

GREAT GRAY OWL. 1979-12, one, 21 Jan., 5 mi south Plattsburgh, Clinton Co. [6].

NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. 1979-15, one, 4 May, Chatham, Columbia Co.

Reports of Snowy Egret (upstate), White-rumped Sandpiper (upstate), Purple Sandpiper (upstate, spring), Forster's Tern (upstate) Western Kingbird (upstate), and Kentucky Warbler (nesting upstate) were filed without formal review. Reports of these species are not normally reviewed by the NYSARC. With the addition of Mississippi Kite, the New York State List now includes 418 species.

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1980

WALTON B. SABIN

The New York State Federation Waterfowl Count for 1980 was conducted from January 5 through January 13, with January 6 as the target date. A few observers did not complete their voluntary assignments until January 16. The count period was preceded by a very mild late fall and early winter. These conditions prevailed during the count period as well, with temperatures ranging from the mid to upper 20's all the way to the 50's. January 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 were the coldest days in this range, January 7 and 11 being the warmest. All in all, very few of the larger bodies of water were ice-covered. As one would expect from these temperatures there was no snow cover in most of the state. Flurries occurred only on January 8, 9, and again on the 12th, over most of the state except in the southeast. There were no accumulations. January 11 saw the temperature soar into the 50's and experience the heaviest precipitation. The total count for 1980 (Table 1) was up 34.2% over 1979 to 242,976, and up 17.7% over the 1973-79 average of 206,397.

Comparing 1980 to 1979 count figures (Table II) for the more common species reveals six of them having increases greater than 40%, namely Canada Goose, a whopping 107.1%; Redhead, 75.1%; Canvasback, 41.9%; Common Goldeneye, 43.0%; Oldsquaw, a tremendous 139.2%; all three scoters, 59.8%; and Am. Coot, 120.1%. Conversely, four species showed decreases: Brant, 19.6%; Am. Wigeon, 11.7%; Common Merganser, 34.6%; and Red-breasted Merganser, 7.7%.

Comparing the 1980 count figures for these same species with the 1973-1979 average (Table III) shows that most species are increasing in numbers. Exceptions are noted in the case of Common and Red-breasted Mergansers and to a lesser extent the American Wigeon. Redhead, Canvasback and scaup are gradually building up toward their respective averages.

For the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida inclusive), total Federal waterfowl population counts or surveys were essentially the same as last year with gains in some species offset by losses in others.

The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial survey is shown in Table IV without comment.

The 1981 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from January 10 through January 18, with Sunday, January 11, as the target date.

TABLE I
NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1980

REGIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Loon, Common		3	5		3					61	72
Red-throated		1			2		1			1	5
Grebe, Red-necked					1						1
Horned		11	39		34	1	6		10	346	447
Pied-billed	6		16		1				67	62	152
Cormorant, Great										46	46
Double-crested										145	145
Swan, Mute			1						182	716	899
Whistling	6	48	1								55
Goose, Canada	3,241	526	38,113		6,853	2,071		1,614	7,184	7,444	67,046
Brant										14,218	14,218
Snow	1							1	2	56	60
Mallard	3,576	1,561	4,207	420	1,855	768	3	1,319	2,351	7,889	23,949
Black Duck	291	308	2,265	152	266	407	37	342	833	15,754	20,655
Mallard x Black			22		8				5	8	43
Gadwall	60		26		13				31	902	1,032
Pintail	20	1	1	1	3			3	3	323	355
Teal, Green-winged	3								1	218	222
Blue-winged	1									10	11
Wigeon, American	153	2	17			13			46	1,869	2,100
European										1	1
Northern Shoveler									9	81	90
Wood Duck	2	1							2	22	27
Redhead	22	28	7,044		28	12			3	128	7,265
Ring-necked Duck	1	1	10		12				157	174	355
Canvasback	771	20	881		13		500		1,400	7,568	11,153
Scaup sp?	990		74			416			113	7,846	9,439
Greater	908	1,920	195		416		1			28,378	31,818
Lesser		2			6					279	287
Goldeneye, Common	9,190	3,336	326	15	1,074	1,042	71	38	60	2,341	17,493
Barrow's	2				1						3
Bufflehead	272	256	253		85	34	14	1	99	3,388	4,403
Oldsquaw	48	727	2		157	704			1	1,944	3,583
Eider, Common										11	11
King		3									3
Scoter, White-winged		9,140								2,282	11,422
Surf		6			1					437	444
Black		5								90	95
Scoter sp?										2,000	2,000
Ruddy Duck	18				35				8	192	253
Merganser, Hooded	7	2	7		6				124	182	328
Common	2,348	532	27	44	403	834	80	2	1,845	1	6,116
Red-breasted	27	26			67	19			4	1,597	1,740
American Coot	11	105	1,351		37		1		314	1,315	3,134
TOTALS	21,975	18,571	54,883	632	11,380	6,321	714	3,320	14,854	110,326	242,976

