

Twelve observers in six field parties participated in this annual survey of significant waterfowl habitat throughout Ulster County, in conjunction with the NYSOA New York State Winter Waterfowl Count, recording a total of **3,344 individuals** of **12 species** during a nine-hour effort on Saturday, 17 January 2009.

Field conditions on the count day and during the preceding week were not conducive to lingering waterfowl. Following several days of single-digit highs and below zero lows, count day temperatures ranged from  $-6^{\circ}$  (F) at sunrise in Saugerties to  $16^{\circ}$  (F) by mid-afternoon in Kingston. Early morning skies were mostly clear, with considerable overcast developing by afternoon. Winds were pleasantly (and thankfully) calm, and there was no precipitation recorded during the count. Most bodies of water were completely frozen, with a few notable exceptions that concentrated the relatively few members of *Anatidae* still resisting the urge to move south of the deep freeze.

The Hudson River was congested with ice floes in the shipping channel and frozen solid on the periphery. Extensive walls of tidal ice had accumulated adjacent to the channel, obscuring the infrequent pockets of open water that potentially harbored waterfowl. One sheltered congregation of Canada Geese and American Black Ducks was briefly revealed when flushed in the air by a low-cruising adult Bald Eagle, roughly mid-way between the Malden boat launch and Saugerties Lighthouse. Ashokan Reservoir was 95% frozen, but hosted our only Horned Grebe of the count, in a relatively small area of open water immediately below the dividing weir of the lower basin.

Stone Ridge Pond on Mill Dam Road retained a limited area of open water in the vicinity of the far side underground inlet, and continues to contribute a disproportionately large number of individuals to the composite, accounting for 42% (1,405) of our total number of individuals, including two American Wigeon. A few area creeks retained some isolated pools of open water associated with outflows or fast-moving currents. Agricultural fields were predominantly covered with 6" or more of snow encased in a hard icy crust. No waterfowl were observed in most area fields, with the exception of one Accord cornfield recently spread with fresh manure that attracted a conservative 300+ Canada Geese.

Three Green-winged Teal in the Wallkill River, an uncommon winter resident in Ulster County, constituted the most noteworthy waterfowl observation of the day. Mark DeDea reported White-winged Crossbills at Ulster Landing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Brown Creeper, and Golden-crowned Kinglet at Kingston Point Rotary Park, Horned Lark at Blue Chip Farm, Fox Sparrow, Black Vulture, and Red-shouldered Hawk roadside in Bruynswick, and Winter Wren and Gray Catbird on Dock Street in Marlboro. Two Winter Wrens along the Saugerties Lighthouse Trail, a close encounter with a Beaver walking on ice below Glenerie Falls, and a distant view of a Red Fox walking along the Hudson River shoreline provided a few non-waterfowl highlights from my Saugerties area of coverage.

Six Bald Eagles (3 adults, 3 juveniles) were observed during the count, five on the Hudson River from four different locations, and one on the Wallkill River in the Town of Shawangunk. Gulls were conspicuously absent, and none of the field parties reported any Great Blue Herons, or neck-banded geese or swans. Two Belted Kingfishers persisted in the survey area, one at Glenerie Falls, and one over Stone Ridge Pond.

No waterfowl were reported at any public feeding locations. The following pages detail field effort, area descriptions, and specific location counts. Thanks once again this year to this dedicated group of participants for providing comprehensive coverage of Ulster County.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

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## New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

### Ulster County Compilation

January 17, 2009

Total	Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	M
2,506	Canada Goose	1476		5	114	580	331	
12	Mute Swan	5	1	5		1		
2	American Wigeon	2						
86	American Black Duck	22		2		62		
615	Mallard	546		7	6	34	22	
3	Green-winged Teal					3		
3	Bufflehead			1		2		
28	Common Goldeneye	12		12		4		
14	Hooded Merganser	1		6		7		
73	Common Merganser	16		29	1	25	2	
1	Common Loon	1						
1	Horned Grebe	1						
<b>3,344</b>	<b>Total Individuals</b>	2,082	1	67	121	718	355	0
<b>12</b>	<b>Total Species</b>	10	1	8	3	9	3	0

6	Bald Eagle (Adult / Juvenile)	1 A	1 A	2 J	1 A	1 J	0	0
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Steve M. Chorvas

