

78th Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count

December 23, 2001

The Bronx Westchester CBC was held Sunday December 23, 2001. Seventy-nine participants recorded 125 species and 56,493 birds. The 125 species is a new record for this 78-year count. We had 124 in 1985 and 1973. The warm



weather for the past two months played a large role in the count.

Highlights included two new species and one new form. The two new species were both hummingbirds - Rufous Hummingbird and *Archilochus*, sp. Both were at Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers. The *Archilochus* is thought to be a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

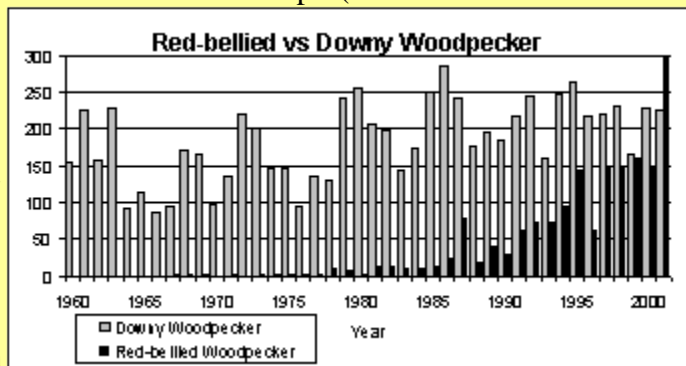
A Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal was found in Van Cortlandt Park.



Three Nashville Warblers were found, including two in Yonkers, one on the New Croton Aqueduct and one at the top of Stew Leonard's Drive. The other was found in the Bronx at Wave Hill. This is the 5th time Nashville was found on the count. We had two in 1994.

A Baltimore Oriole was found in Hastings-on-Hudson along the Rowley's Bridge Trail (8th record for the count), White-winged Crossbills were in the West Bronx, Common Redpolls in Rye (a couple at Read Sanctuary), American Bittern and Seaside Sparrow also in Rye, Three Great Egrets and two Snowy Egrets in various locations, two Saw-whet Owls in Pelham Bay Park, Red-headed Woodpecker (Edgemont HS), Red-necked Grebe (off Glen I.), Northern Goshawk (at Scarsdale HS), Black-bellied Plover and American Pipit (in Larchmont at the Hommock School) in Scarsdale Audubon's territory.

More Red-bellied Woodpeckers (295) were seen than Downy Woodpeckers (225). That's the first time ever for the count! Even if you add in Hairy Woodpeckers (59), there were still more Red-bellies!



We had an incredible 24 new or tied high counts! Many beating the previous record by wide margins. Remarkable since the count is so old. Tied and new high counts were set for: Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant,

Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Brant, Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's hawk, Merlin, Rock Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Nashville Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal.

Greater Scaup numbers were low and only four Canvasbacks were found! This is the lowest since they were missed in 1946. Ring-necked Pheasants continue to decrease. We had an all time low of 6 birds.

Missed were Northern Pintail, Redhead, and Red-shouldered Hawk.

Thanks to all who volunteered. The seventy-nine people on the count included a few new faces. I hoped you enjoyed your first count. Thirty-three of us enjoyed the compilation dinner, which was again held at San Martino Ristorante.

The complete compilation results are below.

Next year's count will be held Sunday, **December 22, 2002**. Hope to see you there.

