

105th Christmas Bird Count: Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir (NYML) - December 18, 2004

Twenty-five field observers in eight parties, and four feeder watchers, recorded **64 species** and **6,155 individuals**, plus one additional count week (cw) species during our annual survey of this 15-mile diameter count circle centered at Ulster County Community College in Stone Ridge.

Highlights from this year's count include 35 Black Vultures, 47 Turkey Vultures, 91 Wild Turkeys, 5 Common Ravens, 17 Carolina Wrens, 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 28 Northern Mockingbirds, and 1 Field Sparrow. A small raft of 13 Hooded Mergansers was observed on the Ashokan Reservoir, the drakes actively vocalizing and displaying for the hens. With the exception of 4 Purple Finches, winter finches were noticeably absent, as were other invasive species from the north, and we were unsuccessful at locating any warblers, Swamp Sparrows, or American Kestrels in the count area.

Culminating the daylong effort, eleven participants met at the Stadium Diner in Kingston for a post-count compilation dinner. The following table summarizes the count results by sector, followed by area descriptions, observer, and effort information. Weather and field conditions are presented below the last table.

(Note: The 2005 NYML CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2005)

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	A2	Total
Horned Grebe					1					1
Great Blue Heron		1	2	2	1	1			1	8
Black Vulture		10	25							35
Turkey Vulture	3	3	41							47
Canada Goose		20	60	5	300		6	77		468
Mute Swan			5	2	1		4	2		14
American Black Duck		15		2	20	5		1		43
Mallard			16	3	34	9	2	19		83
Bufflehead					4					4
Common Goldeneye				10						10
Hooded Merganser		1			13					14
Common Merganser		2	5		2			3		12
Bald Eagle					1 Adult					1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		2	1			1			5
Cooper's Hawk					1					1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	8	7	4	5	4	2	8		40
Wild Turkey		31			5	19	30	1	5	91
Ring-billed Gull			19	25	120		1	79		244
Herring Gull		2	15	150	14					181
Iceland Gull			cw (2)							cw
Great Black-backed Gull	3	6	3	2						14
Gull species	38									38
Rock Pigeon		109	17		6	60	36	61		289
Mourning Dove	1	10	263	15	216	77	13	32	27	654
Eastern Screech-Owl			1							1
Great Horned Owl		1								1
Barred Owl							1			1
Belted Kingfisher					1					1
Red-bellied Woodpecker		8	9	5	7	4		2	3	38
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1							1
Downy Woodpecker	7	11	30	7	15	3	1	7	4	85
Hairy Woodpecker		2	4	2	4	2			1	15
Northern Flicker		1			2	1		2		6
Pileated Woodpecker	2			2		1		2	1	8
Blue Jay	14	25	26	23	22	8	10	15	14	157
American Crow	56	155	224	25	66	16	30	53	1	626
Common Raven	1				4					5
Horned Lark					2					2
Black-capped Chickadee	28	17	58	34	66	17	1	34	7	262

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	A2	Total
Tufted Titmouse	5	18	55	17	55	9		22	11	192
Red-breasted Nuthatch					14	1				15
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	10	26	7	28	2	2	4	6	91
Brown Creeper		1			2					3
Carolina Wren		4	6		2	2		3		17
Winter Wren					2					3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2		1		10			1		14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								6		6
Eastern Bluebird	4	9	3	24	21	4	5	3		73
Hermit Thrush					1			1		2
American Robin		2		100	21	1		14		138
Northern Mockingbird		7	1	4	3		2	11		28
European Starling	34	45	134	128	4	5	22	80	1	453
Cedar Waxwing		41			2					57
American Tree Sparrow		2	46	5	9	2		1	1	66
Field Sparrow		1								1
Song Sparrow			14		21			7	1	43
White-throated Sparrow	2	12	26		14	4		36		94
Dark-eyed Junco	12	47	49	29	116	10	9	46	36	354
Northern Cardinal	1	25	16	14	31	8	1	23	9	128
Red-winged Blackbird			4							4
Common Grackle			5							5
Brown-headed Cowbird							1			1
Purple Finch						4				4
House Finch	4	26	20	16			8	14		88
American Goldfinch	7	26	49	15	17			7	26	147
House Sparrow		60	380	29	13	21	8	111		622
Total Species	21	38	39	31	47	28	23	37	18	64
Total Individuals	233	774	1668	707	1319	300	196	803	155	6155

Area Description and Observers	Party Hours			Party Miles				
	On Foot	By Car	Total	On Foot	By Car	Total		
Area A: Mohonk Lake – Paul Huth, John Thompson, Lynn & Allen Bowdery	1.5	4	5.5	1	10	11		
Area B: West of Wallkill River (New Paltz to Rosendale) Selden Spencer, Tom Sarro, John Kenney, Bea Conover, Wayne Ramsey, Steve Stanne	1.5	6	7.5	2	22	24		
	Nocturnal Owling		2.25			19		
Area C: East of Wallkill River (New Paltz to Eddyville) Hans Weber, Lin Fagan, Jane Dean, Steve Stanne Carol Weber	1	8.5	9.5	.5	43	43.5		
	Feeder Watch		1					
Area D: Hurley, Cottekill, High Falls, and Alligerville Ev & Bob Rifenburg	3	5	8	2	51	53		
Area E: Ashokan Reservoir and Lomontville Steve Chorvas, Kellen Mortensen, Tristan Mortensen, Frank Murphy, Al Brayton, Marjory Greenberg-Vaughn	2	7.5	9.5	1	52	53		
	Nocturnal Owling		2			16.5		
Area F: Marletown – Glen Van Gorden	2	2	4	4	21	25		
Area G: Kripplebush/Accord – Bill & Fran Drakert	.5	2.5	3	1	30	31		
Area H: Hurley/Kingston – Mark DeDea	0	8	8	0	48	48		
Area A2: Clove Valley Road – Barbara Rubin, Phil Smiley, Anka Angrist								
	Feeder Watch		8					
Field Observers - 25	Total Daylight Effort		11.5	43.5	55	11.5	277	288.5
Feeder Watchers - 4 (9 hrs)	Total Nocturnal Effort				4.25			35.5

Weather and Field Conditions: Temperatures ranged from 14-28 degrees F, with mostly clear skies early morning, considerable overcast by afternoon. Winds were generally calm, and there was no precipitation or snow cover on count day. Large bodies of water and moving streams and creeks were open, small ponds were largely frozen.