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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1974

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The annual waterfowl census was held 14-22 January. An aerial count was made by the New York Department of Environment Conservation during the same period. Both counts are given complete, but a comparison of those species with a thousand or more individuals is of interest. This comparison is as follows:

	<i>Upstate</i>		<i>Long Island</i>	
	<i>Aerial</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Aerial</i>	<i>Ground</i>
Canada Goose	538	2873	3786	4109
Brant	0	0	21436	12251
Mallard	4106	8830	7023	8278
Black	4650	3699	20328	17969
Wigeon	0	70	441	2692
Redhead	5655	7567	0	26
Canvasback	4983	5626	1720	5679
Scaup	9845	9091	51939	87574
Goldeneye	7199	7333	837	2318
Bufflehead	0	3476	738	2202
Oldsquaw	138	1759	513	696
Scoter (all spp)	0	322	9686	9982
Merganser (all spp)	15820	18224	5308	1748
Total (ll spp)	53301	70331	124695	128814

As last year it was found that ground counts were better Upstate than aerial counts. Aerials gave better figures for brant as they did last year) and for mergansers on Long Island. The data suggests that the Department of Environmental Conservation could leave the Upstate counts to the Federation and concentrate solely on the offshore counts.

Comparison with last year's count shows a marked decrease of Canada Geese (mainly due to lower counts in Region 3), Goldeneye, Scoter, and somewhat lower counts of Mallards and Blacks, while Redhead numbers increased. Overall the ground count decreased from 265,000 to 229,100, and the aerial count from 167,100 to 158,800.

I could like to thank all persons that took part in the census. The regional organizers were:

Region 1

Dr. Alan M. Reckhew

Region 2

Walter Listman

Region 3

Dr. James Tate

Region 4

Les E. Bemont

Region 5

Dr. Fritz G. Scheider

Region 6

Robert C. Walker, Jr.

Region 7

John M. C. Peterson

Region 8

Guy Bartlett

Region 9

Edward D. Treacy

Region 10

Stephen B. Dempsey

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GROUND SURVEY

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Common Loon	1						1			67	69
Red-throated Loon		1								24	25
Loon (spp)										1	1
Horned Grebe		1	94		14				1	283	393
Pied-billed Grebe			29	1	3				9	27	69
Mute Swan									33	433	466
Whistling Swan										4	4
Canada Goose			1680	3	18				1172	4109	6982
Brant										12251	12251
Snow Goose										1	1
Mallard	1503	1133	2996	175	1666	8	2	281	1066	8278	17108
Black Duck	689	211	1027	121	357	213	50	606	425	17969	21668
Mallard x Black				1	2						3
Gadwall	15			14	15					347	391
Pintail	8	1		4	1				9	148	171
Green-winged Teal		1							1	164	166
Blue-winged Teal								8		13	21
American Widgeon	52			16	1			1		2692	2762
Shoveler										483	483

Wood Duck		1	2	1			1		1	12	18
Redhead	110	21	7424	1	11					26	7593
Ring-neck			8		1		1		186	122	318
Canvasback	4355	8	1459		4					5679	11505
Scaup, all	2678	899	1490		3905	80	3	30	6	87574	96665
Common Goldeneye	4743	615	705	27	676	524	30	3	10	2318	9651
Bufflehead	2884	126	316		146				4	2202	5678
Oldsquaw	1401	234	22		51	41	10			696	2455
Harlequin										1	1
Common Eider										57	57
King Eider	7	2			2					4	15
White-winged Scoter	8	208	1		2		1			7722	7942
Surf Scoter	2									1515	1517
Black Scoter										280	280
Scoter (spp)										465	465
Ruddy Duck										232	232
Hooded Merganser	4		22	2	2		2	1	16	136	185
Common Merganser	13353	266	219	10	308	3800	11	1	156	44	18168
Red-breasted Merganser		5	5		40	1				1568	1619
Coot		4	772		7				33	767	1583
Unidentified		42			23					100	165
TOTAL	31813	3379	18271	376	7255	4667	111	931	3128	158814	229145

AERIAL SURVEY							
	Champlain	Ontario St. Lawrence	Lake Ontario	Central Lakes	Hudson Valley	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan					9	541	550
Whistling Swan				1			1
Canada Goose		2		525	11	3786	4324
Brant						21436	21436
Snow Goose						77	77
Mallard		905	459	2645	97	7023	11129
Black	5	413	1362	2198	672	20328	24978
Green-winged Teal						120	120
American Wigeon						441	441
Redhead				5655			5655
Canvasback	605		3925	453		1720	6703
Scaup	640	725	5560	2920		51939	61784
Common Goldeneye	66	990	5030	1093	20	837	8036
Bufflehead						738	738
Oldsquaw		44	94			513	651
Scoter (spp)						9686	9686
Ruddy						40	40
Merganser (spp)	1051	3981	9867	915	6	5308	21128
Coot				357		12	369
Unidentified						150	150
Total	2367	7060	26297	16762	815	121695	177996