

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1977

This year's Federation Waterfowl Count period, from January 8 to January 16, 1977, was colder than 1976. In addition to many smaller lakes and most other bodies of water, all of Lake Erie within the count area except for Dunkirk Harbor was completely frozen over, as was Otsego Lake in Otsego County, part of the Niagara River and between 50% and 75% of the lower Hudson River. Long Island was also hard hit, in that many of the salt-water bays as well as Long Island Sound were considerably frozen. If the weather of the last week in January had occurred three weeks earlier, the waterfowl count in upstate areas would have been a disaster. As it was, the total count was 212,699 individuals, an increase of 6.1% over 1976.

The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count was from January 3 to January 18, 1977, and yielded a total of 202,461 birds, a whopping 27.9% higher than 1976. This was attributed to much larger numbers of mergansers and scoters, even though Canvasbacks were down by 40%, Bufflehead by 56% and American Coots by 86%.

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	4,370	7,662	4,092	4,443
Brant	0	1	13,622	3,438
Mallard	4,782	10,551	2,321	7,274
Black Duck	7,052	2,765	18,506	15,285
Am. Wigeon	215	78	24	1,193
Redhead	8,710	8,205	15	154
Canvasback	6,929	5,153	1,498	5,399
Scaup (both)	6,067	1,681	29,745	82,427
Am. Goldeneye	5,671	9,019	4,271	1,949
Bufflehead	60	760	931	2,457
Oldsquaw	98	751	3,180	1,214
Scoters (all three)	1	67	32,891	20,080
Mergansers (all three)	41,026	10,173	4,739	1,334
Am. Coot	355	1,692	15	393
Totals	85,336	58,558	115,850	147,040

GROUND SURVEY – JANUARY 1977
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Common Loon					
Red-throated Loon					
Red-necked Grebe					
Horned Grebe	1		66		4
Pied-billed Grebe	3		31		2
Great Cormorant					
Mute Swan					
Canada Goose	25		7,113		31
Brant					1
Snow Goose					
Mallard	2,151	2,430	2,378	115	1,205
Black Duck	458	331	686	16	176
Mallard x Black Duck			21		
Gadwall	54		27		39
Pintail	13				1
Green-winged Teal					
American Wigeon	65		5		
No. Shoveler	1				
Wood Duck	1		3		1
Redhead	173	30	6,939	1	1,062
Ring-necked Duck	4		4		7
Canvasback	2,216	5	553		226
Scaup (both species)	1,368	592	192		1,965
Common Goldeneye	4,554	1,703	292	48	1,293
Barrow's Goldeneye					1
Bufflehead	254	232	84		166
Oldsquaw	457	35			259
Harlequin Duck					
Common Eider					
King Eider					1
White-winged Scoter	4	4			54
Surf Scoter					
Black Scoter		4			
Scoter (sp?)					
Ruddy Duck		1			
Hooded Merganser	3		35		2
Common Merganser	3,295	142	88	42	803
Red-breasted Merganser	35	9	10	3	54
Duck (sp?)		2,022			
Am. Coot	12		1,565		10
TOTALS	15,147	7,540	20,092	225	7,363

GROUND SURVEY — JANUARY 1977
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>
				102	102
				6	6
				2	2
	2			192	265
	1		1	39	77
				70	70
		1	15	459	475
1	34		458	4,443	12,105
				3,438	3,439
				9	9
70	26	645	1,531	7,274	17,825
308	56	461	273	15,285	18,050
					21
				360	480
				176	190
				81	81
			8	1,193	1,271
				302	303
			2	3	10
				154	8,359
		2		86	103
27	2,050	6	70	5,399	10,552
12	7	1	47	82,427	86,611
820	277	5	26	1,949	10,967
					1
2	6		16	2,457	3,217
				1,214	1,965
				1	1
				30	30
				6	7
			1	11,534	11,597
				947	947
				214	218
				7,385	7,385
			1	273	275
	4			38	82
5,101	139	26	364		10,000
4	6		8	1,296	1,425
			68		2,090
			105	393	2,085
6,345	2,608	1,147	2,994	149,237	212,698

AERIAL SURVEY – JANUARY 1977
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

	Upstate	Long Island	Totals
Mute Swan	5	547	552
Canada Goose	4,370	4,092	8,462
Brant	0	13,622	13,622
Snow Goose	0	4	4
Mallard	4,782	2,321	7,103
Black Duck	7,052	18,506	25,558
Gadwall	0	3	3
Green-winged Teal	2	44	46
No. Shoveler	0	2	2
American Wigeon	215	24	239
Redhead	8,710	15	8,725
Canvasback	6,929	1,498	8,427
Scaup (both species)	6,067	29,745	35,812
Common Goldeneye	5,671	4,271	9,942
Bufflehead	60	931	991
Oldsquaw	98	3,180	3,278
Scoters (all three)	1	32,891	32,892
Ruddy Duck	0	106	106
Mergansers (all three)	41,026	4,739	45,765
Am. Coot	355	15	370
Totals	85,343	117,118	202,461

I would like to thank all who participated, especially the regional coordinators who are:

Region 1—Dr. Alan H. Reckhow	Region 6—Lee B. Chamberlaine
2—Walter Listman	7—John Peterson
3—James Gibson	8—Paul Grattan
4—Leslie E. Bemont	9—Edward D. Treacy
5—Dr. Fritz G. Scheider	10—Stephen B. Dempsey

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