

## **Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 26, 2015**

Greetings,

The Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, December 26th and celebrated its 5th anniversary. Conditions were favorable for the 45 birders in 13 field parties and one feeder watcher covering the NYUD's ten sectors who contributed to this year's count. **17,115 individual** birds representing **86 species** were identified on count day plus three count week species. The 86 species tallied matched our second best effort (92 species in 2012 and 86 species in 2014) and the individuals number fell slightly below the average with our high count of 26,034 in 2011 and the low of 14,233 in 2014.

The temperatures were hospitable, continuing the trend we've enjoyed locally for weeks. A low temperature of 42 degrees was noted at our 3:45 a.m. start time and a high of 48 degrees was registered midday. There was absolutely no snow cover or ice of any form on bodies of water within the CBC circle. A rare Christmas full moon made scanning leafless trees easier for a part of our predawn owling but occasional gusts of wind and increased cloud cover took away the advantage of moonlight as the nocturnal effort proceeded towards dawn. Natural history occurrences like vocalizing Spring Peepers, emerging Skunk Cabbage, flowering Dandelions, and even a mosquito on the windshield further illustrated mild conditions.

Species documented on the NYUD checklist for the first time this year included a Lincoln's Sparrow in Sector A, an American Woodcock and two American Wigeons in Sector B, a Northern Saw-whet Owl in Sector D, two Great Cormorants in Sector I, and three Lesser Scaup (1 in Sector I and 2 in Sector J). With these additions the **NYUD CBC composite is now at 119 species after five years**. Other notable observations included Snow Goose in Sector C, Wood Ducks in Sectors D,E,F, Gadwall in Sector B, Ring-necked Duck in Sector I, Horned Grebes in Sectors E,G, the burgeoning Black Vulture winter roost in Sector G, American Kestrels in Sectors B,H, Merlins in Sectors B,I,J, Fish Crows in Sector J, Horned Larks in Sector D, Red-breasted Nuthatches in Sector E, American Pipits in Sector D, Gray Catbirds in Sectors H,I, and Pine Siskins in Sector F. 62 species have been identified on every NYUD CBC but Field Sparrow was missed this year for the first time. Species that were not as common or as widespread as in past counts included Red-shouldered Hawk (1), Cooper's Hawk (3), Hermit Thrush (3), Yellow-rumped Warbler (4), American Tree Sparrow (210), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (identified in only three sectors).

Thanks again to all the participants (as listed below) who helped make this year's NYUD CBC another successful day in the field and a special thanks again to Steve Chorvas for the mentoring, data input, and organizing skills.

**SECTOR A (WEST SAUGERTIES) 43 species, 1375 individuals**

Bob Miller  
Vanessa Lane  
Mary Moxham  
George Moxham

**SECTOR B (SAUGERTIES) north 50 species, 1112 individuals south 46 species, 1124 individuals**

north  
Steve Chorvas  
Eileen Cunningham  
Alan Beebe  
Doreen Beebe (fw)  
south  
Frank Murphy  
Deb Ferguson

**SECTOR C (CHEVIOT) 43 species, 2433 individuals**

Gregory Esch  
George Steele  
Rick Glatz

**SECTOR D (KERLEYS CORNERS) 50 species, 1274 individuals**

Peter Schoenberger  
Christina Baal

**SECTOR E (WOODSTOCK) west 36 species, 669 individuals east 30 species, 1064 individuals**

west  
Steve Schuyler  
Dixon Onderdonk  
Alan Bowdery  
east  
Jeff Nerp  
Glen Van Gorden  
Ryan Nerp

**SECTOR F (LAKE KATRINE) 38 species, 1421 individuals**

Lin Fagan  
Maeve Maurer  
Lynn Bowdery  
David Arner

**SECTOR G (ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON) 57 species, 1804 individuals**

Jessica Prockup  
Jim Clinton  
Jim Prockup  
Steve Bauer

**SECTOR H (RED HOOK) north 37 species, 924 individuals south 33 species, 721 individuals**

north  
Adrienne Popko  
Chet Vincent  
Sharon Weber  
south  
Jim Closs  
Barbara Butler  
Roberta Dopson  
Mona Payton  
Deb Weltsch

**SECTOR I (KINGSTON) 50 species, 1562 individuals**

Mark DeDea  
Donna Seymour  
Annie Mardiney  
Charlotte Adamis

**SECTOR J (RHINEBECK) 46 species, 1632 individuals**

Wendy Tocci  
Deb Kral  
Dave Hayes  
Rodney Johnson

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark DeDea  
co-compiler NYUD Christmas Bird Count

**SAVE THE DATE: NYUD CBC WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH 2016**

## NYUD CBC Summary – December 26, 2015

Total	NYUD Christmas Bird Count	A	B1N	B2S	C	D	E1	E2	F	G	H1N	H2S	I	J
	December 26, 2015 (5 / 116th)													
1	Snow Goose				1									
2,520	Canada Goose	327	56	40	879	111	24	244	154	130	100	160	64	231
14	Mute Swan		2	2	3				3	3			1	
3	Wood Duck					1	1		1					
4	Gadwall		4											
2	American Wigeon *		2											
65	American Black Duck	9	8	4	2				10	14	1		17	
393	Mallard	24	56	18	23	26	15	29	68	30	29	12	19	44
1	<i>Mallard x Black Hybrid</i>											1		
cw	Green-winged Teal *								cw					
1	Ring-necked Duck*												1	
3	Lesser Scaup												1	2
11	Bufflehead									2				9
13	Common Goldeneye												13	
20	Hooded Merganser	4		7		4		3	2					
73	Common Merganser		3	6		3	38		5	3			12	3
38	Wild Turkey				18					6	7			7
4	Horned Grebe						3			1				
cw	Double-crested Cormorant *									cw				
2	Great Cormorant												2	
7	Great Blue Heron			1	1			1		2		1	1	
125	Black Vulture	2				11				101	2	3	6	
22	Bald Eagle	2		2	2	1	3	3	1	4			2	2





Total I	NYUD Christmas Bird Count  December 26, 2015 (5 / 116th)	A	B1N	B2 S	C	D	E1	E2	F	G	H1 N	H2 S	I	J
15	Swamp Sparrow		1			2				2	8	1		1
320	White-throated Sparrow	58	18	42	31	16	2	3	12	70			34	34
3	White-crowned Sparrow					3								
1,207	Dark-eyed Junco	152	56	80	114	66	18 3	38	65	152	105	57	41	98
214	Northern Cardinal	24	24	21	10	19	9	17	14	32	7	3	24	10
86	Red-winged Blackbird		2	8			21	1		26		8		20
7	Common Grackle	1	1		2					2	1			
506	Brown-headed Cowbird				2									504
309	House Finch	35	12	13	10	40	2	12	21	32	50	26	39	17
12	Purple Finch		1		4	3				4				
5	Pine Siskin								5					
242	American Goldfinch	33	15	7	8	21	11		30	40	13	26	21	17
1,375	House Sparrow	112	48	216	132	73	45	157	221	192	72	12	88	7

<b>17,115</b>	<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>1,632</b>
<b>86</b>	<b>Total Species (+3 cw)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>

\* unusual species      cw = count week (not included in totals)  
Dutchess County

Shaded Columns: