

Audubon Christmas Bird Count (119th)

The **69th** annual **Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir** (NYML) Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was conducted on Saturday, 15 December 2018, under very mild and pleasant weather conditions. Fifty (50) field observers and three (3) feeder-watchers in sixteen (16) field parties encountered a total of **14,500 individuals** representing **81 species**, plus one additional count week species (**Cackling Goose**).

Diversity was four species above our current ten-year average of 77 species/year; six species shy of our all-time record high count of 87 species in 2017. Total abundance was slightly above the ten-year average of 14,056 individuals, but well-below our record high 22,307 from last year. No new species were added to the count composite, maintaining our historical total at 147 species.

Unusual for this count circle, a **Northern Pintail** was found on Spring Lake, representing our third count record for a species first recorded on this count in 2012. One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was detected in a nontraditional location near the Hurley Recreation Center in Hurley, and a lone **Long-eared Owl** was detected at a historical wintering location on private property in the Kripplebush area, where a **Northern Shrike** was also observed. Three **Peregrine Falcons** represent a new high count and the fifth time this species has been recorded on this count, all within the last ten years. One individual was observed at Ashokan Reservoir, and two were seen along Hurley Avenue.

A single **Gray Catbird** lingered in the Marbletown area, and a total of ten **American Pipits** were found in two distinct locations on open agricultural lands off Hurley Mountain Road. Two count week **Cackling Geese** were also observed in a farm field off Hurley Mountain Road on Friday, one day before the count, associating with a large flock of Canada Geese.

Eleven additional species were encountered in record high numbers: **Bufflehead** (8, eclipsing 4 in 2007), **Red-tailed Hawk** (84, surpassing 80 in 2010), **Rock Pigeon** (856, well above the 598 recorded in 2016), **Barred Owl** (9, compared to 7 in 2017), **Red-headed Woodpecker** (7, more than double our previous high count of 3 from 1984), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (153, eclipsing 141 in 2017), **Downy Woodpecker** (169, surpassing 165 in 2017), **Pileated Woodpecker** (40, eclipsing 33 in 2017), **Blue Jay** (539, eclipsing 520 in 2005), **Carolina Wren** (121, an impressive number in comparison to our previous high count of 68 in 2014), and **Field Sparrow** (12, edging out 11 from 1979 that stood as our high count for nearly 40 years). No species previously recorded on this count was found in record low numbers.

Two **Rusty Blackbirds**, two **Red-winged Blackbirds**, a lone **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, four **Belted Kingfishers**, and six **Great Blue Herons** lingered in the count area. **Hermit Thrush** (4), **American Robin** (231), and **Cedar Waxwing** (33) were present in relatively small numbers, but **Eastern Bluebirds** (194) were just one shy of our all-time record high. The highly anticipated incursion of northern irruptive species did not materialize during this day's effort. Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin were entirely absent. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, two **Purple Finches**, and only three **Evening Grosbeaks** (single individuals in three distinct locations) were disappointingly few in number.

A **Northern Bobwhite** was seen on private property in Ulster Park, but omitted from the record based on the likelihood that this bird was a direct release or offspring of released birds, with no evidence to suggest otherwise.

Temperatures were remarkably mild for this annual mid-December count, ranging from a low of 37° F to a high of 50° F with little or no wind. Skies were overcast throughout the day, occasionally hinting at some filtered sunshine behind the solid cloud cover. Virtually all bodies of water, including Ashokan Reservoir, were free of ice, with major creeks flowing high and rapidly from copious rainfall. No precipitation was recorded on count day, and there was no snow cover over the mostly unfrozen terrain.

The following table summarizes the count results by sector, followed by area descriptions with observer and effort information. Asterisks indicate unusual species for this count circle, "cw" indicates a count-week only species. Thanks to all of the participants for another great effort, and once again this year a special thanks to Kyla Haber, Mark DeDea, and everyone that helped with preparing the food and facilities for our post-count compilation at Hasbrouck Park in Kingston.

Steve M. Chorvas
Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir CBC Compiler

SAVE THE DATE – The 2019 Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir CBC is scheduled for Saturday, **December 14, 2019**.

