

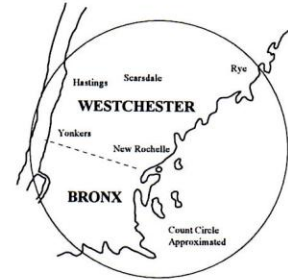
72nd Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count

December 23, 1995

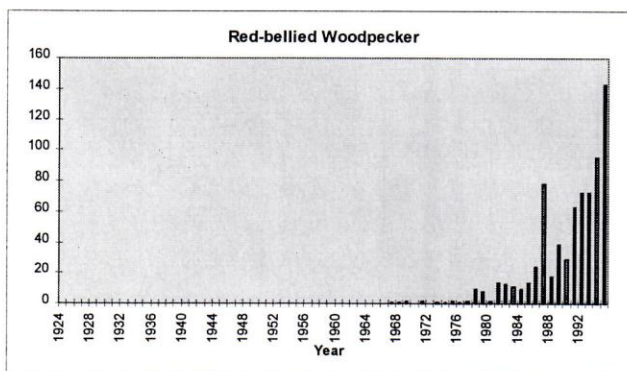
The 72nd Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count recorded 120 species and 53,533 birds.

Deep snow and a Northern Shrike invasion were the story for this year. There were 6 to 14 inches of snow on the ground and snow drifts up to 3 feet. It was the first time ever that we had party hours and miles on skis!

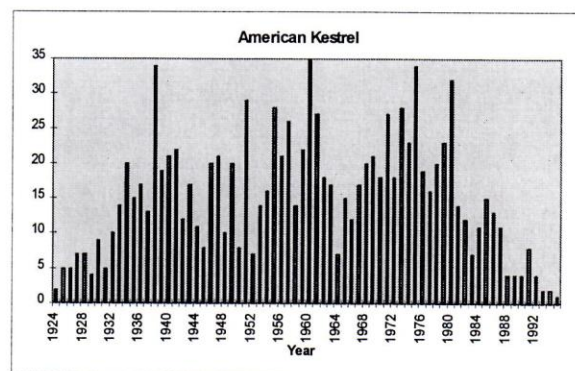
Three Northern Shrikes were seen, last seen in 1978, (in Tibbetts Brook Park-Yonkers, Wood Acres-Scarsdale, Ferry Point Park- East Bronx). Other highlights include three Eurasian Widgeon, (all in Rye); two Merlins, (Marshlands-Rye and Woodlawn Cemetery-West Bronx); a Peregrine Falcon in Pelham Bay; Common Redpolls, (Read Sanctuary-Rye and in Larchmont); and an Evening Grosbeak in Bronxville (last seen in 1978). The Hudson River was productive this year, thanks to a one hour river watch in Dobbs Ferry that produced three White-winged Scooter and an adult Bald Eagle.



Due to the weather and that the count day fell too close to the holidays, participation was down. Only 60 participants made it out. But despite that, 21 new high counts were recorded. Remarkably, 12 of the new high counts shattered the old highs by at least 25%! New high counts were for Common Loon, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Purple Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Eurasian Widgeon, Wild Turkey and Northern Shrike.



Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase



American Kestrel hits an all time low of one!

American Kestrel set an all time low with just one seen.

It was only the second time that we missed Black-crowned Night Heron. We missed it in 1984.

Greater Scaup numbers were up, the most since 1979.

Not surprisingly, no warblers were seen (after seeing seven species last year). We even missed Yellow-rumps, last missed in 1979.

Thanks to the 60 plus participants and the 24 who showed up for the compilation dinner. We will probably be trying a new place for the dinner next year.

We could use more help next year. Ask your birding friends to try the count next year. Next year's count will be held Sunday, December 29, 1996. Hope to see you there.

