

Ulster County May Census – 2006

Nine individuals in five field parties conducted a county-wide “Big Day” bird count as participants in the Ulster County May Census. This annual count, a/k/a "Century Day", is an attempt to locate as many species of birds as possible in Ulster County in one day. Counts were conducted on three separate days during the count period, recording a total of **144 species**, one less than last year’s tally.

Field conditions during the count period were somewhat challenging, with streams and drainage ditches flowing briskly from the copious amounts of rainfall over the preceding days, limiting our hearing in several locations. Temperatures on the target date, Saturday 13 May, were a comfortable 54-66 degrees F. under mostly cloudy skies, with light showers early morning, and a variable ENE wind ranging from 0-15 mph. Leaf-out appeared to be typical for this time of the year, if perhaps slightly advanced.

Best birds-of-the-day were a Long-tailed Duck on the Hudson River at Kingston Point Beach, possibly representing a new record for this count; a Philadelphia Vireo on Plutarch Road, very unusual, and also another possible first; a Grasshopper Sparrow off of West Saugerties Road; and a Peregrine Falcon on the Shawangunk Ridge.

Additional highlights include a Mourning Warbler at Esopus Bend Nature Preserve in Saugerties; Acadian Flycatcher near the Ashokan Reservoir; Swainson’s Thrush; two Lincoln’s Sparrows (including one up on Peekamoose Road); several American Pipits and an Upland Sandpiper at Bluechip Farm; two Common Moorhens at Humpo Marsh; Osprey; Pine Siskin; and a Common Nighthawk at the Ashokan Reservoir at dusk. We encountered twenty-four species of warblers, including Cerulean; seven species of woodpeckers, including a pair of Red-headed at Humpo Marsh; both species of kinglets; and all five field parties recorded a Common Raven, a species that was traditionally rare or absent from this count until recent years.

Disappointments include missing Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Whip-poor-will, Brant, American Black Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Alder and Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Orchard Oriole, and Purple Finch. Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warbler continue to elude us on count day, and Vesper Sparrow is now consistently absent from this count.

Participation in this traditional spring event has declined over the past several years, so it was good to receive a couple of first-time reports this season. I extend my thanks to all of the participants for their time and effort.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

Field parties:

Group A – Larry Alden, Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas, and John Roosenberg (May 13, 3:00 AM - 09:15 PM)

Group B – Peter Schoenberger (May 13, 14.5 hours)

Group C – Kellen and Tristan Mortensen (May 16, 4:00 AM – 8:00 PM)

Group D – Glenn Nystrup (May 16, 2:00 PM – 8:30 PM)

Group E – Maeve Maurer (May 14, morning only)

2006 Century Day Composite List

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	E
Canada Goose	A	B	C	D	E
Mute Swan	A	B	C	D	
Wood Duck	A	B	C	D	
Mallard	A	B	C	D	E
Long-tailed Duck	A				
Hooded Merganser	A	B			
Common Merganser	A		C		
Wild Turkey	A	B	C		E
Common Loon	A	B			
Pied-billed Grebe	A		C	D	
Double-crested Cormorant	A	B	C		
Great Blue Heron	A	B	C	D	E
Green Heron		B			

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	E
Black Vulture	A	B		D	
Turkey Vulture	A	B	C	D	E
Osprey		B			
Bald Eagle	A	B			
Northern Harrier	A	B	C		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		B			
Red-shouldered Hawk	A				E
Broad-winged Hawk	A				
Red-tailed Hawk	A	B	C	D	E
American Kestrel	A	B			
Peregrine Falcon				D	
Virginia Rail	A				
Common Moorhen	A	B		D	

