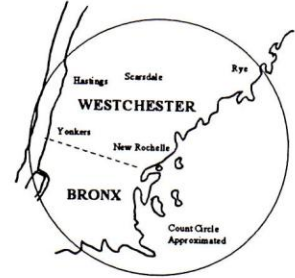


# 73rd Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count

## December 29, 1996

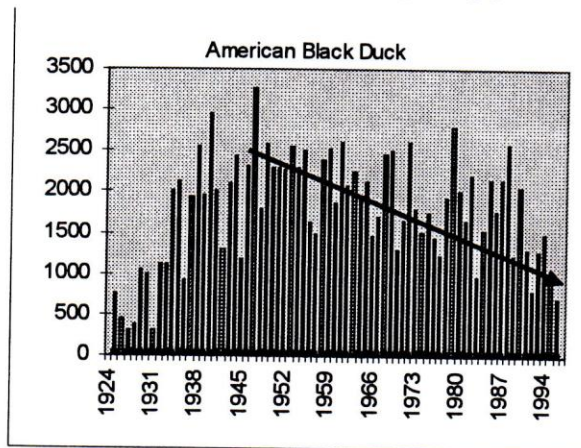
Sixty-two participants recorded 112 species and only 33,491 birds in the 73rd Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count.

Highlights of this year's count included: an Orange-crowned Warbler in Yonkers; a singing Lincoln's Sparrow in Van Cortlandt Park; and two Great Egrets, one in Rye and the other in Pelham Bay Park. Each of these sightings was a third count record.

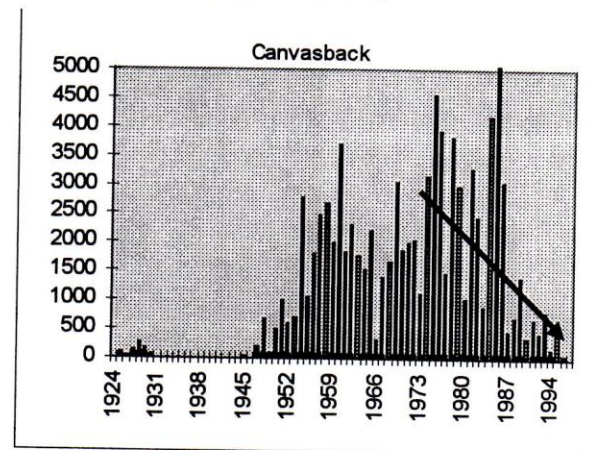


Other birds included: Red-necked Grebe off Glen Island; the return of a Monk Parakeet in the West Bronx; Three Northern Saw-whet Owls in Pelham Bay; House Wren in Riverdale Park; and a White-crowned Sparrow on Forest Ave. in Rye.

The weather played a large part in the low numbers this year. There was no sustained freeze before the count. Many individuals remained north and birds in the area were spread out as food was plentiful. Many bird feeders reported slow activity. The fog, and rain in the afternoon, decreased the numbers even further, especially for the ducks and gulls. Herring Gull hit an all time low of only 750! This is half the amount seen in the first year of the count: the 1924 count recorded fifteen hundred Herring Gulls. Only 68 Canvasbacks were seen: lowest since 1946. Totals for sedentary species such as Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were average. Surprisingly Dark-eyed Junco numbers were above average.



65 year low for American Black Ducks



50 year low for Canvasbacks

There was only one new high count. Winter Wrens numbers exploded with 67 seen. It wiped out the previous high count of 25 from the previous year.

Carolina Wrens fared well after last year's harsh winter. The count tallied 45 Carolina Wrens: half of the last three year average.

The biggest surprise was that we missed Field Sparrow. We've only missed this the first year of the count - 1924!

Non-avian sightings included: Harbor Seal, Coyotes in Hartsdale and Woodlawn Cemetery, and deer tick activity.

Thanks to the 62 participants and the 30 who showed up for the compilation dinner.

Next year's count will be held Sunday, December 28, 1997. Hope to see you there.

Michael Bochnik

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### 1996 Bronx/Westchester Christmas Bird Count

Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS	
Red-throated Loon				4		7	11	
Common Loon				1		8	9	
Pied-billed Grebe		1	1		1	1	4	
Horned Grebe				16	8	2	26	
Red-necked Grebe					1		1	last seen in 1991
Great Cormorant				18	12	25	55	
Double-crested Cormorant				7	1	1	9	
Great Blue Heron		3	4	9	6	21	43	
Great Egret				1			1	
Black-crowned Night Heron	1						2	3rd record, all in last 5 years
Mute Swan		3	4	20	65	11	103	
Snow Goose (white form)					1	1	2	
Brant				135			137	
Canada Goose	190	562	329	624	2267	946	4918	
Wood Duck			13		1	1	15	
Green-winged Teal (Am.)		1	10		17	8	36	
American Black Duck		2	9	318	237	151	717	65 year low
Mallard	57	165	297	244	674	272	1709	
<i>Mallard hybrid</i>	1			3	7		11	
Northern Pintail				2	1	3	6	
Northern Shoveler		4	39	3	7	1	54	
Gadwall	2		17	27	2	23	71	
American Widgeon				12	78	114	204	
Canvasback	5	1	9	13	9	31	68	50 year low
Redhead					5		5	
Ring-necked Duck		6			6		12	
Greater Scaup				556	1457	897	2910	57 year low
Lesser Scaup				6	5	9	20	
<i>scaup, sp.</i>						200	200	
Oldsquaw					4	16	20	
White-winged Scoter						4	4	
Common Goldeneye	1			23	34	24	82	19 year low
Bufflehead	1	1		182	236	134	554	
Hooded Merganser		82	17	2	54	32	187	
Common Merganser		36	1				37	
Red-breasted Merganser				111	193	109	413	
Ruddy Duck		29	12	125	168		334	
Northern Harrier				1		CW	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	4		3	1	9	
Cooper's Hawk				3	2	1	6	
<i>accipiter, sp.</i>			1				1	
Red-shouldered Hawk			1		1		2	
Red-tailed Hawk	5	7	16	13	15	11	67	
American Kestrel			1	1		1	3	
Perigrine Falcon			1		1		2	
Ring-necked Pheasant			7	18	9	2	36	
Wild Turkey			1			1	2	
Clapper Rail						2	2	
Virginia Rail						2	2	
American Coot		8		1	3		12	
Killdeer		4		2	1	1	8	
Ruddy Turnstone					3		3	
Sanderling				3			3	
Purple Sandpiper					9	23	32	
Dunlin						87	87	
Bonaparte's Gull					2	4	6	
Ring-billed Gull	134	698	1167	1115	744	319	4177	
Herring Gull	8	19	97	301	194	131	750	all time low (1500 in 1924)
Lesser Black-backed Gull						CW	CW	
Great Black-backed Gull	6	6	27	17	35	19	110	44 year low
Rock Dove	125	303	140	219	496	194	1477	
Mourning Dove	33	79	12	35	192	171	522	
Monk Parakeet			1				1	last seen in 1981
Eastern Screech Owl	2				2	2	6	
Great Horned Owl			1	4	1	2	8	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				3			3	most since 1961 (7)
Belted Kingfisher		3		1	5	5	14	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	8	8	11	5	19	10	61	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2		2		5	1	10	

### 1996 Bronx/Westchester Christmas Bird Count

Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS	
Downy Woodpecker	20	29	28	24	77	39	217	average
Hairy Woodpecker	4	6	9	4	5	9	37	average
Northern Flicker		5	1	2	2	3	13	
Blue Jay	24	30	102	66	65	84	371	low
American Crow	108	142	780	448	404	166	2048	
Fish Crow		3	23	5	3	8	42	21 year high
Black-capped Chickadee	34	30	39	32	136	114	385	low
Tufted Titmouse	32	30	49	16	110	67	304	
Red-breasted Nuthatch					1		1	
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	12	24	15	47	13	126	
Brown Creeper		1	3	1	4		9	
Carolina Wren	4	4	5	1	16	15	45	1/2 of five year average
House Wren			1				1	
Winter Wren	3	5	19		13	27	67	new high count, previously 25 in 1995
Marsh Wren						3	3	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2		2		1	2	7	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					3		3	
Hermit Thrush		1	6	2	5	8	22	
American Robin		2	2	15	32	63	114	
Gray Catbird	1	2	4	3	13	13	36	
Northern Mockingbird	21	20	32	8	31	19	131	
Brown Thrasher			2		2	1	5	
Cedar Waxwing			15			11	26	
European Starling	372	320	83	371	778	273	2197	
Orange-crowned Warbler		1					1	3rd record, seen in 1982(1) & 1984(3)
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1	2			1	4	
Common Yellowthroat						1	1	
Northern Cardinal	43	44	53	17	119	64	340	
Eastern Towhee			1	1	2	8	12	
American Tree Sparrow		7	32	80	4	42	165	
Chipping Sparrow	1						1	
Savannah Sparrow				3			3	
Fox Sparrow	2	1	5	8	2	7	25	
Song Sparrow	36	45	58	62	98	94	393	
Lincoln's Sparrow			1				1	3rd record, seen in 1963 & 1992
Swamp Sparrow		2	8	13	4	15	42	
White-throated Sparrow	63	105	153	134	307	350	1112	
White-crowned Sparrow						1	1	last seen in 1994
Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco	102	119	530	74	302	208	1335	above 20 year average
Red-winged Blackbird			30	12		19	61	30 year low
Rusty Blackbird			6				6	
Common Grackle		3	40			1	44	
Brown-headed Cowbird			34				34	
Purple Finch						1	1	
House Finch	28	36	15	25	217	133	454	
American Goldfinch	25	68	75	86	112	84	450	
House Sparrow	118	548	842	93	320	459	2380	27 year high

First miss of Field Sparrow since the 1st year of the count, 1924!

Total of 33,491 birds is well below 20 year average of 50,155

	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	TOTALS	
TOTALS	1639	3654	5366	5825	10534	6473	33491	lowest since 1983 (33,084)
# of Species	38	55	68	70	81	89	112	
# of Saves	1	1	6	3	5	6		