Michael Bochnik

1995 Bronx/Westchester Christmas Bird Count

Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS	
Red-throated Loon					3	9	12	Most since 1953
Common Loon			1		4	10	15	New High Count (12 in 1991)
Pied-billed Grebe				1		3	4	
Horned Grebe				10	12	16	38	
Great Cormorant				19	41	46	106	
Double-crested Cormorant				17			17	
Great Blue Heron		4	6	6	4	30	50	
Black-crowned Night Heron								Only the 2nd time missed
Mute Swan		6	2	55	130	44	237	
Snow Goose (white form)						1	1	
Brant				331		1	332	
Canada Goose	219	156	234	1522	3491	635	6257	
Wood Duck		1	41		3		45	
Green-winged Teal (Am.)			17			1	18	
American Black Duck	12	3	10	441	369	158	993	
Mallard	117	202	670	496	525	403	2413	
Mallard hybrid	1	4	1		5	10	21	
Northern Pintail				1	1	7	9	
Northern Shoveler			61				61	
Gadwall				31	6	55	92	New High Count (58 in 1991)
American Widgeon			2	19	40	110	171	
Canvasback	10	32	8	32		380	462	
Redhead						8	8	Most since 1976
Greater Scaup				3519	1069	5650	10238	Most Since 1979
Lesser Scaup				118	23	250	391	New High Count (352 in 1994)
Oldsquaw					60	85	145	
Common Goldeneye				103	80	131	314	
Bufflehead				390	254	167	811	
Hooded Merganser		12	3	6	25	64	110	
Common Merganser	9	1					10	
Red-breasted Merganser				168	283	180	631	
Ruddy Duck		23		163	117	17	320	
Northern Harrier				5		1	6	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	6	1	3	7	20	New High Count (13 in 1991)
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	5	2	4	3	17	New High Count (10 in 1991)
Northern Goshawk			1			1	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1				2	3	6	
Red-tailed Hawk	12	19	34	26	39	30	160	New High Count(103 in 1994)
American Kestrel			1				1	All time low!
Ring-necked Pheasant			5	27	1	1	34	
Virginia Rail			1				1	
American Coot		3		1	4	4	12	
Killdeer	1			2	7	3	13	
Greater Yellowlegs					1	1	2	
Ruddy Turnstone					35	10	45	
Purple Sandpiper					175	112	287	New High Count (177 in 1985)
Dunlin					3	73	76	
Common Snipe						1	1	
American Woodcock			1				1	
Bonapartes Gull						7	7	
Ring-billed Gull	191	789	927	420	939	453	3719	
Herring Gull	12	84	420	444	1177	230	2367	
Great Black-backed Gull	16	8	25	31	152	37	269	
Rock Dove	117	226	305	222	652	114	1636	
Mourning Dove	138	63	28	8	231	234	702	
Eastern Screech Owl	1				1		2	
Great Horned Owl		3	3	3	2	5	16	
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	2	2	5	8	20	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13	16	23	36	33	22	143	New High Count (95 in 1994)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			5		2	2	9	
Downy Woodpecker	41	15	40	36	82	51	265	
Hairy Woodpecker	6	2	10	6	9	9	42	
Northern Flicker	7	3		7	12	2	31	
Pileated Woodpecker					2		2	
Blue Jay	138	64	55	222	240	157	876	
American Crow	224	149	1136	433	539	209	2690	New High Count (2269 in 1992)
Fish Crow			20		2		22	

1995 Bronx/Westchester Christmas Bird Count

Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS	
Black-capped Chickadee	172	102	294	72	293	236	1169	New High Count (1062 in 1980)
Tufted Titmouse	142	85	424	250	315	101	1317	New High Count (748 in 1981)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	6		1		2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	42	23	52	18	97	25	257	New High Count (231 in 1963)
Brown Creeper			5		2	1	8	
Carolina Wren	8	2	9	7	16	41	83	
Winter Wren	2		3	1	3	16	25	New High Count (24 in 1994)
Marsh Wren								
Golden-crowned Kinglet								
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1				1	
Hermit Thrush	6	7	4	3	16	10	46	New High Count (43 in 1992)
American Robin	45	39	127	58	23	277	569	New High Count (306 in 1993)
Gray Catbird	2	1			1	8	12	
Northern Mockingbird	21	22	52	20	50	44	209	
Brown Thrasher						1	1	
Cedar Waxwing	131	13	87	46	220	69	566	New High Count (260 in 1985)
European Starling	461	302	1293	507	799	508	3870	
Yellow-rumped Warbler								Last missed in 1979
Northern Cardinal	68	52	80	29	120	88	437	New High Count (430 in 1993)
Rufous-sided Towhee			4	9	2		15	
American Tree Sparrow	5	14	23	77	35	48	202	
Field Sparrow	19	1					20	
Savannah Sparrow						1	1	
Fox Sparrow	1	3	1	9		6	20	
Song Sparrow	53	46	41	55	113	105	413	
Swamp Sparrow	2	1	9	5	2	13	32	
White-throated Sparrow	78	95	380	171	159	200	1083	
Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco	106	98	174	35	224	73	710	
Red-winged Blackbird		6	177	257	1	59	500	
Eastern Meadowlark				1			1	
Rusty Blackbird	1		5			1	7	
Common Grackle		23	300	31			354	
Brown-headed Cowbird			15	3	3		21	
Purple Finch		1		5		2	8	
House Finch	89	204	44	9	274	100	720	
Pine Siskin					2		2	
American Goldfinch	139	60	141	210	175	78	803	New High Count (761 in 1991)
House Sparrow	200	250	586	199	495	350	2080	

Uncommon Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS	
Eurasian Widgeon						3	3	New High Count (2 in 1943)
Ring-necked Duck		2			2		4	
White-winged Scoter	3						3	
scoter,sp (dark winged)						2	2	
Turkey Vulture		CW					CW	
Bald Eagle	1						1	
Merlin			1			1	2	Tied High Count (2 in 1994)
Peregrine Falcon				1			1	
Wild Turkey			1			7	8	New High Count (6 in 1994)
Sanderling						3	3	
Barred Owl		1				1	2	
Long-eared Owl		1	1				2	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				1			1	
Horned Lark	1					41	42	
House Wren				1			1	
Eastern Bluebird		4	5		6	4	19	
Northern Shrike		1		1	1		3	High Count, last seen in 1978
Sharp-tailed Sparrow						1	1	
Snow Bunting						12	12	
Common Redpoll					2	13	15	
Evening Grosbeak					1		1	1st since 1978

First miss of Lesser Black-backed Gull since 1985. No New Species (1st time in 8 years)

	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS
TOTALS	3089	3353	8454	11473	14352	12812	53533
# of Species	50	57	66	71	80	94	120
# of Saves	2		5	5	3	11	