

**107th Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir (NYML)
December 16, 2006**

Twenty-five observers in eight field parties (and twenty feeder watchers) recorded **64 species** and **9,482 individuals** during our annual survey of this 15-mile diameter count circle centered at the Ulster County Community College in Stone Ridge. One additional species (Brown-headed Cowbird) was observed during the count week period, but not encountered on the count day. In comparison to historical records, the total number of species was about average for this count circle, while the total number of individuals was well above average.

Temperatures were very mild on the count day, ranging from 46-52 ° (F), under mostly clear skies, with variable winds at 0-15 mph. Soil and water temperatures were unseasonably warm for this time of the year, resulting in 100% open water and unfrozen ground, with no snow or ice cover.

Highlights from this 12.5-hour effort include **1 Wilson's Snipe**, 23 American Black Ducks, 39 Hooded Mergansers, 5 Horned Grebes, 41 Black Vultures, 108 Turkey Vultures, 56 Red-tailed Hawks, 8 Belted Kingfishers, 16 Common Ravens, 20 Horned Larks, 47 Carolina Wrens, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 145 Eastern Bluebirds, 2 Hermit Thrushes, 32 Northern Mockingbirds, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 2 Fox Sparrows, and 6 Swamp Sparrows. All three regularly occurring owl species were represented in respectable numbers, and nine Red-winged Blackbirds and six Common Grackles lingered in the count area.

With the exception of four Purple Finches, winter finches were noticeably absent again this year. Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Yellow-rumped Warbler were not detected in any of the count areas, and Red-headed Woodpecker was absent from their Loughran Road marsh breeding grounds. The vast expanse of open cornfields on the Lomontville/Hurley flats provided ample forage for large numbers of American Crows, but were inexplicably devoid of any Canada Geese, Snow Buntings, or Wild Turkeys. Stone Ridge pond continues to be a major staging area for large numbers of waterfowl and gulls, accounting for 2,036 of our total number of individuals.

A late season Clouded/Orange Sulphur (Butterfly) was observed very briefly, flying across a roadway bordered by an open field, making this the first record in my recollection of an active butterfly on this CBC.

Twelve participants met at the Stadium Diner in Kingston for the post-count compilation dinner, where we exchanged stories from the field and reviewed the tally. The following table summarizes the count results by sector, followed by area descriptions, observer, and effort information. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of the participants for their effort and dedication to this annual census. The 2007 NAS Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir CBC is scheduled for **Saturday, December 15, 2007**.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

Species	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	F3A	F3B
Canada Goose	2273		55	336	408	63	1224	25	162		
Mute Swan	9			3	1	2	3				
American Black Duck	23			1	2		5		15		
Mallard	474		1	62	68	12	252	45	34		
Common Goldeneye	1			1							
Hooded Merganser	39			4	2		5	4	24		
Common Merganser	55		2	51			2				
Ring-necked Pheasant	1								1		
Wild Turkey	32				24			5	2		1
Horned Grebe	5						5				
Great Blue Heron	5			2	1		1		1		
Black Vulture	41	4	1	36							
Turkey Vulture	108	6	5	90	1						6
Bald Eagle	2								1		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1						1				

Species	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	F3A	F3B
Purple Finch	4					2		2			
House Finch	95	7	5	11	8	13	22	20	2	7	
American Goldfinch	158	29	5	17	12	13	20	2	52	7	1
House Sparrow	552		69	57	224	26	14	19	37		106
Total Species →	64	25	31	44	44	31	48	32	36	12	22
Total Individuals →	9482	333	543	1144	1173	652	3447	689	1071	37	393

cw = count week (not included in totals)

Area Description and Observers (Sector leaders are listed first)	Daylight Party Hours			Daylight Party Miles			Nocturnal			
	On Foot	By Car	Total	On Foot	By Car	Total	Hours	Miles		
Area 1: Mohonk Lake John Thompson, Allan Bowdery, Jaime Deppen, Tom Sarro, Shanana Smiley.	2.25	3.25	5.5	1	10	11				
Area 2: Wallkill River West - New Paltz to Rosendale Selden Spencer, Bea Conover, Jim Marks.	2	5	7	2	6	8				
Area 3: Wallkill River East - New Paltz to Eddyville Lin Fagan, Lynn Bowdery, Ruth Elwell, Maeve Maurer, Steve Stanne. Feeder Watchers: F3A - Carol Weber. F3B - Jordan Maendel and 18 Maple Ridge Bruderhof students.	2.5	6	8.5 (1) (1)	1	51.5	52.5	2	10.5		
Area 4: Hurley/Kingston Mark DeDea	6	3.5	9.5	5	78	83	3	45		
Area 5: High Falls/Alligerville Evelyn and Bob Rifenburg.	2	6	8	1.5	43	44.5				
Area 6: Ashokan Reservoir/Lomontville Steve Chorvas, Jackie Bogardus.	5.75	3.75	9.5	1.5	41	42.5	2	18		
Area 7: Marbletown Glen Van Gorden, Jeff Nerp, Katny Nerp, Kerry Nerp.	4	5	9	10	45	55	1	1		
Area 8: Kripplebush/accord Peter Schoenberger, Kelly Downs, Glenn Nystrup.	4	6	10	3	82	85	1	0		
Field Observers - 25	Feeder Watchers - 20	Total Effort →	28.5	38.5	67	25	356.5	381.5	9	74.5