January 12, 2008

#### **Ulster County Narrative**

Sixteen observers in five field parties participated in the Ulster County segment of the annual New York State Winter Waterfowl Count, recording a total of **17 species** and **6,890 individuals** within the county on Saturday, 12 January 2008. This represents a record high species count, exceeding last year's diversity by three species, and is just 204 individuals short of our record high total set in 2006. Field observers noted fast moving water, and essentially frozen ponds, lakes, and marshes throughout the county. Stone Ridge Pond on Mill Dam Road was the exception, and continues to contribute a large number of individuals and a few unusual species to the composite, hosting American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, and 1,061 individuals this year. The Hudson River, Ashokan Reservoir, lower Esopus Creek in Saugerties, and agricultural fields surrounding Wallkill prison accounted for the majority of the balance of the count.

Weather conditions were quite favorable for this time of the year, especially in comparison to the rain and widespread fog of last year, or the sub-freezing temperatures typical of a mid-January count. A very dense fog did persist over the Hudson River early morning, requiring some minor route changes to allow for early visits to inland sites while delaying surveys of the Hudson to later in the day. Temperatures started out just below freezing, then warmed to a very comfortable mid-40's (F) by afternoon. Winds were calm for the most part, with the exception of a cold NW gale sweeping across partially frozen Ashokan Reservoir, making for very choppy waters in the lower basin and difficult viewing conditions. The Hudson River was ice-free, Ashokan Reservoir remained about 40% open, but most small ponds and marshes were largely to completely frozen. Moving creeks and rivers were open but flowing swiftly in their channels, with ice covering placid backwaters. Area cornfields were largely exposed, with some patchy areas of minor snow cover.

Highlights of the 8.5-hour effort include 500 Canvasbacks, 12 Redheads, 86 American Black Ducks, 1 Doublecrested Cormorant, and 1 Ring-necked Duck. Two Common Ravens were observed flying over Stone Ridge Pond in the direction of the Catskill Mountains, and the following natural history note comes from a spring-fed marsh at the northern periphery of the county. The Great Vly on the Ulster/Greene County line was completely frozen over early morning, including a thin layer of ice that had apparently formed the previous night over the typically open access area adjacent to the outflow. While scanning the reed and cattail beds for roosting waterfowl, I was pleasantly surprised to hear a sudden cracking of the thin ice, and observe one of the resident beavers poking his/her head through the ice immediately below my elevated vantage point. The beaver proceeded to survey the surroundings, then submerge and swim twenty or so yards under the ice, reemerging several additional times by breaking headfirst through the thin ice.

Eight Bald Eagles (5 adults, 3 juveniles) were observed during the count, five on the Hudson River, one on Esopus Creek in the Town of Ulster, one on Rondout Creek in Eddyville, and one over a field in New Paltz. A few Herring Gulls, Great Black-backed Gulls, and numerous Ring-billed Gulls were encountered on various waterways and agricultural fields, otherwise no unusual gull species were reported. Belted Kingfisher was reported from only one location, none of the field parties reported seeing a Great Blue Heron on count day, and no neck-banded geese or swans were encountered.

One field party (Sector A) reported observing waterfowl at two public feeding locations (A-7 and A-8). The following pages detail field effort, area descriptions, and individual sector counts. Thanks once again this year to all of the participants for their dedication in providing comprehensive coverage of the county.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

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	New York S	State Wa ster Count			- 2008	3					
January 12, 2008											
Total	Species	Α	В	С	D	E	F	Μ			
5,315	Canada Goose	916	14	593		2816	976				
53	Mute Swan	45		8							
1	Wood Duck			1							
1	American Wigeon	1									
86	American Black Duck	55	12	8		1	10				
661	Mallard	510	11	101		25	14				
2	Mallard X Black	2									
500	Canvasback			500							
12	Redhead	8		4							
1	Ring-necked Duck	1									
5	Scaup species			5							
3	Bufflehead	1		2							
160	Common Goldeneye	3	3	150			4				
7	Hooded Merganser	1	6								
78	Common Merganser	4		53		21					
1	Red-breasted Merganser	1									
3	Common Loon	1	2								
1	Double-crested Cormorant		1								
6,890	Total Individuals	1,549	49	1,425		2,863	1,004	0			
17	Total Species	13	7	11		4	4	0			
8	Bald Eagle (Adult / Juvenile)	2 J	2 <b>A</b>	3 <b>A</b> 1 <b>J</b>		0	0	0			

