

Delaware Valley Area Christmas Bird Count Results for 2008-09

Compiled by Frank Windfelder for DVOC, January 8, 2009

(most results are preliminary)

This report features CBC's for which we have received summary highlights from the compiler or participants of that count - listed by date, by state. We know that many additional counts occurred in the Delaware Valley area.

Please email us if you have information about a CBC not listed here. Additions and corrections welcome.

Sunday, December 14

Cape May, NJ

Compiler: Louise Zemaitis

Species: 158, plus 3 count week

Participants: 56, in 29 parties

Highlights: Rufous Hummingbird (1), Rufous/Allen's (1), Nashville Warbler (2), King Eider (4), Razorbill (7), Cackling Goose (1), Red-headed Woodpeckers at Villas WMA

Marmora, NJ

Compiler: Edgar Bristow

Participants: 22

Species: 94

Highlights: Tundra Swan (13), Rough-legged Hawk (1), Solitary Sandpiper (1)

Northwest Hunterdon, NJ

Species: 94

Common Ravens (2), White-winged Scoter at Round Valley, Snow Buntings at Spruce Run

Princeton, NJ

Compiler: Louis Beck

Species: 90+

Highlights: Red-throated Loon (1st count record), Ross's Goose (first count record), Cackling Goose (3 locations), Pine Warbler (2 locations), Black-and-white Warbler

Saturday, December 20

Pennypack Valley, PA

Compiler: Brian Schultz

Species: 84 (all-time high)

Highlights: Long-tailed Duck (2), Common Loon (5), Great Cormorant (29), Snow Goose (259), Cackling Goose (1), Bald Eagle (3), Pileated Woodpecker (1), Hermit Thrush (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Palm Warbler (3), Eastern Phoebe (1), Cave Swallow (count week)

Wyncote, PA

Compiler: Andy Fayer

Species: 67

Total Birds Counted: 14,068

Participants: 26 in 9 parties, with 0 feeder watchers

Party Hours: 153.5

Highlights: New high counts for Snow Geese (535) and Common Merganser. Many Canada Geese moving on count day - 6,629 individuals counted so far (about twice recent average). Unexpected species include Eastern Phoebe (10th sighting in 83 counts), Red-shouldered Hawk (5th sighting since 1990), and Bald Eagle (5th sighting in 83 counts - all in past 7 years). Misses include Eastern Towhee, Gray Catbird, and American Kestrel (count week only). Low counts for most sparrows.

Glenolden, PA

Compiler: Nick Pulcinella

Participants: 55

Species: 90 (cumulative total of 187)

Highlights: Ross's Goose and Prairie Warbler, both new for the count, Cackling Goose (2), Eastern Phoebe, Great Cormorant, House Wren. New

highs were established for Snow Goose (1856), Canada Goose (15,880),

Black Vulture (144), Turkey Vulture (226), and Bald Eagle (13).

Lowlights: Overall, numbers were down compared to previous years with no reports for Black-capped Chickadee, Killdeer, Northern Harrier, Savannah and White-crowned

Sparrows and Gray Catbird. The only irruptives found were 5 Red-breasted

Nuthatches and 8 Pine Siskins. The large flight of siskins into the area occurred after the count.

Southern Bucks County, PA

Compiler: Bob Mercer

Species: 100, plus 2 count week

Participants: 59

Highlights: Great Egret, Cackling Goose (8), Eurasian Teal, Sandhill Crane, Thayer's Gull, Baltimore Oriole

Gloucester County, NJ

Compiler: Ron Kegel

Species: 86

Highlights: Bald Eagle (14), Northern Bobwhite (21). Wild Turkey (667), Eastern Bluebird (77), Black Vulture (160)

Oceanville, (Brigantine), NJ

Compiler: Brian Moscatello

Highlights: Barn & Long-eared Owls, Virginia Rail, American Bittern, Rusty Blackbird, Eurasian Wigeon

Sandy Hook, NJ

Compiler: Scott Barnes

Species: 106

Participants: 26

Highlights: Common Moorhen (juvenile) – first count record, Glaucous Gull, Tree Swallows (6), Orange-crowned Warbler, Red Crossbills (2 flyovers), Red-shouldered Hawk, all 3 scoters

