

New York State Winter Waterfowl Count Report – 2010

January 16, 2010

Ulster County Narrative

Page 1 of 8

Twelve observers in six field parties participated in this Ulster County segment of the annual New York State January Waterfowl Count, recording a total of **6,439 individuals** of **11 species** during an 8.5-hour effort on Saturday, 16 January 2010. Species diversity was the lowest in six years, while total number of individuals was comparable to some of our most productive recent counts. Canada Geese accounted for 82% of all waterfowl recorded.

Count day temperatures ranged from 28° (F) at sunrise in Saugerties to a very pleasant 44° (F) by mid-afternoon in Kingston. Winds were calm throughout the day, under some initial early morning clouds that gave way to clear skies and brilliant sunshine for the remainder of the count day. Lakes and ponds were generally frozen, with occasional small pockets of open water. The Hudson River was a mix of solid ice and scattered areas of significant open water along the periphery, and a main channel congested with ice floes. Major creeks and the Wallkill River were generally frozen over still water but open and flowing freely in areas of stronger currents. Ashokan Reservoir was 100% frozen, Stone Ridge Pond on Mill Dam Road retained approximately one-third open water in the vicinity of the far side underground inlet and contributed a relatively small number of individuals (629) in comparison to recent past years.

Agricultural fields were covered with 1-3" of snow for the most part, and entirely devoid of waterfowl, perhaps an indicator of the affects of recent changes in farming practices that reduce or eliminate residual corn in the fields. Grazing pastures at Blue Chip Farm in southern Ulster County attracted a considerable concentration of 1,400 Canada Geese that were scrutinized for potentially rare species of geese by two of our field parties, to no avail.

One lone **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed associating with a large flock of approximately 700+ Canada Geese in the Hudson River intertidal shallows north of the Saugerties Lighthouse spit, for what is likely our first Ulster County waterfowl count record for this county-wide and regionally uncommon inland species. An **American Kestrel** was also observed perched briefly on a dead snag just southwest of the lighthouse at the confluence of Esopus Creek, where it was immediately harassed and driven off by a murder of crows. Bristol Beach State Park in extreme northern Ulster County provided a nice vantage point to view a sunrise flight of gulls that included one adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, all heading north up the river to points unknown.

Seven Bald Eagles (3 adults, 4 juveniles) were observed during the count, all by Mark DeDea, five on the Hudson River from three locations: Post Park in the Town of Ulster (one adult), three juveniles from Kingston Point Beach, and one adult from Dock Street in Marlboro; one adult was observed over the Wallkill River below the dam in Wallkill; and one adult on the Esopus Creek from Clint Finger Road in the Town of Ulster. One Great Blue Heron was observed at Kingston Point, and a Belted Kingfisher was heard vocalizing along the Hudson River from Malden Park in Saugerties. None of the field parties reported any neck-banded geese or swans.

The following pages detail field effort, area descriptions, and specific location counts. Thanks once again to all of the field observers for providing comprehensive coverage of Ulster County.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Ulster County Area Summary

January 16, 2010

Total	Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	M
1	Greater White-fronted Goose	1						
4,997	Canada Goose	888	168	12		3865	355	
8	Mute Swan	4	4					
79	American Black Duck	26	11	2	2	23	15	
902	Mallard	538	10	44		91	221	
1	<i>Mallard X Black</i>			1				
1	Ring-necked Duck			1				
54	Common Goldeneye	26	28					
2	Hooded Merganser					2		
98	Common Merganser	40	37			12	10	
1	Common Loon		1					
1	Double-crested Cormorant		1					
6,145	Total Individuals	1,523	260	60	2	3,993	601	
11	Total Species	7	8	4	1	5	4	

7	Bald Eagle (Adult / Juvenile)	0	2 A / 3 J	0	1 J	1 A	0	0
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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Date: January 16, 2010