69th Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir (NYML) Christmas Bird Count Sector Summary – December 15, 2018

Total	Species	A	B	B2	C1	C 2	C3	D	E	F	F2	F3	G1/3	G2	H	I
cw	Cackling Goose*									cw						
3,264	Canada Goose		138		20	102		97	66	1,591	700	9	183		310	48
1	Mute Swan							1								
62	American Black Duck					3	1	9		26	21				2	
607	Mallard		104		26	29	14	87	1	294	2		36	1	13	
1	Northern Pintail *							1								
8	Bufflehead											7		1		
9	Hooded Merganser					4		2		1					2	
37	Common Merganser		4			18		12				2		1		
36	Wild Turkey						8	15	5							8
2	Common Loon											1		1		
6	Horned Grebe											6				
6	Great Blue Heron					1				1	2				2	
5	Black Vulture		5													
1	Turkey Vulture		1													
7	Northern Harrier	2			1					1	2				1	
3	Sharp-shinned Hawk				1	1					1					
7	Cooper's Hawk		1				3	2		1						
12	Bald Eagle					5		2		1	3		1			
3	Red-shouldered Hawk					1		2								
84	Red-tailed Hawk	2	8	2	7	8	3	24	4	4	4	2	3		11	2
33	Ring-billed Gull					13		9				11				
124	Herring Gull	110	2				1					7	4			
10	Great Black-backed Gull	10														
9	<i>Gull sp.</i>	9														
856	Rock Pigeon		31		140	2		294	74	56			90		167	2
620	Mourning Dove	6	35		57	56	15	28	71	45	37	3	64	11	187	5
4	Eastern Screech-Owl							1		3						
12	Great Horned Owl		4				1	1		1	1		2		2	
9	Barred Owl		2	1				2		2					2	
1	Long-eared Owl *												1			
1	Northern Saw-whet Owl							1								
4	Belted Kingfisher				1	1		1		1						
7	Red-headed Woodpecker				2	5										
153	Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	15		22	6	11	24	11	9	5	5	18	4	13	5
16	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		3		2	2		4		1			4			
169	Downy Woodpecker	7	23	1	19	18	13	30	1	13	5	5	18	1	10	5
35	Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	1	3	5	3	7	1	5			2	1	3	
35	Northern Flicker	1	1		8	5	4	3	1	2	1	1	5		3	
40	Pileated Woodpecker		4		2	5	4	3	4	5	2	2	5	2	1	1
6	American Kestrel	1	1					1		1	1				1	
2	Merlin							2								
3	Peregrine Falcon *							2				1				
1	Northern Shrike *												1			
539	Blue Jay	68	75	3	43	49	32	40	26	28	10	8	68	5	72	12
887	American Crow	106	130	1	46	20	12	23	10	19	256	3	14	2	240	5
15	Common Raven	2	3	3	1		2					1			2	1
1	Horned Lark														1	
467	Black-capped Chickadee	30	47	7	39	30	50	46	5	38	10	15	68	12	47	23
297	Tufted Titmouse	15	55	6	26	27	23	39	4	23	2	8	21	11	26	11
2	Red-breasted Nuthatch							2								
265	White-breasted Nuthatch	12	31	1	27	35	11	33	13	26	8	12	22	8	19	7
16	Brown Creeper		1		2	2	2	1		2	2		3		1	
7	Winter Wren				1		1	3				1			1	
121	Carolina Wren	3	7		5	9	9	31	5	13	11	5	11	3	9	
20	Golden-crowned Kinglet		2		2		5	4	1	1					5	

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Total	Species	A	B	B2	C1	C 2	C3	D	E	F	F2	F3	G1/3	G2	H	I
194	Eastern Bluebird	4	16	4	13	9	23	25	2	19	1	1	26		44	7
4	Hermit Thrush							3		1						
231	American Robin	1			36	1	35	97	12	21	1		11		16	
1	Gray Catbird												1			
41	Northern Mockingbird	2	3		3	1	7	13	1	2		1	5	1	2	
1,840	European Starling	44	236		387	34	113	332	120	4	20		279	14	257	
10	American Pipit *									2	8					
33	Cedar Waxwing				8		2			1					22	
1	Yellow-rumped Warbler							1								
176	American Tree Sparrow	3	10		17	1	5	83	3	2	3		31		17	1
12	Field Sparrow				3		3	1					5			
3	Fox Sparrow						1	2								
797	Dark-eyed Junco	3	60	13	36	55	165	103	17	32	49	63	63	15	119	4
1	White-crowned Sparrow				1											
476	White-throated Sparrow	64	50		60	28	30	81	18	60	12	12	13	1	33	14
3	Savannah Sparrow										3					
219	Song Sparrow	14	14		23	1	15	24	2	42	30	10	24		16	4
12	Swamp Sparrow	1	1					1					4		4	1
251	Northern Cardinal	6	27	5	28	21	18	45	5	21	13	12	33	3	10	4
2	Red-winged Blackbird					2										
2	Rusty Blackbird						2									
4	Brown-headed Cowbird														4	
92	House Finch	5	17		1	4	13	18		13		5	16			
2	Purple Finch		1					1								
262	American Goldfinch	32	8		33	23	24	42		49	10	6	25	2	8	
3	Evening Grosbeak				1		1								1	
880	House Sparrow		45		51	24	40	410		39	16	1	9		230	15
14,500	Total Individuals	570	1,223	48	1,204	666	725	2,171	483	2,522	1,252	226	1,189	100	1,936	185
81	Total Species (+1 cw)	29	41	13	41	41	40	57	27	45	34	31	38	21	43	22