**Hudson River Sunrise, Bristol Beach State Park – January 17, 2009 Waterfowl Count**

# New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 3 of 9

Observers: Steve Chorvas	Start: 07:15	End: 04:15
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#	Location Description – Area A	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Saugerties Reservoir	Frozen	07:15 AM	07:15 AM
2	The Great Vly WMA - Saugerties	Frozen	07:25 AM	07:35 AM
3	Hudson River - Bristol Beach State Park		07:45 AM	08:30 AM
4	Hudson River - Malden Park (STP)		08:35 AM	08:45 AM
5	Esopus Creek - Lighthouse Drive (East side below dam) <span style="float: right;">Public feeding site</span>	Frozen	08:50 AM	08:50 AM
6	Hudson River - Saugerties Lighthouse Trail (Including Latham Circle vantage)		09:00 AM	10:40 AM
7	Esopus Creek - Saugerties Beach (above dam) <span style="float: right;">Public feeding site</span>	Frozen	10:45 AM	10:45 AM
8	Esopus Creek - Tina Chorvas Park (West side below dam) <span style="float: right;">Public feeding site</span>	Frozen	10:50 AM	10:50 AM
9	Hudson River - Glasco Riverfront Park (STP)		11:00 AM	11:20 AM
10	Esopus Creek - Glenerie Falls (PVI bridge south to Falls)		11:35 AM	12:25 PM

Total	Species	Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
476	Canada Goose							461				15
2	Mute Swan							2				
20	American Black Duck							20				
143	Mallard							142				1
12	Common Goldeneye										12	
16	Common Merganser							11			5	
1	Common Loon					1						
670	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>					1		636			17	16

1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)							1 A				
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#	Location Description – Area A	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Esopus Creek - Wynkoop Road Bridge		12:40 PM	12:45 PM
12	Cornfields - Lomontville Flats (Hurley Mountain Road)	Snow Covered	12:50 PM	12:55 PM
13	Esopus Creek - Fording Place (including holding ponds)	Frozen	01:00 PM	01:05 PM
14	Stone Ridge Pond - Mill Dam Road	Open 25%	01:15 PM	01:45 PM
15	Ashokan Reservoir Esopus Creek Outflow - Spillway Road	Mostly Frozen	01:55 PM	02:00 PM
16	Beaver Pond - Ashokan Spillway	Frozen	02:05 PM	02:05 PM
17	Ashokan Reservoir - Lower Basin	Open 5%	02:05 PM	02:30 PM
18	Ashokan Reservoir - Upper Basin	Frozen	02:30 PM	02:30 PM
19	Kenozia Lake and Onteora Lake	Frozen	02:40 PM	02:40 PM
20	Hudson River - Saugerties Lighthouse Trail (Second Visit)		03:45 PM	04:15 PM

Total	Species	Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1,000	Canada Goose					1,000						
3	Mute Swan					3						
2	American Wigeon					2						
2	American Black Duck		2									
403	Mallard		3			400						
1	Hooded Merganser		1									
1	Horned Grebe								1			
1,412	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>		6			1,405			1			

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)											
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2,082	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	Species: 10	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 1 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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# New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 4 of 9

Observers: Mark Dedeo	Start: 07:10	End: 10:15
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#	Location Description – Area B	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Esopus Creek - Farm To Market Road		09:45 AM	09:45 AM
2	Esopus Creek - Rt. 209 (Ulster Town Hall)		09:50 AM	09:50 AM
3	Esopus Creek - Glenerie Blvd.		07:20 AM	07:20 AM
4	Esopus Creek - Clint Finger Road		07:10 AM	07:10 AM
5	Hudson River - Kingston Point Beach		09:00 AM	09:05 AM
6	Hudson River - Ulster Landing Park		07:30 AM	07:50 AM
7	Hudson River - Rider Park, Town of Ulster		08:00 AM	08:10 AM
8	Hudson River - Post Park, Town of Ulster		08:15 AM	08:30 AM
9	Hudson River - Immigrant's Way (Tilcon Area)		08:40 AM	08:50 AM
10	Esopus Creek - Rt. 209 (Ulster Town Hall)		10:00 AM	10:00 AM

Total	Species	Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>											

	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)											
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#	Location Description – Area B	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Esopus Creek - Dutch Village Walk		09:40 AM	09:40 AM
12	Esopus Creek - Thruway Bridge (Tourism Caboose)		10:00 AM	10:15 AM
13	Hudson River - Kingston Point (including Lagoon)		09:05 AM	09:30 AM
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species	Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Mute Swan			1								
1	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>			1								

