

Results of the
99th Annual Raritan Estuary
Christmas Bird Count

Sponsored by
the Audubon Society
and

Prepared by
Thomas Gillen, Sayreville, N.J.



Bald eagle in Donaldson Park, photo: Gabi Grunstein 10/2006

2007 - 98 species, 67,000 Individuals

Count Number 107
Date Dec 30, 2006
Owl Start Time 6:00:00 AM
Owl End Time 7:00:00 AM
Start Time 6:00:00 AM
End Time 4:30:00 PM
Min Temp °F 37
Max Temp °F 50
Wind Vel mph 5
Wind Dir Southwest
Min Snow, inches 0
Max Snow, inches 0
AM Conditions Partly Clear
Still Water Open

Previous Years' Totals

2006- 96 species, 84,000 Individuals
2005- 89 species, 56,000 Individuals
2004: 97 species, 22,000 individuals
2003- 93 species, 38,500 Individuals
2002- 96 species, 39,000 Individuals
2001 -92 species, 32,800 Individuals

PM Conditions Partly Clear
Moving Water Open

Notes Thank you for participating in the 99th annual Raritan Estuary Christmas Bird Count. (107th overall for the oldest U.S. counts). We had 56 counters this year! Thank you. Bring a friend next year!

98 total species Some of the highlights:
Two Peregrine falcons together in Donaldson Park, as well as two Cackling Geese in Johnson Park (both in the Piscataway area). Our group got access to the inside of the Edgeboro dump this year which yielded a Bald Eagle as well as 200 Horned Larks on the top of the covered landfill. The birders in the Raritan Center in Edison found a Barn Owl, a Kestrel and a Woodcock. A Marsh Wren was found in the Cheesequake area. 1900 Rusty Blackbirds were found in Roosevelt Park, Edison. A flock of about 500 Brant at South Amboy, which included one Black Brant. Also seen: a House Wren and a Catbird and a Brown Thrasher.

Even though the individual count was down from 84,000 birds to 67,000 birds, there was quite a few species with count-high numbers. One reason the count was lower was because last year there was a flock of 20,000 robins seen! This year the robins were only at 1200.

These species had the most individuals seen in the Raritan count according to the database at Audubon: Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Brant, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, White-throated Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird and House Sparrow

To access Audubon's database of Christmas Bird Counts, go to www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html. The code for the Raritan Count is NJRE.

Captains, thank you very much for all of your assistance and for sending the data in to me. It is much appreciated!

If you see any mistakes, please let me know.

See you again next year!

Tom Gillen tjgillen@optonline.net (732)254-1134

Raritan Estuary CBC Number 107 Dec 30, 2006

Seq No.	Species	Area:	1	2\3	4\5\6	7	8	9	10	11	12\13	Total
1	Red-throated Loon		4				11	20				35
2	Common Loon		3					2				5
3	Pied-billed Grebe					2	4		1			7
4	Horned Grebe		1				2	12				15
5	Great Cormorant		1			1	4					6
6	Double-crested Cormorant		15	3	26	2	22	2	15			85
7	Great Blue Heron		2	3	7	4	3	2	3	3		27
8	Mute Swan						10		2			12
9	Brant		121				501	61				683
10	Cackling Goose				2							2
11	Canada Goose		67	676	2293	360	314	91	100	1973	296	6170
12	Wood Duck			1		2	1					4
13	Green-winged Teal					1	1		36			38
14	American Black Duck		26	7		54	15	63	14	10	9	198
15	Mallard		21	141	220	121	144	4	45	200	14	910
16	Northern Pintail						2					2
17	Northern Shoveler								6			6
18	Gadwall		11	56					36			103
19	American Wigeon		4									4
20	Canvasback					1	12					13
21	Ring-necked Duck					2	17		12			31
22	Lesser Scaup					1	2					3
23	Long-tailed Duck		1				6					7
24	Common Goldeneye				5			2		9		16
25	Bufflehead		40				55	41				136
26	Hooded Merganser			8	5	3	4		25	4		49
27	Common Merganser				15	12			6	27		60
28	Red-breasted Merganser		60				52	60		4		176
29	Ruddy Duck						78			4		82
30	Turkey Vulture				1	1					1	3
31	Bald Eagle					2		CW				2
32	Northern Harrier				1	2	3	1	2			9
33	Sharp-shinned Hawk			2	1	3						7
34	Cooper's Hawk		1		3	4	1				1	10
35	Red-tailed Hawk		1	2	3	16	6	3	10	4	2	47
36	American Kestrel					2			1			3
37	Peregrine Falcon				3	1						4
38	Wild Turkey				6				2			8
39	American Coot						6					6
40	Killdeer					2	3					5
41	Sanderling						5					5
42	American Woodcock								1			1