New York State Waterfowl Count – 2008

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

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#### **Observers:** Steve Chorvas

#	Area Surveyed – Sector A		Start Time	End Time
1	Saugerties Reservoir	Frozen	08:00 AM	08:05
2	The Great Vly WMA	Frozen	08:15	08:50
3	Bristol Beach State Park – Hudson River		09:25	09:55
4	Malden Park (STP) – Hudson River		10:00	10:30
5	Lighthouse Drive – Esopus Creek below dam	Public feeding site	10:40	10:50
6	Saugerties Lighthouse Trail – Hudson River		11:00	12:00 PM
7	Saugerties Beach – Esopus Creek above dam	Public feeding site	12:10	12:30
8	Tina Chorvas Park – Esopus Creek below dam	Public feeding site	12:35	12:50
9	Glasco Riverfront Park (STP) – Hudson River		12:55	01:05
10	Glenerie Falls (PVI bridge south to Falls) – Esopus Creek		01:10	01:15 PM

Total	Species Area $\rightarrow$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
256	Canada Goose						250	6			
40	Mute Swan						40				
9	American Black Duck						9				
60	Mallard						4	16	40		
8	Redhead						8				
1	Bufflehead						1				
3	Common Goldeneye						3				
4	Common Merganser			2					2		
1	Red-breasted Merganser						1				
382	Total Individuals / Area			2			316	22	42		
2	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)			1 J			1 J				

#	Area Surveyed – Sector A	Start Time	End Time
11	Wynkoop Road Bridge – Esopus Creek	01:30 PM	01:35
12	Lomontville Flats (Hurley Mountain Road) – Cornfields	01:35	01:45
13	Fording Place and holding ponds – Esopus Creek	01:45	02:05
14	Stone Ridge Pond (Mill Dam Road)	02:15	02:55
15	Spillway Road – Ashokan Reservoir Esopus Creek Outflow	03:05	03:10
16	Ashokan Spillway Beaver Pond Frozen		
17	Ashokan Reservoir – Lower Basin	03:25	04:00
18	Ashokan Reservoir – Upper Basin	04:05	04:35
19	Kenozia Lake Frozen		
20	Onteora Lake Frozen		04:45 PM

Total	Species Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
660	Canada Goose				650				10		
5	Mute Swan				5						
1	American Wigeon				1						
46	American Black Duck				2				44		
450	Mallard				400				50		
2	Mallard X Black				2						
1	Ring-necked Duck				1						
1	Hooded Merganser								1		
1	Common Loon							1			
1,167	Total Individuals / Area				1,061			1	105		
	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
1,549	SECTOR TOTALS	Species	13	Notes:					Bald Eag	les: 0 (Ad)	) 2 (Juv)

### Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

#### Observers: Mark Dedea, Alan Beebe, Bob DeDea, Mary Jo Wilshire

#	Area Surveyed – Sector B	Start Time	End Time
1	Kingston Point Lagoon and Point – Hudson River	09:00 AM	09:15
2	Kingston Point Beach – Hudson River	09:15	09:20
3	Ulster Landing Park – Hudson River	09:35	09:55
4	Rider Park, Town of Ulster – Hudson River	10:05	10:25
5	Post Park, Town of Ulster – Hudson River	10:35	11:05
6	Rt. 209 (Ulster Town Hall) – Esopus Creek	11:15	11:20
7	Glenerie Blvd. – Esopus Creek		
8	Clint Finger Road – Esopus Creek		
9	Farm To Market Road – Esopus Creek	11:25	11:35
10	Thruway Bridge (Tourism Caboose) – Esopus Creek	11:45	12:05 PM