Michael Bochnik

(914) 2379331

BochnikM@cs.com

michael.bochnik@cibasc.com

| | Species | Yonkers | Hudson Valley | West Bronx | East Bronx | Rye | Scarsdale | TOTALS | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|------------|-----|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Red-throated Loon | | | | 12 | 18 | 16 | 46 | New high count (14 in 1998) |
| 2 | Common Loon | | | | 2 | 9 | 1 | 12 | |
| 3 | Pied billed Grebe | | | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | |
| 4 | Horned Grebe | | | | 13 | cw | 1 | 14 | |
| 5 | Red-necked Grebe | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4th year in a row |
| 6 | Northern Gannet | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 4th time seen on count |
| 7 | Great Cormorant | | 1 | | 16 | 29 | 57 | 103 | |
| 8 | Double-crested Cormorant | | | | 10 | 63 | 7 | 80 | New high count (51 in 1985) |
| 9 | American Bittern | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1st since 1979 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--|
| 10 | Great Blue Heron | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 30 | 15 | 55 | |
| 11 | Great Egret | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | Tied high count (1994) 4th time on count |
| 12 | Snowy Egret | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | New high count, 5th time on count |
| 13 | Black-crowned Night Heron | 4 | | | | 2 | 1 | 7 | |
| 14 | Turkey Vulture | cw | 4 | 1 | | | cw | 5 | |
| 15 | Snow Goose | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 16 | Canada Goose | 970 | 131 | 869 | 583 | 833 | 2354 | 5740 | |
| 17 | Brant | | | | 806 | 184 | 518 | 1508 | New high count (1104 in 2000) |
| 18 | Mute Swan | 7 | | 2 | 30 | 39 | 86 | 164 | |
| 19 | Wood Duck | 11 | | 35 | | 1 | 54 | 101 | New high count (83 in 1989) |
| 20 | Gadwall | | 1 | 11 | 36 | 18 | 23 | 89 | |
| 21 | American Wigeon | | | | 21 | 97 | 139 | 257 | |
| 22 | American Black Duck | 9 | 5 | 10 | 308 | 307 | 516 | 1155 | |
| 23 | Mallard | 253 | 67 | 324 | 237 | 252 | 693 | 1826 | |
| | <i>mallard hybrid</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | |
| 24 | Northern Shoveler | 11 | | 1 | | | 83 | 95 | |
| | Green-winged Teal (Eu.) | | | 1 | | | | 1 | New to count |
| 25 | Green-winged Teal (Am.) | 13 | | 2 | | 9 | 19 | 43 | |
| 26 | Canvasback | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | Lowest since missed in 1946 |
| 27 | Ring-necked Duck | | | | | | 17 | 17 | |
| 28 | Greater Scaup | | | | 58 | 221 | 225 | 504 | Low |
| 29 | Lesser Scaup | | | | 127 | 35 | 1 | 163 | |
| 30 | scoter, sp. | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 31 | Long-tailed Duck | | | | | 88 | 15 | 103 | |
| 32 | Bufflehead | | | | 599 | 265 | 325 | 1189 | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-------------------------------|
| 33 | Common Goldeneye | | | | 20 | 44 | 270 | 334 | 16 year high |
| 34 | Hooded Merganser | 36 | | 16 | 11 | 50 | 79 | 192 | |
| 35 | Red-breasted Merganser | | | | 138 | 123 | 237 | 498 | |
| 36 | Common Merganser | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 37 | Ruddy Duck | 9 | | | 2 | 3 | 161 | 175 | |
| 38 | Northern Harrier | | | | 4 | | | 4 | |
| 39 | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 30 | New high count (20 in 1995) |
| 40 | Cooper's Hawk | 3 | | 7 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 26 | New high count (17 in 1995) |
| 41 | Northern Goshawk | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 42 | Red-tailed Hawk | 8 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 28 | 106 | |
| 43 | American Kestrel | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | |
| 44 | Merlin | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | New high count (2 in 1995) |
| 45 | Peregrine Falcon | | | 3 | 1 | | | 4 | |
| 46 | Ring-necked Pheasant | | | 1 | 4 | | 1 | 6 | All time low |
| 47 | Wild Turkey | | | | 1 | 18 | | 19 | |
| 48 | Virginia Rail | | | 2 | | 3 | | 5 | |
| 49 | American Coot | 3 | 3 | | | | | 6 | |
| 50 | Black-bellied Plover | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 10th time on count |
| 51 | Killdeer | | 2 | | | 5 | 16 | 23 | |
| 52 | Greater Yellowlegs | | | | | 6 | 2 | 8 | |
| 53 | Ruddy Turnstone | | | | | 2 | 5 | 7 | |
| 54 | Purple Sandpiper | | | | | 59 | 19 | 78 | |
| 55 | Dunlin | | | | | 20 | 3 | 23 | |
| 56 | Bonaparte's Gull | | | | | 3 | 5 | 8 | |
| 57 | Ring-billed Gull | 518 | 311 | 1720 | 496 | 472 | 850 | 4367 | |
| 58 | Herring Gull | 213 | 12 | 210 | 199 | 588 | 1937 | 3159 | |
| 59 | Great Black-backed Gull | 33 | 15 | 20 | 26 | 22 | 77 | 193 | |
| 60 | Rock Dove | 348 | 99 | 547 | 213 | 376 | 616 | 2199 | New high count (1985 in 1986) |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------------------------------|
| 61 | Mourning Dove | 70 | 88 | 140 | 34 | 255 | 538 | 1125 | 15 year high |
| 62 | Monk Parakeet | | | | 11 | 5 | | 16 | Most since 1972 |
| 63 | Eastern Screech-Owl | 1 | 4 | 2 | | 2 | 6 | 15 | New high count (13 in 1956) |
| 64 | Great Horned Owl | | | 2 | | 5 | 3 | 10 | |
| 65 | Northern Saw-whet Owl | | | | 2 | | | 2 | |
| 66 | Rufous Hummingbird | 1 | | | | | | 1 | New to count |
| 67 | Archilochus, sp | 1 | | | | | | 1 | New to count |
| 68 | Belted Kingfisher | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 22 | |
