

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1976

The 1976 Federation Waterfowl Count was held from January 10 to January 18, 1976, inclusive. All ten regions were covered. The weather before and during the first weekend of the count period was very cold. As a result, many lakes and most smaller bodies of water were completely frozen over. However, the weather moderated slightly after the first weekend. Depending on the day or days covered, remarks from cooperators ranged from "lowest count we have had in the twenty-two years that the Waterfowl Count has been conducted," to "with a little perseverance, everyone helped make this the best count on record." The total count was 200,512 individuals, or a reduction of 11.2% from 1975.

The aerial count by the Department of Environmental Conservation conducted between January 5-19, 1976, yielded a total of 158,278 birds, a reduction of 13.4% from 1975. Even though the aerial count is considerably below the Federation figure, the percentage decline in both counts is remarkably similar. In both counts the low scaup total is the most important single species accounting for this decline from the 1975 results.

A direct comparison of the most abundant species, by ground count and aerial survey, is given below.

	Upstate		Long Island	
	Aerial	Ground	Aerial	Ground
Canada Goose	4,113	7,958	7,328	7,693
Brant	0	1	17,040	9,267
Mallard	2,016	12,573	4,324	8,888
Black Duck	4,111	3,730	16,636	11,535
Am. Wigeon	0	153	355	3,054
Redhead	7,270	12,759	0	140
Canvasback	8,640	11,991	5,190	8,163
Scaups (both)	8,193	9,866	28,910	40,576
Common Goldeneye	6,513	9,802	2,505	1,546
Bufflehead	0	783	2,246	2,643
Oldsquaw	1,551	1,935	1,670	815
Scoters (all three)	45	139	2,845	12,781
Mergansers (all three)	16,139	11,809	7,758	1,958
Am. Coot	2,270	1,906	385	1,655
Totals	60,861	85,405	97,192	110,037

GROUND SURVEY – JANUARY 1976
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Common Loon	1		6		1
Red-throated Loon					
Loon (sp?)					
Red-necked Grebe					
Horned Grebe	6		100		17
Pied-billed Grebe	4	9	22	1	5
Great Cormorant					
Double-crested Cormorant					
Mute Swan					
Whistling Swan					
Canada Goose	17	28	7,640	8	36
Brant		1			
Snow Goose					
"Blue Goose"					
Mallard	1,623	1,208	6,998	221	1,422
Black Duck	444	264	1,349	144	206
Mallard x Black Duck			6		25
Gadwall	97		125		58
Pintail	6		9		2
Green-winged Teal			1		1
Blue-winged Teal					
European Wigeon					
American Wigeon	81	1	69		
No. Shoveler					
Wood Duck	2	1	1	1	2
Redhead	236	164	12,272		83
Ring-necked Duck	2	1	25		17
Canvasback	3,822	42	4,409		882
Scaup (both species)	1,914	1,748	2,217		3,004
Common Goldeneye	5,532	2,683	557	23	525
Bufflehead	325	152	225		38
Oldsquaw	1,345	40	78		101
Harlequin Duck		1			
Common Eider					
King Eider					1
Eider (sp?)					
White-winged Scoter	26	94	1		2
Surf Scoter					
Black Scoter	2				11
Scoter (sp?)					
Ruddy Duck		17			1
Hooded Merganser	6	3	24		3
Common Merganser	6,549	185	97	9	182
Red-breasted Merganser	45	5	27		6
Duck (sp?)		5			
Am. Coot	27	60	1,634		20
TOTALS	22,112	6,712	37,892	407	6,651

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Total</u>
				83	91
				80	80
				4	4
				1	1
				300	423
			5	59	105
				60	60
				35	35
			17	650	667
				13	13
			229	7,693	15,651
				9,267	9,268
				12	12
				1	1
38	15	208	840	8,888	21,461
305	45	150	823	11,535	15,265
				4	35
				398	678
				266	283
		1	2	247	252
				5	5
				2	2
			2	3,054	3,207
				323	323
			1	17	25
2			2	140	12,899
			121	218	384
700	1,800		336	8,163	20,154
700	265		18	40,576	50,442
376	90	2	14	1,546	11,348
2	14		27	2,643	3,426
350	20		1	815	2,750
					1
				37	37
				4	5
				1	1
				9,283	9,406
				2,367	2,367
3				454	470
				677	677
			1	801	820
			11	52	99
4,443	22		192	40	11,719
				1,866	1,949
			45		50
1	1		163	1,655	3,561
6,920	2,272	361	2,850	114,335	200,512

SUMMER, 1977

AERIAL SURVEY – JANUARY 1976
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

	Upstate	Long Island	Totals
Mute Swan	18	701	719
Whistling Swan	7	0	7
Canada Goose	4,113	7,328	11,441
Brant	0	17,040	17,040
Mallard	2,016	4,324	6,340
Black Duck	4,111	16,636	20,747
Pintail	0	2	2
No. Shoveler	0	11	11
American Wigeon	0	355	355
Redhead	7,270	0	7,270
Canvasback	8,640	5,190	13,830
Scaup (both species)	8,193	28,910	37,103
Common Goldeneye	6,513	2,505	9,018
Bufflehead	0	2,246	2,246
Oldsquaw	1,551	1,670	3,221
Scoters (all three)	45	2,845	2,890
Ruddy Duck	0	1	1
Mergansers (all three)	16,139	7,758	23,897
Am. Coot	2,270	385	2,655
Totals	60,886	97,907	158,793

I would like to thank all cooperators, particularly the regional organizers.

Region 1 – Dr. Alan H. Reckhow	Region 6 – Robert C. Walker
2 – Walter Listman	7 – John Peterson
3 – Paul J. DuBoway	8 – Paul Grattan
4 – Leslie E. Bemont	9 – Edward D. Treacy
5 – Dr. Fritz G. Scheider	10 – Stephen B. Dempsey

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