

## 2009 Ulster County May Census

Ten individuals in five field parties participated in the 2009 annual Ulster County May Census (“Century Day”) sponsored by the John Burroughs Natural History Society. This International Migratory Bird Day count is a county-wide “Big Day” effort where individuals or groups attempt to locate as many species of birds as possible within Ulster County in one day. This year’s census was scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>, the traditional second Saturday of the month, resulting in an early date that limited the presence of late migrants typically encountered during the peak time period of May 10-17<sup>th</sup>. Participants recorded a total of **139 species** (four field parties on the 09 May target date, one on 08 May), a relatively low but consistent composite number when compared to the previous five year period: **143/ 2008, 154/ 2007, 144/ 2006, 145/ 2005, 133/ 2004.**

Field conditions were quite variable on 09 May, initially consisting of steady rain overnight through the early morning hours, eventually giving way to variably cloudy skies with intermittent sunshine throughout the remainder of the day. A brief evening shower produced a dramatic double rainbow over the Hudson River as a finale to the day’s mixed weather conditions. Winds were generally light at 0-10 mph from the south, and temperatures were in a comfortable range of 58-74 ° (F). The lack of any significant rainfall over the preceding week resulted in moderate drainage and stream flows in most areas, reducing the presence of hearing impediments. Leaf-out appeared to be about a week or so in advance of traditional conditions for this date.

Highlights of the 2009 census include a **Snow Goose** on Mill Dam Pond in Stone Ridge, two **Horned Grebes** on the lower basin of Ashokan Reservoir, **Cape May Warbler** in the top of a Norway Spruce at the Ashokan Reservoir Spillway Dam, **Cerulean Warbler** at a private residence in West Saugerties, **Hooded Warbler** at Seamon Park in Saugerties and on the Jenny Lane Trail at Lake Awosting, and **Pine Siskins** at two West Saugerties residences and in small fly-over flocks.

Additional noteworthy birds for an Ulster County spring census include two large flocks of **Brant** flying north over the Hudson River at sunset, several **Black Vultures**, **Northern Harrier** (SGNWR), **Wilson’s Snipe** (Pine Lane, New Paltz), **both Cuckoos**, **Red-headed Woodpecker** (Humpo Marsh, New Paltz), **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Worm-eating Warblers** (EBNP, Saugerties), **White-crowned Sparrow** (private residence, New Paltz), and **nesting Osprey** (Saugerties Lighthouse) and **Bald Eagle** (Ashokan Reservoir). **Orchard Orioles** were encountered in several locations and are now reliable throughout the eastern half of the county in ever increasing numbers. **Canada Warbler** on Peekamoose Road was a good record for this early date.

Consistent with recent past years, migrants were few and far between, with no significant flocks of warblers and only small numbers of individuals for the few migrating species we did encounter. No unusual waterfowl, gulls, or sparrows were reported, and we missed American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Pied-billed Grebe. Additional disappointing misses include Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Moorhen, Upland Sandpiper, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Blackpoll Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler.

Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sora, American Coot, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, American Pipit, Tennessee Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow are frequently missed on this count and continued to elude all of the field parties again this year.

Thanks to all of the participants for their dedication to this historical census. Field party effort and a table of the 2009 composite summary is appended below.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

