

BRONX-WESTCHESTER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 22, 1991

The 68th Bronx-Westchester Christmas Count recorded 122 species, much higher than the ten year average of 116. The combination of past warm winters and great weather for the count day resulted in 18 new high counts, 2 tied high counts, plus 3 twenty year highs and 10 ten year highs. Two new species for the count were seen, a female Barrow's Goldeneye seen near the Troggs-neck Bridge and a Western Kingbird in Rye. An additional new species was seen count week, when a Tufted Duck was found on the second lake near Read Preserve. The first Bald Eagle in 40 years was also seen at Read Preserve.

Other highlights included a Green-backed Heron in Pelham Bay Park, Eurasian Widgeon and Yellow-breasted Chat in Rye, Lesser Black Backed Gull around Playland Beach, and a Dickcissel on the Catskill Aqueduct in Yonkers.

Carolina Wrens continue to explode with 158 seen, as compared to 88 last year, 22 five years ago and 3 ten years ago. If the current trend continues we should see about 280 next year.

For the first time, the Rye Party reached 100 species, this continues to show the importance of nature preserves like Read and Marshlands Conservancy. Other County Parks in Westchester and City Parks in the Bronx also played a major role in the Count.

Species Seen for Each Party

Hudson Valley - 52 species
 Yonkers - 64 "
 West Bronx - 72 "
 Scarsdale - 76 "
 East Bronx - 77 "
 Rye -100 "

High Count	Species	Hudson Valley	Yonker	West Bronx	Scars.	East Bronx	Rye	Total
13	Red-throated Loon	0	0	0	2	4	5	11
8	Common Loon	0	0	0	1	2	9	12
18	Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	4	0	1	5
182	Horned Grebe	0	0	0	2	24	14	40
3	Red-necked Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
124	Great Cormorant	0	0	0	1	16	47	64
51	Double-C. Cormorant	0	0	5	7	18	2	32
85	Great Blue Heron	2	4	6	14	6	61	93
2	Green-backed Heron	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
160	Bl.-crowned N. Heron	0	1	0	0	0	4	5
206	Mute Swan	0	7	5	192	12	27	243
32	Snow Goose (white form)	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
665	Brant	0	0	0	0	100	39	139
6868	Canada Goose (large forms)	107	1534	358	2436	714	1269	6418
83	Wood Duck	0	4	55	0	0	0	59
63	Green-winged Teal (Am.)	3	3	20	3	0	13	42
2800	American Black Duck	7	30	183	174	435	468	1297
3607	Mallard	119	384	1195	863	315	485	3361
27	Mallard hybrid	3	2	12	4	2	1	24
47	N. Pintail	2	0	3	0	0	8	13

223	N. Shoveler	0	0	57	64	0	1	122
40	Gadwall	0	0	13	6	35	4	58
2	Eurasian Widgeon	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
457	American Widgeon	0	0	0	92	43	70	205
8749	Canvasback	17	143	52	53	106	294	665
23712	Greater Scaup	0	0	0	295	3500	3652	7447
289	Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	1	0	303	304
146	Oldsquaw	0	0	2	0	0	34	36
60	Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
4000	White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
1200	Com. Goldeneye	0	0	0	43	103	124	270
0	Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1746	Bufflehead	4	0	51	144	600	393	1192
124	Hooded Merganser	0	46	6	33	6	12	103
620	Common Merganser	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
650	Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	21	85	213	319
823	Ruddy Duck	1	109	0	144	900	0	1154
1	Turkey Vulture	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
4	Bald Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
14	N. Harrier	0	0	2	0	2	0	4
13	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	2	5	1	2	13
7	Coopers Hawk	0	1	2	2	1	1	7
3	N. Goshawk	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
12	Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	1	0	2	2	5
79	Red-tailed Hawk	10	10	25	10	10	15	80
10	Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
35	American Kestrel	0	0	2	0	5	1	8
1	Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
291	Ring-necked Pheasant	0	4	36	4	23	2	69
7	Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
6	Virginia Rail	0	0	1	0	0	3	4
71	American Coot	0	3	1	1	0	0	5
123	Killdeer	0	0	2	4	0	0	6
10	Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
43	Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
80	Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
177	Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	12	0	12	24
120	Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	22	22
17	Common Snipe	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
6	American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
1234	Bonapartes Gull	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
6262	Ring-billed Gull	190	657	882	878	800	747	4154
36500	Herring Gull	17	313	147	1232	700	1050	3459
3	Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
8250	Great Black-backed Gull	41	48	64	7	31	72	263
1985	Rock Dove	115	431	548	175	145	347	1761
1600	Mourning Dove	114	103	188	162	131	186	884
13	Screech Owl	4	0	1	3	0	1	9
18	Great Horned Owl	1	1	0	2	2	2	8
24	Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
7	Saw-whet Owl	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
35	Belted Kingfisher	3	3	5	10	4	6	31
78	Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	10	16	5	6	15	63
8	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	2	1	2	0	0	6

