

**108th Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir (NYML) – Ulster County, New York
December 15, 2007**

Twenty-seven observers in nine field parties recorded a record-breaking **79 species** and **14,162 individuals** during our annual survey of this 15-mile diameter count circle centered at the Ulster County Community College in Stone Ridge. Both the total number of species and the total number of individuals represent new record highs for this count, and we encountered at least one, and possibly two, new species for the count. Sparrow diversity was extraordinary, with nine species represented on the final compilation.

Temperatures were seasonable, ranging from 15° (F) at Lake Mohonk to 28° (F) down on the Lomontville/Hurley flats. There was no precipitation on count day, skies were mostly cloudy, with variable winds at 0-10 mph. Snow cover was 100%, averaging 12" in depth. Many small, slow moving bodies of water were completely frozen, but Ashokan Reservoir, the Wallkill River, and Stone Ridge Pond retained large areas of open water.

Specific highlights include a Brewer's Blackbird (first record) in Lomontville, 1 Northern Shrike (first record?) in Peter's sector, 6 Snow Geese, 2 Scaup species, 6 Northern Harriers, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 3 Rough-legged Hawks, 7 Eastern Screech-Owls, 4 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 16 Northern Flickers, 313 Horned Larks, 85 Eastern Bluebirds, 4 Hermit Thrushes, 11 American Pipits, 4 Chipping Sparrows, 7 Field Sparrows, 1 Savannah Sparrow, 2 Fox Sparrows, 95 Song Sparrows, 2 Swamp Sparrows, 8 White-crowned Sparrows, 120 Snow Buntings, 4 Rusty Blackbirds, 50 Common Redpolls, and 3 Pine Siskins. The vast expanse of open cornfields on the Lomontville/Hurley flats hosted several large mixed flocks of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings that were very active and difficult to accurately count, resulting in very conservative estimates. Stone Ridge Pond continues to be a major staging area for large numbers of waterfowl and gulls, accounting for 2,986 of our total number of individuals.

There were relatively few disappointments this year, which is a remarkable occurrence for a 24-hour census. We did not detect any Horned Grebes or loons on the lower basin of Ashokan Reservoir, Great Horned Owl was not detected in any of the sectors, and individual numbers of Black and Turkey Vultures were down considerably in comparison to recent years.

Nine 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 fine effort and dedication to this annual census. Additional field observers are always appreciated, and improves our coverage and the quality of our results. The 2008 Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir Audubon Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for **Saturday, December 20, 2008**.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

Total	Species	1	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7	8	Feeder
6	Snow Goose				6						
4,705	Canada Goose	154	393	250	108	806	121	2,697	146	30	
2	Mute Swan							2			
3	American Wigeon							3			
32	American Black Duck				9	11	2	10			
543	Mallard		34		33	13	1	400	30	32	
2	<i>Scaup Sp.</i>		2								
4	Bufflehead		3		1						
3	Common Goldeneye		2							1	
22	Hooded Merganser		4		10	6		2			
17	Common Merganser			2	11	2	2				
44	Wild Turkey		10		7				21	6	
1	Great Blue Heron								1		
6	Black Vulture		3			3					
6	Turkey Vulture	1	3	2							