| 69 | Red-headed Woodpecker | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 16th time on count |
| 70 | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 28 | 17 | 49 | 47 | 52 | 102 | 295 | New high count (159 in 1999) |
| 71 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 5 | 3 | 5 | | 3 | 8 | 24 | New high count (15 in 1998) |
| 72 | Downy Woodpecker | 27 | 23 | 21 | 37 | 29 | 88 | 225 | |
| 73 | Hairy Woodpecker | 9 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 15 | 59 | |
| 74 | Northern Flicker | 3 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 58 | New high count (47 in 1991) |
| 75 | Pileated Woodpecker | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 76 | Blue Jay | 126 | 72 | 356 | 173 | 129 | 385 | 1241 | 28 year high |
| 77 | American Crow | 95 | 100 | 458 | 107 | 193 | 377 | 1330 | |
| 78 | Fish Crow | | | 8 | | 16 | 19 | 43 | 26 year high |
| 79 | Horned Lark | | 3 | | | | | 3 | |
| 80 | Black-capped Chickadee | 148 | 134 | 202 | 110 | 335 | 350 | 1279 | New high count (1169 in 1995) |
| 81 | Tufted Titmouse | 98 | 127 | 186 | 109 | 133 | 235 | 888 | |
| 82 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 3 | 1 | 6 | | 1 | 3 | 14 | |
| 83 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 25 | 19 | 71 | 30 | 47 | 107 | 299 | New high count (257 in 1995) |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------------------------------|
| 84 | Brown Creeper | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| 85 | Carolina Wren | 15 | 14 | 17 | 22 | 60 | 54 | 182 | New high count (158 in 1991) |
| 86 | House Wren | cw | | | | | 3 | 3 | |
| 87 | Winter Wren | 4 | 1 | 3 | | 7 | 8 | 23 | |
| 88 | Marsh Wren | | | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| 89 | Golden-crowned Kinglet | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 23 | |
| 90 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 3 | 5 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | 15 | |
| 91 | Eastern Bluebird | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 5 | |
| 92 | Hermit Thrush | 5 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 15 | 5 | 46 | Tied high count (1995) |
| 93 | American Robin | 29 | 5 | 184 | 61 | 275 | 121 | 675 | New high count (613 in 2000) |
| 94 | Gray Catbird | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 34 | |
| 95 | Northern Mockingbird | 44 | 31 | 50 | 22 | 39 | 57 | 243 | New high count (233 in 1979) |
| 96 | Brown Thrasher | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 22 year high |
| 97 | European Starling | 1061 | 212 | 2268 | 706 | 914 | 3929 | 9090 | |
| 98 | American Pipit | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 99 | Cedar Waxwing | 11 | 15 | 20 | 39 | 5 | 45 | 135 | |
| 100 | Nashville Warbler | 2 | | 1 | | | | 3 | New high count (2 in 1994) |
| 101 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | | 3 | | | 5 | 1 | 9 | |
| 102 | Palm Warber | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 103 | Common Yellowthroat | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | |
| 104 | Eastern Towhee | 1 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 57 | 30 year high |
| 105 | American Tree Sparrow | 6 | 1 | 18 | 19 | 46 | 5 | 95 | |
| 106 | Chipping Sparrow | cw | 1 | | | | cw | 1 | |
| 107 | Field Sparrow | 8 | 1 | 3 | | | | 12 | |
| 108 | Seaside Sparrow | | | | | 1 | | 1 | Last seen in 1982 |
| 109 | Fox Sparrow | 11 | 8 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 16 | 155 | 26 year high |
| 110 | Song Sparrow | 107 | 56 | 152 | 48 | 183 | 118 | 664 | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-------------------------------|
| 111 | Swamp Sparrow | 1 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 31 | |
| 112 | White-throated Sparrow | 324 | 221 | 1158 | 332 | 581 | 678 | 3294 | New high count (2490 in 1991) |
| 113 | Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco | 247 | 150 | 485 | 17 | 282 | 549 | 1730 | New high count (1362 in 1991) |
| 114 | Northern Cardinal | 73 | 49 | 121 | 38 | 141 | 147 | 569 | New high count (445 in 2000) |
| 115 | Red-winged Blackbird | 1 | 20 | 534 | 104 | 72 | 256 | 987 | |
| 116 | Rusty Blackbird | | 5 | 2 | | | 5 | 12 | 28 year high |
| 117 | Common Grackle | 516 | 4 | 16 | 32 | 1 | 1755 | 2324 | |
| 118 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 1 | 55 | 104 | 1 | | 22 | 183 | |
| 119 | Baltimore Oriole | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 8th time on count |
| 120 | Purple Finch | 4 | | 5 | 1 | | | 10 | |
| 121 | House Finch | 41 | 16 | 70 | 55 | 167 | 271 | 620 | |
| 122 | White-winged Crossbill | | | 13 | | | | 13 | 8th time on count |
| 123 | Common Redpoll | | | | | 7 | | 7 | |
| 124 | American Goldfinch | 122 | 49 | 115 | 129 | 225 | 105 | 745 | |
| 125 | House Sparrow | 319 | 181 | 969 | 163 | 384 | 634 | 2650 | 37 year high |

| | | Yonkers | Hudson Valley | West Bronx | East Bronx | Rye | Scarsdale | TOTALS |
|--|--------------|---------|---------------|------------|------------|------|-----------|--------|
| | TOTALS | 6051 | 2414 | 11727 | 6550 | 9071 | 20589 | 56402 |
| | # of Species | 61 | 65 | 73 | 74 | 93 | 96 | 124 |
| | # of Saves | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | |

[Return to Main Chapter Page](#)