2006 Century Day Composite List (continued)

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	E
Killdeer	A	B	C	D	
Solitary Sandpiper	A		C		
Spotted Sandpiper	A	B	C		
Upland Sandpiper	A				
Least Sandpiper	A				
American Woodcock	A	B		D	
Ring-billed Gull	A	B	C		
Herring Gull	A				
Great Black-backed Gull	A		C		
Rock Pigeon	A	B	C	D	
Mourning Dove	A	B	C	D	E
Black-billed Cuckoo	A		C		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A		C		
Barred Owl	A				E
Common Nighthawk	A				
Chimney Swift	A	B	C	D	E
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	A	B	C		E
Belted Kingfisher	A				
Red-headed Woodpecker				D	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	E
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	A		C		
Downy Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	
Hairy Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	E
Northern Flicker	A	B	C		
Pileated Woodpecker		B	C		E
Eastern Wood-Pewee			C		
Acadian Flycatcher			C		
Least Flycatcher	A	B	C		
Eastern Phoebe	A	B	C	D	E
Great Crested Flycatcher	A	B	C	D	E
Eastern Kingbird	A	B	C	D	
Yellow-throated Vireo	A	B	C	D	
Blue-headed Vireo	A	B			
Warbling Vireo	A	B	C	D	
Philadelphia Vireo				D	
Red-eyed Vireo	A	B	C	D	
Blue Jay	A	B	C	D	E
American Crow	A	B	C	D	E
Fish Crow	A	B	C		
Common Raven	A	B	C	D	E
Purple Martin	A	B	C	D	
Tree Swallow	A	B	C	D	E
No. Rough-winged Swallow	A	B	C	D	
Bank Swallow	A	B			
Cliff Swallow	A	B	C		
Barn Swallow	A	B	C	D	E
Black-capped Chickadee	A	B	C	D	E

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	E
Tufted Titmouse	A	B	C	D	E
Red-breasted Nuthatch	A	B	C		E
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	B	C	D	E
Brown Creeper	A	B	C		E
Carolina Wren	A	B	C	D	E
House Wren	A	B	C	D	E
Winter Wren	A				E
Golden-crowned Kinglet					E
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A	B			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	B	C		E
Eastern Bluebird	A	B	C	D	E
Veery	A		C		E
Swainson's Thrush			C		
Hermit Thrush	A	B	C	D	E
Wood Thrush	A	B	C		E
American Robin	A	B	C	D	
Gray Catbird	A	B	C	D	
Northern Mockingbird	A	B	C	D	
Brown Thrasher		B	C	D	
European Starling	A	B	C	D	E
American Pipit	A	B			
Cedar Waxwing	A		C		
Blue-winged Warbler	A	B	C		
Nashville Warbler	A				E
Northern Parula	A		C		
Yellow Warbler	A	B	C	D	E
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	B			E
Magnolia Warbler	A	B	C		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	A	B	C		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	B	C		E
Black-throated Green Warbler	A	B	C	D	E
Blackburnian Warbler	A	B	C		
Pine Warbler	A			D	
Prairie Warbler	A	B	C		
Blackpoll Warbler	A		C		
Cerulean Warbler			C		
Black-and-white Warbler	A	B	C	D	
American Redstart	A	B	C		E
Worm-eating Warbler	A		C	D	E
Ovenbird	A	B	C		E
Northern Waterthrush	A				E
Louisiana Waterthrush	A	B	C		
Mourning Warbler		B	C		
Common Yellowthroat	A	B	C		E
Wilson's Warbler	A	B	C		
Canada Warbler	A		C		
Scarlet Tanager	A	B	C		E

2006 Century Day Composite List (continued)

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	E
Eastern Towhee	A	B	C	D	
Chipping Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E
Field Sparrow	A	B	C		E
Savannah Sparrow	A	B			
Grasshopper Sparrow		B			
Song Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E
Lincoln's Sparrow	A				E
Swamp Sparrow	A	B	C	D	
White-throated Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E
White-crowned Sparrow	A			D	E
Dark-eyed Junco	A	B	C	D	
Northern Cardinal	A	B	C	D	E
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	A	B	C	D	E

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	E
Indigo Bunting	A	B	C	D	
Bobolink	A	B	C	D	
Red-winged Blackbird	A	B	C	D	E
Eastern Meadowlark	A	B	C	D	
Common Grackle	A	B	C	D	E
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	B	C	D	E
Baltimore Oriole	A	B	C	D	E
House Finch	A	B	C	D	E
Pine Siskin				D	
American Goldfinch	A	B	C	D	E
House Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E
Totals: Composite - 144	128	106	106	71	62