Total	Species Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	Canada Goose					6				8	
12	American Black Duck	12									
11	Mallard	5	2				2			2	
3	Common Goldeneye			3							
6	Hooded Merganser			1		2					3
2	Common Loon			1	1						
1	Double-crested Cormorant					1					
49	Total Individuals / Area	17	2	5	1	9	2			10	3
1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										1 A

#	Area Surveyed – Sector B	Start Time	End Time
11	Dutch Village Walk – Esopus Creek	12:10 PM	12:30
12	Immigrant's Way (Tilcon Area) – Hudson River	12:40	01:00 PM
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Total	Species Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	Total Individuals / Area	0	0								
1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)		1 A								
49	SECTOR TOTALS	Species	7	Notes: S	ite #7 & #8	8 not visite	d		Bald Eag	les: 2 (Ad)	0 (Juv)

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**Observers:** Lin Fagan, Lynn and Allan Bowdery, Ruth Elwell, Jayne Dean, Charlie Woodruff (All sites 1-7, split party sites 8-15)

#	Area Surveyed – Sector C	Start Time	End Time
1	East of Rt. 32 North on James Street – South side of Rondout Creek	09:15 AM	09:20
2	East of Rt. 32 North on Creeklocks Road to Rt. 213 – North side of Rondout Creek	09:30	10:00
3	Mountain Hill Road/Cutler Hill Road back to Rt. 23 North at DeWitt Mill Road - Rondout Creek	10:00	10:10
4	Abeel Street from bridge at Eddyville to Millen's on the Strand – Rondout Creek	10:45	11:15
5	Esopus Town Beach - Hudson River	12:00 PM	12:30
6	Esopus Meadows - Hudson River	12:30	12:50
7	New Salem Lake (includes area behind the Marina)	01:00	
8	Pond (Old Post Rd & Rt. 9W at RR tracks)	02:00	
9	Rt. 9W Town of Esopus – Hudson River	02:10	
10	Sturgeon Pool	02:30	02:30 PM

Total	Species Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
113	Canada Goose		12			48	38			15	
6	Mute Swan		2				2		2		
1	Wood Duck		1								
4	American Black Duck			4							
99	Mallard	14	48	4	22	5	4	2			
500	Canvasback						500				
4	Redhead						4				
5	Scaup species						5				
2	Bufflehead						2				
150	Common Goldeneye						150				
53	Common Merganser		11		26	12					4
937	Total Individuals / Area	14	74	8	48	65	705	2	2	15	4
3	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)				1 J	2 A					

#	Area Surveyed – Sector C	Start Time	End Time
11	Wallkill View Farm, Libertyville Road, New Paltz – Field	01:30 PM	01:50
12	Agriculture Research, Libertyville Road, New Paltz – Field	01:50	02:00
13	Million Dollar Farm, Springtown Road, New Paltz – Field	02:10	02:15
14	Morning Calm Farm, Springtown Road, New Paltz – Field	02:15	02:25
15	Byersdorfer Rd (off Rt. 32, Rosendale/Kingston)	03:00	03:00 PM
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Total	Species Area $\rightarrow$	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
593	Canada Goose	358	48	74							
8	Mute Swan					2					
8	American Black Duck					4					
101	Mallard					2					
488	Total Individuals / Area	358	48	74		8					
1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)				1 A						
1,425	SECTOR TOTALS	Species:	11	Notes: Si	Notes: Site #15 ~ one mile from site #3 Ba						1 (Juv)

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Observers: Selden Spencer, Bea Conover

