

New York State January Waterfowl Count Report – 2022

The Ulster County segment of the annual NYSOA New York State January Waterfowl Count was conducted on January 15, 2022. Eighteen participants in ten field parties encountered **4,384 individuals** representing **13 species**. Our ten-year average for this countywide effort is 13 species and 6,932 individuals/year.

More than a week of sub-freezing temperatures solidified most sources of water, concentrating waterfowl in small patches of rapids or warm inflows. Fields were free of ice and snow, providing good forage opportunities for geese. Weather conditions on count day were cold, air temperatures ranging from 2-14° F with a bitter wind chill along the Hudson River. Viewing conditions were good, with mostly sunny skies early in the day, followed by increasing clouds by afternoon.

Two **Green-winged Teal** was a good find in a spring-fed wetland in Eddyville. Esopus Creek at Glenerie Falls in Saugerties hosted a large congregation of waterfowl consisting of seven species, including a drake **Northern Pintail** and a drake **American Wigeon**. Another **Northern Pintail** was encountered in the Sawkill Creek along Sawkill Road, and a record high 55 **Ring-necked Ducks** were tallied, surpassing last year's record 33, with most of the birds in a large raft on Binnewater Lake. **Hooded Mergansers** were also found in record high numbers, 76 eclipsing 61 from last year, well above our ten-year average of 17/year.

Canada Geese were relatively few in number this year, a total of 3,227 individuals falling well short of our 5,422 ten-year average. We did not find any unusual species of geese mixed with the flocks of Canadas, and there were no reports of the Barrow's Goldeneye or scaup seen recently in the Hudson River from River Road, despite the presence of a rare **Mountain Bluebird** attracting crowds of birders to Esopus Meadows Preserve throughout the day.

In addition to the bluebird and waterfowl, field observers reported a surprisingly small number of **Bald Eagles** (8 adults and 2 immature), three **Belted Kingfishers**, two **Great Blue Herons**, one **American Kestrel**, and a **Golden Eagle** that was encountered along the Sawkill Creek in Zena.

The following table summarizes the 2022 Ulster County results by area, followed by field party effort and area descriptions. Thanks to all of the field observers for providing extensive coverage of the county again this year. Next year's Ulster County segment of the NYSOA NYS January Waterfowl Count is scheduled for **Saturday, January 14, 2023**.

Steve M. Chorvas – compiler

<p align="center"><i>New York State January Waterfowl Count</i> Ulster County Area Summary - January 15, 2022</p>											
Total	Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	G2	H	M
3,227	Canada Goose	489	36	255	153	2,180	75		3	9	27
3	Mute Swan	1			2						
1	American Wigeon	1									
97	American Black Duck	13			2	46	3	16	12	2	3
733	Mallard	219	14	94	70	155	85	6	6	54	30
2	Northern Pintail	1					1				
2	Green-winged Teal					2					
55	Ring-necked Duck			4			45	6			
3	Bufflehead							1	2		
12	Common Goldeneye			8		3					1
76	Hooded Merganser	8	2			11	50	3		2	
171	Common Merganser	2	3	76	1	30	2	15	9	5	28
2	Red-breasted Merganser			2							
4,384	Total Individuals	734	55	439	228	2,427	261	47	32	72	89
13	Total Species	8	4	6	5	7	7	6	5	5	5

10	Bald Eagle (8 Adt /2 Sub)	1A	1A	1A		2S	1A		2A	2A	
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Field Parties, Effort and Area Descriptions

Group A: Steve Chorvas (7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.) 8 hours, 57 miles.

Great Vly WMA; Hudson River (Bristol Beach State Park, Malden Park, Latham Circle, Glasco Park); Esopus Creek (Glenerie Falls to confluence with Hudson River and Town of Hurley, including Fording Place); Lazy Swan pond; Blue Mountain Reservoir; Sawyer Kill at HITS; Hurley Flats cornfields and holding ponds; Stone Ridge Pond.

Group B: Peter Schoenberger (8:15 a.m.- 11:37 a.m.) 3.5 hours.

Hudson River (Ulster Landing County Park, Rider Park, Post Park, East Kingston, Kingston Point); Esopus Creek (Town of Ulster and Kingston), Interstate 587 pond.

Group C: Allan Bowdery, Lynn Bowdery (10:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.) 3.5 hours.

Rondout Creek (Rosendale to Kingston waterfront, including East Strand); Sturgeon Pool; New Salem Lake; Hudson River (Port Ewen Beach, River Road, Esopus Meadows).

Group D: Dave Hayes (8:34 a.m.- 12:05 p.m.) 3.5 hours.

Hudson River (Lamont Landing, Black Creek Preserve, Highland Landing Park, Oakes Road, Milton Station Park); Black Creek, Chodikee Lake, Lily Lake, Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, Humpo Marsh, Weston Road Swamp, and area ponds; Springtown and Libertyville Road agricultural fields in New Paltz.

Group E: Mark DeDea (8:00 a.m.-10:42 a.m.) 2.75 hours.

Wallkill River (Wallkill north to Tillson); Shawangunk Creek; Watch Tower Farm, Old Fort Rd. pond, Wallkill Prison grounds, Blue Chip Farm; and area fields.

Group F: Jessica Prockup, Wendy Tocci (9:00 a.m.- 1:08 p.m.) 4.25 hours.

Cooper Lake, Spring Lake, Binnewater Lake, Williams Lake; Rondout Creek (Accord to High Falls); Sawkill Creek (Zena to Lake Katrine, including Big Deep); Esopus Creek (Leggs Mills Rd bridge, Lake Katrine); Kingston Reservoirs #1 and #4; Bennekil Pond; and area ponds and fields.

Group G: Dixon Onderdonk, Laura Van Vlack (7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) 5 hours.

Ashokan Reservoir (upper and lower basin, Esopus outflow); Kenozia Lake; Onteora Lake.

Group G2: Loren Quinby, Dan Spencer (8:45 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.) 4.5 hours.

Yankeetown Pond; Wilson State Park.; Esopus Creek (Mt. Tremper and Phoenicia, including Catskill Interpretive Center); and area ponds.

Group H: Pat Dechon, Riley Dechon (10:45 a.m. – 1:19 p.m.) 2.5 hours.
Ellenville area ponds and creeks (Beerkill and Sandburg); Rondout Reservoir; Minnewaska Lake.

Group M: Arnie Meier, Kelian Meier, Dennis Wareham (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) 1.25 hours.
Hudson River - Mount Community, Esopus Meadows; Spring House Pond - Mapleridge Community.

Annie Mardiney (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) 2 hours. 1.85 mile walk on Kerhonkson/Accord Rail Trail.



Canada Geese , Mallards, and Mute Swan on Lazy Swan Golf Course, Saugerties – January 15, 2022 Waterfowl Count.
Photo: Steve M. Chorvas