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 3 of 8

Observers: Steve Chorvas	Start: 07:30	End: 04:00
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#	Location Description – Area A	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	The Great Vly WMA - Saugerties	Frozen	07:30 AM	07:40 AM
2	Hudson River - Bristol Beach State Park	Open 20%	07:45 AM	08:30 AM
3	Hudson River - Malden Park (STP)	Open 20%	08:35 AM	08:50 AM
4	Esopus Creek - Lighthouse Drive (East side below dam) Public feeding site	Frozen	08:55 AM	
5	Hudson River - Latham Circle/ Saugerties Lighthouse Trail	Open 50%	09:00 AM	10:40 AM
6	Esopus Creek - Saugerties Beach (above dam) Public feeding site	Frozen	10:45 AM	
7	Esopus Creek - Tina Chorvas Park (West side below dam) Public feeding site	Open 10%	10:50 AM	11:05 AM
8	Esopus Creek - Esopus Bend Nature Preserve	Frozen		
9	Hudson River - Glasco Riverfront Park (STP)	Open 20%	11:10 AM	11:25 AM
10	Esopus Creek - Glenerie Falls (PVI bridge south to Falls)	Open 100%	11:35 AM	12:15 PM

Total	Species	Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Greater White-fronted Goose							1				
763	Canada Goose			32	80			650		1		
18	American Black Duck							18				
38	Mallard							10	28			
26	Common Goldeneye							22				4
40	Common Merganser			6	14			16				4
886	Total Individuals / Area			38	94			717		29		8

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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#	Location Description – Area A	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Esopus Creek - Wynkoop Road Bridge	Open	12:30 PM	12:30 PM
12	Esopus Creek - Fording Place (including holding ponds)	Activity / Frozen	12:35 PM	12:45 PM
13	Cornfields - Lomontville Flats (Hurley Mountain Road)	Snow Covered	12:45 PM	12:55 PM
14	Stone Ridge Pond - Mill Dam Road	Open 30%	01:05 PM	01:45 PM
15	Ashokan Reservoir Esopus Creek Outflow - Spillway Road	Mostly Frozen	01:55 PM	02:00 PM
16	Beaver Pond - Ashokan Spillway	Frozen	02:05 PM	02:05 PM
17	Ashokan Reservoir - Lower Basin	Frozen	02:05 PM	02:35 PM
18	Ashokan Reservoir - Upper Basin	Frozen	02:40 PM	02:40 PM
19	Kenozia Lake and Onteora Lake	Frozen / Frozen	02:50 PM	03:10 PM
20	Saugerties Reservoir	Frozen	03:50 PM	04:00 PM

Total	Species	Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
125	Canada Goose					125						
4	Mute Swan					4						
8	American Black Duck		8									
500	Mallard					500						
637	Total Individuals / Area		8			629						

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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1,523	SECTOR TOTALS	Species: 7	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Date: January 16, 2010

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 4 of 8

Observers: Mark DeDea, Kyla Haber, Michelle Higgins	Start: 08:00	End: 12:00
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#	Location Description – Area B	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Esopus Creek - Farm To Market Road		08:10 AM	08:12 AM
2	Esopus Creek - Rt. 209 (Ulster Town Hall)		08:15 AM	08:17 AM
3	Pond - Interstate 587		08:00 AM	08:05 AM
4	Esopus Creek - Clint Finger Road		11:15 AM	11:17 AM
5	Hudson River - Kingston Point Beach		09:00 AM	09:25 AM
6	Hudson River - Ulster Landing Park		08:30 AM	08:45 AM
7	Hudson River - Rider Park, Town of Ulster		10:25 AM	10:35 AM
8	Hudson River - Post Park, Town of Ulster		10:00 AM	10:15 AM
9	Hudson River - Immigrant's Way (Tilcon Area)		09:40 AM	09:50 AM
10	Esopus Creek - Rt. 209 (Ulster Town Hall)		11:00 AM	11:05 AM

Total	Species Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
114	Canada Goose	36	72	6							
4	Mute Swan									2	2
11	American Black Duck					11					
8	Mallard			6							2
28	Common Goldeneye					21				7	
35	Common Merganser	7				2	16		3	3	4
1	Common Loon					1					
1	Double-crested Cormorant					1					
202	Total Individuals / Area	43	72	12		36	16		3	12	8

5	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)				1 Ad	3 Juv			1 Ad		
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#	Location Description – Area B	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Esopus Creek - Dutch Village Walk		11:45 AM	11:55 AM
12	Esopus Creek - Thruway Bridge (Tourism Caboose)		11:35 AM	11:40 AM
13	Hudson River - Kingston Point (including Lagoon)		09:25 AM	09:30 AM
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
54	Canada Goose		54								
2	Mallard		2								
2	Common Merganser		2								
58	Total Individuals / Area		58								