### Field parties:

**Group A** – Larry Alden, Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas, and Frank Murphy (1:00 AM – 8:45 PM)

**Group B** – Peter Schoenberger and Glenn Nystrup (4:00 AM – 9:00 PM)

**Group C** – Lynn Bowdery (casual effort)

**Group D** – Alan and Doreen Beebe (casual effort)

**Group E** – Lin Fagan (May 08, 5:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

## 2009 Ulster County May Census

Species	Group				
		B			
Snow Goose		B			
Brant	A	B			
Canada Goose	A	B	C	D	E
Mute Swan	A	B		D	E
Wood Duck	A	B			
American Black Duck	A				
Mallard	A	B	C	D	E
Hooded Merganser	A				
Common Merganser	A	B			E
Wild Turkey	A	B			E
Common Loon	A				
Horned Grebe	A				
Double-crested Cormorant	A	B			E
Great Blue Heron	A	B			E
Green Heron	A	B	C		E
Black Vulture	A	B	C		
Turkey Vulture	A	B	C		E
Osprey	A	B			
Bald Eagle	A	B			E
Northern Harrier	A	B			
Cooper's Hawk		B			
Red-shouldered Hawk	A				
Broad-winged Hawk		B			
Red-tailed Hawk	A	B	C		E
American Kestrel	A	B			E
Virginia Rail		B			
Killdeer	A	B			E
Greater Yellowlegs	A				
Lesser Yellowlegs		B			
Solitary Sandpiper	A	B			E
Spotted Sandpiper	A	B			E
Least Sandpiper	A				
Wilson's Snipe		B			
American Woodcock	A	B			
Ring-billed Gull	A	B			E
Herring Gull	A				
Great Black-backed Gull	A				E
Rock Pigeon	A	B			E
Mourning Dove	A	B	C	D	E
Black-billed Cuckoo		B	C		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		B			
Eastern Screech-Owl	A				E
Barred Owl	A				
Chimney Swift	A	B			E
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	A	B			
Belted Kingfisher	A	B	C		
Red-headed Woodpecker	A	B			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	E
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	A		C		
Downy Woodpecker	A	B	C	D	E
Hairy Woodpecker	A	B			E
Northern Flicker	A	B		D	E
Pileated Woodpecker	A	B	C		E
Least Flycatcher	A	B			E

Species	Group				
	A	B	C		E
Eastern Phoebe	A	B	C		E
Great Crested Flycatcher	A	B	C		E
Eastern Kingbird	A	B			E
Yellow-throated Vireo	A	B	C		E
Blue-headed Vireo	A	B			
Warbling Vireo	A	B	C		E
Red-eyed Vireo	A	B	C		E
Blue Jay	A	B	C	D	E
American Crow	A	B	C	D	E
Fish Crow	A	B			
Common Raven		B			E
Purple Martin	A	B			E
Tree Swallow	A	B	C		E
No. Rough-winged Swallow	A	B		D	E
Bank Swallow	A	B			
Cliff Swallow	A	B			
Barn Swallow	A	B	C		E
Black-capped Chickadee	A	B	C	D	E
Tufted Titmouse	A	B	C	D	E
Red-breasted Nuthatch	A	B			
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	B	C	D	
Brown Creeper	A				
Carolina Wren	A	B	C	D	E
House Wren	A	B	C	D	E
Winter Wren	A	B			
Marsh Wren	A				E
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A	B			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	B			
Eastern Bluebird	A	B	C		E
Veery	A	B			E
Hermit Thrush	A	B			
Wood Thrush	A	B	C		E
American Robin	A	B	C	D	E
Gray Catbird	A	B	C	D	E
Northern Mockingbird	A	B	C		E
Brown Thrasher			C		E
European Starling	A	B	C	D	E
Blue-winged Warbler	A	B			E
Nashville Warbler	A				E
Northern Parula	A	B			E
Yellow Warbler	A	B	C	D	E
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	B			
Magnolia Warbler	A				E
Cape May Warbler	A				E
Black-throated Blue Warbler	A	B	C		E
Yellow-rumped Warbler	A	B			E
Black-throated Green Warbler	A	B	C		E
Blackburnian Warbler	A	B	C		E
Pine Warbler	A	B	C		
Prairie Warbler	A	B			E
Cerulean Warbler		B			
Black-and-white Warbler	A	B			E
American Redstart	A	B	C		E
Worm-eating Warbler	A	B			E

## 2009 Ulster County May Census (continued)

Species	Group					
	A	B			E	
Ovenbird	A	B			E	
Northern Waterthrush	A	B				
Louisiana Waterthrush	A	B	C		E	
Common Yellowthroat	A	B	C		E	
Hooded Warbler	A	B				
Canada Warbler	A	B				
Scarlet Tanager	A	B	C		E	
Eastern Towhee	A	B	C		E	
Chipping Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	
Field Sparrow	A	B			E	
Savannah Sparrow	A	B			E	
Song Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	
Swamp Sparrow	A	B			E	
White-throated Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	
White-crowned Sparrow			C			
Dark-eyed Junco	A	B				

Species	Group					
	A	B	C	D	E	
Northern Cardinal	A	B	C	D	E	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	A	B	C	D	E	
Indigo Bunting	A	B			E	
Bobolink	A	B	C	D	E	
Red-winged Blackbird	A	B	C	D	E	
Eastern Meadowlark	A	B			E	
Common Grackle	A	B	C	D	E	
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	B	C	D	E	
Orchard Oriole	A	B				
Baltimore Oriole	A	B	C	D	E	
Purple Finch	A					
House Finch	A	B	C	D		
Pine Siskin	A	B				
American Goldfinch	A	B	C	D	E	
House Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	
<b>Totals: 139 Species</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>89</b>	