Total	Species	1	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7	8	Feeder
4	Bald Eagle		2		2						
6	Northern Harrier			5				1			
6	Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	2				1	1		
4	Cooper's Hawk		1		1				1	1	
1	Red-shouldered Hawk			1							
45	Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	3	5	6	4	5	7	12	
3	Rough-legged Hawk		2		1						
1	American Kestrel								1		
129	Ring-billed Gull					28		101			
8	Herring Gull				2			6			
9	<i>Gull sp.</i>	3	5						1		
140	Rock Pigeon		18		2	14	1	26	29	50	
338	Mourning Dove		27	26	39	27	33	93	46	47	
7	Eastern Screech-Owl			1	3			3			
1	Barred Owl									1	
1	Belted Kingfisher			1							
57	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	7	6	8	7	1	14	4	8	
4	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1			1	1		1			
96	Downy Woodpecker	4	10	11	14	11	5	12	10	19	
21	Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	1	3	1	2	5	1	6	
16	Northern Flicker	3	1	2		6				4	
16	Pileated Woodpecker	4			1	1		6		4	
1	Northern Shrike									1	
386	Blue Jay	11	14	40	76	16	29	57	56	87	
1,470	American Crow	5	54	288	184	78	42	617	109	93	
6	Common Raven	1	1			2		1		1	
313	Horned Lark		35					263	3	12	
302	Black-capped Chickadee	21	15	30	37	21	47	74	29	28	
242	Tufted Titmouse	1	10	44	51	17	32	26	20	41	
1	Red-breasted Nuthatch						1				
111	White-breasted Nuthatch	5	4	11	13	11	9	22	10	26	
3	Brown Creeper			3							
22	Carolina Wren			3	2	7	2	4	1	3	
1	Winter Wren							1			
15	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4		2		1		2		6	
85	Eastern Bluebird			5	1	12		14	20	33	
4	Hermit Thrush				1	2		1			
102	American Robin			16		45	2	16	5	18	
28	Northern Mockingbird		4	2	3	7	2	2	1	7	
1,375	European Starling	12	24	170	15	266	27	352	209	300	
11	American Pipit							11			
155	Cedar Waxwing	100		1		34		16	4		
1	Yellow-rumped Warbler			1							
269	American Tree Sparrow		25	70	21	42	13	54	3	41	
4	Chipping Sparrow	3						1			
7	Field Sparrow		2			2		2	1		
1	Savannah Sparrow							1			
2	Fox Sparrow		1		1						
95	Song Sparrow		9	14	4	18	3	36	3	8	

Total	Species	1	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7	8	Feeder
2	Swamp Sparrow							2			
299	White-throated Sparrow	5	18	52	59	46	16	48	1	54	
8	White-crowned Sparrow							8			
1,252	Dark-eyed Junco	35	150	137	273	119	134	186	105	113	
120	Snow Bunting				5			115			
161	Northern Cardinal	7	10	17	37	20	9	22	20	19	
26	Red-winged Blackbird			20		6					
4	Rusty Blackbird								4		
1	Brewer's Blackbird							1			
5	Brown-headed Cowbird				1			4			
14	Purple Finch						2	1		11	
163	House Finch	1	16	32	15	25	17	37	13	7	
50	Common Redpoll		1		8	1		40			
3	Pine Siskin				3						
212	American Goldfinch		23	31	23	28	19	67	4	17	
521	House Sparrow		17	42	101	156	50	52	56	47	
14,162	Total Species Count	385	965	1,344	1,201	1,925	628	5,544	976	1,194	0
79	Total Individuals	24	41	37	44	41	29	54	36	37	0

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, Lynn Bowdery, Allan Bowdery, Tom Sarro, Shanan Smiley.		5.5	0	5.5	2	0	2				
Area 2: Wallkill River West - New Paltz to Rosendale Selden Spencer, Bea Conover, Jim Marks.		.5	5.25	5.75	.5	35.5	36				
Area 3A: Wallkill River East - New Paltz Christine Guarino, Jayne Dean, Steve Stanne.		2	3.75	5.75	1.5	15	16.5	1	3		
Area 3B: Ulster Park Lin Fagan, David Arner, Maeve Maurer.		.5	6.5	7	.5	53	53.5	1.5	5		
Area 4: Hurley/Kingston Mark DeDea		6	3.5	9.5	7	61	68	3.25	52		
Area 5: High Falls/Alligerville Evelyn and Bob Rifenburg.		1.5	5.75	7.25	1	45	46				
Area 6: Ashokan Reservoir/Lomontville Steve Chorvas, Jackie Bogardus.		5.5	3.5	9	1.5	46	47.5	1.75	15		
Area 7: Marbletown Glen Van Gorden, Jeff Nerp, Kathy Nerp, Kerry Nerp.		4	4	8	5	50	55	.5	.5		
Area 8: Kripplebush/Accord Peter Schoenberger, Kelly Downs, Eric Loheide, Gene McGary.		1	7	8	1	90	91				
Field Observers - 27	Feeder Watchers - 0	Total Effort →		26.5	39.25	65.75	20	395.5	415.5	8	75.5