286	Downy Woodpecker	29	41	52	29	33	32	216
142	Hairy Woodpecker	9	6	5	5	2	12	39
35	Northern Flicker	6	10	1	13	3	14	47
0	Western Kingbird	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1334	Blue Jay	68	160	116	55	84	100	583
1833	American Crow	164	185	369	401	471	261	1851
77	Fish Crow	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
1062	Black-capped Chickadee	77	139	168	103	60	165	712
748	Tufted Titmouse	37	76	93	76	56	56	394
26	Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	5	0	0	1	6
190	White-breasted Nuthatch	19	15	13	30	3	21	101
46	Brown Creeper	3	1	3	1	0	0	8
88	Carolina Wren	23	19	16	19	12	69	158
21	Winter Wren	5	1	2	2	0	8	18
9	Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
137	Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	2	26	8	0	4	40
28	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2	1	1	1	0	7
31	Hermit Thrush	5	5	2	1	3	13	29
222	American Robin	0	51	79	56	38	34	258
27	Gray Catbird	6	15	5	2	3	23	54
233	N. Mockingbird	35	46	43	23	11	32	190
18	Brown Thrasher	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
260	Cedar Waxwing	0	40	2	5	48	41	136
15750	European Starling	339	800	881	974	600	2066	5660
135	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Wa	3	0	0	1	2	8	14
1	Yellow-breasted Chat	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
401	N. Cardinal	58	87	68	60	14	84	371
2	Dickcissel	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
58	Rufouse Sided Towhee	2	1	1	1	4	2	11
1300	American Tree Sparrow	1	15	15	1	12	26	70
3	Chipping Sparrow	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
170	Field Sparrow	7	9	4	0	16	6	42
205	Savannah Sparrow	0	2	0	0	10	0	12
7	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
167	Fox Sparrow	3	2	3	0	12	8	28
871	Song Sparrow	87	161	131	54	124	193	750
49	Swamp Sparrow	2	3	20	1	29	12	67
2044	White-throated Sparrow	222	380	778	389	325	396	2490
1325	Dark-eyed Junco	114	313	91	293	372	179	1362
40	Snow Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1338	Red-winged Blackbird	1	4	53	0	51	12	121
332	Rusty Blackbird	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
1588	Common Grackle	0	8	66	7	50	0	131
1212	Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	1	0	32	1	35
56	Purple Finch	0	1	0	1	0	2	4
1200	House Finch	279	433	238	284	60	321	1615
617	Pine Siskin	0	0	0	2	3	0	5
746	American Goldfinch	100	75	41	80	200	265	761
2810	House Sparrow	140	543	380	228	150	270	1711
TOTALS		2620	7510	7725	10327	11794	14829	54805

* Red tails were reduce from 110, many of the birds were undoubtedly counted more than once by neighboring parties.