

84th Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count December 23, 2007

The Bronx-Westchester CBC has seen well over 220 different species.

The 84th Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count held Sunday December 23, 2007 found a record 126 species on a very wet miserable day.

The previous count record for species was 125 found in 2001. There were many highlights.



- An **Eared Grebe** found by Steve Walter off City Island was a new species for the count. The count has seen 223 species in 84 years.
- Two **Eurasian Wigeon** were reported - one on Premium Mill Pond, Larchmont and one in Mamaroneck Mill pond.
- All three species of scoter were found off Rye along with a Red-necked Grebe and 3 Northern Gannets. It was the first time in 44 years that we recorded all three scoters.
- A **Great Egret** was near Hunter Island in Pelham Bay Park, 6th count record.
- Two **Common Raven** over Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers was the 3rd count record; the other sightings were in 1941 and 2006
- Three warblers were found; **Palm Warbler** in Rye, **Common Yellowthroat** in the West Bronx and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** near Woodlands High School, Hartsdale.
- **Chipping Sparrow** was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx
- **White-crowned Sparrows** were at Lenoir Nature Preserve and the bridle path in Pelham Bay Park.
- Two **Lapland Longspurs** were found, one in Van Cortlandt Park and the other in Read Sanctuary, Rye, and first records since 1974.
- An **Indigo Bunting** was found in Ward Acres, a park in New Rochelle, 3rd count record.
- The bridle path in Pelham Bay Park also hosted a **Baltimore Oriole** - oddly our 6th record in the last 9 years.
- 46 **Common Redpolls** in 4 locations, Rye, Wave Hill, Botanical Gardens and Pelham Bay Park, a 30 year high.
- **Pine Siskins** in the Bronx Zoo and in Rye.

Other species included 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 3 Merlin, 2 Clapper Rail, 3 Laughing Gulls., 3 Long-eared and a Northern Saw-whet Owl, 3 House Wrens, 2 Eastern Bluebirds, 3 American Pipit.

New record High Counts included 3235 Brant, 75 Wild Turkeys, 45 Monk Parakeets, and 156 Snow Buntings.

Other highs included;

- 43 year high of 439 American Wigeon
- 35 year high of 67 Horned Lark

As expected with this weather many lows were recorded:

- 44 year low of 4 Northern Shoveler
- An all time low of 477 Herring Gull, we had a low of 750 in 1996
- 55 year low of 85 Great-black-backed Gull
- 39 year low of 6 Belted Kingfisher
- 29 year low of 137 Downy Woodpecker
- 37 year low of 354 American Crow
- And for the first time in 84 years we missed Ring-necked Pheasant, it was recorded count week though

It always seems that the worse the weather and the lower numbers for common species the more rarities are found. I suspect that the more you have to work for your birds, the more likely you'll notice an unexpected species. Or in other words the busier you are counting common species the less time you have to look for a rarity. Thanks for all those that participated, especially for your effort in uncomfortable weather. We had a good turnout with 77 participants. Next year's count falls on a more convenient day, Sunday, December 28, 2008 (after the holidays)

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	Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	Total	
1	Snow Goose (white form)				2			2	
2	Brant				1161	1846	228	3235	New High Count, 1508 in 2001
3	Canada Goose	62	399	1073	2617	2139	946	7236	
4	Mute Swan		4	2	17	56	18	97	
5	Wood Duck		1	5		9	8	23	
6	Gadwall				12	28	90	130	
7	Eurasian Wigeon					1	1	2	
8	American Wigeon				37	311	91	439	43 year high
9	American Black Duck	15	17	4	288	172	227	723	
10	Mallard	44	102	202	330	498	315	1491	
	<i>Mallard hybrid</i>	1		3				4	
11	Northern Shoveler			1		3		4	44 year low
12	Northern Pintail						1	1	
13	Green-winged Teal (Am.)						6	6	
14	Canvasback				1		3	4	
15	Ring-necked Duck			2				2	
16	Greater Scaup				1182	146	470	1798	
17	Lesser Scaup					20	32	52	
	scaup, sp					91		91	
18	Surf Scoter						6	6	44 years since we had

19	White-winged Scoter						33	33	all three scoter species
20	Black Scoter						6	6	in same year
21	Long-tailed Duck						45	45	
22	Bufflehead			2	146	136	231	515	
23	Common Goldeneye				18	1	40	59	
24	Hooded Merganser	6	26	31	6	101	120	290	
25	Common Merganser			2			3	5	
26	Red-breasted Merganser				72	32	438	542	
27	Ruddy Duck	3	6	1	60	1	34	105	
	Ring-necked Pheasant						CW	CW	First time missed on count
28	Wild Turkey	5	9	5	20		36	75	New High Count, 47 in 2004
29	Red-throated Loon						33	33	
30	Common Loon					1	2	3	
31	Horned Grebe				14			14	
32	Red-necked Grebe						1	1	
33	Eared Grebe				1			1	New to the Count
34	Northern Gannet						3	3	Ties high Count
35	Double-crested Cormorant					4	16	20	
36	Great Cormorant				17	3	12	32	
37	Great Blue Heron	1	3	4	4	7	55	74	
38	Great Egret				1			1	6th count record
	Bald Eagle				CW			CW	
39	Northern Harrier				2		1	3	
40	Sharp-shinned Hawk		5	2	4	2	5	18	
41	Cooper's Hawk		1	5	2	3	3	14	
42	Red-shouldered Hawk			1			1	2	
43	Red-tailed Hawk	8	15	18	18	11	19	89	
44	American Kestrel			2	2			4	
45	Merlin			1	1	2		4	
46	Peregrine Falcon		1	2	3		1	7	
47	Clapper Rail						2	2	
48	Virginia Rail						1	1	
49	American Coot						2	2	
50	Killdeer				1	7	4	12	
51	Ruddy Turnstone						1	1	
52	Purple Sandpiper						62	62	
53	Dunlin						8	8	
54	Laughing Gull						3	3	1st record since 1990
55	Bonaparte's Gull						57	57	
56	Ring-billed Gull	250	598	561	1521	360	313	3603	

