

## Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count – 8th Annual NYUD CBC - December 29, 2018

Greetings,

The 2018 Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, December 29. 49 individuals representing 15 field parties and one feeder watcher covered the ten sectors within this count circle. Participants enjoyed moderate winter temperatures ranging from a high of 52 degrees during the early morning nocturnal effort to a low of 42 degrees at the end of the day's diurnal effort. These conditions (along with a rainy late fall-early winter) meant water levels were high and void of ice and there was no snow cover in the circle. Winds did pick up periodically but did hamper observation on the Hudson River or other larger bodies of water and did not adversely affect passerine viewing. All field parties did note oddly quiet days with some common species difficult to locate. This too may reflect on moderate conditions and the fact that birds were not forced to congregate on small patches of open water or exposed ground.

Unusual non-avian observations included a whooping four mustelid species, Wood Frogs and peepers vocalizing, various active insect species, and a guy washing his car in his driveway.

**88 species** and **14,007 individual birds** were observed on count day. The species list was two above our average but the number of individuals was the second lowest total in the NYUD's history and more than four thousand birds below the count average. A **Common Yellowthroat** identified at the Great Vly in the Town of Saugerties was the only new addition to our composite list which now stands at **127 species** after eight years. Other highlights included a **Gray Catbird** and **36 Pine Siskins** in West Saugerties with a soaring **Golden Eagle** and **3 Northern Saw-whet Owls** in Kerley Corners. The Tivoli Bays area served up a good selection of waterfowl despite the heavy pressure of hunters including a **Blue-winged Teal**, **9 Northern Pintails**, and **28 Canvasbacks**. Notable in this sector as well were **12 Eastern Screech Owls** and **109 Black Vultures** aiding greatly in new high counts set for both species. The Rhinebeck area may have an exciting development of colonizing **Red-headed Woodpecker** with that species being observed for consecutive years. The small portion of the Ashokan Reservoir within our circle paid dividends with **5 Ruddy Ducks** and a **Common Loon** while a newly accessible location in the Town of Ulster offered the count's lone **Common Redpoll** and a sizable flock of **12 White-crowned Sparrows**. A **Chipping Sparrow** in the Town of Ulster rounded out a robust list of 10 sparrow species for the count.

Interestingly all three falcon species were observed but exclusively in Dutchess County while **55 Bald Eagles** were nicely distributed throughout the circle. Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Purple Finch, Savannah and Fox Sparrow were species represented by just one individual respectively. High numbers were recorded on 14 species and new low counts were tallied on 11 species including typical number-padding species like American Crow (less than half the average) and Dark-eyed Junco (about a one third the average).

Once again I must thank Steve Chorvas for his tutelage on CBC compiling and his patience and understanding with the annual barrage of questions I send his way. His data entry on count day and wonderful subsequent spreadsheet make my job much easier. I must also give a special thanks to Pat and Steve Johnson who helped with preparation of food, set up, and the breakdown of our well attended (33 NYUDers) post count compilation. Many others brought delicious food and drink and made our "apps and finger foods" themed get together a success. Lastly, as always, Jess Prockup, Wendy Tocci, and Kyla DeDea made sure our cleanup was done in a much appreciated timely and helpful manner.

I wish you all a Bird-filled and Healthy New Year,



Total	NYUD Christmas Bird Count December 29, 2018 (8 / 119th)	A	B	C	D	E1	E2	F	G1	G2	H1	H2	H3	I	J
16	Cooper's Hawk		2	1	2		3		1		1	1		5	
1	<i>Accipiter sp.</i>											1			
55	Bald Eagle	1	6	2	5	2	1		18		2	4		6	8
4	Red-shouldered Hawk	1							1					1	1
117	Red-tailed Hawk	8	5	18	15	3	11	5	12	1	9	5	2	14	9
1	Golden Eagle *				1										
206	Ring-billed Gull		15	4		1			40			1		141	4
25	Herring Gull								3					22	
2	Great Black-backed Gull								1					1	
1	<i>Gull sp.</i>							1							
298	Rock Pigeon	8	18		31	12	11	1			47	14		124	32
298	Mourning Dove	25	25	50	63	16	38	28	7		16			27	3
23	Eastern Screech-Owl		3		2				13					3	2
9	Great Horned Owl		1		1				3					2	2
10	Barred Owl		2	1	3		1				1			1	1
2	Northern Saw-whet Owl *				2										
9	Belted Kingfisher		1		1	1	1				1			3	1
2	Red-headed Woodpecker														2
126	Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	11	25	8	4	4	5	16	5	13	3	1	7	14
11	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		4	2	2				1		2				
109	Downy Woodpecker	11	19	10	15	3	2	6	9	2	8	2		16	6
24	Hairy Woodpecker	2	6	2	1		1		8		1		1	1	1
26	Northern Flicker		4	3	2	1		1	6		1			3	5
31	Pileated Woodpecker	1	8	1	2	1	2		6		2	2		1	5
1	American Kestrel				1										
5	Merlin *				2				1			1			1
2	Peregrine Falcon *									1		1			
322	Blue Jay	22	44	32	41	7	7	23	35	12	40	13	1	26	19
332	American Crow	10	15	11	45	6	84	24	18	4	38	18		29	30
7	Fish Crow											2			5
19	Common Raven		1	1	3	4	6					2		1	1
63	Horned Lark				18						45				
404	Black-capped Chickadee	36	54	26	63	20	30	18	43	5	48	9	9	31	12
267	Tufted Titmouse	17	33	38	36	13	6	9	39	7	27	10		18	14
4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2				1			1						
159	White-breasted Nuthatch	20	16	22	22	5	3	3	34	8	13	1	1	3	8
7	Brown Creeper	1	1						2		1			1	1
2	House Wren *					2									
8	Winter Wren	1	3						2					2	
101	Carolina Wren	7	26	2	9		6	6	16	1	5	1	2	13	7
7	Golden-crowned Kinglet					6								1	
1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1										
166	Eastern Bluebird	32	20	27	24	6		3	9	24	11			3	7
2	Hermit Thrush		1								1				
172	American Robin	20	9	45	2		8		38	2			1	31	16
1	Gray Catbird	1													
43	Northern Mockingbird	1	2	2	5		3	5	7		2	1		12	3
2,562	European Starling	110	23	170	460	60	103	411	434		172	100		404	115
94	Cedar Waxwing					37		2	54		1				
1	Common Yellowthroat		1												
2	Yellow-rumped Warbler								1				1		
113	American Tree Sparrow		6		1	2	13	32	33				2	21	3