37 to 50 °F

Wind Vel 5 mph

from the Southwest

0 inches snow

Still Water Open

Moving Water Open

Conditions:

AM Partly Clear

PM Partly Clear

Raritan Estuary CBC Number 107 Dec 30, 2006

Seq No.	Species	Area:	1	2\3	4\5\6	7	8	9	10	11	12\13	Total
43	Bonaparte's Gull						70					70
44	Ring-billed Gull		225	244	177	5000	674	134	250	119	3	6826
45	Herring Gull		70	450	613	2000	699	69	150	5		4056
46	Lesser Black-backed Gull					3						3
47	Great Black-backed Gull		256	50	175	1300	180	14	500	28		2503
48	Rock Pigeon		234	148	85	25	223	269	20	458		1462
49	Mourning Dove		4	172	133	275	97	52	10	192	65	1000
50	Common Barn Owl								1			1
51	Eastern Screech Owl					1						1
52	Great Horned Owl					2	1		2	3		8
53	Belted Kingfisher		2		10		2	3	1	2		20
54	Red-bellied Woodpecker		1	30	25	13	8	10	2	6	20	115
55	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1	1						2
56	Downy Woodpecker		6	29	30	18	21	13	10	8	13	148
57	Hairy Woodpecker		1	5	3						2	11
58	Northern Flicker		2	4	8	5	1	1	10	4	8	43
59	Horned Lark					200						200
60	Blue Jay		13	158	76	85	54	23	1	49	63	522
61	American Crow		18	150	87	115	140	22	220	15	67	834
62	Fish Crow				1	1000	12	2	200			1215
63	Black-capped Chickadee		3	34	7	6		30		20	13	113
64	Carolina Chickadee					12	44	10	5			71
65	Tufted Titmouse		20	106	56	31	40	29	3	18	15	318
66	Red-breasted Nuthatch			6								6
67	White-breasted Nuthatch			7	14	7	12	10		6	6	62
68	Brown Creeper					1						1
69	Carolina Wren		1	6	11	4	10	2		7	2	43
70	House Wren									1		1
71	Winter Wren			1		1	1					3
72	Marsh Wren							1				1
73	Golden-crowned Kinglet						3					3
74	Ruby-crowned Kinglet						2	1	2			5
75	Hermit Thrush				1		1		2			4
76	American Robin		30	18	34	1000	70	1	10	32	36	1231
77	Gray Catbird					1						1
78	Northern Mockingbird		4	65	8	26	19	12	12	10	4	160
79	Brown Thrasher		1									1
80	European Starling		200	2396	475	12000	2629	68	42	679	50	18539
81	Yellow-rumped Warbler				1	3		4				8
82	Northern Cardinal		6	95	42	36	17	17	6	35	11	265
83	Eastern Towhee			1	1		1		1			4
84	American Tree Sparrow		13	17	1	9	8	14	60			122

37 to 50 °F

Wind Vel 5 mph

from the Southwest

0 inches snow

Still Water Open

Moving Water Open

Conditions:

AM Partly Clear

PM Partly Clear

Raritan Estuary CBC Number 107 Dec 30, 2006

Seq No.	Species	Area:	1	2\3	4\5\6	7	8	9	10	11	12\13	Total
85	Field Sparrow			2								2
86	Savannah Sparrow				15	11	1	10				37
87	Fox Sparrow			1	1		1					3
88	Song Sparrow		17	57	49	14	41	15	25	46	9	273
89	Swamp Sparrow		1	1				2	4			8
90	White-throated Sparrow		40	241	189	68	65	12	10	56	147	828
91	Dark-eyed Junco		20	134	102	105	127	37	20	124	194	863
92	Red-winged Blackbird		11	2		42	1410	3	70	120		1658
93	Rusty Blackbird			1907								1907
94	Common Grackle			3	260	6600		35		3312		10210
95	Brown-headed Cowbird			8		1100	3	1		101		1213
96	House Finch		1	14	51	1	10	6	50	72	5	210
97	American Goldfinch		30	15	20	19	20	7	3	12	4	130
98	House Sparrow		76	321	164	20	229	11	10	262	51	1144
	Gull Species			47	13		120					180
	Accipiter species				1							1
	Sparrow Species				3							3

