

2007 Ulster County May Census

Nine individuals in four field parties conducted a county-wide "Big Day" bird count, participating in the annual Ulster County May Census, a/k/a John Burroughs Natural History Society "Century Day". This International Migratory Bird Day count is an attempt to locate as many species of birds as possible within the county in one day. Counts were conducted on three separate dates during the count period, recording a total of **154 species**, exceeding the 2006 total by ten species, and ranking slightly above average in comparison to the past decade.

Field conditions on the target date, Saturday 12 May, were very comfortable with a temperature range of 45-72 degrees F under mostly clear skies and a variable north wind ranging from 0-15 mph with occasionally higher gusts. The lack of any significant rainfall over the preceding week resulted in dry drainage and very moderate stream flows in most areas, reducing the presence of hearing impediments. Leaf-out appeared to be typical and on schedule for this time of the year.

The 2007 count will be remembered for the four rare species, and several uncommon species encountered on the target date. To the best of my knowledge, the following reports represent first-time records for this count: two Glossy Ibis at Humpo Marsh in New Paltz, one White-rumped Sandpiper at Kingston Point, and a silent Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush at Ashokan Reservoir. One White-winged Scoter in the lower basin at Ashokan Reservoir may also represent a first record, and a Wilson's Snipe on Pine Road in New Paltz, a Black-crowned Night-Heron flying north over Kingston Point at twilight, two Bonaparte's Gulls at Kingston Point Beach, and an American Coot at The Great Vly in Saugerties are all uncommonly good records.

Additional highlights for the count period include a large flock of Brant flying north over the Hudson River at Kingston Point in the waning twilight, Ring-necked Duck and a female Bufflehead at The Great Vly, American Widgeon and Green-winged Teal at Humpo Marsh, Pied-billed Grebe at Humpo Marsh, Hooded Merganser, several Green Herons at multiple locations (often missed on this count), Red-headed Woodpeckers at multiple locations including a very good look at an adult at Blue Chip Farm, two Upland Sandpipers at Blue Chip Farm, Black Vulture at the Trapps, Bald Eagles at several locations including one on nest, several Northern Harriers in multiple locations including Shawangunk Grasslands (SGNWR), Broad-winged Hawk on Glasco Tpk., American Kestrel, Virginia Rail at The Great Vly, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Nighthawk, and Whip-poor-wills at Stone Road and West Saugerties.

We also recorded twenty-four species of warblers, including Tennessee Warbler at Blue Mountain Reservoir, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Wilson's Warbler at Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Worm-eating Warbler on Stone Road, and Northern Waterthrush at multiple locations. A small colony of Bank Swallows nesting at a sand and gravel operation in the town of Warwarsing, Common Raven, Orchard Oriole at multiple locations, Ruby-crowned Kinglet on West Saugerties Road, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Cedar Waxwing at Sleightsburgh, White-crowned Sparrow on Pine Road and Onteora Lake, a Lincoln's Sparrow at the base of a bird feeder on Manorville Road in Saugerties, White-throated Sparrows at multiple locations including singing on Yagerville Road in Sundown, and Purple Finch on Yagerville Road.

Despite the encouraging number of good sightings, we missed a number of expected species, as is typically the case with limited time-period counts. None of the field parties reported Great Horned Owl, Common Moorhen, Greater Yellowlegs, American Pipit, Ruffed Grouse, Acadian or Willow Flycatcher, Canada or Mourning Warbler. Both bitterns, Sora, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Alder Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warbler, and Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrow continue to be absent from this count in most years.

Field party information and the complete 2007 composite list is tabulated below. Thanks to all of the participants for their time, effort, and reports.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

Field parties:

Group A – Lin Fagan (May 11)

Group B – Larry Alden, Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas, and John Roosenberg (May 12, 3:00 AM – 09:15 PM)

Group C – Glenn Nystrup, Peter Schoenberger (May 12, 5:00 AM – 08:30 PM)

Group D – Kellen and Tristan Mortensen (May 14, 4:30 AM – 9:00 PM)

2007 Century Day Composite List

Species	Group			
	A	B	C	D
Brant		B		
Canada Goose	A	B	C	D
Mute Swan	A	B	C	D
Wood Duck	A	B	C	D
American Wigeon		B	C	
American Black Duck		B		
Mallard	A	B	C	D
Green-winged Teal			C	
Ring-necked Duck		B		
White-winged Scoter		B		
Bufflehead		B		
Hooded Merganser		B		
Common Merganser		B	C	D
Wild Turkey	A	B	C	D
Common Loon		B	C	
Pied-billed Grebe		B		
Double-crested Cormorant	A	B	C	D
Great Blue Heron	A	B	C	D
Green Heron	A	B	C	D
Black-crowned Night-Heron		B		
Glossy Ibis		B	C	
Black Vulture			C	
Turkey Vulture	A	B	C	D
Bald Eagle		B	C	D
Northern Harrier		B	C	D
Cooper's Hawk			C	D
Red-shouldered Hawk		B		D
Broad-winged Hawk			C	D
Red-tailed Hawk	A	B	C	D
American Kestrel		B	C	D
Virginia Rail		B		
American Coot		B		
Killdeer	A	B	C	D
Solitary Sandpiper	A	B		D
Spotted Sandpiper	A	B		D
Upland Sandpiper		B		
Least Sandpiper	A			
White-rumped Sandpiper		B		
Wilson's Snipe	A			
American Woodcock		B	C	D
Peep Sp. (Semipalmated/Least)		B		
Bonaparte's Gull		B		
Ring-billed Gull	A	B	C	
Herring Gull	A	B	C	D
Great Black-backed Gull		B	C	D
Rock Pigeon	A	B	C	D
Mourning Dove	A	B	C	D
Black-billed Cuckoo		B	C	D
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		B	C	D
Eastern Screech-Owl	A			
Barred Owl		B	C	
Common Nighthawk				D

