

THE JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT: VII

LEO J. TANGHE

The 1961 Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was carried out from January 14 to 22, 1961. The total count of 248,791 individuals considerably surpassed the previous high of 222,408 in 1956, and was in astonishingly close agreement with the 1961 aerial count of 248,780. Regions III (Finger Lakes), Xa (New York City), and Xb (Long Island) turned in higher counts than in any previous year.

This year's count included 39 species and one hybrid. The Lesser White-fronted Goose was reported from Babylon, Long Island, by John J. Elliott, for the first time in this census series. This European species had been present in the area for several weeks and is considered possibly an escapee. Other rarities included one Snow Goose, three European Widgeons, five Harlequin Ducks, and three Common Eiders from Regions X, and King Eiders from Regions I, II, V, VI, and X.

Red-necked Grebes and Whistling Swans, usually seen in small numbers, were unreported this year. Mute Swans were down considerably from previous reports.

Large flocks of Redheads again spent the winter on Seneca, Keuka, and Canandaigua Lakes. Smaller numbers of Canvasbacks were with them. In contrast, the Niagara River had over 4000 Canvasbacks but only 14 Redheads.

Dr. Fritz Scheider, leader of the Syracuse group, made an eloquent plea that "those pure, benighted, benumbed observers should get some credit and due — if only to see their names in print once a year." Such a list might be too long to publish, but I would like to ask the regional leaders and compilers, namely

Region	1	Edward Seeber	Region	6	Arthur Allen
"	2	John Mitchell	"	8	Guy Bartlett
"	3	Sally F. Hoyt	"	9	Edward Treacy
"	4	Leslie Bemont	"	10	John J. Elliott
"	5	Fritz Scheider			

to pass along my thanks for their efforts in compiling this census.

	1961 DUCK CENSUS					GROUND COUNT						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VIII	IX	Xa	Xb	Total	
Common Loon			3						5	56	64	
Red-Throated Loon									3	19	22	
Horned Grebe	1	1	213		63				61	319	658	
Pied-billed Grebe			5					7		11	23	
Mute Swan								3	17	189	209	
Canada Goose			113		156				446	619	1,334	
Brant			1						125	34,420	34,546	
Lesser White-fronted Goose										1	1	
Snow Goose										1	1	
Mallard	297	16	981	422	667	12	125	222	702	2,381	5,825	
Black Duck	2,297	58	1,297	252	1,487	127	1,130	531	2,756	12,421	22,356	
Mallard-Black Hybrid			1								1	
Gadwall				4	3					48	55	
Pintail					7				4	28	39	
Green-winged Teal								1	2	24	27	
Blue-winged Teal									1	1	1	
American Widgeon			2						343	2,148	2,493	
European Widgeon									1	2	3	
Shoveler					9					35	44	
Wood Duck			2		1			2		1	6	
Redhead	14	3	6,719		543	3		2	4		7,288	
Ring-necked Duck		1	19		5			65		33	123	
Canvasback	4,407	3	2,221		140	1		2	3,999	2,409	13,182	
Greater Scaup	3,763	1,058	7,632	3	9,876	3,850		1	28,352	52,157	106,692	
Lesser Scaup		7			55						62	
Common Goldeneye	4,572	7,002	939	35	2,704	463	75	21	609	1,588	18,008	
Bufflehead	41	149	69		139	2		2	657	1,245	2,304	
Oldsquaw	980	1,628	8		270	4			116	698	3,704	
Harlequin Duck										5	5	
Common Eider										3	3	
King Eider	1	2			1	1				6	11	
White-winged Scoter	4	208			17				32	10,962	11,223	
Surf Scoter					1					325	326	
Common Scoter									38	571	609	
Ruddy Duck					2				11	27	40	
Hooded Merganser	2	8	12		19		2	25	42	44	154	
Common Merganser	2,165	339	292	254	6,387	125	50	344	10	12	9,978	
Red-breasted Merganser	136	45	17		143	2			232	2,968	3,543	
Coot	2		199		7				1	114	323	
Unidentified	2,005		66	5	120	200		9		1,100	3,505	
Total	20,687	10,528	20,811	975	22,822	4,790	1,382	1,238	38,568	126,990	248,791	