Database by Walter Blenderman

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Moving Water Open

Conditions:

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<u>Seq No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Seq No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Seq No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Red-throated Loon	35	35	Red-tailed Hawk	47	69	Carolina Wren	43
2	Common Loon	5	36	American Kestrel	3	70	House Wren	1
3	Pied-billed Grebe	7	37	Peregrine Falcon	4	71	Winter Wren	3
4	Horned Grebe	15	38	Wild Turkey	8	72	Marsh Wren	1
5	Great Cormorant	6	39	American Coot	6	73	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
6	Double-crested Cormorant	85	40	Killdeer	5	74	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5
7	Great Blue Heron	27	41	Sanderling	5	75	Hermit Thrush	4
8	Mute Swan	12	42	American Woodcock	1	76	American Robin	1,231
9	Brant	683	43	Bonapartes Gull	70	77	Gray Catbird	1
10	Cackling Goose	2	44	Ring-billed Gull	6,826	78	Northern Mockingbird	160
11	Canada Goose	6,170	45	Herring Gull	4,056	79	Brown Thrasher	1
12	Wood Duck	4	46	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	80	European Starling	18,539
13	Green-winged Teal	38	47	Great Black-backed Gull	2,503	81	Yellow-rumped Warbler	8
14	American Black Duck	198	48	Rock Pigeon	1,462	82	Northern Cardinal	265
15	Mallard	910	49	Mourning Dove	1,000	83	Eastern Towhee	4
16	Northern Pintail	2	50	Common Barn Owl	1	84	American Tree Sparrow	122
17	Northern Shoveler	6	51	Eastern Screech Owl	1	85	Field Sparrow	2
18	Gadwall	103	52	Great Horned Owl	8	86	Savannah Sparrow	37
19	American Wigeon	4	53	Belted Kingfisher	20	87	Fox Sparrow	3
20	Canvasback	13	54	Red-bellied Woodpecker	115	88	Song Sparrow	273
21	Ring-necked Duck	31	55	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	89	Swamp Sparrow	8
22	Lesser Scaup	3	56	Downy Woodpecker	148	90	White-throated Sparrow	828
23	Long-tailed Duck	7	57	Hairy Woodpecker	11	91	Dark-eyed Junco	863
24	Common Goldeneye	16	58	Northern Flicker	43	92	Red-winged Blackbird	1,658
25	Bufflehead	136	59	Horned Lark	200	93	Rusty Blackbird	1,907
26	Hooded Merganser	49	60	Blue Jay	522	94	Common Grackle	10,210
27	Common Merganser	60	61	American Crow	834	95	Brown-headed Cowbird	1,213
28	Red-breasted Merganser	176	62	Fish Crow	1,215	96	House Finch	210
29	Ruddy Duck	82	63	Black-capped Chickadee	113	97	American Goldfinch	130
30	Turkey Vulture	3	64	Carolina Chickadee	71	98	House Sparrow	1,144
31	Bald Eagle	2	65	Tufted Titmouse	318		Gull Species	180
32	Northern Harrier	9	66	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6		Accipiter species	1
33	Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	67	White-breasted Nuthatch	62		Sparrow Species	3
34	Cooper's Hawk	10	68	Brown Creeper	1			

Raritan Estuary CBC Area Overview

Area 1:

Northeast part of circle

North side of Raritan Bay

Includes Perth Amboy, Seawaren, Port Reading, the Arthur Kill River

Area 2/3:

North Part of circle

Woodbridge, North Edison, Iselin, includes Ash Brook Reservation

Area 4/5/6

North side of Raritan River at Piscataway

Includes Johnson Park and Donaldson Park

Area 7

South side of Raritan River, South/ Western part of Raritan circle

Includes South River, Milltown, and East Brunswick (with the Edgeboro dump)

Area 8

South part of count circle

South side of Raritan River and Raritan Bay

Includes South Amboy, Sayreville and Old Bridge

Area 9

Eastern part of count circle

South side of Raritan Bay, from Cheesequake Creek to Whale Creek

Includes Cheesequake State Park

Area 10

Center of Count circle

North Side of Raritan River

Includes parts of Edison and the Raritan Center area

Area 11

Western part of count circle

South side of raritan river

Includes New Brunswick, Franklin, Rutgers/Cook College area, down to start of Farrington Lake

Area 12/13

North part of circle

Include Plainfield and Scotch Plains

These areas used to be all separate, but were combined years ago when habitat was paved over for houses, roads, etc. and there were fewer good birding areas.