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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260	SECTOR TOTALS	Species: 8	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 2 (Ad) 3 (Juv)
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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Date: January 16, 2010

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 5 of 8

Observers: Lynn and Allan Bowdery, Jayne Dean, Charlie Woodruff	Start: 09:10	End: 12:56
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#	Location Description – Area C	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Rondout Creek - South side east of Rt. 32 North on James Street		09:10 AM	09:16 AM
2	Rondout Creek - North side east of Rt. 32 North on Creeklocks Rd to Rt. 213		09:16 AM	10:09 AM
3	Rondout Creek - Mountain Hill Rd/Cutler Hill Rd to Rt. 23 North at DeWitt Mill Rd.		--	--
4	New Salem Lake (including area behind Marina)		10:10 AM	10:16 AM
5	Rondout Creek - Abeel St. from bridge at Eddyville to Millen's on the Strand		10:20 AM	11:05 AM
6	Hudson River - Sleightsburg		11:10 AM	11:33 AM
7	Hudson River - Esopus Town Beach		11:40 AM	11:41 AM
8	Hudson River - Esopus Meadows		11:50 AM	11:52 AM
9	Sturgeon Pond		12:09 PM	12:09 PM
10				

Total	Species	Area →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	Canada Goose		3	7			2					
2	American Black Duck			2								
44	Mallard		8	16			8	12				
1	<i>Mallard X Black</i>						1					
1	Ring-necked Duck							1				
60	Total Individuals / Area		11	25			11	13				

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)											
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#	Location Description – Area C	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Field - Million Dollar Farm, Springtown Road, New Paltz		12:47 PM	12:47 PM
12	Field - Morning Calm Farm, Springtown Road, New Paltz		12:49 PM	12:49 PM
13	Fields - Flats Rt. 299 and Springtown Road, New Paltz		12:52 PM	12:54 PM
14	Field - Walkkill View Farm, Libertyville Road, New Paltz		12:54 PM	12:56 PM
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species	Area →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	Total Individuals / Area											

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)											
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60	SECTOR TOTALS	Species: 4	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Date: January 16, 2010

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 6 of 8

Observers: Mark Dedeo	Start: 12:25	End: 02:30
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#	Location Description – Area D	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Route 208 Pond - Gardiner (south of Dressel's)		01:15 PM	01:15 PM
2	Route 32 Pond - Modena (near Horse-back Riding Ranch)		01:20 PM	01:20 PM
3	Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary - New Paltz		02:30 PM	02:30 PM
4	Humpo Marsh - New Paltz		02:25 PM	02:25 PM
5	Black Creek		--	--
6	Loughran Lane Marsh - Esopus		--	--
7	Hudson River - Lamont Landing, Esopus		12:25 PM	12:25 PM
8	Black Creek and Hudson River - Winding Brook Road, Esopus		12:30 PM	12:35 PM
9	Louis Valli Road Pond - West Park		--	--
10	Hudson River - Mariner's Restaurant, Highland		12:45 PM	12:48 PM

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	American Black Duck								2		
2	Total Individuals / Area								2		

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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#	Location Description – Area D	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Valley Vista Nursing Home Pond - Highland		--	--
12	North Road Pond - Milton		--	--
13	Buttermilk Inn and Spa Pond - Milton		--	--
14	Chodikey Lake - Highland		--	--
15	Lily Lake - Highland		--	--
16	Hudson River - Dock Street, Marlboro		01:05 PM	01:10 PM
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	Total Individuals / Area										

1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)						1Juv				
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2	SECTOR TOTALS	Species: 1	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 1 (Juv)
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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Date: January 16, 2010