1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)			1 A								
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1	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	Species: 1	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 1 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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# New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 5 of 9

<b>Observers:</b> Lynn and Allan Bowdery, David Arner, Alex Mallon.	<b>Start:</b> 09:10	<b>End:</b> 12:35
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#	Location Description – Area C	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Rondout Creek - South side east of Rt. 32 North on James Street		09:10 AM	09:15 AM
2	Rondout Creek - North side east of Rt. 32 North on Creekllocks Rd to Rt. 213		09:15 AM	10:06 AM
3	Rondout Creek - Mountain Hill Rd/Cutler Hill Rd to Rt. 23 North at DeWitt Mill Rd.	Frozen	12:00 Noon	12:05 PM
4	New Salem Lake (including area behind Marina)	Frozen	10:06 AM	10:10 AM
5	Rondout Creek - Abeel St. from bridge at Eddyville to Millen's on the Strand	Frozen	10:11 AM	10:35 AM
6	Hudson River - Sleightsburg	Frozen	10:40 AM	11:15 AM
7	Hudson River - Esopus Town Beach	Frozen	11:50 AM	11:55 AM
8	Hudson River - Esopus Meadows	Frozen	11:30 AM	11:41 AM
9				
10				

Total	Species Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	Canada Goose	1	4								
5	Mute Swan		5								
2	American Black Duck		2								
7	Mallard		7								
1	Bufflehead		1								
12	Common Goldeneye		12								
6	Hooded Merganser	2	4								
29	Common Merganser		29								
67	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>	3	64								

2	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)									2 J	
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#	Location Description – Area C	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Field - Walkkill View Farm, Libertyville Road, New Paltz		12:32 PM	12:34 PM
12	Field - Agriculture Research, Libertyville Road, New Paltz		12:34 PM	12:35 PM
13	Field - Million Dollar Farm, Springtown Road, New Paltz		12:25 PM	12:27 PM
14	Field - Morning Calm Farm, Springtown Road, New Paltz		12:28 PM	12:29 PM
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>										

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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<b>67</b>	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	Species: 8	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 2 (Juv)
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## New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 6 of 9

Observers: Mark Dedeo	Start: 10:45	End: 03:00
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#	Location Description – Area D	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Route 208 Pond - Gardiner (south of Dressel's)		12:30 PM	12:30 PM
2	Route 32 Pond - Modena (near Horse-back Riding Ranch)		12:45 PM	12:45 PM
3	Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary - New Paltz		10:45 AM	11:00 AM
4	Humpo Marsh - New Paltz		11:10 AM	11:10 AM
5	Black Creek		02:50 PM	03:00 PM
6	Loughran Lane Marsh - Esopus		02:00 PM	02:05 PM
7	Hudson River - Lamont Landing, Esopus		02:20 PM	02:35 PM
8	Black Creek and Hudson River - Winding Brook Road, Esopus		02:40 PM	02:50 PM
9	Louis Valli Road Pond - West Park		02:10 PM	02:10 PM
10	Hudson River - Mariner's Restaurant, Highland		01:00 PM	01:05 PM

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>										

1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										1 A
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#	Location Description – Area D	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Valley Vista Nursing Home Pond - Highland		01:40 PM	01:40 PM
12	North Road Pond - Milton		12:50 PM	12:50 PM
13	Buttermilk Inn and Spa Pond - Milton		01:00 PM	01:00 PM
14	Chodikey Lake - Highland		01:55 PM	01:55 PM
15	Lily Lake - Highland		01:45 PM	01:45 PM
16	Hudson River - Dock Street, Marlboro		01:15 PM	01:30 PM
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
114	Canada Goose						114				
6	Mallard						6				
1	Common Merganser						1				
121	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>						121				

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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<b>121</b>	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	Species: 3	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 1 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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## New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 7 of 9

