

# 85th Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count December 28, 2008

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

The 85th Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count held Sunday December 28, 2008 found 112 species with 38,453 individuals. Snow and below normal temperatures a week before the count, followed by a foggy morning kept both diversity and numbers down.



Highlights include:

- A female Barrow's Goldeneye off Edith G Read Preserve in Rye the day before and after the count.
- Great Egret in Larchmont and a Snowy Egret at Marshland's Conservancy in Rye.
- Osprey, seen over Edith G Read Preserve for the count's first record.
- An Iceland Gull in Pelham and a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rye.
- A Dickcissel at a feeder in the Riverdale section of the Bronx., the counts 7th record

Other species included.

- A flock of 70 Snow Geese flying past Rye yielding a new high count.
- A single Surf Scoter and some Black Scoter on Long Island Sound.
- Two Rough-legged Hawks, one dark and one light phase over the capped landfill in Pelham Bay Park.
- Seven Long-eared Owls, a 48 year high, and a Saw-whet in Pelham Bay Park.
- A single Snow Bunting at EGR Preserve.

New High Counts included; Snow Goose -71; Turkey Vulture - 31; Peregrine Falcon - 14; American Robin - 1117. Merlin tied the high count with 4.

Of the 98 regular occurring species, fifty-two species had numbers 30% lower than their 20 year average, and 33 species were lower than 50% of their average.

Wood Duck had a 26-year low of only two birds. Great Cormorant set a 39-year low with 16 and Great Blue Heron set a 28-year low with 17.

Gray Catbird had a 26-year low of 7; Northern Mockingbird set a 32-year low and Song Sparrow a 43-year low.

Missed Species included Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow.

Thanks for all those that participated. We seemed to have a good turnout. Next year's count will be Sunday, December 27, 2009. We may opt out of a restaurant style compilation next year and possible have it a local nature center. I'd like to hear your views.

Species	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye	Total	
Snow Goose (white form)					1	70	71	New High Count (32 in 1990)
Brant		6		1009	44	197	1256	
Canada Goose	464	634	692	1613	1553	1239	6195	
Mute Swan		1	1	38	28	33	101	
Wood Duck					2		2	26 year low
Gadwall				37	18	111	166	
American Wigeon				5	30	110	145	
American Black Duck	2	7	8	341	180	272	810	
Mallard	30	149	236	146	767	598	1926	
<i>Mallard hybrid</i>			6		2	6	14	
Northern Shoveler			3		10		13	
Northern Pintail				4		1	5	
Green-winged Teal (Am.)			5		17	3	25	
Canvasback		1		9		1	11	62 year low (missed in 1946)
Ring-necked Duck	2				6	6	14	
Greater Scaup				3606	75	27	3708	
Lesser Scaup				12			12	
Surf Scoter						1	1	
White-winged Scoter						CW	CW	
Black Scoter					10		10	35 year high
Long-tailed Duck						56	56	
Bufflehead				378	220	206	804	
Common Goldeneye				44	7	13	64	
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>						CW	CW	
Hooded Merganser	8	26	44	4	112	77	271	
Common Merganser		14				2	16	
Red-breasted Merganser				57	69	122	248	
Ruddy Duck		21		2000	65		2086	
Ring-necked Pheasant				2				
Wild Turkey		4	5	3	12	13	37	
Red-throated Loon				3		3	6	
Common Loon					1	1	2	
Horned Grebe				8	1	3	12	
Double-crested Cormorant		1		13	10	1	25	
Great Cormorant				1	6	9	16	39 year low
Great Blue Heron		1	2	4	5	5	17	28 year low
<b>Great Egret</b>					1		1	7th count record
<b>Snowy Egret</b>						1	1	6th count record
Turkey Vulture	22	4	1		3	1	31	New High Count (17 in 1997)

<b>OSPREY</b>						1	<b>1</b>	New to the Count
Bald Eagle (imm)		1				CW	<b>1</b>	
Northern Harrier				7	CW		<b>7</b>	19 year high
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	1		3	2	<b>9</b>	
Cooper's Hawk		1	7	1	3	4	<b>16</b>	
Northern Goshawk		1					<b>1</b>	
Red-shouldered Hawk			3		1		<b>4</b>	
Red-tailed Hawk	7	21	24	20	18	17	<b>107</b>	
Rough-legged Hawk				2			<b>2</b>	
American Kestrel		3	2	1			<b>6</b>	17 year high
Merlin		1	2		CW	1	<b>4</b>	Ties high count, 2002,2005
Peregrine Falcon		2	3	6	2	1	<b>14</b>	New High Count (7 in 2006)
Virginia Rail						1	<b>1</b>	
American Coot		1	1			1	<b>3</b>	
Killdeer					1	2	<b>3</b>	
Greater Yellowlegs				2			<b>2</b>	
Purple Sandpiper						21	<b>21</b>	
American Woodcock			1				<b>1</b>	
Bonaparte's Gull						CW	<b>CW</b>	
Ring-billed Gull	274	557	995	1826	582	579	<b>4813</b>	
Herring Gull	19	43	58	153	228	200	<b>701</b>	
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				1			<b>1</b>	
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>						1	<b>1</b>	
Great Black-backed Gull	9	12	22	21	12	21	<b>97</b>	
Rock Pigeon	25	420	503	382	239	168	<b>1737</b>	
Mourning Dove	45	132	41	32	229	195	<b>674</b>	
Monk Parakeet				7		CW	<b>7</b>	
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1			5	1	<b>8</b>	
Great Horned Owl			2	3	4	3	<b>12</b>	
Long-eared Owl				7			<b>7</b>	48 year high
Northern Saw-whet Owl				1			<b>1</b>	
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	1		3	7	<b>13</b>	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	26	23	29	24	17	<b>128</b>	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	11	1	1	1	<b>15</b>	
Downy Woodpecker	12	35	35	26	58	39	<b>205</b>	
Hairy Woodpecker	6	9	12	6	17	8	<b>58</b>	
Northern (Yel.-sh.)Flicker	3	2	11		13	5	<b>34</b>	
Blue Jay	26	37	203	125	60	83	<b>534</b>	
American Crow	33	60	23	97	121	38	<b>372</b>	
Fish Crow				2	28	1	<b>31</b>	
Horned Lark			CW				<b>CW</b>	



	Hudson Valley	Yonkers	West Bronx	East Bronx	Scarsdale	Rye		
<b>Number of Saves</b>	0	2	2	10	3	10		
<b>Number of Species</b>	41	59	66	67	75	87	<b>112</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>3285</b>	<b>5938</b>	<b>13364</b>	<b>7113</b>	<b>6809</b>	<b>38483</b>	

Missed Species: Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow.

Of the 98 regular occurring species, only 14 had numbers 30% higher than their 20 year average. 52 species had numbers 30% lower than their 20 year average, and 33 species were lower than 50% of their average.

Michael Bochnik  
 Compiler  
[BochnikM@cs.com](mailto:BochnikM@cs.com)

Other links  
[City Birder](#)

[City Island Birds](#)