CW - Denotes species found during the count week (three days before or after count day), but not on count day. Not included in totals.
 * Denotes unusual species for this count circle.

69th Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir (NYML) Christmas Bird Count - December 15, 2018								
Area Description and Observers (Sector leaders are listed first.)	Daylight Party Hours			Daylight Party Miles			Nocturnal	
	Foot	Car	Total	Foot	Car	Total	Hours	Miles
Area A: Mohonk Lake – Mohonk Preserve Elizabeth Long, Megan Napoli, David Chernack, Mallory Pierce.	6.75	0	6.75	8.25	0	8.25	0	0
Area B: Walkkill River West - New Paltz to Rosendale Wendy Tocci, Jessica Prockup, Annie Mardiney.	5	4.5	9.5	5	52	57	2.75	26
Area B2: Walkkill River West - Bouticou Area Eric Perlman.	2	0	2	1.75	0	1.75	0	0
Area C1: Walkkill River East - New Paltz/Esopus Christine Guarino, Nicholas Martin, Tom O'Dowd, Dan Porter, Steve Stanne.	6	2	8	7.25	21	28.25	.5	3.25
Area C2: Ulster Park Lynn Bowdery, Allan Bowdery, Deb Weltsch. Feeder Watch: Nancy Ebel, Lin Fagan, Jim Yates (2.5 hours).	0	9	9 (2.5)	0	63	63	0	0
Area C3: Maple Ridge Community Arnold Meier, Kelian Meier, Malcolm Meier, Carl Hindley, Yoobin Park, Dennis Trapnell, Dwight Wareham, Simon Winter.	6	0	6	8	0	8	1	1
Area D: Hurley/Kingston Mark DeDea, Jim Clinton, Donna Seymour.	3	6.5	9.5	1.5	55.5	57	2	15
Area E: High Falls/Alligerville Central George and Mary Moxham.	4	5	9	4	85	89	.25	0
Area F1: Hurley/Lomontville Steve Chorvas, Alan Beebe, Doreen Beebe, Mark Damian, Ariane Giudicelli. Feeder Watch: Ariane Giudicelli (4 hours).	1.5	7.5	9 (4)	1	48.5	49.5	3	15.5
Area F2: Hurley/Lomontville Farm Hub Anne Bloomfield, Nanette Ayers, Paige Cranfield, Dixon Onderdonk, Loren Quinby, Dan Spencer, Amy Wu.	4.25	3.25	7.5	2.25	5	7.25	2	8
Area F3: Ashokan Reservoir Frank Murphy, Debra Ferguson.	.25	5	5.25	.5	25	25.5	0	0

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Area Description and Observers (Sector leaders are listed first.)	Daylight Party Hours			Daylight Party Miles			Nocturnal	
	Foot	Car	Total	Foot	Car	Total	Hours	Miles
Area G1: Marbletown South Glen VanGorden, Jeff Nerp.	2	5.5	7.5	3	45	48	.5	0
Area G2: Marbletown North Dave Hayes.	1.5	6.5	8	2	57	59	1	10
Area G3: Marbletown (Yard and fields) Dave Nyzio.	7.5	0	7.5	3	0	3	.75	0
Area H: Kripplebush/Accord Peter Schoenberger, Susan Rogers.	5	3.75	8.75	5	104	109	3	21
Area I: Clove Valley Zack Smith.	6.25	0	6.25	3	0	3	0	0
Field Observers: 50 Feeder Watchers (FW): 3 Total Effort:	61	58.5	119.5	55.5	561	616.5	16.75	99.75

Note: Feeder Watch hours not included in total party hours.