Observers: Selden Spencer, Bea Conover	Start: 09:05	End: 12:00
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#	Location Description – Area E	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Field and Pond - Walkkill Prison Grounds	Covered/ Frozen	09:05 AM	09:15 AM
2	Walkkill River - Galeville Bridge		09:20 AM	09:25 AM
3	Field - Blue Chip Farm	Snow Covered		
4	Walkkill River / Shawangunk Creek confluence (Yogi Bear Park)	Fowl on Ice	09:33 AM	09:40 AM
5	Field - Watchtower Farms	Snow Covered		
6	Walkkill River - above dam	Frozen	10:25 AM	
7	Walkkill River - below dam			
8	Walkkill River - Lippincott Rd			11:10 AM
9	Walkkill River - north of bridge (includes Rioes Rd cornfield off Springtown Rd)	Frozen	11:15 AM	11:20 AM
10	Walkkill River - Flats at New Paltz (from bridge to Libertyville Rd)	Frozen	11:20 AM	11:25 AM

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
450	Canada Goose				200			45	205		
62	American Black Duck		38						24		
25	Mallard							8	17		
3	Green-winged Teal							3			
4	Common Goldeneye								4		
7	Hooded Merganser								7		
12	Common Merganser		1						11		
563	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>		39		200			56	268		

1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)								1 J		
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#	Location Description – Area E	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Walkkill River - Perrines Covered Bridge County Park	Frozen		
12	Rondout Creek - Rosendale (Rt. 32 bridge west to Rt. 213 bridge)	Partially Open	11:30 AM	12:00 Noon
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
130	Canada Goose		130								
1	Mute Swan		1								
9	Mallard		9								
2	Bufflehead		2								
13	Common Merganser		13								
155	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>		155								

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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<b>718</b>	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	Species: 9	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 1 (Juv)
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## New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 8 of 9

Observers: Evelyn and Bob Rifenburg, Wyatt Smith	Start: 09:30	End: 03:08
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#	Location Description – Area F	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Coopers Lake	Frozen	09:30 AM	09:45 AM
2	Binnewater Lake	Frozen	10:50 AM	10:55 AM
3	Williams Lake	Frozen	11:00 AM	11:01 AM
4	Rondout Creek - toward Feather Farm	Frozen	11:10 AM	11:15 AM
5	Rondout Creek - Rest Plaus Road (by old Mill)	Frozen	11:17 AM	11:18 AM
6	Rondout Creek - Feather Farm		11:20 AM	11:28 AM
7	Rondout Creek - Alligerville Bridge		11:33 AM	11:37 AM
8	Rondout Creek - Accord Bridge (Rt. 209)	Frozen - 95%	11:49 AM	11:53 AM
9	Field - Rte. 209 Flats (near Kripplebush/Samsonville Junction)		12:05 PM	12:30 PM
10	Rondout Creek - High Falls Power Plant	Frozen	12:31 PM	12:33 PM

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
308	Canada Goose						8			300	
5	Mallard								5		
2	Common Merganser							1	1		
315	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>						8	1	6	300	
0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										

#	Location Description – Area F	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Esopus Creek - Lake Katrine (Leggs Mills Bridge)		02:20 PM	02:30 PM
12	Esopus Creek - Lake Katrine (Van Etten Lane)	Frozen	02:31 PM	02:33 PM
13	Bennekil Pond - Lake Katrine (by Esopus Creek)	Frozen	02:35 PM	02:37 PM
14	Sawkill Creek - Sawkill Road	Frozen	02:39 PM	02:45 PM
15	Kingston Reservoir #1	Frozen	02:55 PM	02:57 PM
16	Kingston Reservoir #4	Frozen	02:59 PM	03:00 PM
17	Sawkill Creek - Zena Bridge		03:05 PM	03:06 PM
18	Field - John Joy Rd. (past Zena Bridge)	Snow Covered	03:07 PM	03:08 PM
19				
20				

Total	Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
23	Canada Goose	23										
17	Mallard	13						4				
40	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>	36						4				
0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)											
<b>355</b>	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>Species: 3</b>	Notes:						Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 0 (Juv)			



## New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2009

Date: January 17, 2009

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 9 of 9

Observers: Alan Beebe	Start:	End: 2 Hrs.
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#	Location Description – Area M (Miscellaneous Reports)	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Rondout Reservoir	Frozen		
2	Plattekill Creek - Saugerties	Frozen		
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	<b>Total Individuals / Area</b>	0	0								
	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
<b>0</b>	<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>Species: 0</b>		<b>Notes:</b>						<b>Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 0 (Juv)</b>	



**Glenerie Falls, Esopus Creek – January 17, 2009 Waterfowl Count**