#				Area S	urveyed	- Sector	Ε				Start Tin	ne	End	Time
1	Flats a	at New Paltz fror	n bridge to Li	bertyville F	Road – Wa	allkill River					09:15 AM		09:30	
2	Flats S	South (beyond V	Vallkill Farms	) – Wallkill	River						09:45		10:15	
3	Wallkil	I River above da	am								10:20		10:25	
4	Shawa	awangunk Creek / Wallkill River confluence (Yogi Bear Park)											10:45	
5	Watch	/atch Tower Farms – Field											11:00	
6	Galevi	Galeville Bridge Area – Wallkill River											11:00	
7	Wallkill Prison Grounds – Field										11:10		11:20	
8	Wallkil	I River north of	bridge (incluc	les Rioes F	Rd cornfiel	d off Sprin	gtown Rd)	)			11:25		11:45	
9	Perrine	es Covered Brid	lge County Pa	ark – Wallk	ill River						11:50		12:10 PM	
10	Rondo	ut Creek west o	of Rt. 32 bridg	e, Rosend	ale						12:25		12:45	PM
T	otal	Species	Area $\rightarrow$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10
2	2,816	Canada Goos	е	443	113	6	28	16		1,850	360			
	1	American Blac	ck Duck		1									
	25	Mallard		2	11				2		10			
	21	Common Mer	ganser	4		12	1		4					

21	Common werganser	<b>т</b>		12			7				
2,86	3 Total Individuals / Area	449	125	18	29	16	6	1,850	370		
	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
2,863 SECTOR TOTALS Species: 4			Notes: Si	O in cornf	Bald Eag	les: (A	\d) (Juv)				

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Observers: Evelyn and Bob Rifenburg, Wyatt Smith

#	Area Surveyed – Sector F		Start Time	End Time
1	Cooper Lake	Frozen	09:00 AM	09:15
2	Binnewater Lake		10:15	10:20
3	Williams Lake	Frozen	10:30	10;35
4	Rondout Creek (toward Feather Farm)		10:45	11:00
5	Rest Plaus Road (by old Mill)		11:03	11:06
6	Feather Farm – Rondout Creek		11;10	11:20
7	Alligerville Bridge – Rondout Creek		11:25	11:35
8	Accord Bridge (Rt. 209) – Rondout Creek		11:40	12:00 PM
9	Route 209 Flats (near Kripplebush/Samsonville Junction) – Cornfields		12:15	12:18
10	High Falls Power Plant – Rondout Creek		12:30	12:40 PM

Total	Species Area $\rightarrow$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
61	Canada Goose				4		55				2
10	American Black Duck				10						
6	Mallard		6								
3	Common Goldeneye							3			
80	Total Individuals / Area		6		14		55	3			2
	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										

#	Area Surveyed – Sector F	Start Time	End Time
11	Leggs Mills Bridge, Lake Katrine – Esopus Creek	01:10 PM	01:20
12	Van Etten Lane, Lake Katrine – Esopus Creek	01:25	01:35
13	Bennekill Pond, Lake Katrine (by Esopus Creek) Frozen	01:40	01:45
14	Sawkill Road - Sawkill Creek	01:47	01:50
15	Kingston Reservoir #1	02:00	02:10
16	Kingston Reservoir #4	02:15	02:17
17	Zena Bridge – Sawkill Creek	02:20	02:30
18	John Joy Road beyond Zena Bridge – Field	02:30	02:32 PM
19			
20			

Total	Species Area $\rightarrow$	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
915	Canada Goose	60	855								
8	Mallard		8								
1	Common Goldeneye						1				
924	Total Individuals / Area	60	863				1				
	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
1,004	SECTOR TOTALS	Species:	4	Notes:					Bald Eag	les: (Ad)	(Juv)

# New York State Waterfowl Count – 2008

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Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

#### Observers:

#	Area Surveyed – M (Miscellaneo	ous Reports)	Start Time	End Time
1	Rondout Reservoir	Frozen		
2	Plattekill Creek, Saugerties			
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Total	Species Area $\rightarrow$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	Total Individuals / Area	0	0								
	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
0	SECTOR TOTALS	Species:	0	Notes:					Bald Eag	les: (Ad)	(Juv)