

Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count – 9th Annual NYUD CBC – December 28th, 2019

Greetings,

The ninth annual Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, December 28th. Conditions were favorable with temperatures ranging from a low of 30 degrees during pre-dawn owling to a very comfortable, sun-filled 47 degrees midday. There was absolutely no breeze throughout the day which did keep a veil of fog in locations along the river making viewing difficult until late morning. Black ice was reported in most sectors and the snow cover that was present had a slippery crust making early birding a bit treacherous. The Hudson River was open and mirror like while her main tributaries in the circle ran freely. Smaller bodies of water were frozen with shaded and protected areas still holding on to an inch or two of several week old snow.

45 birders in 13 field parties, plus two feeder watchers covered the circle's ten sectors. These birders observed **79 species** totaling **14,731 individual birds**. The species total represented our second lowest (78 in 2013) and the individual count was the third lowest we've tallied. After nine years, the NYUD composite list stands at **128 species** with no new additions this year. Through nine years we have averaged **85 species** and **17,470 individuals** on count day. Only one count week species was observed with an Eastern Phoebe on the Bard College Campus.

Highlights of this year's count included Long-eared Owl, Blue-winged Teal, and Rusty Blackbirds in the Annandale-On-Hudson sector, Gray Catbird and Eastern Towhee in the West Saugerties sector, Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Kerley's Corners sector, Purple Finches in the Rhinebeck sector, and a House Wren in the Kingston sector. An exciting phenomenon may have truly been the highlight of the day with to my recollection of Ulster-centered CBC's, a first with **three different** sectors observing Red-headed Woodpeckers (2 in the West Saugerties sector, 2 in the Woodstock sector, and 1 in the Rhinebeck sector). Another unique occurrence were the 42 individual owls counted in five sectors with Kerley's Corners leading the way with 16 birds and Annandale-On-Hudson with 14 birds.

Thirteen species set high counts this year including Red-bellied Woodpecker (54 seen in the Cheviot sector alone), 4 Common Loons and 12 of the 22 Swamp Sparrows observed in the Lake Katrine sector, and 160 Carolina Wrens (previous high was 102). Six species set new low counts this year including typically abundant species like Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Dark-eyed Junco. American Crow numbers this year were an alarming quarter of their 1279 in 2016.

Thank you again this year to Steve Chorvas for his data input and spreadsheet wizardry and to all those NYUDers who brought food, attended, and helped with clean-up of our post count compilation in Kingston.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL ULSTER/DUTCHESS (NYUD) CBC: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 2020

Total	NYUD Christmas Bird Count December 28, 2019 (9 / 120th)	A	B1	B2	C	D	E1	E2	F	G	H1	H2	I	J
16	Winter Wren		6				3			2			5	
160	Carolina Wren	11	26	1	15	10	10	5	9	10	14	8	28	13
29	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	3		2		1	3		8	1		5	
10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1			1		1	2			3	1
180	Eastern Bluebird	16	9		20	22	33	9	5	18	5	19	8	16
3	Hermit Thrush		1		1					1				
305	American Robin	8	41		88	18	9	17	1	12	63	13	1	34
1	Gray Catbird	1												
57	Northern Mockingbird	6	2	1	3	9	1	5	5	3	3	1	11	7
2,974	European Starling	224	62	26	604	415	4	88	464	127	123	65	578	194
149	Cedar Waxwing	6	1		10	12	2	8	16	14	72			8
13	Yellow-rumped Warbler		4		1	1			1	2	4			
148	American Tree Sparrow	4	2		4	22	11	3	16	18	1	6	47	14
3	Field Sparrow	1								2				
536	Dark-eyed Junco	84	20		39	19	77	51	34	77	63	24	19	29
11	White-crowned Sparrow					1					6		4	
676	White-throated Sparrow	116	97		36	39	22	36	62	67	60	22	54	65
1	Savannah Sparrow					1								
169	Song Sparrow	26	16	2	17	19	7	15	10	18	1		31	7
22	Swamp Sparrow		4			1			12				5	
1	Eastern Towhee *	1												
186	Northern Cardinal	17	23		11	10	17	18	10	21	13	7	26	13
22	Red-winged Blackbird		6						2	7			7	
4	Rusty Blackbird									4				
22	Common Grackle	11							11					
4	Brown-headed Cowbird									1	3			
280	House Finch	76	32		28	19	2	26	14	11	45	2	19	6
2	Purple Finch													2
284	American Goldfinch	16	35	2	12	30	45	11	2	43	4	11	38	35
881	House Sparrow	26	27		15	88	8	41	111	85	59	6	391	24

14,731	Total Individuals	1,107	922	170	1,775	1,892	438	490	1,261	1,148	1,397	415	2,333	1,383
79	Total Species (+1 cw)	45	50	17	43	46	36	37	41	58	41	30	53	46

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

Shaded Columns: Dutchess County

Sector A (West Saugerties) Robert Miller, Vanessa Lane, George Moxham, Mary Moxham

Sector B (Saugerties) Steve Chorvas, Eileen Cunningham, Alan Beebe, Doreen Beebe (fw)

Sector C (Cheviot) Greg Esch, John Garesche

Sector D (Kerley's Corners) Peter Schoenberger, Susan Rogers, Ryan Maclean

Sector E (Woodstock) Dixon Onderdonk, Lynne Cherry, Dan Spencer, Loren Quinby, Ariane Giudicelli, Wes Giudicelli, Paul Carney, Debbie Carney

Sector F (Lake Katrine) Lynn Bowdery, Allan Bowdery, Lin Fagan, Donna Seymour, Maeve Maurer

Sector G (Annandale-On-Hudson) Jessica Prockup, James Prockup, Jim Clinton, Matthew Rymkiewicz

Sector H (Red Hook) Jim Closs, Binnie Chase, Barbara Butler, Adrienne Popko, Chet Vincent, Sharon Weber, Roberta Dopson, Jerry Chapple, Dot Fleury, Susan Gilnack (fw)

Sector I (Kingston) Mark DeDea, Annie Mardiney

Sector J (Rhinebeck) Wendy Tocci, Daves Hayes, Deb Kral, Rodney Johnson, Peter Stewart