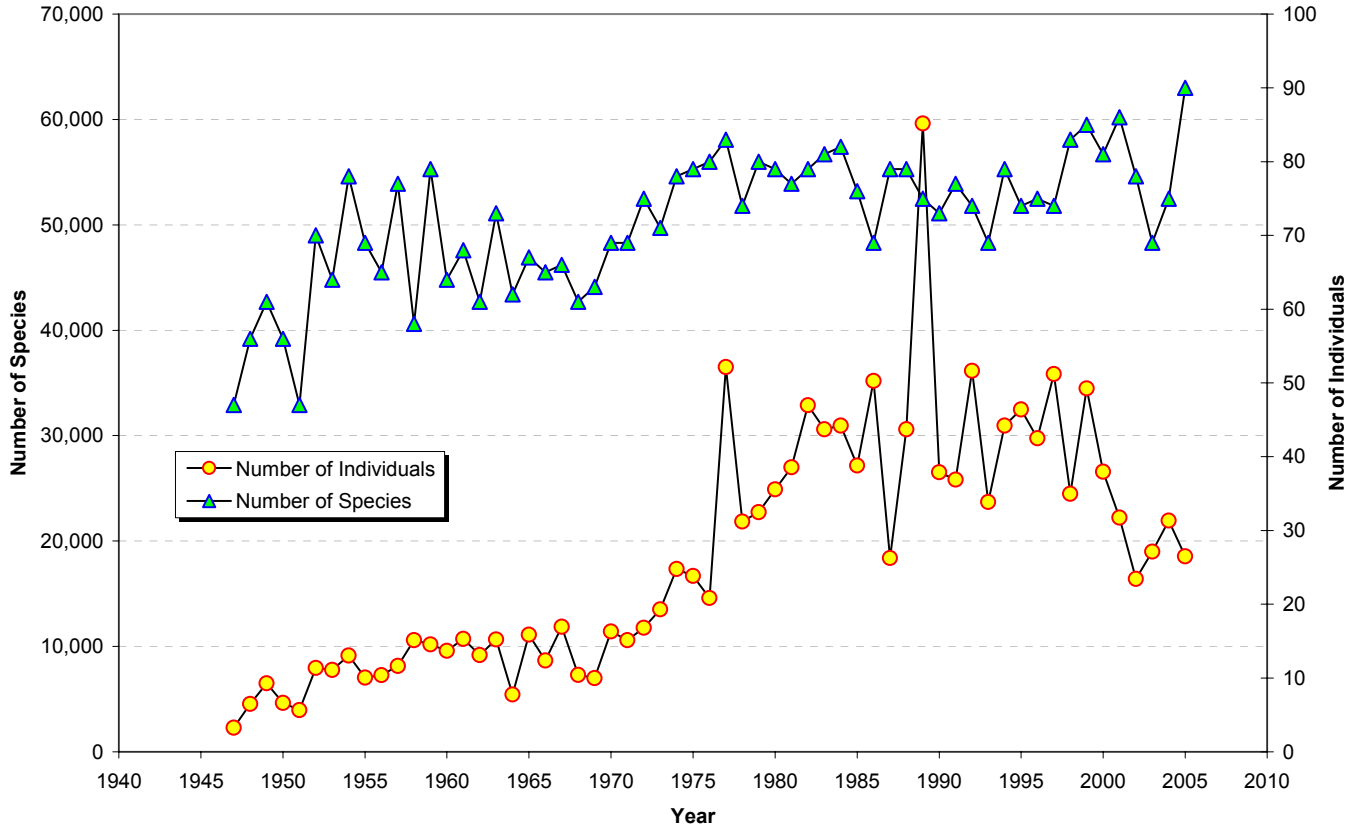
Photo 7. White-throated Sparrow was reported from all nine districts.



Photo 9. Part of the crowd at the Count Down Pot Luck Dinner. Some hard at work on compiling results, others hard at work compiling dessert!

RAS Christmas Bird Count

(Preliminary Data for Current Year)



Preliminary Results*

Common Name	Circle Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Rank
European Starling	2950	0	0	1
Canada Goose	2661	9	0	2
Red-winged Blackbird	2243	14	0	3
Ring-billed Gull	1589	0	0	4
American Crow	1124	0	0	5
Rock Pigeon	1023	4	0	6
Canvasback	722	0	0	7
Common Merganser	561	0	0	8
Ruddy Duck	527	0	0	9
Dark-eyed Junco	383	57	0	10
Mourning Dove	367	60	0	11
Blue Jay	399	20	0	12
White-throated Sparrow	363	41	0	13
House Sparrow	365	25	0	14
American Robin	351	0	0	15
Black-capped Chickadee	290	26	0	16
Mallard	296	0	0	17
Tufted Titmouse	181	20	0	18
Northern Cardinal	114	39	0	19
Song Sparrow	150	2	0	20
Downy Woodpecker	126	11	0	21
Gadwall	107	0	0	22
American Goldfinch	96	9	0	23
White-breasted Nuthatch	90	11	0	24
American Tree Sparrow	71	12	0	25
Red-bellied Woodpecker	69	7	0	26
Wild Turkey	42	29	0	27
Northern Mockingbird	71	0	0	27
Common Grackle	57	0	0	29
House Finch	19	38	0	29
Herring Gull	50	0	0	31
Mute Swan	48	0	0	32
Carolina Wren	42	3	0	33
Bufflehead	44	0	0	34
American Coot	43	0	0	35
Common Goldeneye	38	0	0	36
Red-tailed Hawk	34	1	0	37
Turkey Vulture	28	1	0	38
American Black Duck	25	0	0	39
Great Black-backed Gull	24	0	0	40
Cedar Waxwing	22	0	0	41
Hooded Merganser	21	0	0	42
Hairy Woodpecker	13	6	0	43
Northern Flicker	17	0	0	44
Black Vulture	16	0	0	45
Bald Eagle	16	0	0	45
American Pipit	15	0	0	47
Fox Sparrow	7	8	0	47
Northern Shoveler	14	0	0	49
Great Blue Heron	13	0	0	50
Eastern Screech-Owl	13	0	0	50
Fish Crow	13	0	0	50
Field Sparrow	12	0	0	53
Belted Kingfisher	11	0	0	54
Gray Catbird	11	0	0	54
Double-crested Cormorant	9	0	0	56
Wood Duck	8	0	0	57
Cooper's Hawk	6	1	0	58
Pileated Woodpecker	7	0	0	58
Chipping Sparrow	7	0	0	58

Preliminary Results*

Common Name	Circle Total	Feeder Total	Count Week	Rank
Swamp Sparrow	7	0	0	58
Eastern Bluebird	6	0	0	62
Great Cormorant	5	0	0	63
American Wigeon	5	0	0	63
Redhead	5	0	0	63
Great Horned Owl	5	0	0	63
Hermit Thrush	4	0	0	67
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	0	0	67
Northern Harrier	3	0	0	69
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	0	0	69
Peregrine Falcon	3	0	0	69
Barred Owl	3	0	0	69
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	2	0	69
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	0	0	69
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0	0	75
Common Raven	2	0	0	75
Brown Creeper	2	0	0	75
Winter Wren	2	0	0	75
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	0	0	75
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	75
Purple Finch	1	1	0	75
Common Loon	1	0	0	82
Horned Grebe	1	0	0	82
Long-tailed Duck	1	0	0	82
Merlin	1	0	0	82
Killdeer	1	0	0	82
Horned Lark	1	0	0	82
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0	82
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	82
Pine Siskin	0	1	0	82
Snow Goose	0	0	1	91

* ranked by total observed