Species	Group			
	A	B	C	D
Whip-poor-will		B	C	
Chimney Swift	A	B	C	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		B	C	D
Belted Kingfisher		B	C	D
Red-headed Woodpecker		B	C	D
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	B	C	D
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		B		D
Downy Woodpecker	A	B	C	D
Hairy Woodpecker	A	B	C	D
Northern Flicker	A	B	C	D
Pileated Woodpecker	A	B	C	D
Eastern Wood-Pewee		B	C	
Least Flycatcher		B	C	D
Eastern Phoebe	A	B	C	D
Great Crested Flycatcher	A	B	C	D
Eastern Kingbird	A	B	C	D
Yellow-throated Vireo	A	B	C	D
Blue-headed Vireo		B	C	D
Warbling Vireo	A	B	C	D
Red-eyed Vireo	A	B	C	D
Blue Jay	A	B	C	D
American Crow	A	B	C	D
Fish Crow		B	C	
Common Raven	A	B	C	D
Purple Martin		B	C	D
Tree Swallow	A	B	C	D
No. Rough-winged Swallow		B	C	D
Bank Swallow		B		
Cliff Swallow		B	C	D
Barn Swallow	A	B	C	D
Black-capped Chickadee	A	B	C	D
Tufted Titmouse	A	B	C	D
Red-breasted Nuthatch		B		D
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	B	C	D
Brown Creeper		B		D
Carolina Wren	A	B	C	
House Wren	A	B	C	D
Winter Wren		B		
Marsh Wren	A	B		
Golden-crowned Kinglet		B		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			C	D
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	B	C	D
Eastern Bluebird	A	B	C	D
Veery				D
Swainson's Thrush	A	B		
Hermit Thrush				D
Wood Thrush	A	B	C	D
American Robin	A	B	C	D
Thrush Sp. (Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's)		B		
Gray Catbird	A	B	C	D
Northern Mockingbird	A	B		D
Brown Thrasher		B	C	

2007 Century Day Composite List (continued)

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	
European Starling	A	B	C	D	
Cedar Waxwing		B			
Blue-winged Warbler	A	B	C	D	
Tennessee Warbler		B			
Nashville Warbler			C	D	
Northern Parula	A	B	C		
Yellow Warbler	A	B	C	D	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		B	C	D	
Magnolia Warbler	A	B	C	D	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	A	B	C	D	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		B	C	D	
Black-throated Green Warbler	A	B	C	D	
Blackburnian Warbler	A	B		D	
Pine Warbler	A	B	C	D	
Prairie Warbler		B	C	D	
Palm Warbler				D	
Blackpoll Warbler	A			D	
Cerulean Warbler				D	
Black-and-white Warbler	A	B	C	D	
American Redstart	A	B	C	D	
Worm-eating Warbler		B			
Ovenbird	A	B	C	D	
Northern Waterthrush		B			
Louisiana Waterthrush	A	B	C	D	
Common Yellowthroat	A	B	C	D	
Wilson's Warbler			C	D	

Species	Group				
	A	B	C	D	
Scarlet Tanager	A	B	C	D	
Eastern Towhee		B	C		
Chipping Sparrow	A	B	C	D	
Field Sparrow		B	C	D	
Savannah Sparrow	A	B	C		
Song Sparrow	A	B	C	D	
Lincoln's Sparrow		B			
Swamp Sparrow	A	B		D	
White-throated Sparrow		B	C	D	
White-crowned Sparrow	A		C		
Dark-eyed Junco		B	C		
Northern Cardinal	A	B	C	D	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	A	B	C	D	
Indigo Bunting	A	B	C	D	
Bobolink	A	B	C	D	
Red-winged Blackbird	A	B	C	D	
Eastern Meadowlark	A	B	C	D	
Common Grackle	A	B	C	D	
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	B	C	D	
Orchard Oriole	A	B			
Baltimore Oriole	A	B	C	D	
Purple Finch		B			
House Finch	A	B	C	D	
American Goldfinch	A	B	C	D	
House Sparrow	A	B	C	D	
Totals: Composite - 154	84	138	110	107	