57	Herring Gull	6	14	78	79	164	136	477	All time low count
58	Great Black-backed Gull	5	3		36	5	36	85	55 year low
59	Rock Pigeon	37	205	357	655	462	147	1863	
60	Mourning Dove	52	119	96	152	229	200	848	
61	Monk Parakeet				6	39		45	New High Count, 25 in 2006
62	Eastern Screech-Owl	1				5	1	7	
63	Great Horned Owl	1		1	1	3	6	12	
64	Long-eared owl Owl			1	2			3	
65	Northern Saw-whet Owl				1			1	
66	Belted Kingfisher					2	4	6	39 year low
67	Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	12	22	18	32	35	125	
68	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	1	4	2	3	1	13	
69	Downy Woodpecker	5	16	21	29	37	29	137	29 year low
70	Hairy Woodpecker	2	9	8	7	8	19	53	
71	Northern (Yel.-sh.)Flicker		1	1	3	8	5	18	
72	Pileated Woodpecker					1		1	
73	Blue Jay	39	39	207	131	116	127	659	
74	American Crow	36	36	32	56	137	57	354	37 year low
75	Fish Crow		1	6	5	5	8	25	
76	Common Raven		2					2	3rd count record, 1941,2003
77	Horned Lark				6	39	22	67	35 year high
78	Black-capped Chickadee	37	68	196	108	130	179	718	
79	Tufted Titmouse	27	20	168	73	79	106	473	
80	Red-breasted Nuthatch		4	6		2	4	16	
81	White-breasted Nuthatch	4	14	47	15	55	30	165	
82	Brown Creeper	1	4	3	1		1	10	
83	Carolina Wren	10	4	11	23	25	26	99	
84	House Wren			2	1			3	
85	Winter Wren	2	2	2	3	3	7	19	
86	Marsh Wren						5	5	
87	Golden-crowned Kinglet					5	9	14	
88	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5		3			2	10	
89	Eastern Bluebird			2				2	
90	Hermit Thrush	1		2		6	5	14	
91	American Robin	5	5	290	77	50	290	717	
92	Gray Catbird	4	1	3	4	1	5	18	
93	Northern Mockingbird	17	8	30	27	17	18	117	
94	Brown Thrasher				2	1	1	4	
95	European Starling	328	508	3708	416	671	803	6434	
96	American Pipit						3	3	

97	Cedar Waxwing	5		9	12	8	8	42	
98	Palm Warbler						1	1	
99	Common Yellowthroat			1				1	
100	Yellow-breasted Chat					1		1	
101	Eastern Towhee		1	1	6		4	12	
102	American Tree Sparrow	38	18	9	64	1	68	198	
103	Chipping Sparrow			1				1	
104	Field Sparrow	4		1				5	
105	Savannah Sparrow						2	2	
106	Fox Sparrow	1	1	8	11	2	8	31	
107	Song Sparrow	38	24	64	33	90	107	356	
108	Swamp Sparrow			4	5		7	16	
109	White-throated Sparrow	88	141	703	637	386	399	2354	
110	White-crowned Sparrow		1		1			2	
111	Dark-eyed (Slate col.) Junco	83	156	245	90	124	220	918	
112	Lapland Longspur			1			1	2	Last seen in 1974
113	Snow Bunting			50	50		56	156	New High Count, 40 in 1966
114	Northern Cardinal	33	40	80	31	92	67	343	
115	Indigo Bunting					1		1	3rd count record, 1975,2006
116	Red-winged Blackbird			123	47	10	25	205	
117	Rusty Blackbird			12	7	9		28	
118	Common Grackle		1	45	488		223	757	
119	Brown-headed Cowbird			18	72		4	94	
120	Baltimore Oriole				1			1	6th time in 9 years
121	Purple Finch				1	8	CW	9	
122	House Finch	5	42	68	35	90	83	323	
123	Common Redpoll		CW	14	3		29	46	30 year high
124	Pine Siskin			8			2	10	
125	American Goldfinch	7	44	71	120	91	82	415	
126	House Sparrow	75	123	493	113	228	142	1174	
		Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye		
	Number of Saves	0	1	4	6	3	21		
	Number of Species	44	50	72	80	73	102	126	NEW COUNT RECORD !!!
	Totals	1405	2875	9265	11326	9472	7898	42241	
	Missed Species: Ring-necked Pheasant- CW only, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-rumped Warbler								