Negatives: No large concentrations of waterfowl

Saturday, December 27**Audubon, PA**

Compiler: Edie Parnum

Species: 74

Highlights: Barred Owl, Bald Eagle (2), Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch (2)

Rehoboth, DE

Compiler: Liz Gordon

Species: 136

Participants: 28 in 11 parties

Highlights: Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Lincoln's Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Tree Swallow

Sunday, December 28

Central Bucks County, PA

Compiler: Diane Allison

Participants: 48

Species: 92

Highlights: Ross' Goose, Red Breasted Merganser, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, Rusty Blackbird, Pine Siskin, Iceland Gull, Ring-necked Pheasant (2), Bald Eagle high count (6). Also, count week Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk..

Tuckerton, NJ

Compiler: Fred Lesser

Species: 84

Participants: 16

Party Hours: 46.25 party hours

Highlights: Coastal fog obscured the ocean all day
- Rufous Hummingbird, present since November

Moorestown, NJ

Compiler: Mark Pensiero

Species: 113 (all time record), plus 4 count week

Highlights: Northern Goshawk, Virginia Rail, Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Iceland Gull, Orange-crowned warbler (2), Northern Bobwhite, Snow Bunting, Laughing Gull, Black-and-white Warbler

Cumberland County, NJ

Compiler: Mike Fritz

Species: 126

Participants: 57, including 4 kids

Highlights: Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, Sandhill Crane, Common Crane (origin TBD), Long-billed Dowitcher, Barn Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, Palm Warbler (3), Vesper Sparrow (3), Sedge Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat

Raritan Estuary, NJ

Compiler: Tom Ostrand

Highlights: Great Egret, Rough-legged Hawk, American Woodcock, Common Yellowthroat (2)

Tuesday, December 30

Seaford, DE

Compiler: Glen Lovelace

Species: 101

Highlights: 20 species of waterfowl including Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Common Merganser and Redhead, Iceland Gull (3), Lesser Black-backed Gull (18), lots of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins

Lowlights: Northern Bobwhite and Eastern Meadowlark were missed

Friday, January 2

Hudson Shelf Pelagic Christmas Bird Count from Belmar NJ

Compiler: Paul Guris

Highlights: Northern Gannet (115), Dovekie (75), Razorbill (26), Black-legged Kittiwake (2), Nelson's Gull

Saturday, January 3

Long Branch, NJ

Compiler: Patrick Belardo

Participants: 35

Species: 124

Highlights: Boat-tailed Grackles (3) at Shark River Marina, a first for this count, Cackling Goose (2), Greater White-fronted Goose, Common Eider, Red-necked Grebe, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Orange-crowned Warbler, Snow Buntings, very high numbers of Northern Gannets

Milford, DE

Compiler: Chris Bennett

Participants: 13 parties in 7 areas

Species: 121 (8 year total of 157)

Highlights: Golden Eagle (1) and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (5), both new for the count, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Sedge Wren, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Long-eared Owl, Western Sandpiper, Virginia and Clapper Rails, over 100 “shooting stars” while owling

Sunday, January 4

Barnegat, NJ

Compiler: Tom Bailey

Species: 136, with Greater White-fronted Goose and Greater Yellowlegs count week

Highlights: Redhead, King Eider (6), Common Eiders, Eared and Red-necked Grebes, American Bittern, Golden Eagle, American Oystercatcher, Razorbill, Rufous Hummingbird, Common Raven (first in 75 years), Long-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Redpoll (2), and White-winged Crossbill (2)

Other nice finds included Wood Duck, two Redheads at the marina at the north end of Sunset Park in Harvey Cedars, Common Eider at Barnegat Light, Am. Bittern, Am. Oystercatcher at Barnegat Light, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Long-eared Owl, good numbers of Short-eared Owls, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Palm Warbler, Purple Finch, and a few Pine Siskins. High numbers of Common Goldeneye, American Woodcock, Fox Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbirds were found.

Bombay Hook, DE

Compiler: Andy Ednie

Species: 128 (cumulative total of 218)

Highlights: Ross' and Cackling Geese, Rough-legged Hawk, Clay-colored Sparrow (new), Spotted Sandpiper (new), Virginia Rail, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, American Pipit, Pine Siskins (everywhere), Long-eared, Short Eared, Barred, and Barn among 6 species of owls.