

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1968

Saint John, N. B.

Dec. 28: 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast, snow beginning at noon. Temp. 8° to 13°; wind NW, 0-8 m.p.h. Ground mostly bare, becoming covered with 2 inches of fresh snow. Sixteen observers in 10 parties, 21 feeder reports. Total party-hours, 46½ (36 on foot, 10½ by car); total party-miles, 228 (27 on foot, 201 by car).

Great Cormorant, 7
Great Blue Heron, 1
Mallard, 3
Black Duck, 232
Greater Scaup, 3
Common Goldeneye, 298
Barrow's Goldeneye, 2
Common Merganser, 19
Red-breasted Merganser, 1
Red-tailed Hawk, 1
Ruffed Grouse, 3
Glaucous Gull, 2
Iceland Gull, 13
Great Black-backed Gull, 325 326
Herring Gull, 2590 2605
Ring-billed Gull, 4
Black-headed Gull, 2
Rock Dove, 154 159
Hairy Woodpecker, 10
Downy Woodpecker, 22
Horned Lark, 1 16
Gray Jay, 6
Blue Jay, 56
Common Raven, 82 84
Common Crow, 116 118
Black-capped Chickadee, 186 188

Boreal Chickadee, 24
White-breasted Nuthatch, 1
Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5
Brown Thrasher, 1
Robin, 11
Water Pipit, 1
Bohemian Waxwing, 1
Northern Shrike, 1
Starling, 589 599
Myrtle Warbler, 1
House Sparrow, 423 426
bird sp., 1 (oriole or warbler, will be checked)
Common Grackle, 18
Brown-headed Cowbird, 39
Evening Grosbeak, 105
Purple Finch, 3
Pine Grosbeak, 95
Common Redpoll, 246
Pine Siskin, 2
Am. Goldfinch, 5
Savannah Sparrow, 1
Slate-colored Junco, 93 94
Tree Sparrow, 68 103
White-throated Sparrow, 9
Fox Sparrow, 1
Song Sparrow, 18. 21
Lapland Longspur, 20

Total: 53 species, about 901 individuals.
6015

(Seen in area during count period: Common Loon, Brown Creeper, Yellow-breasted Chat, Red-winged Blackbird.)

Mrs. G.G. Anglin, Fred Brook, Miss Helen Brown, Mrs. C.H. Cameron,
Mrs. S. Cathline, David Christie (compiler), Miss Florence Christie,
Mrs. K.W. Clark, Miss Shirley Colquette, Mrs. R.A. Cowan, Mrs. E.J. Cram,
Henrik Deichmann, Mrs. M.J. Duffy, Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Fletcher, W.C. Godard,
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Gorham, Mrs. A.R. Goucher, Miss Frances Hayes, Miss
Grace Hayes, Miss Jane Hazen, Mrs. W.A. Henry, Mrs. G.L. Hunter,
Cecil Johnston, Mrs. Chas. Laskey, Peter Mackenzie, Roy Proctor,
Mrs. Geo. Ramsay, Gordon Redstone, Mrs. H.G. Rogers, Miss Marion Sherwood,
Mrs. W.J. Simon, Carle Smith, David Smith, Sandy Smith, Mrs. I. Trenwith,
Jim Wilson.

✓ feeders only

Notes on some of the birds of the 12th Saint John Christmas Bird Count, 1968

Recorded for the first time were Bohemian Waxwing and Water Pipit. The pipit is apparently the first winter record for New Brunswick. Palmer and Tufts each give one December record for Maine and Nova Scotia, respectively. Records of New England Birds lists usually three to six records each December for Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-tailed Hawk, Myrtle Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow were each recorded for the second time, and Yellow-breasted Chat was recorded for the second time during the count period.

Pine Grosbeak (95, against previous high of 63), Common Redpoll (246 vs. 41), and Song Sparrow (18 vs. 13) were recorded in substantially greater numbers than previously. Evening Grosbeaks (105) were substantially higher than all previous counts, except 1964 (185).

A number of fairly regular species were not seen this year. Buffleheads were missed for only the second time in the last nine years due to the freezing over of Marble Cove, their known feeding area. Brown Creeper was not seen for the third time in the 12 years and Golden-crowned Kinglet was missed for the very first time. It was the fourth count with no Snow Buntings, even though the Saints' Rest marsh was fairly well covered.

Variety-wise the 1968 count with 53 species ranks ^{just above} equal with 1961, following after 1967 (59), 1966 (55), and 1965 (54).

Great Blue Heron - Silver Falls (1), Marion Sherwood
Barrow's Goldeneye - Westfield (2), Stan Gorham
Red-tailed Hawk - Milledgeville (1), Gordon Redstone & Peter Mackenzie
Brown Thrasher - Milledgeville (1), feeder (report to Museum)
Bohemian Waxwing - Quinton Heights (1), Cecil Johnston
Myrtle Warbler - Rothesay (1 at feeder), Fred Brock
Savannah Sparrow - Silver Falls (1 at feeder), Marion Sherwood

Water Pipit - Saints' Rest (1), Cecil Johnston & Sandy Smith. Mr. Johnston has seen many there in fall migration, Mr. Smith had never seen one before. They both commented on the wagging of the tail, as well as the walking habit, white outer tail feathers and general dull brown coloration. They said that they approached it quite closely and had an excellent view.

Yellow-breasted Chat - Dec. 25 Rothesay (1), Mrs. W.J. Simon.