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 7 of 8

Observers: Selden Spencer	Start: 09:00	End: 01:50
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#	Location Description – Area E	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Wallkill River - above dam	Frozen	09:00 AM	
2	Wallkill River - below dam	Open		09:17 AM
3	Wallkill River - Lippincott Rd		09:20 AM	09:35 AM
4	Field - Blue Chip Farm		09:40 AM	10:15 AM
5	Wallkill River - Galeville Bridge		10:25 AM	10:35 AM
6	Wallkill River / Shawangunk Creek confluence (Yogi Bear Park)		10:40 AM	11:05 AM
7	Field - Watchtower Farms		11:10 AM	11:15 AM
8	Wallkill River - Libertyville Rd. south of Fairgrounds		11:35 AM	11:55 PM
9	Wallkill River - Flats at New Paltz (from bridge to Libertyville Rd)	Mostly Frozen	12:00 Noon	12:15 PM
10	Wallkill River - north of bridge (includes Rioes Rd cornfield off Springtown Rd)	Frozen		

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3,835	Canada Goose		242	20	1,401	23	2,100		49		
21	American Black Duck			12		9					
77	Mallard			8		2	65		2		
2	Hooded Merganser						2				
8	Common Merganser		4	3					1		
3,943	Total Individuals / Area		246	43	1,401	34	2,167		52		

1	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)		1 Ad								
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#	Location Description – Area E	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Wallkill River - Perrines Covered Bridge County Park		12:45 PM	01:00 PM
12	Rondout Creek - Rosendale (Rt. 32 bridge west to Rt. 213 bridge)		01:11 PM	01:50 PM
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Total	Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	Canada Goose		30								
2	American Black Duck		2								
14	Mallard		14								
4	Common Merganser		4								
50	Total Individuals / Area		50								

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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3,993	SECTOR TOTALS	Species: 5	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 1 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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New York State Winter Waterfowl Count – 2010

Date: January 16, 2010

Ulster County – NYSOA Region 9

Page 8 of 8

Observers: Evelyn and Bob Rifenburg, Wyatt Smith	Start: 09:20	End: 04:00
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#	Location Description – Area F	Condition	Start Time	End Time
1	Coopers Lake	Frozen	09:20 AM	09:30 AM
2	Binnewater Lake	Frozen	11:00 AM	11:01 AM
3	Williams Lake	Frozen	11:03 AM	11:10 AM
4	Rondout Creek - toward Feather Farm	One open area	11:15 AM	11:40 AM
5	Rondout Creek - Rest Plaus Road (by old Mill)	Mostly Frozen	11:45 AM	11:47 AM
6	Rondout Creek - Feather Farm	Some open water	11:50 AM	12:01 PM
7	Rondout Creek - Alligerville Bridge	Open both sides	12:05 PM	12:30 PM
8	Rondout Creek - Accord Bridge (Rt. 209)	Open by bridge	12:40 PM	12:50 PM
9	Field - Rte. 209 Flats (near Kripplebush/Samsonville Junction)		01:00 PM	01:05 PM
10	Rondout Creek - High Falls Power Plant	Mostly Frozen	01:13 PM	01:15 PM

Total	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
323	Canada Goose				300				23		
15	American Black Duck				4			11			
15	Mallard				1				14		
9	Common Merganser				2			5	2		
362	Total Individuals / Area				307			16	39		

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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#	Location Description – Area F	Condition	Start Time	End Time
11	Esopus Creek - Lake Katrine (Leggs Mills Bridge)	Small open area	02:20 PM	02:30 PM
12	Esopus Creek - Lake Katrine (Van Etten Lane)	Frozen	02:31 PM	02:55 PM
13	Bennekil Pond - Lake Katrine (by Esopus Creek)	Frozen	02:58 PM	02:59 PM
14	Sawkill Creek - Sawkill Road	Mostly open	03:05 PM	03:06 PM
15	Kingston Reservoir #1	Frozen	03:07 PM	03:08 PM
16	Kingston Reservoir #4	Frozen	03:55 PM	03:56 PM
17	Sawkill Creek - Zena Bridge	Partly Frozen	03:50 PM	03:51 PM
18	Field - John Joy Rd. (past Zena Bridge)		03:52 PM	03:53 PM
19	Sawkill Creek - Husted Residence (near Zena Cornfield)	Public feeding site	03:25 PM	03:45 PM
20				

Total	Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
32	Canada Goose	32									
206	Mallard	6								200	
1	Common Merganser	1									
239	Total Individuals / Area	39								200	

0	Bald Eagle (Ad/Juv)										
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601	SECTOR TOTALS	Species: 4	Notes:	Bald Eagles: 0 (Ad) 0 (Juv)
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