TABLE II**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

Comparison of 1980 with 1979, for all species totalling over 1,000 individuals in 1980, and showing the per cent change from 1979 to 1980.

SPECIES	1980	1979	% change
Canada Goose	67,046	32,373	+ 107.1
Brant	14,218	17,677	-- 19.6
Mallard	23,949	19,492	+ 22.9
Black Duck	20,655	17,387	+ 18.8
Gadwall	1,032	526	+ 96.2
American Wigeon	2,100	2,378	-- 11.7
Redhead	7,265	4,148	+ 75.1
Canvasback	11,153	7,857	+ 41.9
Scaup (both)	41,544	36,677	+ 13.3
Goldeneye (both)	17,496	12,233	+ 43.0
Bufflehead	4,403	4,264	+ 3.6
Oldsquaw	3,583	1,498	+ 139.2
Scoters (all three)	13,961	8,738	+ 59.8
Common Merganser	6,116	9,346	- 34.6
Red-breasted Merganser	1,740	1,885	- 7.7
American Coot	3,134	1,424	+ 120.1
TOTALS	239,395	177,903	+ 34.6

TABLE III**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

Comparison of the 1980 count with the 1973-1979 average, for the same species as in Table II, and showing the per cent change from the average.

SPECIES	1980	Average 1973-1979	% change
Canada Goose	67,046	16,851	+ 279.9
Brant	14,218	9,396	+ 51.3
Mallard	23,949	18,914	+ 26.6
Black Duck	20,655	18,470	+ 11.8
Gadwall	1,032	547	+ 88.7
American Wigeon	2,100	2,229	- 5.8
Redhead	7,265	7,034	+ 3.3
Canvasback	11,153	12,537	- 11.0
Scaup (both)	41,544	69,772	- 40.5
Goldeneye (both)	17,496	11,833	+ 47.8
Bufflehead	4,403	4,117	+ 6.9
Oldsquaw	3,583	2,658	+ 34.8
Scoter (all three)	13,961	12,613	+ 10.7

SPECIES	1980	Average 1973-1979	% change
Common Merganser	6,116	11,423	- 46.5
Red-breasted Merganser	1,740	2,113	- 17.7
American Coot	3,134	2,122	+ 47.7
TOTALS	239,395	206,397	+ 17.7

TABLE IV
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AERIAL SURVEY — JANUARY 1-6, 1980

SPECIES	Upstate	Long Island	Totals
Mute Swan	110	688	798
Whistling Swan	37		37
Canada Goose	28,171	6,597	34,768
Brant	155	9,152	9,307
Mallard	7,658	1,337	8,995
Black Duck	6,778	5,254	12,032
Gadwall		2	2
Pintail		65	65
American Wigeon	63	416	479
Redhead	1,550	10	1,560
Canvasback	4,920	468	5,388
Scaup (both)	7,690	12,774	20,464
Common Goldeneye	4,689	721	5,410
Bufflehead	126	2,594	2,720
Oldsquaw	19	941	960
Scoters (all three)		5,544	5,544
Mergansers (all three)	30,483	989	31,472
American Coot	200	70	270
TOTALS	92,649	47,622	140,271

I would like to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated. A special thanks too, to the regional compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The regional compilers are:

Region 1—Alan Reckhow	Region 6—Lee Chamberlaine
Region 2—Warren Lloyd	Region 7—John Peterson
Region 3—John Confer	Region 8—Paul Grattan
Region 4—Leslie Bemont	Region 9—Edward Treacy
Region 5—Fritz Scheider	Region 10—Stephen Dempsey

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